

Together for Girls

C/o UNAIDSS

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USA

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Together for Girls is a global public-private partnership dedicated to ending violence against children, with a particular focus on sexual violence against girls. Founded in 2009, the Together for Girls partnership brings together six UN agencies, the governments of the United States and Canada, several private sector organizations, and implementing country governments to prevent and respond to violence against children, as a fundamental step to achieving individual rights and well-being, gender equality, and sustainable development. UN partners include UNICEF, UNAIDS, UN Women, WHO/PAHO, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, and UNFPA. The United States and Canada are represented by their respective agencies: the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); and Global Affairs Canada (GAC). Our private sector partners are Cummins&Partners, BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), the CDC Foundation, and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

In partnership with governments, civil society and the private sector, Together for Girls calls attention to the issue of violence against children and mobilizes support for country-driven efforts for change through a three-pronged approach to prevent and respond to violence:

1. National Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) and data, led by CDC as part of the Together for Girls partnership, to document the magnitude, nature and impact of physical, emotional, and sexual violence against girls and boys.
2. Comprehensive, evidence-based, coordinated policy and programme actions across sectors in countries to address issues identified through data, under the leadership of national governments, with overall coordination and technical support led by UNICEF. Multi-sectoral responses include legal and policy reform, improved services for girls and boys who have experienced violence, and prevention programmes.
3. Global advocacy and public awareness efforts to bring attention to the problem, promote evidence-based solutions, and provide a platform for survivors, young people, and advocates to share their stories.
4. Currently, the partnership works with more than 20 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe to generate comprehensive data and solutions to this public health and human rights epidemic.

VPA focal person



Daniela Ligiero

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Daniela Ligiero provides strategic leadership to the Together for Girls partnership, as well as management and oversight of day-to-day operations. Before she joined Together for Girls, she served as the Vice President of Girls and Women's Strategy at the UN Foundation and developed the foundation's gender integration strategy. In addition, she spent over five years at the U.S. Department of State where she led the integration of gender issues into all foreign policy and investments in global health—working with over 70 countries and over 1 billion dollars in investments on issues like preventing gender-based violence and improving the sexual and reproductive health of girls and women. She helped develop the first ever International U.S. Government Strategy to End Gender-Based Violence. Dr. Ligiero also served in leadership roles at UNICEF, as Chief of HIV and then as Senior Program Officer in the UNICEF Brazil Country Office. In addition, she has held positions at the World Bank and the US Senate, and has worked directly with survivors of sexual assault in a variety of settings. She earned her doctoral degree counseling psychology from University of Maryland, College Park.



Rebecca Gordon

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In her role as Senior Program Advisor, Rebecca provides technical advising, coordination and support for the partnership's research, programme and policy work. Prior to joining Together for Girls in 2014, she coordinated state- and national-level gender-based violence prevention and response programmes in South Sudan and Thailand. She has a diverse background in programme design and implementation, research and advocacy related to gender-based violence and violence against children, both domestically and internationally. Rebecca has been working on gender, violence and child protection for 15 years, having begun her work in college as a volunteer hospital advocate for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Brown University and a MPH from Columbia University.