**Key Results:**

- National Violence Against Children Surveys (VACS) have been conducted in nine countries (Swaziland, Tanzania, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Cambodia, Haiti, Nigeria and Malawi), providing, in several countries, the first ever nationally available data on emotional, physical and sexual violence against girls and boys, contributing greatly to understanding the scale of the problem, the link to gender inequality and HIV, and risks and protective factors for children.

- Following completion of the VACS, Kenya’s Child Protection Centers (CPCs) were established and have reached well over 2,000 children through counseling and referrals, with 4,000 key personnel trained in building child protection systems in Tanzania.

- While it is still too early to evaluate reductions in violence, comprehensive national actions for the prevention and response to violence against children, as well as instigating changes in laws or law enforcement, interventions in schools and communities are being implemented in Swaziland, Tanzania, Kenya, and Zimbabwe.

**BD (BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY) COMMITTED** to being a participating partner in “Together For Girls” (TfG) with UN and non-UN partners to end violence against children, with particular focus on addressing the public health and human rights impacts of sexual violence against girls.

As a partner of Together for Girls, BD is dedicated to work with TfG partners to achieve the objectives of the initiative:

1. conducting and supporting national surveys on the magnitude and impact of violence against children and consolidating existing evidence and research;
2. supporting coordinated policy and program actions in response to the data; and
3. leading global advocacy and public awareness efforts to draw attention to the problem and promote evidence-based solutions.

[everywomaneverychild.org](http://everywomaneverychild.org)
Together for Girls is a partnership between UN agencies - UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UN Women and WHO, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Department of State’s PEPFAR program and the Office of Global Women’s Issues, and private sector organisations including BD, GrupoABC, the Nduna Foundation and CDC Foundation.

At the country level, the TfG process results in an unprecedented level of country ownership and improved knowledge of the issue of violence against children, including prevention. All aspects of the VACS and the resultant action plan are overseen by a national steering committee, which brings together key government ministries, civil society and stakeholders, chaired by a relevant government ministry. While specifics can vary between countries, the program is usually under the direction of the partner government, the UNICEF in-country office coordinates work on the ground, and CDC provides technical assistance and quality assurance to carry out the survey.

At the global level, the TfG partnership is coordinated by a Secretariat. Each of the partners brings a particular lens/comparative advantage to the table, such as a focus on child protection systems through UNICEF, a large service delivery platform addressing HIV & AIDS through PEPFAR, expertise in survey and evaluation research on violence through CDC, global experience on evidence-based violence prevention through WHO, the mandate and focus on women and girls through UN Women, the work of UNFPA on reproductive health, and a lens on HIV and capacity in coordination through UNAIDS.

Together for Girls was founded by BD Executive Vice President Gary Cohen. BD provides funding and management support for advocacy and communications programs of TfG, with additional donor funding for field-based implementation and with Mr. Cohen’s continued close involvement as president of Together for Girls, Inc.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

- The private sector partners functioned as an effective and skilled neutral third party facilitator, bringing the UN and non-UN partners together.
- TfG has achieved substantial progress with very modest funding at the secretariat level, as a result of leveraging the programme capabilities and funding of its partners.
- Closer coordination and interaction among similar initiatives associated with the UN system may have been helpful to all partnerships.
- TfG partner countries sought funding support for their national action plans following the completion of the VACS. The lack of this funding constrains in-country progress and interventions as well as HQ-level support.

**NEXT STEPS**

TfG will increase its focus on promoting comprehensive interventions targeting pre-adolescent and adolescent girls working across sectors to ensure that they reach adulthood free from violence, HIV and unintended pregnancy and have completed secondary school. It will continue the process of using VACS to mobilize action in 16 countries by the end of 2015, supporting the translation of data into action through national strategies, strengthening the availability of technical assistance, supporting evaluation of models to build the evidence base, supporting the creation and maintenance of a community of practice for leaders in the work, and identifying and scaling up effective interventions with boys. It will also advocate globally through all available channels, including the post-2015 agenda, to increase visibility, resources, and work on the prevention and response to violence against women and children.