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## Success Story

# Together for Girls Partnership

### Catalyzing Change to Combat HIV

Girls and young women around the world are adversely affected by the HIV epidemic, sadly, often related to sexual violence. The consequences of such violence too often leads to diseases, unwanted pregnancies, and dropping out of school.

World Bank data show how crucial sexual violence prevention is in combatting the spread of HIV, and in an effort to halt this disturbing trend, a unique public-private partnership was formed – Together for Girls – to raise awareness on violence against girls and young women and increase access to services for post-rape care services, especially HIV post-exposure prophylaxis.

Global advocacy campaigns aim to catalyze change through raising awareness of the problem and promoting evidence-based solutions, including educating boys and men to help break the cycles of violence and transform gender roles.

“It’s critical that more men perceive the opportunity and recognize the positive side of empowering and enabling girls – which ultimately becomes enabling to the world,” said Gary M. Cohen, Founder and Board Chair, Together for Girls and Executive Vice President, Global Health, BD (Becton Dickinson and Co.), President, BD Foundation.

“Data shows that when adolescent girls earn money, they invest significantly

more resources into their families and communities compared with boys,” he continued.

The partnership provides analysis, tools, and communication strategies to highlight the connections between sexual violence and HIV among girls and young women, and to showcase existing efforts and new opportunities under the PEPFAR-led DREAMS initiative (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe).

In March 2018, Together for Girls launched a campaign, Every Hour Matters, in Kenya and Uganda. It aims to increase awareness about the critical importance of quickly accessing post-rape care helping to prevent HIV and unwanted pregnancies, empowering girls to live the lives they want.

By harnessing the power of partnerships, Together for Girls continues working to end sexual violence and build a future where girls are safe, healthy, and valued.

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*Together for Girls is a collaboration among the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy, Becton, Dickinson & Company, Cummins&Partners, implementing partner Together for Girls, and managed by Cardno.*