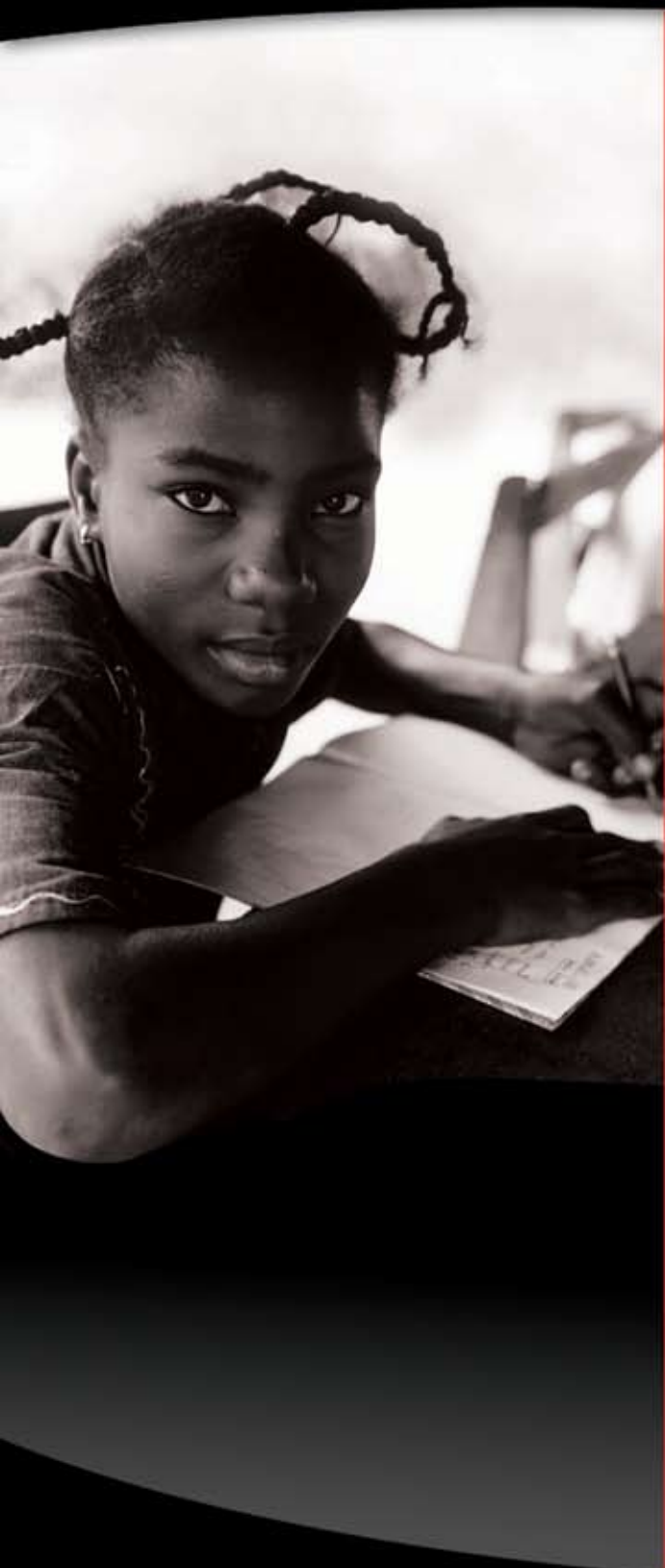


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**STOP  
VIOLENCE  
AGAINST  
GIRLS  
IN SCHOOL**



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Big Lottery Fund



“ Education is a fundamental right and the best route out of poverty for millions of children all over the world. Violence in schools is a problem that can have massive negative repercussions on a child, on a family, on a community and ultimately on a nation. This is particularly the case where violence against girls in and around schools contributes to perpetuating gender inequality in education, which ActionAid considers a violation of their rights to and in education. It is important that we all work together, whether our responsibility is at grassroots or global level, to stop violence against girls in schools... ”

David Archer, International Education Team, ActionAid



## INTRODUCTION

In 2004 ActionAid undertook a series of studies in 12 countries in Africa and Asia which indicated that the violence that girls encounter in and on the way to school constitutes a major barrier to their rights to and in education.

Research also revealed a direct link between violence in and around schools and negative outcomes in girls' educational achievement including: enrolment, attendance, and completion rates as well as a loss of self-confidence and increased vulnerability to HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the MDGs on primary education and gender cannot be achieved until these structural barriers such as violence against girls and its underlying causes (including unequal gender relations) are addressed. In many cases though laws and policies exist to protect girls from violence, they are often poorly understood or implemented and fail to guarantee girls' safety or allow them to seek redress.

ActionAid believes that violence against girls is an urgent priority which must be addressed now to end violence against girls in school and to guarantee girls' rights to education. With the support of the UK's Big Lottery Fund, ActionAid has launched a new multi-country project called **Stop Violence Against Girls in School**.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The **Stop Violence Against Girls in School** project officially started on the 1st of July 2008 and will be implemented simultaneously in Ghana, Kenya and Mozambique. The project is working towards four key outcomes which it hopes to achieve by 2013:

1. In Kenya, Ghana and Mozambique, a legal and policy framework that specifically addresses VAGS exists and is being implemented at all levels
2. Violence against girls by family members, teachers and peers in the intervention districts is reduced by 50% from baseline statistics
3. In the portfolio intervention districts, enrolment of girls is increased by an average 22%, girls' drop out rate decreases by an average 20% and substantial progress is made towards gender parity in education
4. 14,000 girls in the portfolio intervention districts report the confidence to challenge the culture of violence in and around schools

Working in close collaboration with national partner organizations in each of the 3 countries, ActionAid will be using a combined approach consisting of community-level initiatives, research and advocacy to improve girls' access to and achievements in education. In all this work, the empowerment of girls themselves will be placed at the centre as this is fundamental to securing a transformation of gender relations in schools and communities.

At international and national levels, ActionAid will partner with leading research organizations that will shed light on violence in schools and its impact on girls' rights. Comprehensive baseline data is being collected which will allow for systematic comparison and analysis over time.

Over the next 5 years a wide range of activities will be undertaken in each of the 3 participating countries and ActionAid expects that lessons learned during this period will inform future work and help us tackle the phenomenon of Violence Against Girls in School on a wider scale. These include:

### Creating girl-friendly environments:

- Setting up and supporting girls' clubs in schools and also clubs for girls out of school
- Making schools safe environments for girls e.g. through constructing latrines for girls in schools
- Promoting the development and use of codes of conduct for teachers and learners in school





#### **Training and capacity-building:**

- Training for parents and School Management Committee and PTA Members on issues around violence and child protection
- Training for teachers and education authorities on gender-responsive pedagogy
- Training for boys, police and community leaders on the impact of violence against girls and how to respond

#### **Raising awareness and campaigning:**

- Reaching out to community leaders, traditional and religious authorities
- Mobilising communities to take a strong stand on violence in schools
- Working with local and national media to run campaigns on violence against girls
- Collaborating with coalitions and networks to ensure the issue of violence against girls in schools is kept on the agenda

#### **Advocating for change in policy and practice:**

- Working with teachers' unions to ensure the dissemination and use of the teachers' code of ethics and engaging teachers as key allies in our work to stop violence against girls in schools
- Lobbying for the development and implementation of policies that specifically address violence against girls in schools at all levels
- Working with Governments to develop appropriate mechanisms for reporting and responding to cases of violence in schools

**Join ActionAid and our partners in this exciting new initiative.  
For more information, contact:**



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