

For Immediate Release

Girls' Vision for the Future: Empowering Girls to Lead towards a Brighter Future Together

Monrovia, Liberia – October 11, 2024 – As the world celebrates the 2024 International Day of the Girl Child under the theme, “Girls’ Vision for the Future,” ActionAid Liberia reaffirms its commitment to empowering girls as central to its Country Strategy Paper III (2024-2029). This year’s theme underscores the urgent need for action and aligns seamlessly with our strategic objective of enabling women and girls to challenge the root causes of violence and systemic inequality.

Today’s generation of girls is disproportionately impacted by global crises—from climate change and poverty to conflict and pushback against gender equality. Too many girls are denied access to education, healthcare, the basic freedoms needed to shape their futures and subjected to gender based violence. The 2020 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey reveals alarming levels of violence against women, with 60% of women aged 15-49 having experienced physical violence, and 33% suffering such violence in the 12 months before the survey. Additionally, 7% of women who have ever been pregnant faced physical violence during pregnancy. The data shows a significant rise in violence over time, with the percentage of women experiencing violence since age 15 increasing from 44% in 2007 to 60% in 2019-2020, and violence rising from 29% to 33% in a year. These trends highlight the critical need for stronger protective measures and interventions to ensure the safety and well-being of women in Liberia. Our strategy recognizes that addressing these challenges through education and advocacy is key to breaking cycles of inequality and violence.

Education is at the core of our strategic approach and ensuring access to quality education for girls, especially those at risk, equips them with the knowledge and skills needed to advocate for their rights to essential services such as Sexual and Reproductive health Rights and protect themselves from harmful practices, such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) where Fifty per cent of Liberian women and girls aged 15-49 have undergone FGM, according to UN Women.

Our efforts focus on empowering young women and girls through educational programs, leadership training, mentoring, and advocacy. We are committed to fostering a new generation of informed and empowered leaders who can challenge harmful cultural norms, advocate for gender equality, and promote a vision of a more just world.

Through partnerships with women human rights defenders, community change champions, young feminist movements, and women-led civil society organizations (CSOs), we are actively advocating for systemic change. Our strategy supports girls in amplifying their voices and influencing the policy decisions that directly affect their lives.

We also emphasize the importance of advocating for gender-responsive public services, particularly in light of economic pressures. We strongly oppose austerity measures that threaten the funding of vital services such as education, healthcare, and legal protections. Ensuring that public services are adequately funded and responsive to the needs of women and girls is essential to creating an environment where every girl has the opportunity to thrive.



On this International Day of the Girl Child, we call on governments, civil society, the private sector, and international partners to join us in taking concrete steps toward realizing girls' vision for a better future. Empowering girls to lead, protecting their rights, and providing them with the tools to succeed are critical not only to their futures but to the well-being of our entire society.

Girls are ready to lead us into a more equitable and inclusive future, and it is time for all of us to listen, invest, and act.

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