# 10 ACTIONS: How Girls Today Can End Poverty Tomorrow

## Count Girls

### 1. Create a Global Girl Index:
Where are girls best- and worst-off in the world by country and by age? Annually rank countries by their performance on an Index that disaggregates by age and creates a composite score based on indicators such as adolescent fertility; percentage of girls married before 15 and 18; HIV/AIDS prevalence; completion rates in education; and labor force participation rates.

### 2. Count girls:
To lessen the likelihood of economic and social exploitation and under-age marriage, ensure registration and birth certificates for all births, and provide girls and boys over the age of 12 with personal documentation.

### 3. Track and report annually on the progress of adolescent girls:
What level and kinds of investments are being made and are they having an impact? All sectors can and should track program beneficiaries by age and sex to determine if, and which, girls are benefiting – and to what levels of support.

## Invest in Girls

### 4. Incremental funding specifically for adolescent girls:
Increase bilateral development programs' gender equality spending from 20% to 30% by investing in girls; explore how private foundations can address the needs of girls.

### 5. Invest in girls' education:
Develop programs to help girls progress to secondary school; improve the quality of primary-school education to ensure girls are prepared to move on to secondary school; invest in public/private partnerships to ensure girls have the opportunity to attend secondary schools that prepare them for formal-sector jobs; report on enrollment and completion rates for girls.

### 6. HIV/AIDS:
Implement strategies targeted to adolescent girls to prevent HIV infection; create a girl-specific fund within the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria to build the capacity of countries to implement a girl-specific strategy; place gender and girl experts in-country; direct field offices to evaluate strategy implementation and report back on the status of girls.

### 7. Sexual and reproductive health services and information:
Design and fund reproductive and sexual health services for adolescent girls that are accessible, comprehensive, confidential, and nonjudgmental; ensure services and materials provide information in local languages; target at-risk pregnant girls to lower rates of adolescent maternal mortality and related conditions such as fistula.

### 8. Economic empowerment:
Develop internships, training opportunities, and lessons in financial literacy to ease girls' transitions from school to work; provide incentives to companies that implement these programs; develop codes of conduct that encourage training, employment, and empowerment of young women in the workplace; support smaller business partners to undertake cost-benefit analyses of employing young women in non-traditional jobs.

## Advocate for Girls

### 9. Leverage your sphere of influence to deliver on Count Girls and Invest in Girls:
Engage partners; write and speak about girls; convene the private sector to develop training programs, support transitions from school to work, and develop policies against discrimination; press governments to adopt policies that prepare and protect girls, and pass and enforce laws addressing violence, discrimination, education, identification, health, etc.

### 10. Engage young people directly:
Engage youth (both girls and boys) in advocating on behalf of girls; engage girls in educating leaders about their lives, in pressing for appropriate laws and policies, and in designing services and outreach.

www.coalitionforadolescentgirls.org

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