



## Starting from girls: they are the source to trigger a change!

### AGENDA

Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup> - EXPO Milan 2015, Italy

#### Objective:

- to launch a dialogue among different actors such as the African governments, European Union Governments, CSOs, private sector, the donor community and Academia around the current issues related to policy strategies and initiatives which see adolescent girls involved, in the specific framework of agriculture, food and nutrition security context and hence the potential benefits of an increased investment in the role of adolescent girls.

#### Expected outcomes:

- to build trust and understanding around the potential role of each actor to effectively support policy discussions and public-private partnerships in favour of adolescent girls and their key role in the agriculture sector and in nutrition and food security, with the potential for establishing a regular dialogue platform to promote an enabling environment.

#### **Morning Session: 10:30 – 13:00**

Session facilitated by Jasmine Whitbread, CEO Save the Children International

#### **Opening by Claudio Tesauro, President Save the Children Italy**

- **Introduction to the theme: “Starting from girls” by Jasmine Whitbread, CEO Save the Children International**
- **H.R. Federica Mogherini High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission and President of Women for EXPO will address a message on the importance of promoting girl's rights around the world. (to be confirmed)**
- **EXPO Milan 2015, The Charter of Milan and the role of women by Maurizio Martina, Italian Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies and Delegate for Expo**
- **The commitment of Women for EXPO towards the empowerment of girls, by Marta Dassù, Executive President of Women for EXPO**
- **Women African leaders as examples to adolescent girls, by H.E. Albina Assis Pereira Africano, President of the Steering Committee of EXPO and Commissioner General of the Angola Pavilion in EXPO Milan 2015**
- **Video & Voice from the community, Rose Sakala, a girl student from Malawi**
- **The Case of Malawi by Mary Shawa, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare**



- The commitment of Bulgari in supporting Adolescent Girls by *Eleonora Rizzuto, Head Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility, Bulgari*
- The European Union's commitment towards the empowerment of adolescent girls in agriculture, *Patrizia Toia, Member of the European Parliament*
- The Sughar model: how to provide socio-economic opportunities and empowerment to women by *Khalida Brohi, Founder and Executive Director of the Sughar Empowerment Society*

### **Technical Session: 15:00 – 18:00**

Session facilitated by: Matthew Pickard, Director, Save the Children Malawi

**Opening by Daniele Timarco, Director of International Programmes and Advocacy, Save the Children Italy**

#### **15:10 – 15:20**

- Introduction to the session (objectives and expected outcomes) by *Matthew Pickard, Director, Save the Children Malawi*

#### **15:20 – 15:30**

- *Inclusive business and social innovation by Lucia Dal Negro, Founder and Focal Person of Inclusive Business, Social Impact Assessment and Design Thinking at De-LAB*

#### **15:30 – 15:40**

- The Global Nutrition Agenda: the WHA Targets by *Francesco Branca, Director of the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, World Health Organization*

#### **15:40 – 15:50**

- The Girls Declaration by *Maria Grazia Panunzi, President of AIDOS, Italian Association for Women in Development*

#### **16:00 – 16:10**

- SUN Movement engagement with Adolescent Girls by *Patrizia Fracassi, Senior Nutrition Analyst and Strategy Advisor, SUN Movement Secretariat*

### **Break 16:10 – 16:30**

#### **16:30 – 16:40**

- Gender Gap in the Agriculture Sector by *Libor Stloukal, Policy Officer, Social Protection Division, FAO*

#### **16:40 – 16:50**

- The role of the private sector and public-private partnerships in the Agriculture; Nutrition and Food Security Sectors in Sub-Sahara Africa by *Francesco Rampa, Head of the Food Security Programme and member of European Centre for Development Policy Management, ECDPM's Executive Group.*

#### **16:50 – 17:00**

- The Case of Malawi by *Alice Harding Shackelford, UN Women Representative, Malawi*

#### **17:00– 17:30 Questions & Answers**

**17:30 – 17:45 Closing of the day and summary of the steps forward by *Elena Avenati,***

***Head of International Advocacy & Policy, Save the Children Italy and Simona Seravesi, International Advocacy & Policy Advisor, Save the Children Italy***



## CONCEPT NOTE

***“Starting from girls: they are the source to trigger a change!”***

Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup> - EXPO Milan 2015, Italy

### Background

**Although still “invisible” to a large extent, today’s youth generation is the largest in history and half of them are girls<sup>1</sup>.** It is estimated that from 2010 to 2030, the total population of adolescents will increase from 1.2 to 1.3 billion with the largest increase occurring in Sub-Saharan Africa (UNFPA, 2013). In many developing countries, almost 60% of girls complete primary school, and just 30% have access to secondary school. One in three girls in developing countries is married before the age of 18, and one in nine before the age of 15. Each year 7.3 million girls below the age of 18 give birth and complications related to pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among adolescent girls between 15 and 19. HIV/AIDS prevalence is more than twice as high for females aged 15 - 24 as it is for males.

**Gender inequalities are a root cause of lower food production, lesser income and higher levels of malnutrition.** The Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO estimated that by providing to women/girls access to the same resources as men, could reduce the number of malnourished people in the world by 100-150 million.

**Approximately 1.1 billion farmers in developing countries are women.** Women represent 43 percent of the world’s farmers often responsible for cultivating the healthy foods that can alleviate malnutrition, also providing the income to purchase nutritious foods for their households. Although there is an increased attention on their role, they still lack access to land, credit, information, and crucial inputs compared with their male counterparts.

**The young adolescent girls contribute to the family work in the agriculture sector and are engaged in wage labour such as cash-crop production and livestock.** Moreover, they are often marginalized with less access to productive assets such as land or services (finance and extension). Their vulnerability is also due to various other factors which comprehend: early pregnancies, early marriages and lack of access to basic and rightful education. Babies born from young adolescent mothers are also more likely to die or be born with nutritional deficits compared to children born by more developed women.

The infants who survive have a greater risk of growing up to be stunted mothers or fathers themselves. In order to prevent malnutrition being passed to the next generation adolescent girls and their communities must be both supported for improved nutrition and to delay the issue of early marriage and unwanted pregnancies.

Although the role of girls is key within the household system, **there is a “girl gap” within the development agenda which has bypassed adolescent girls by grouping them with women or children, but not as a category of their own (Save the Children, 2014).** This is also the reason why there is a lack of an adequate assessment of adolescents in the majority of developing countries (StC, 2014).

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<sup>1</sup> Usually adolescent girls are girls between the ages of 10-19, however it must be recognized that adolescent girls are not a homogeneous group and there are several distinctions arising from ages; schooling/enrolment status, participation in formal,informal, domestic work, marital status etc. When girls are discussed in the literature, they are usually “added” to women (the “women and girls” syndrome), without looking at how girls’ economic and financial asset needs, strategies, and opportunities differ from those of women, and how age in addition to gender disadvantages them within social institutions.



As raised above, a **key aspect is the recognition of the need to invest in adolescent girls and their key role in agriculture, food and nutrition security.** Their role needs to be recognized within a nutrition security perspective which includes not only availability and access to adequate food that fully satisfies the nutritional needs, but also utilization. Girls can be also involved more directly within the agricultural value chains through the small-holder farmers and/or in the larger privately owned farms at the local and national level. They must be also empowered by facilitating access to health information and services (including for sexual and reproductive health), the opportunity to access to specific trainings, a chance for social participation and leadership, and links to formal/non-formal education and to livelihoods. All these aspects must be also in line with the child protection policy.

**There is an emerging consensus on investing in girl's education, health, protection from violence, and employment in agriculture and rural areas can lead to a return in reducing poverty and improving the local economy more than any other type of investment.** Nevertheless, programmes to support adolescent girls are still limited. A number of donors did not fund programmes specifically aimed at adolescent nutrition (Irish Aid, ECHO, DEVCO, OFDA, DFTAD). Whilst a significant number of agencies include adolescents as a component of direct nutrition interventions (fortification programmes, health and nutrition support packages to pregnant and lactating women, infant and young child feeding counselling and food security programmes). However, adolescence represents a window of opportunity in the human lifecycle (StC, 2014) and the costs of not investing in adolescent girls are far too high, compared to the positive returns we receive when investing in this category. For instance, every 10% increase in girls' enrolment in secondary school in low-income countries will save approximately 350,000 children's lives and reduce maternal mortality by 15,000 each year (StC, 2014)

## Rationale

**Building on this, Save the Children organizes an event in collaboration with WE-Women for EXPO which will be held in EXPO Milan 2015 on the 3rd of July 2015 on the key role of adolescent girls in low and middle income countries in breaking the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition.**

The proposed event is co-organized with the Women for Expo initiative, within EXPO Milan 2015's framework, carried out in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Arnaldo e Alberto Mondadori Foundation.

The main goal of this International Event is to promote and advocate among policy makers, donor community, private sector, CSOs and the EU and African governments on the potential of investing in adolescent girls through strengthening their access to and control over agricultural resources, food and nutrition security, opportunities, benefits and decision making processes. This event will also constitute an important opportunity to ensure that this theme will be part of the contents of "*The Milan Charter*" and to renew the key role of adolescent girls in the post-2015 MDGs Agenda.

The case of Malawi, which is one of the few countries not represented at the EXPO, will be introduced as an example on how Save the Children is working with teen mothers in coupling agricultural and nutritional objectives with an overview on what must be done in the incoming future.



## Goal and objectives:

**The main goal of the event is to launch a dialogue among the European and African governments, CSOs, the donor community, and the private sector around the theme of adolescent girls and their potential role in ensuring food and nutrition among communities.**

The main expected outcome of this event is to bring the attention of the international community on adolescent girls and understand what each involved actor should do to effectively support with the potential of establishing a common platform to promote an enabling environment.

A Discussion Paper developed by Save the Children will be launched during the Event to facilitate and promote a multi-stakeholders discussion on the thematic focus proposed.

The suggested themes:

### Objectives:

1. i) Overview and discussion on the key role of adolescent girls in developing countries and their key role within the food system (nutrition, food security, agriculture) and as a consequence the impact on their children's nutritional needs.
2. ii) Discussion and follow-up on why to bring adolescent girls at the discussion within Women for EXPO and why to invest on them and their potential in breaking the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition.

### Expected outcomes:

1. i) Suggest next steps by each involved high level actor to effectively reinforce the commitment; support and promotion of the topic within the international debate around Nutrition and Food Security, Agriculture and Gender.
2. ii) Establish and/or launch a fruitful multi-stakeholders dialogue on the benefits and potential actions in investing in adolescent girls.



## Save the Children

Malnutrition contributes to over 45 percent of all childhood deaths under the age of five – the fight against malnutrition is hence a central element in the work of **Save the Children**, precisely of the **Every One Campaign**, as well as education on a healthy diet that can provide adequate nutrition to children from the day they are born, and to their mothers.

The participation at Expo Milano 2015 and to its central theme “Feeding the Planet. Energy for Life”, is an important step in drawing the attention of institutions to these issues and to raise visitors’ awareness about the causes and effects of malnutrition, reflecting on the challenges and the most effective solutions.

Save the Children is present at EXPO with a large area of about 800 square meters, where the Save the Children Village is hosted. Made of wood and recycled materials, with outdoor spaces comprising cultivated land and a garden, it acts as a strong reminder of the visible structures in countries where the organization operates. Inside the Village, visitors to Expo Milan 2015 can explore the importance of nutrition and its impact on the lives and health of children and mothers in the world, particularly in developing countries.

## WE-Women for EXPO

**WE-Women for EXPO** is a network of women from around the world who speak out and act jointly on the subjects of food and sustainability, and do so placing women’s culture at the heart of an international exposition for the very first time.

WE seeks to transform women’s innate capacity to ‘take care’ into a universal model, a new paradigm that can be a starting point for feeding the planet and rethinking its future.

WE believes that Expo Milano 2015 is a chance not to be missed to reflect on women’s crucial role in food production, in nutrition, in responsible consumption, and in the education of future generations.

WE asks women around the world to work towards a shared objective: access to food for all, in a world where ‘me’ gives way to ‘we’ and where prosperity replaces waste. Because WE is not only ME.