

## International Day of the Girl Child Story and Advocacy Summit

### Introduction

Connected Development [CODE] in Partnership with LitWorld with support from Save The Children in Nigeria is convening a Story and Advocacy Summit for the International Day of the Girl Child. Girls face numerous challenges in their journey towards getting equitable access to quality education. The international Day of the Girl Child is observed every year on October 11. The observation supports more opportunity for girls and increases awareness of inequality faced by girls worldwide because of their gender. These forms of inequality include access to education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care and protection from discrimination, violence and child marriage.

In recent times, access to education for girls and boys has been the major focus for education interventions but over 250 million children worldwide are currently failing to acquire basic skills. There is also a high level of educational inequality between boys and girls and the rich and the poor. The implication of this situation is that the learning foundation of girls becomes disrupted and this makes it difficult for a high population of girls to be less likely to contribute meaningfully to the society and world at large.

Although Governments and Civil Society Organizations have made progress in reducing challenges faced by girls, mobilizing individuals to participate in this action has been at its minimum. This summit aims to ensure girls and women in particular, take up leadership roles in ensuring that the rights of girls are not infringed upon.

This year, the theme for the International Day of the Girl Child is “Empowering Adolescent Girls: Ending the Cycle of Violence”. Over the years, it has become important for girls to be more empowered to speak out about challenges they face. Story and Advocacy Summits are a way for mentors and girls to share their stories. Story Summits are structured, guided one day events. Volunteer mentors will have the chance to meet young girls and vice versa to create safe spaces for young girls to speak freely. This summit also aims to ensure young girls have guidance as they go through the journey of authoring their lives of hope, independence and joy to make certain that challenges like violence, child labour, in adequate health system and the inequitable access to quality education.

LitWorld’s Stand Up for Girls campaign mobilizes women, men, girls and boys to advocate for every girl’s right to tell her story to change the world. By learning to read, write and share their stories, girls understand that their words have the power to create monumental change.

### Objectives of the Summit

1. Consolidate a clear understanding of what mentoring means and its benefits
2. To strengthen girl child advocacy and messaging using local knowledge and context for easy access to data and information for policy makers
3. To highlight success stories and address challenges on girl child advocacy

## Outcomes

1. Understanding of mentoring processes gained by participants
2. Capacity of participants built on girl child advocacy
3. Success stories shared around the world
4. Challenges of girl child advocacy addressed
5. Sustainable mentorship programmes established

## About the Story Summit

This will be a 2-3 hour event to celebrate Stand Up For Girls in your community through bringing together women and girls to share stories of Strength.

The event will include a set of interactive activities. You can learn more in this packet.

## Target Audience

The event is open to all girls and women from the age of 10. The event should also be attended by older students from secondary school or professional women who can share their inspirational stories with the children. Forty (40) participants are expected.

## Time

The event will take place on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from 10am to 1pm

## Output

1. Collection of success stories of strength of girls and women to be shared all over the world
2. Database of young women interested in working with girls
3. Orientation for young girls and women on mentorship programmes
4. Summit report

## Methodology

Techniques to be used include identity web, storytelling, writing and participatory presentations by guest speakers. The event will allow participants to take action on behalf of the world's most marginalized girls along with other LitClubs and people worldwide.

## Story Summit Schedule

10:00 – Participants arrive, take pictures with the Stand Up for Girls sign

10:30 – Welcome and Introduction

10:40 - Small Group Community-Building Activity: Identity Web

11:05 - Small group Core Activity: Stand Up for Girls Strength Stories

11:45 - Community-building game: Taking a Stand

12pm - Stand Up for Girls

12:15 - Advocacy

1:00 - Departure