

CONDENSED EDITION

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL AND PROGRAMMATIC GUIDANCE ON

OUT-OF-SCHOOL COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION

AN EVIDENCE-INFORMED APPROACH
FOR NON-FORMAL, OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAMMES



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Foreword

The world today is home to one of the largest generations of young people in history. By investing in their health and education, governments can support young people's engagement in society, ensure their well-being, and help them achieve their full potential. Positioned at the crossroads of education and health, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) is vital to advancing health outcomes and gender equality. It gives young people the tools they need to have healthy lives and relationships, and helps them navigate life-changing decisions about their sexual and reproductive health.

Yet, many young people receive a range of scientifically incorrect, conflicting and confusing messages about sexuality and gender on a daily basis. This can lead to serious risks for their health, well-being and dignity. As a result, poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes are a reality for many young people today. This points to the urgent need for effective CSE on a large scale. Published by UNFPA, together with contributing agencies UNESCO, UNICEF, UNAIDS and WHO, the *International Technical and Programmatic Guidance on Out-of-School Comprehensive Sexuality Education* is an indication of our joint commitment to this work.

It comes amid growing momentum for CSE globally, and coincides with UNFPA's 50th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development and its groundbreaking Programme of Action. It also supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to reach those furthest behind, including young people, people with disabilities, those living with HIV, Indigenous communities, refugees and migrants. Because many among these groups are not in school, and those attending school may not receive CSE, out-of-school programmes can help fill the gaps and effectively address their needs.

This Guidance complements and refers to the *International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education* published in 2018. Informed by evidence and grounded in a human-rights approach, this out-of-school edition provides concrete guidelines and recommendations to ensure that the most vulnerable young people receive information that enables them to develop the knowledge and skills they need to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health.

Along with our contributing partners, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNAIDS and WHO, we at UNFPA urge programme developers to apply these comprehensive guidelines to promote the empowerment, self-determination and health of young people who are at highest risk for negative outcomes. This includes those facing violence and discrimination, marginalization, poverty, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and mental-health problems, among other issues. We are committed to reinforcing and promoting the universal values espoused in this Guidance, including gender equality, dignity, social inclusion and human rights for all.

We will continue our efforts until every young person has the knowledge to live a healthy life, the opportunity to reach their full potential, and the space to contribute to building a better future for all.

Dr Natalia Kanem
UNFPA Executive Director

Acronyms and abbreviations

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	UN	United Nations
APCOM	Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
APN+	Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
CSE	comprehensive sexuality education	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
GNP+	Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
INPUD	International Network of People who Use Drugs	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
IRC	International Rescue Committee	UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
ITGSE	<i>International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education</i>	WHO	World Health Organization
LGBQ+	lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, asexual and other non-heterosexual sexual orientations		
LGBTQ+	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/non-cisgender identities (such as intersex, gender non-binary/non-conforming and agender)		
NSWP	Global Network of Sex Work Projects		

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