

UNFPA'S Multicountry Programme on Out-of-School Comprehensive Life Skills Education: Country Cases



Ethiopia

2019






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The Country Cases Series was developed by UNFPA based on outcomes of the project “Reaching those most left behind through CSE for out-of-school young people” in Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iran and Malawi, with the financial support of Norway.

Project at a glance

UNFPA has launched an initiative on out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education, Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Those Left Furthest Behind, across five regions (Asia and the Pacific, East and Southern Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West and Central Africa). The initiative reaches out to young people from left-behind populations using specially developed technical guidance on CSE in out-of-school settings. In each of five selected countries, locally adapted interventions consider the needs, life experiences and vulnerabilities of left-behind groups of young people. A key objective is to build an evidence base for designing and delivering the curriculum across different countries and regions. UNFPA is collaborating with the World Health Organization on implementation research in partnership with local research institutions. Youth engagement and digital solutions are integral to the programme.

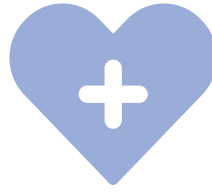
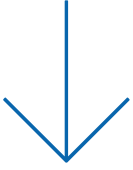
Theory of change for the UNFPA multicountry programme on Out of School (OOS) Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)

Goal	<p>To empower and equip adolescents and young people from specific groups left behind with the information and the skills through out of school CSE, so that they can make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and well-being.</p>		
Pillars	 <p>Dissemination and use of International Guidance on OOS CSE</p>	 <p>Programme implementation</p>	 <p>Data and evidence generation and dissemination</p>
Outcome	<p>Outcome 1: International guidance on OOS CSE rolled out across countries and regions</p>	<p>Outcome 2: Participatory, relevant and contextualized models of OOS CSE programming established and tested</p>	<p>Outcome 3: Documentation and dissemination of strategic information, lessons learned and best practices</p>
Output	<p>1.1. International Guidance on OOS published and launched</p> <p>1.2. Materials and tools supporting the implementation of the international guidance developed</p> <p>1.3. Enhanced capacity to utilize digital and other innovative solutions for advocacy, demand creation, and delivery of CSE</p>	<p>2.1 Young people from specific groups left behind identified and engaged meaningfully</p> <p>2.2 Facilitators have the competencies, attitudes, and tools needed to reach and engage young people from specific groups</p> <p>2.3 Relevant gatekeepers identified and engaged in support of young people's access to CSE, and their SRHR more broadly</p>	<p>3.1. Implementation research conducted in at least 4 sites of the programme</p> <p>3.2. Lessons from programmes sites learned and synthesized.</p> <p>3.3. State of OOS CSE assessed in selected regions</p>

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Ethiopia's youth policy and comprehensive life skills education

In recent years, Ethiopia has reached diverse groups of at-risk young people through support for sexual and reproductive health interventions. More than 67 youth clubs, in and out of school, were supported with materials and training to increase the participation of young people.

Populations reached out to by the project

The initiative is aimed at young people living with disabilities, especially those with visual, hearing and physical impairments. It also seeks to engage young women selling sex (aged 18 to 24).

Country Partners

- DKT International (non-profit organization), Ethiopian Centre for Disability and Development, Consortium for Reproductive Health Organizations

Highlights



Adapting a manual for peer-to-peer interventions for young people selling sex

UNFPA supported the revision of the peer-to-peer manual used for people selling sex. National partners have adopted it as a guiding document.



Innovation is the key – launching a no-cost phone line

The project created a no-cost phone platform where adolescents and youth with disabilities can access sexual and reproductive health and other relevant information. Called “Minch” (meaning “Source”), it is an interactive voice response telephone platform designed to connect persons with disabilities and others to disability-related information in English or Amharic. Users can access the platform by calling a toll-free four-digit number, through a landline or basic mobile phone without Internet. The service provides information related to sexual and reproductive health matters, as well as information regarding employment and mental health services.



Capacity-building through peer education trainings and support to young females selling sex in making informed decisions about sexual health

A local partner of the out-of-school initiative, Wise-Up, organized a three-day training to provide young females selling sex with information about contraception and protection. The training also included interactive sessions using peer education methodologies to enhance participants' sense of self-worth, efficacy and awareness of their rights. A total of 1,800 women selling sex participated.

Lessons learned & Challenges

Community representation is needed

Few organizations are working with young people selling sex, which makes it difficult to reach those populations and provide regular access to comprehensive life skills education sessions. This has also limited advocacy asserting the rights and interests of young people selling sex, towards reducing their vulnerability.

Community outreach and lack of information

A lack of information about young people with disabilities has presented a challenge in identifying and reaching out to those outside the formal educational system. This hinders the provision of regular comprehensive life skills education.

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