



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Sustainable
Development
Goals

Revised edition

International technical guidance on sexuality education

An evidence-informed approach



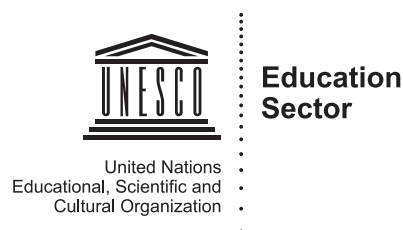
Revised edition

International technical guidance on sexuality education

An evidence-informed approach

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Foreword

It has been almost a decade since the *International technical guidance on sexuality education* was first released in 2009. During this period, the global community has come to embrace a bold and transformative development agenda to achieve a just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met and where no one is left behind. The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development shows us that quality education, good health and well-being, gender equality and human rights are intrinsically intertwined.

Over this period, more and more young people have joined together to call for their right to sexuality education, and to urge their leaders to deliver on political commitments for current and future generations. At the 2012 Global Youth Forum of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), young people specifically called on governments to 'create enabling environments and policies to ensure that they have access to comprehensive sexuality education in formal and non-formal settings, through reducing barriers and allocating adequate budgets'.

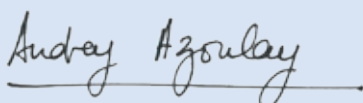
Young people have not stood alone in this effort – they have been joined by communities, parents, faith leaders and stakeholders in the education sector who increasingly champion sexuality education as an essential component of a good quality education that is comprehensive and life skills-based; and which supports young people to develop the knowledge, skills, ethical values and attitudes they need to make conscious, healthy and respectful choices about relationships, sex and reproduction.

Despite these advances, too many young people still make the transition from childhood to adulthood receiving inaccurate, incomplete or judgement-laden information affecting their physical, social and emotional development. This inadequate preparation not only exacerbates the vulnerability of children and youth to exploitation and other harmful outcomes, but it also represents the failure of society's duty bearers to fulfil their obligations to an entire generation.

This revised and fully updated edition of the *International technical guidance on sexuality education* benefits from a new review of the current evidence, and reaffirms the position of sexuality education within a framework of human rights and gender equality. It promotes structured learning about sex and relationships in a manner that is positive, affirming, and centered on the best interest of the young person. By outlining the essential components of effective sexuality education programmes, the Guidance enables national authorities to design comprehensive curricula that will have a positive impact on young people's health and well-being.

Like the original Guidance, this revised version is voluntary, based on the latest scientific evidence, and designed to support countries to implement effective sexuality education programmes adapted to their contexts.

We are convinced that if we do not meet young people's calls for good quality comprehensive sexuality education, we will not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) we have set for 2030, and the commitment that has been made to leave no one behind. With this in mind, we are committed to supporting countries to apply the Guidance, and hope that teachers, health educators, youth development professionals, sexual and reproductive health advocates and youth leaders – among others – will use this resource to help countries to realize young people's right to education, health and well-being, and to achieve an inclusive and gender equal society.



Audrey Azoulay
Director-General, UNESCO

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Table of contents

Acronyms.....	9
1 - Introduction	11
1.1 The purpose of the <i>International technical guidance on sexuality education</i> and its intended audiences	12
1.2 How is the Guidance structured?	13
1.3 Why do we need a revised version of the Guidance?	13
1.4 The development process.....	14
2 - Understanding comprehensive sexuality education	15
2.1 What is comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)?	16
2.2 Other key considerations in the evolving field of CSE	18
3 - Young people's health and well-being	21
3.1 Children's and young people's sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs.....	22
3.2 Other key issues affecting children's and young people's health and well-being that can be addressed through CSE	24
3.3 Specific sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs and other issues affecting subgroups of children and young people	25
4 - The evidence base for comprehensive sexuality education	27
4.1 Introduction	28
4.2 Main conclusions of the evidence reviews.....	28
4.3 Limitations of the evidence reviews.....	30
4.4 What evidence do we need in the future?	31
5 - Key concepts, topics and learning objectives	33
5.1 Goals, age groups and structure	34
5.2 Overview of key concepts, topics and learning objectives.....	36
Key concept 1: Relationships	37
Key concept 2: Values, Rights, Culture and Sexuality	45
Key concept 3: Understanding Gender	49
Key concept 4: Violence and Staying Safe	53
Key concept 5: Skills for Health and Well-being	58

Key concept 6: The Human Body and Development	64
Key concept 7: Sexuality and Sexual Behaviour	69
Key concept 8: Sexual and Reproductive Health	73
6 - Building support and planning for the implementation of CSE programmes	81
6.1 Strengthening commitment for CSE	82
6.2 Supporting CSE programme planning and implementation	86
7 - Delivering effective CSE programmes	89
7.1 Introduction	90
7.2 Characteristics of effective curriculum development	90
7.3 Designing and implementing CSE programmes	94
7.4 Monitoring and evaluation of CSE programmes	97
7.5 Scaling up CSE programmes	98
8 - References	101
9 - Glossary	111
10 - Appendices	115
Appendix I International agreements, instruments and standards related to comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)	116
Appendix II List of participants in the Comprehensive Sexuality Education Advisory Group, 2016-2017	123
Appendix III List of participants in the UNESCO Stakeholder Consultation and Advisory Group meetings	124
Appendix IV Criteria for selection of evaluation studies and review methods	127
Appendix V Studies referenced as part of the evidence review 2016	129
Appendix VI People contacted and key informant details for updating key concepts, topics, and learning objectives 2017	133
Appendix VII Bibliography of references and resources used in the updating of the key concepts, topics and learning objectives 2017	134
Appendix VIII Proposed indicator for monitoring life skills-based HIV and sexuality education	138

List of tables and boxes

Tables

Table 1. Key characteristics of the 2008 and 2016 evidence reviews	30
Table 2. Limitations of the evidence reviews	30
Table 3. Common concerns about CSE	84
Table 4. Characteristics of an effective CSE curriculum	93
Table 5. Stand-alone or integrated CSE - key considerations	94
Table 6. Designing and implementing CSE programmes	97
Table 7. Indicator recommended for use by countries within their Education Management Information System (EMIS) to examine the quality, comprehensiveness and coverage of life skills-based HIV and sexuality education	98

Boxes

Box 1. Conceptual framework for sexuality in the context of CSE	17
Box 2. Examples of international UN standards and agreements between Member States, in relation to CSE	82
Box 3. Youth participation in CSE advocacy and implementation	86
Box 4. UNESCO's ten key principles for scaling up sexuality education	99

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