



Comprehensive Sexuality Education Technical Guideline

Adaptation of Global Standards for
Potential Use in China

FIRST EDITION



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Foreword

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for action to create a world where no one is left behind and everyone can benefit from quality education, gender equality, and good health and well-being. Human capital investment that addresses development needs and inequalities amongst youth and the recognition of their rights enable young people to make invaluable contributions to the socio-economic development of their countries and communities and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, without sexual and reproductive health these gains can be undermined. Therefore, universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, information, and education, with a particular focus on the needs of adolescents and youth, is critical for achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) plays a central role in achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). It develops children's and adolescents' ability to protect and advocate for their health, well-being, and dignity. Age-appropriate CSE includes discussions about family life, relationships, culture, and gender roles, and it supports children and adolescents to develop self-esteem and life skills in critical thinking, effective communication, responsible decisions, and respectful, empathetic behavior.

In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action was adopted by 179 countries, including China. This global commitment to realizing people-centered development through a focus on sexual and reproductive health and gender equality recognizes that providing education on sexuality is essential to promoting the well-being of adolescents. Almost 30 years later, despite much progress, we continue to see millions of young people across the world unable to access the quality, evidence-based CSE they need.

The updated edition of the *International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education (ITGSE)*, released in 2018 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other United Nations (UN) agencies, defines international standards in the delivery of CSE based on the most recent scientific evidence and global experience and serves as a guide for national governments and their partners to develop and implement effective CSE programmes adapted to their local contexts.

China is home to one of the largest populations of children and adolescents in the world and for more than 40 years, UNFPA, the UN SRHR agency, has worked closely with the Government of China and other partners to strengthen national capacity in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, adolescents and youth development, gender equality and population and development data. It is notable that China has ensured that the provision of sexuality education and the strengthening of sexual and reproductive health services have been incorporated into various national strategies,

laws, and regulations, including a call for multi-departmental cooperation and an enforcement system for the protection of rights and interests of children and adolescents.

Since 2018, UNFPA China and UNESCO Beijing Office have supported the development of this *Comprehensive Sexuality Education Technical Guideline –Adaptation of Global Standards for Potential Use in China (First Edition)* (hereafter referred to as the Guideline). The development of the Guideline was led by Professor Liu Wenli and the children's sexuality education project team from Beijing Normal University and included close consultation and engagement with a technical advisory group consisting of relevant experts and specialists with diverse backgrounds, representing various sectors and institutions. The Guideline is aligned with the ITGSE global standards and the Government of China's laws, policies and national programmes on children, adolescents, youth, and women's development.

The Guideline is designed as a technical resource to support the work of policymakers, teachers, health educators, programme managers, youth development professionals, and young leaders in China in the design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of quality CSE curricula and programmes through holistic, scientific, localized, and standardized approaches.

We are committed to supporting the application of the Guideline by continuing to work with valuable national partners and hope this Guideline will be a useful resource for national partners seeking to strengthen access to quality CSE for children and adolescents.

Dr. Justine Coulson

UNFPA Representative to China and Country Director of UNFPA in Mongolia

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In the process of developing the *Comprehensive Sexuality Education Technical Guideline—Adaptation of Global Standards for Potential Use in China (First Edition)* (hereinafter referred to as the Guideline), we received care, support and help from all aspects.

The development of the Guideline was completed by the children's sexuality education project team led by Professor Liu Wenli of Beijing Normal University in collaboration with experts from technical advisory group. The members of the children's sexuality education project team of Beijing Normal University are Liu Wenli, Li Jiayang, Zhong Yao, Li Yumeng, Guo Lingfeng, Lu Mingqi, Li Yiyang. The technical advisory group experts who provided technical support for the Guideline are: Liu Wenli, Professor of the China Collaborative Innovation Center for Quality Monitoring of Basic Education, Beijing Normal University; Ma Yinghua, Professor of the Institute of Child and Adolescent Health, Peking University; Wang Xiying, Professor of the Institute of Education Basic Theory, Beijing Normal University; Wei Wei, Professor of the School of Social Development, East China Normal University, Gou Ping, Professor of Teachers College of Chengdu University, Li Hongyan, Independent Consultant and former National Associate Program Officer (Education for Health and Well-being) of UNESCO Beijing Office, Zhu Min, Lecturer of Health Research Institute, School of Public Health, Kunming Medical University, Zhang Xuemei, lawyer of Beijing Juvenile Legal Aid and Research Center, Liu Qing, Deputy Chief Physician of Science and Technology Research Institute of National Health Commission, Miao Shirong, senior psychological teacher of the Adolescents Health Education Expert Group of the China Family Planning Association, Cai Yiping, Special Researcher of Kangzhong Health Education Service Center, Beijing Chaoyang District, Wang Longxi, Director of Xi'an Guangyuan Sex Education Support Charity Center (You and Me).

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