Improving education, health and wellbeing for children and young people

Joanna HERAT, UNESCO
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Improving young people’s health, well-being and quality education

➢ The SDGs on Health, Quality Education and Gender Equality

➢ EU commitments to Gender Equality, Human Rights, SRHR and CSE

➢ UN technical support for young people’s rights, education, health and well-being
Intersections at the heart of the SDG Agenda

Education increasingly recognised as a foundational component of any successful intervention on health, gender equality, child protection... and more...
Global Frameworks and Guidance

Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!): UN Guidance to Support Country Implementation

“Keeping girls in school and ensuring they can learn in a safe and supportive environment leads to many benefits for girls themselves, their families, their communities and societies.”

Improved sexual and reproductive health requires comprehensive approaches

INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children
Education implies a whole-school approach: more than «information» or «content»

- Trained teachers, supportive policies & school learning environment
- Correct knowledge, positive attitudes, values and analytical life-skills, to make informed choices & critical reflection
- Social, emotional learning and development improve educational results & other outcomes
Life skills and social emotional learning – essential for quality education

- Encourages **participatory, inclusive learning environment and pedagogy**, active reflection and **collaborative learning processes** between students and teachers.

- Develops **positive values, behaviours** and **non-discriminatory norms** -generates a **supportive learning culture in schools**.

- Enhances students’ **social and emotional skills, critical thinking, classroom behavior, school attachment** and **improves educational results**, especially for disadvantaged students.

- Contributes to targets on **equity of access** (4.1 and 4.3); **eliminating gender disparity** (4.5); **skills acquisition** (4.4); **functional literacy** (4.6); and (4.7) on **sustainable development skills, knowledge**, lifestyles, gender equality, human rights, culture of peace and non-violence.
Comprehensive Sexuality Education

Revised edition 2018

• Evidence-base for sexuality education
• Key Concepts, Topics & Learning Objectives for age 5-18+
• Key characteristics of effective CSE
• Addressing common concerns or misconceptions
How does the revised ITGSE support young people’s needs?

Prepares them for a safe, productive, fulfilling life in a world where gender-based violence, gender inequality, early and unintended pregnancies, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) still pose serious risks to their health and well-being.

Presents sexuality with a positive approach, emphasizing values such as respect, acceptance, tolerance, non-discrimination, equality, empathy, responsibility and reciprocity.

Provides age-appropriate and phased education about human rights, gender equality, relationships, reproduction, sexual behaviors risks and prevention of ill health.
What is (CSE) – a new definition

A curriculum-based process of teaching and learning about the cognitive, emotional, physical and social aspects of sexuality.

It aims to equips children and young people knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will empower them to:
realize their health, well-being and dignity;
develop respectful social and sexual relationships;
consider how their choices affect their own wellbeing and that of others; and,
understand and ensure the protection of their rights throughout their lives.
Gender at the heart of CSE – a transformational approach

- Builds awareness of how gender norms are shaped by cultural social and biological differences and similarities
- Encourages critical thinking on gender norms that influence inequality, gender-based violence and discrimination
- Encourages equitable relationships based on respectful, sexual choices free from coercion and violence.
- Recommends an approach that recognises gender diversity
Example of inter-sectoral collaboration
Ministers of Health and Education from 20 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa endorsed and affirmed their country’s commitment to improve sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health for young people by 2020.
ESM COMMITMENT TARGETS

2015 targets

- A good quality CSE curriculum framework is in place and being implemented in each of the 20 countries.
- Pre- and in-service SRH and CSE training for teachers, health and social workers is in place and being implemented in all 20 countries.
- By the end of 2015, decrease by 50% the number of adolescents and young people who do not have access to equitable, accessible, acceptable, appropriate and effective youth-friendly SRH services, including HIV.

2020 targets

- Consolidate recent and hard-won gains in the reduction of HIV prevalence in ESA, and push towards eliminating all new HIV infections among adolescents and young people aged 10-24.
- Increase to 95% the number of adolescents and young people aged 10-24 who demonstrate comprehensive HIV prevention knowledge levels.
- Reduce early and unintended pregnancies among young people by 75%.
- Eliminate gender-based violence and child marriage.
- Increase the number of schools and teacher training institutions that provide CSE to 75%.
# Regional Accountability Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact/outcome</th>
<th>Baseline status*</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Progress 2017</th>
<th>Data sources</th>
<th>Comments/Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eliminating new HIV infections among adolescents and young people aged 10-24</strong></td>
<td>Regional baseline</td>
<td>Country baselines</td>
<td>Regional target 2017</td>
<td>Regional data</td>
<td>List of countries reaching target*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and boys (15-19) and young women and men (20-24)</td>
<td>430,000 (UNAIDS 2013 estimates)</td>
<td>AGO (8,000)</td>
<td>BWA (8,000)</td>
<td>DRD (7)</td>
<td>KEN (42,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of young men and women aged 15–24 who both correctly identify 3 ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and who reject 2 major misconceptions about HIV transmission</td>
<td>35/41 (Source: 2014 SOWC Report)</td>
<td>AGO (29/32)</td>
<td>BWA (45/47)</td>
<td>DRD (15/7)</td>
<td>ETH (23/34)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Promoting gender equality and empowerment</strong></td>
<td>Regional baseline</td>
<td>Country baselines</td>
<td>Regional target 2017</td>
<td>Regional data</td>
<td>List of countries reaching target*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of women aged 15-24 who believe that wife beating is justified for at least one of the 5 specified reasons</td>
<td>Among adolescents (2005-2012): 45% males/54% females</td>
<td>(Source: 2014 SOWC Report)</td>
<td>AGO (7)</td>
<td>BWA (7)</td>
<td>DRD (5.5 - 61.7)</td>
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ESA Commitment partners

[Image of logos of various organizations]

Acknowledging the generous support of:

[Logos of additional organizations]
Opportunities to increase our impact by working across vertical boundaries

To effectively support the healthy transition of all young people from childhood to adulthood, we need investment in coordinated efforts that put the young person at the centre and takes a holistic view of their needs; providing education, information, services and support that cut across our development silos.
Thank you

Learn more: www.unesco.org/education

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en.unesco.org/themes/education-21st-century
The health situation for young people

- In some parts of the world, two out of three girls reported having no idea of what was happening to them when they began menstruating.

- Pregnancy and childbirth complications are the second cause of death among 15 to 19 year olds with approximately 70,000 adolescents affected annually.

- Child, early and forced marriage is a risk factor – approximately 90 per cent of births to teenage mothers in developing countries occurs within marriage.

- Every year, an estimated 246 million children are subject to some form of GBV, including mistreatment, bullying, psychological abuse and sexual harassment in or on the way to school.

- Around 120 million girls worldwide (slightly more than 1 in 10) have experienced forced intercourse or other forced sexual acts or any other form of intimate partner violence at some point in their lives.

- Globally, only 34 per cent of young people can demonstrate accurate knowledge about HIV prevention and transmission.
Data shows that in several countries, around 30-40% of girls aged 15-19 years, think that a husband/partner is justified hitting or beating his wife or partner, for at least one of the following reasons:

- If she burns the food;
- Argues with him;
- Goes out without telling him;
- Neglecting the children;
- Refuses sexual relations.

Gender unequal norms are deeply ingrained and widespread across the world. These norms start taking shape at early age and should also be addressed and changed from early age.
CSE - building skills for gender equality

✓ Builds awareness of how gender norms are shaped by cultural, social and biological differences and similarities

✓ Encourages critical thinking on gender norms that influence inequality, gender-based violence and discrimination

✓ Encourages equitable relationships based on respectful, sexual choices free from coercion and violence
The reciprocal relationship between health and education is well-established.

**Positive outcomes**
- Anaemia, enrolment, attendance
- Lifetime, immunization, attendance

**Negative outcomes**
- Dropout, grade’s repeating
- I.Q. points

Images from Global Partnership for Education, health and learning infographic
Why starting at primary school?

- Dropouts increase with the school level, especially for young girls.
- Learners dropping out sooner are more exposed to risks and need to be prepared.
- It is easier to impact the behaviours and norms:
  - Among the youngest
  - Before they start having a sexual life.
- The risks of abuse, of gender-based violence and unwanted pregnancies exist at primary school.
- Exposure to “explicit contents” starts younger and younger.
- The awakening of sexuality is a process that starts before adolescence.
Liens entre l’ECS et la réponse aux VGMS

**Réponse aux VGMS**

Environnement sécuritaire et inclusif favorable à l’enseignement et à l’apprentissage

**Education complète à la sexualité**

Connaissances, attitudes et compétences pour une vie sociale et sexuelle plus saine, épanouissante et respectueuse