

COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR TURKEY (2021-2025)

Second regular session 2020

Comments by SWEDEN	UNFPA country/regional office response
<p>The analysis of the underlying problem points to a huge need for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, but the CPD carefully avoids any mentioning at all about CSE or any type of sexuality education. This should in our mind be a key intervention for UNFPA given the problems with early pregnancy, relatively high HIV incidence etc. It is not enough to talk about life skills, which often does not tackle sexuality per se, there is a need to explicitly find ways of informing about sexuality, especially amongst the youth. This ought to be even more critical in the refugee population.</p>	<p>UNFPA has provided technical and financial assistance to reproductive and maternal health mainly for capacity building and service delivery. The assistance has had a focus on young people, including adolescents, adolescent health and comprehensive sexuality education.</p> <p>UNFPA has worked on adolescent health and CSE programming for a long time, including through current and planned interventions with the Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation. This work focuses on adolescent health and sexual health education for schools in Turkey to raise awareness on safe behaviours/ gender/rights/SDGs and on reproductive health and sexually transmitted infections, including some elements of SRH and related information given under the "Health Information" classes of the Ministry of Education.</p> <p>A key focus of UNFPA's proposed interventions on CSE in Turkey include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CSE policy advocacy using the UN International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education through regular studies, and establishing multisector working groups, including academicians, NGOs, professional associations, young people and governmental institutions. b) In cooperation with the Ministry of National Education, raising awareness, empowering and building the capacity of school counsellors and public school teachers on adolescent health counselling, sexual and reproductive health of children

	<p>and adolescent and to raise awareness of children's needs and expectations during adolescence.</p> <p>UNFPA will improve human resource capacity of the government, civil society organizations through training on youth and adolescent health, including early and forced marriages, and life skills/health education.</p>
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