

# UNFPA'S Multicountry Programme on Out-of-School Comprehensive Prevention Programme: Country Cases



# Iran

Country Cases Series






# UNFPA'S Multicountry Programme on Out-of-School Comprehensive Prevention Programme: Country Cases

***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

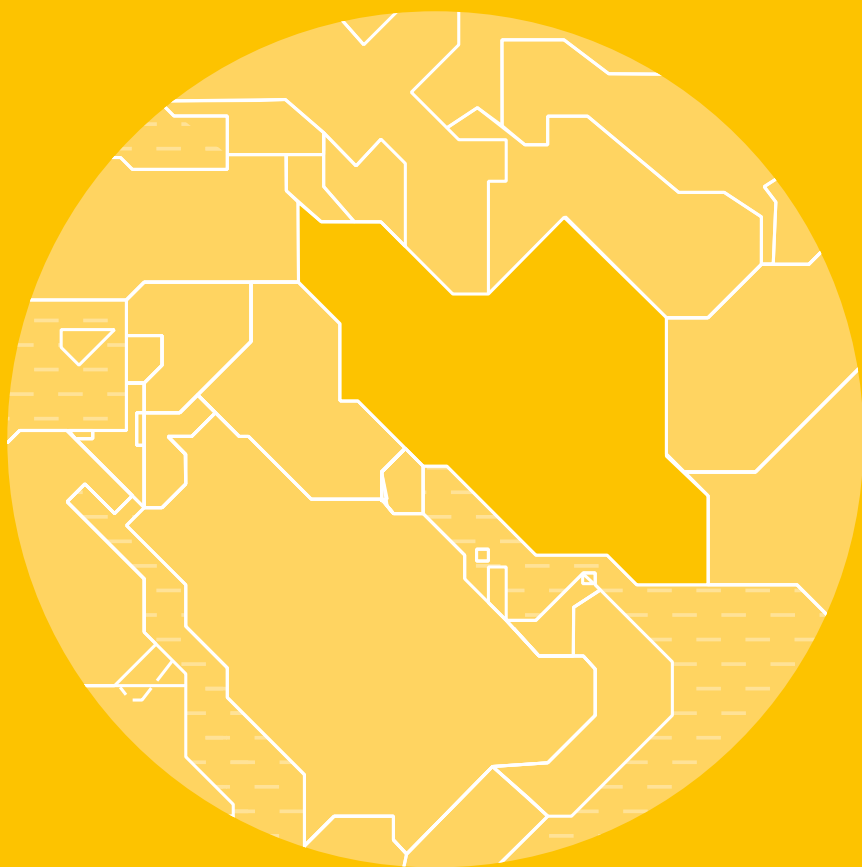
UNFPA has launched an initiative on out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education, Comprehensive Sexuality Education for Those Left Furthest Behind, across five regions (Asia and the Pacific, East and Southern Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West and Central 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.

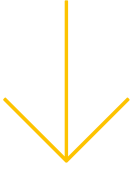
## Theory of change for the UNFPA multicountry programme on Out of School (OOS) Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)

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><b>Outcome 1:</b> International guidance on OOS CSE rolled out across countries and regions</p>	<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Participatory, relevant and contextualized models of OOS CSE programming established and tested</p>	<p><b>Outcome 3:</b> Documentation and dissemination of strategic information, lessons learned and best practices</p>
Output	<p><b>1.1.</b> International Guidance on OOS published and launched</p> <p><b>1.2.</b> Materials and tools supporting the implementation of the international guidance developed</p> <p><b>1.3.</b> Enhanced capacity to utilize digital and other innovative solutions for advocacy, demand creation, and delivery of CSE</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Young people from specific groups left behind identified and engaged meaningfully</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Facilitators have the competencies, attitudes, and tools needed to reach and engage young people from specific groups</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Relevant gatekeepers identified and engaged in support of young people's access to CSE, and their SRHR more broadly</p>	<p><b>3.1.</b> Implementation research conducted in at least 4 sites of the programme</p> <p><b>3.2.</b> Lessons from programmes sites learned and synthesized.</p> <p><b>3.3.</b> State of OOS CSE assessed in selected regions</p>

04.

# Iran





## Promoting Comprehensive Prevention Programme

HIV prevention programme for adolescents and youth, including key populations:

The Ministry of Health and Medical Education has established Adolescent Well-being Centres to provide counselling; life and social skills training; information on reproductive health, including the prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs); HIV testing and other services to vulnerable adolescents.

Centres for women most at risk of HIV offer counselling, sexual and reproductive health services, training on self-protection, and provision of dignity and hygiene kits.

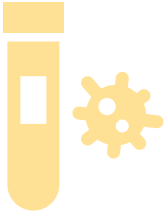
Peer education and reproductive health services reach out to young people and young adolescents most at risk of HIV through outreach programmes.

## Sexual and reproductive health policies

- Pre-marital training including on sexual and reproductive health for young people
- Information, education and communication in school

## Did you know?

Seven Adolescent Well-Being Centres in Iran provide services to the most left-behind adolescents and youth.



## Populations reached out to by the project

**Adolescent boys and girls at risk of HIV.**

## Country Partners

- **Center for Communicable Diseases Control**
- **Ministry of Health and Medical Education**
- **Ministry of Higher Education**

## Highlights



**“Sexual and Reproductive Health” and “Relationships”**

Adapting key concepts of the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education With technical assistance from UNFPA, the Iranian Centre for Communicable Diseases Control adapted two modules based on the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education (ITGSE), “Sexual and Reproductive Health” and “Relationships”.

The modules were developed in a participatory manner by national and international experts, with inputs from adolescents and young people, and the staff of the Adolescent Well-being Centres. This provided an opportunity to build reproductive health education capacities of national experts and Center for Communicable Diseases Control staff.



**Capacity-building and testing the Comprehensive Prevention Programme for Adolescents most at risk of HIV**

Three preliminary workshops took place to prepare the training curricula. The workshops encompassed the training of trainers for staff of the Adolescent Well-being Centres on how to conduct focus group discussions. They introduced the components of the Comprehensive Prevention Programme for staff at the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, and featured a participatory session to make sure the training modules for adolescents and youth reflected their needs. Packages were subsequently developed through 10 focus group discussions involving adolescent girls and boys at risk of HIV.

Their parents, as well as the staff of the Adolescent Well-being Centres, were included in the discussions to identify and respond to the larger target groups' needs. Training packages included a curriculum for adolescents and youth, and a training guide for service providers on STIs, puberty, and communication between parents and adolescents. Each package was developed separately for boys and girls to ensure gender-responsiveness.



### **Creating a safe space at the Adolescent Well-being Centres**

The Adolescent Well-being Centres, established in 2016 with the support of UNICEF and serve as safe space where adolescents and young people most at risk of HIV can access information and counselling related to sexual and reproductive health. There are seven centres – four for males and three for females. Professional staff members have been trained on the new curricula based on the UNFPA technical guidance.

## **Lessons learned**

- **Engaging with relevant stakeholders in all steps of the project is crucial to successful implementation.**
- **Working with appropriate decision-makers helps them conduct needed internal advocacy and champion culturally appropriate programming for adolescents and youth.**
- **Diversifying partners and reaching out to other sectors covers all components of comprehensive prevention, and targets a larger group of young people.**

To get in touch with the Global CSE Team, Regional and Country Focal Points:

**Zahrasadat Mirniam**, Programme Assistant, UNFPA Iran – [mirniam@unfpa.org](mailto:mirniam@unfpa.org)

**Jo Sauvarin**, Adviser on Adolescents and Youth, Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) – [sauvarin@unfpa.org](mailto:sauvarin@unfpa.org)

**Bente Faugli**, Programme Analyst, UNFPA Headquarters – [faugli@unfpa.org](mailto:faugli@unfpa.org)

**Petar Mladenov**, Programme Analyst, UNFPA Headquarters – [pmladenov@unfpa.org](mailto:pmladenov@unfpa.org)

United Nations Population Fund

605 Third Avenue

New York, NY 10158

+1 212 297 5000

[www.unfpa.org](http://www.unfpa.org)

Photo credits: UNFPA