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



# Malawi

UNFPA

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*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)

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| **Goal** | **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.** |

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

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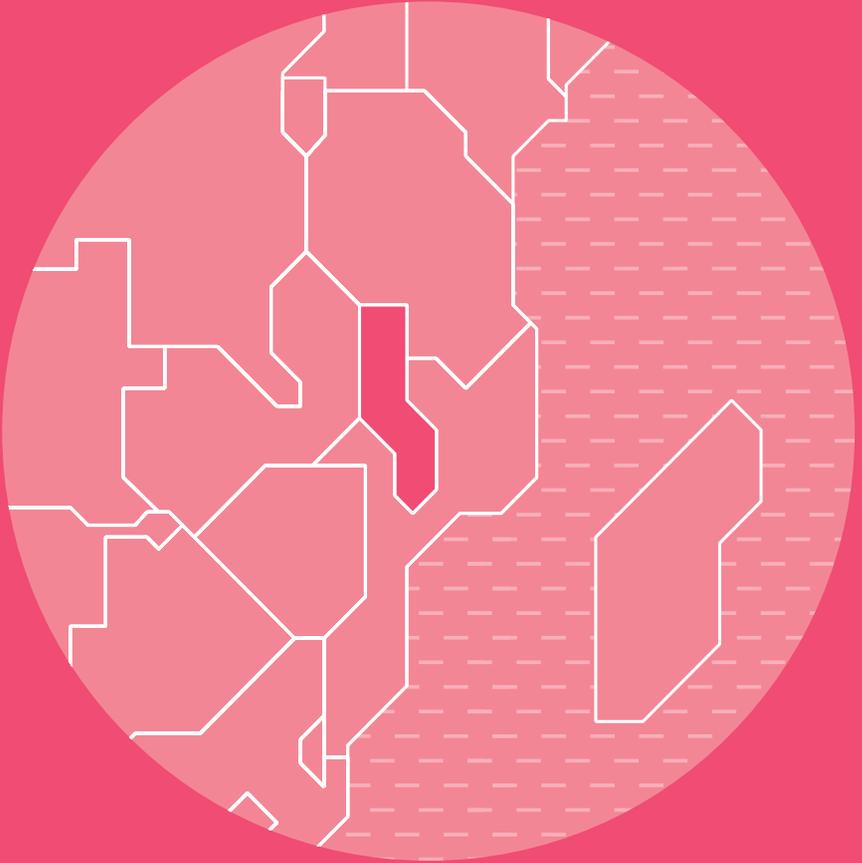


Chifundo Tindo, chair of the Young People Living with HIV, Malawi (Lilongwe Chapter), participated in the iCan training. "Being a young person living with HIV is not the end of the world. It's the beginning of a new life where you can speak up and support your peers," she says. "That is why I have become a teacher."
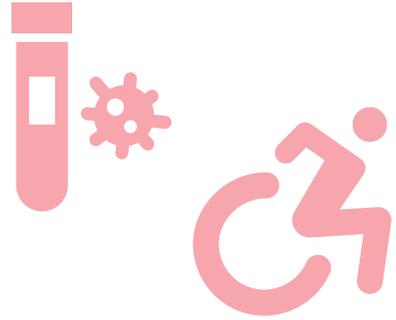
Malawi has been a champion of youth policy in the East and Southern Africa region dating back to 1996, when it launched its first out-of-school comprehensive sexuality education programme called the "Family Life Education Programme for Out-of-School Youth". An approved curriculum for CSE is now delivered at the community level by youth facilitators, through youth corners, clubs and networks.

Since 2014, UNFPA's Safeguard Young People Programme has been implemented in eight southern African countries, including Malawi. The programme addresses the sexual and reproductive health and rights of adolescents and young people. Its comprehensive sexuality education for in- and out-of-school young people aims to enhance youth empowerment.

# Populations reached out to by the project

**Young people with disabilities and young people living with HIV.**

# Country Partners

- **Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare; Malawi Girl Guides Association; National Youth Council of Malawi; UNFPA focused District Councils**

# Highlights

## Training young people to deliver

Within the out-of-school CSE programme, the iCAN package of CSE for HIV-positive young people was deployed to address the challenges of that group. A training session on delivering the iCAN Package involved representatives from Y+ Network, MANASO (Malawi Network of AIDS Service Organisations), the National AIDS Commission, MANET+ (Malawi Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS), district youth officers and youth-friendly health services coordinators from six UNFPA-focused districts. So far, a total of 164 young people have been trained on the iCAN package; 165 youth leaders were oriented on the out-of-school CSE programme.

The trained youth leaders on the iCAN package have gone a step further to advocate for SRHR issues in their communities among their peers and gatekeepers. A total number of 1,173 youth living with HIV and those with disability have been reached. This has increased their confidence to access SRHR services and are participating in CSE sessions.

The program further supported review meetings with gate keeps on the involvement of youth with disability in planning and development. This has seen an increase in leadership positions held by youth with disabilities in youth networks both at district and national levels with two out of six district network secretaries being youth with disability.

## Tailoring the curriculum

UNFPA's country team in Malawi tailored the out-of-school CSE programme package to reach those most left behind. The package provides a structured framework and guidance on providing out-of-school CSE at all levels and complements the iCAN package for young people living with HIV. The entire curriculum has been shared in the six focal districts and with key stakeholders working on out-of-school CSE.

**Youth engagement at the heart of out-of-school CSE programme implementation**

HeR Liberty is a youth-led organization that equips and empowers young people to become agents of change within their communities. In partnership with UNESCO, UNFPA provided technical support for a series of trainings on out-of-school CSE called Youth Engage on Adolescent Health (YEAH!). Implemented by HeR Liberty, the trainings teach youth leaders how to facilitate sessions providing information on sexuality for young people outside the classroom. The methodology was built on non-formal and informal learning techniques and "edutainment" (which combines education with entertainment) elements. The topics evolved from a manual based on the CSE package and draft technical guidance on out-of-school CSE.

# Lessons learned & Challenges met

## Culture and traditions

Certain misunderstandings have arisen between cultural traditions and the CSE material. Parents do not all fully understand the nature of CSE programming and how it benefits their children. Therefore involving and working is parents in crucial in making the Programme efficient.

## Political landscape

Political instability that came about after the May 2019 Presidential Elections delayed implementation of some activities. In order to mitigate the challenge, some advocacy efforts have been initiated and on-time reprogramming allowed for the accomplishing the outcomes.