



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

webinar launch event of the report

Disability-inclusive Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Asia and the Pacific: an assessment of teacher needs

Date: 2 December 2022

Time: 14:00 – 15:30 (Bangkok Time; GMT +7)

Virtual (Zoom): Link sent separately

Language: English with simultaneous interpretation in Nepalese, Filipino, Mongolian, Thai and sign language.

Background:

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed every year on December 3rd to draw attention to the stigma, exclusion and discrimination experienced by people with disabilities. The Day represents a major global annual landmark to bring attention to alarming situations faced by people with different types of disabilities and to call upon support from policy and decision-makers to implement change.

People with disabilities deserve equal access to high-quality education, including comprehensive sexuality education (CSE). However, many young people with disabilities are perceived as either asexual or sexually uninhibited. Misconception and stigma about disability and poor access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services hinder young people from obtaining high-quality CSE, including in formal education. In a non-representative sample of 1402 youth respondents in [a 2019 UNFPA online survey](#)¹, only 28 percent felt that their school taught them about sexuality 'very well' or somewhat well'. In order to satisfy the need for high-quality CSE for students with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region, it is imperative to understand the experiences and professional learning and development needs of teachers of students with disabilities.

Against this backdrop, UNESCO Bangkok and Leonard Cheshire, together with the Disability-Inclusive Education in Asia-Pacific Working Group, carried out a needs assessment in Asia-Pacific countries of the experiences and professional learning and development needs of teachers of students with disabilities, specifically in relation to teaching CSE.

To commemorate the 2022 International Day of Persons with Disabilities, UNESCO Bangkok and Leonard Cheshire, together with the Disability-Inclusive Education in Asia-Pacific Working Group, UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office and the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Special Educational Needs, will launch the report of the needs-assessment research, highlighting the learning from countries across the Asia-Pacific region, including the study's 3 deep-dive countries – Mongolia, the Philippines, and Nepal, as well as share additional country and partner examples in delivering CSE to learners with disabilities.

Objectives:

The objectives of the launch event are to:

¹ UNFPA, UNESCO and IPPF. 2021. Learn. Protect. Respect. Empower. The status of comprehensive sexuality education in Asia and the Pacific: a summary review 2020.

- a) Showcase and disseminate the findings and recommendations of the research report, with its suite of companion knowledge and advocacy products.
- b) Raise awareness of the importance of CSE that is inclusive of especially vulnerable learners, such as students with disabilities;
- c) Highlight examples of disability-inclusive CSE initiatives being implemented in formal and non-formal education settings in Asia and the Pacific, and reflect on these experiences in the context of the research recommendations.

Participants:

The launch webinar is open to an interested public and will invite participation by diverse stakeholders involved in CSE and disability-inclusive education in Asia and the Pacific including:

- Ministries of education and related ministries, in particular from the 3 deep dive study countries
- Youth-led or youth-serving networks and civil society organizations
- Researchers, teachers, parents, school principals
- Individual CSE experts and advocates
- Organizations of persons with disabilities

Provisional Agenda

Duration	Item
14:00 – 14:05	<p>Welcome & Opening remarks: Event Moderator: Ms Suhaila binti Mohamad, Programme Associate, SEAMEO Regional Centre for Special Educational Needs</p> <p>Welcoming remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Barkha Henry, Regional Manager (Asia), Leonard Cheshire Asia and Co-Chair, Disability-Inclusive Education in Asia-Pacific Working Group • Mr Setareki S. Macanawai, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Disability Forum
14:05 – 14:50	<p>Presentation of Study Findings and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mark Carew, Principal Researcher, Leonard Cheshire (UK) • Leonard Cheshire’s country research team leads: Dr Batdulam Tumenbayar (Mongolia) Dr Hridaya Devkota (Nepal) Dr Marie Grace Gomez (the Philippines) <p>Q&A on the study findings and recommendations</p>
14:50 – 15: 25	<p>Panel Discussion Providing CSE to learners with disabilities: experiences, lessons and opportunities for the research recommendations Panel Moderator: Ms Jenelle Babb, Regional Advisor, Education for Health and Well-being, UNESCO Bangkok</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry-points for CSE capacity-building of teachers: initial teacher education for disability-inclusion in Malaysia. <i>Dr Alijah Ujang, Lecturer, Institute of Teacher Education, Ilmu Khas Campus, Malaysia</i> • Teacher training for disability- responsive CSE in the classroom: meeting the CSE

Duration	Item
	<p>needs of learners with intellectual disabilities in Indonesia. <i>Dr. H Yaswardi MSc, Director for Teachers, Secondary and Special Needs Schools, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, Indonesia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approaches to mainstreaming disability-inclusive CSE in formal education: examples from across Asia. <i>Dr Yadanar, UNFPA Asia-Pacific Regional Office</i> • Supporting an enabling environment for disability-inclusive CSE: partnerships with young people and communities of persons with disabilities in Sri Lanka. <i>Mr Senal Senevirathne, YAN Sri Lanka</i> <p>Q&A</p>
15:25 – 15:30	<p>Wrap-up and closing remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Margarete Sachs-Israel, Chief, Section of Inclusive Quality Education, UNESCO Bangkok