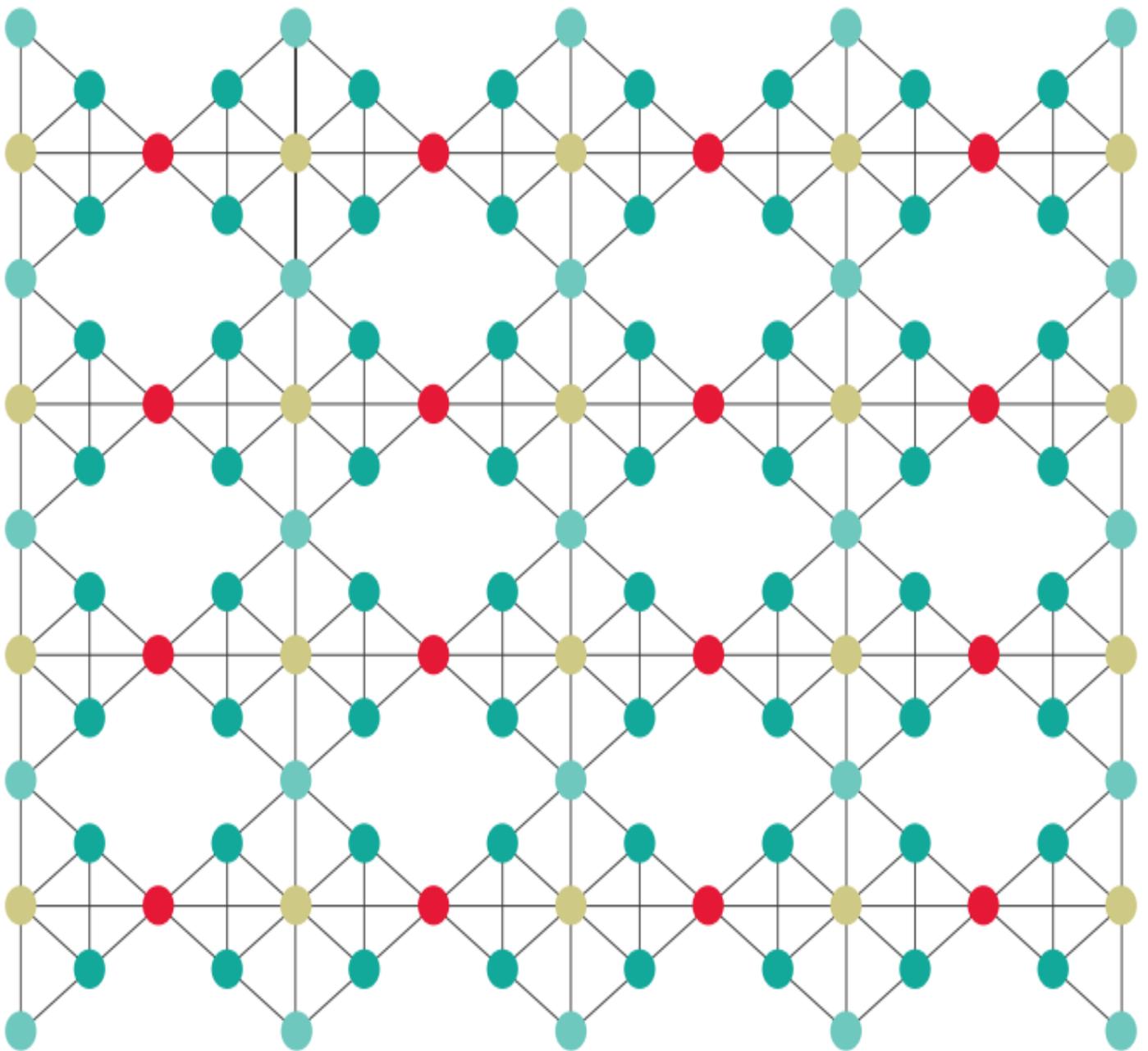


Our rights, Our lives, Our future



“There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single issue lives.” Audre Lorde

Contents

Our rights, Our lives, Our future	3
1. Why this initiative?	4
2. What aspects make this project unique?	5
3. Collaboration	6
4. The project approach and timeline	7
5. Indicators: How will we measure success?	8
6. Questions and Answers	9
7. The budget	10

Our rights, Our lives, Our future

Imagine a sub-Saharan Africa where positive health, education and gender equality outcomes are a reality for all adolescents and young people.

UNESCO envisages this through the Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future (O3) Programme (2018-2022), which aims for a consistent reduction in new HIV infections, early and unintended pregnancies, gender-based violence, and child marriage.

The O3 Programme will support the delivery of good quality comprehensive sexuality education that empowers adolescents and young people, while developing the skills, knowledge, attitudes, and competencies needed to sustain positive education, health and gender equality outcomes.

1. Why this initiative?

In Sub-Saharan Africa, many young people receive confusing and conflicting information about relationships and sex as they make the transition from childhood to adulthood. In some places, young people are even denied access to accurate, life-saving information and services, when adults avoid topics related to sexuality. The fact that less than 50% per cent of young people demonstrate accurate knowledge about HIV prevention and transmission means that more information and education on sexual health is needed. Moreover, early and unintended pregnancy is a major public health issue in the region, where adolescent girls (15-19 years) experience the highest rates of pregnancy in the world, largely because sex, marriage and pregnancy are often not voluntary or consensual for them, and many lack access to information to make informed decisions. There is significant evidence on the positive impact of sexuality education on sexual behaviour and health – it is time to put that evidence of impact to practice.

The objectives of the programme are:

- 1) Secure and sustain strong political commitment and support for adolescents' and young people's access to comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services across sub-Saharan Africa.
- 2) Support the delivery of accurate, rights-based and good quality comprehensive sexuality education programmes that provide knowledge, values, and skills essential for safer behaviours, reduced adolescent pregnancy, and gender equality.
- 3) Ensure that schools and community environments are safer, healthier, and inclusive for all young people.
- 4) Strengthen the evidence base on comprehensive sexuality education and safer school environments.

2. What aspects make this project unique?

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to 158 million young people aged 15-24; a number that is expected to rise to 281 million by 2050. This young population comes with tremendous potential for achieving Africa's development, but only if they are supported to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will empower them to realize their health, well-being and dignity; develop respectful social and sexual relationships; consider the well-being of others that are affected by their choices; and understand and ensure the protection of their rights throughout their lives. CSE has the potential to be a catalyst for social change and to enhance non-violent relationships, based on respect between young people and control over their own lives and bodies.

3. Collaboration

The O3 programme is country owned and led. Ministries of Education, Health, Youth, Gender, Chiefs, Traditional Affairs, Community development and Family Affairs will be the key project partners as main duty bearers of their respective sectors, accountable for the sexual and reproductive health and educational outcomes of young people in their respective countries. The African Union and regional economic communities (RECs), EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS and SADC are also key partners for supporting Political Commitment towards positive health outcomes for young people.

The O3 Programme is implemented by UNESCO in close collaboration with UNFPA, UNAIDS Secretariat, UN Women, WHO and other cosponsor and civil society partners.

Partnerships with various CSOs across the SSA region are ongoing, including, but not limited to, Save the Children, SAfAIDS, EANNASO Ford Foundation, AIDS Accountability, AfriYAN, INERELA, Plan International, RAES, AIDS Alliance and IPPF.

Links made with civil society will strengthen community mobilisation and action to increase demand for comprehensive information and communication in the provision of sexuality education in the non-formal sector. Links with Regional Parliamentary fora will be important for tracking progress and accountability.

4. The project approach and timeline

The project will span five years, from 2018 to 2022



5. Indicators: How will we measure success?

How will this help us end AIDS by 2030?

The O3 programme is guided by four high-level expected results:

- 1) To eliminate all new HIV infections among adolescents and young people aged 10-24
- 2) To increase to 95% the number of adolescents and young people aged 10-24 who demonstrate comprehensive HIV prevention knowledge levels
- 3) To reduce early and unintended pregnancies among young people by 75%
- 4) To eliminate gender based violence and child marriage

A detailed O3 results framework has been developed to track progress, informed by a baseline study covering all 31 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

6. Questions and Answers

How many people will be reached?	Over 30 million by 2022
How will my money be used exactly?	The O ³ programme covers over 30 countries, of which some receive concentrated support through their status as “acceleration countries” and “focus countries.” An estimated 250,000 to 500,000 per country could support accelerated efforts by establishing additional “focus” and “acceleration” countries.
How will success be monitored? What are the indicators?	Success is monitored through the O ³ results framework and country roadmaps.
Who are the contributing partners?	UNESCO is the lead convener of this initiative with UNFPA, UNAIDS Secretariat, UN Women, WHO and other cosponsor and civil society partners.

7. The budget

The O3 programme benefits over 30 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Currently, 6 countries benefit from enhanced support through their status as “Programme Acceleration Countries” and 12 countries benefit from dedicated support through their status as “Focus Countries.”

Donors are invited to support the further scale-up of O3 either through an overarching contribution to the programme, or by supporting a country to accelerate action by establishing it as a “Focus Country” or a “Programme Acceleration Country”. The cost depends on the country in question and the ambition envisaged, but is estimated at between USD 250,000-500,000 per country.