

# Sexuality Education in the WHO European Region

## TAJIKISTAN



Dushanbe

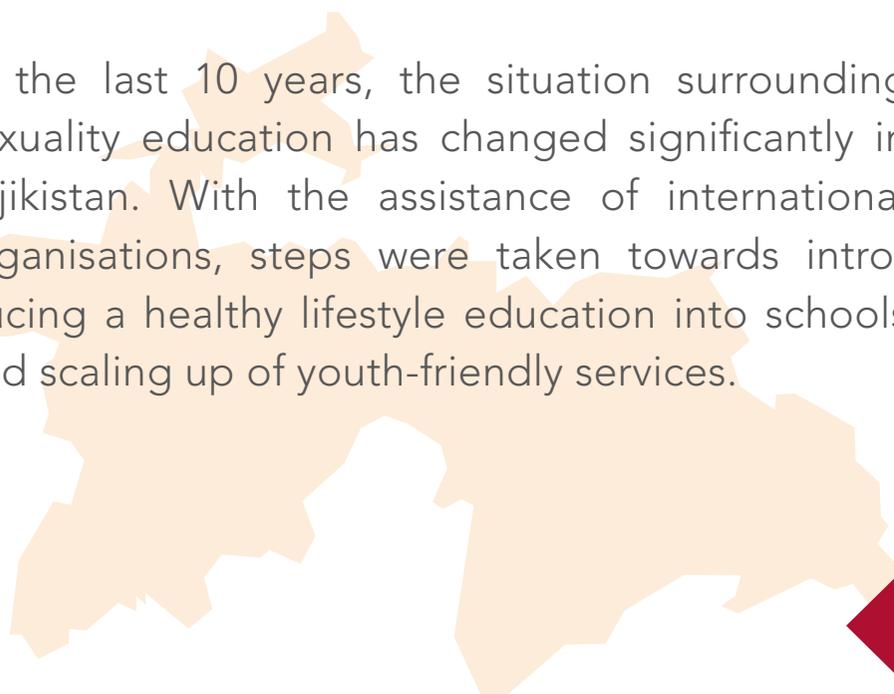


# TAJIKISTAN



## Status of sexuality education

In the last 10 years, the situation surrounding sexuality education has changed significantly in Tajikistan. With the assistance of international organisations, steps were taken towards introducing a healthy lifestyle education into schools and scaling up of youth-friendly services.





## Laws and policies

A number of laws and strategies in Tajikistan provide the legal basis for the right to education and access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services for young people. According to the government resolution of 28 November 2015 ‘On the Provision of Medical Services and Counselling on Reproductive Health to Adolescents, Including those from the Risk Groups’, access to sexuality education is guaranteed to all young people, adolescents and their parents (p. 16). This decree defines the age at which sexuality education should be provided – from 10 – 14 years – and the topics to be included: general health topics, hygiene, HIV; and from 15+ years: STIs, HIV/AIDS (expanded), family planning methods, etc.

## Sexuality education outside the formal school setting

Extracurricular sexuality education and information are provided by UNFPA, the Tajik Family Planning Alliance (TFPA, IPPF member association) and through the UNFPA supported Y-PEER network.

## Implementation of sexuality education

Some elements of sexuality education, focussing on personal hygiene, biological aspects, prevention of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, intimate relationships, safe motherhood, etc., were integrated into the Healthy Lifestyle subject. This subject was approved in 2002, and the programme was piloted in 500 schools between 2008 and 2011. While UNICEF targeted grades 7–9, GIZ developed similar training curricula for grades 5 and 6, and the UNFPA country office piloted a programme for learners<sup>1</sup> in the 10th and 11th grades. From 2012–2017 UNFPA supported a translation of the 10th–11th-grade textbooks into the Tajik and Uzbek languages, their publication and implementation of training in the capital city and two regional centres. The subject is taught within the ‘classroom hours’, 8 hours per year in each grade (7th – 11th grade). No separate hours are allocated for SRH topics.



## Challenges

Despite the positive developments in sexuality education and the introduction of the Healthy Lifestyle subject, opposition concerning sexuality education still exists. The main barriers lie in social and cultural taboos as well as in insufficient economic means to implement the programme. UN partners are actively working with the government and development partners to remove those obstacles through advocacy and communication activities.

## Data

### → Medical-counselling centres

A network of 21 medical-counselling cabinets (centres) for youth was established in 12 districts in five regions. The scale-up of these services was supported by a number of international organisations and donors.

### → Use of contraception

In 2012 use of modern methods of contraception lay at 7% among 15 – 24-year-old women, according to the DHS<sup>2</sup>. Fewer than 1 in 10 women aged 15 – 24 years in Tajikistan (9% of young women) possess a comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

# Country facts



Tajikistan

Total population <sup>3</sup>	8 074 000
Population aged 15–19 years (% of 15–19-year-olds in total population) <sup>3</sup>	863 000 (10.7 %)
Government expenditure on education (% of GDP) <sup>4</sup>	4
Youth unemployment rate (% of labour force aged 15–24 years) <sup>5</sup>	16.8
Gender Inequality Index rating <sup>6</sup>	0.322
Births per 1 000 women aged 15–19 years <sup>7</sup>	38
% of 15-year-olds who have had sexual intercourse <sup>8</sup>	N/A
Average age of mother at birth of first child <sup>9</sup>	22.8

N/A: not available

For references go to last page

## References / Definitions

- 1 **Learner:** a child or young person who is enrolled or attends classes in school, including primary (basic/elementary), secondary (middle) and high school.
- 2 Tajikistan demographic and health survey 2012. Dushanbe/Calverton, MD: Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan (SA)/Ministry of Health/ICF International; 2013 (<https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR279/FR279.pdf>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 3 Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence, 2016 [online database]. New York: United Nations Statistics Division; 2017 (<http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=POP&f=tableCode%3A22>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 4 Human development report 2016: human development for everyone. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- Government expenditure on education:** current, capital and transfer spending on education, expressed as a percentage of GDP. Range in the region is approx. 2.0–8.5.
- 5 Human development data, 2015 [online database]. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2017 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/data#>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- Youth unemployment rate:** percentage of the labour force population aged 15–24 years that is not in paid employment or self-employed, but is available for work and has taken steps to seek paid employment or self-employment.
- 6 Human development report 2016: human development for everyone. New York: United Nations Development Programme; 2016 (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- Gender Inequality Index:** a composite measure reflecting inequality in achievement between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market. It varies between zero (when women and men fare equally) and one (when men or women fare poorly compared with the other in all dimensions).
- 7 Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1 000 women ages 15–19). Washington (DC): World Bank; 2016 (<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.ADO.TFRT>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 8 Growing up unequal: gender and socioeconomic differences in young people's health and well-being. HBSC 2016 study report (2013/2014 survey). Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2016 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/growing-up-unequal.-hbsc-2016-study-20132014-survey>, accessed 25 March 2017).
- 9 Mother's mean age at first birth. Index Mundi [data from CIA world factbook, various years] (<http://www.indexmundi.com/factbook/fields/mother's-mean-age-at-first-birth>, accessed 25 March 2017).