



COMMUNITY PROTECTION, NOT A CULTURAL THREAT

What Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) really does for our children

Every Community and Traditional leader in this room wants the same outcome: children who grow up safe, healthy, and ready to make responsible choices. **That is exactly what age-appropriate CSE is for.**

PROTECTION

Gives young people the understanding to recognise risk, protect themselves, and say no. Thereby closing the silence that leaves children exposed, not opening a door to harm.

DIGNITY

Treats every young person, including those out of school, in rural areas, or living with disabilities, as worth investing in, not as a problem to manage.

RESPONSIBILITY

Supports, and does not replace, the role of parents, families and faith in raising young people who make responsible choices.



CSE **protects** young people so that they can grow up **healthy, safe** and **equipped** to build strong families and communities **reflecting the very values** of care, protection and responsibility that families, faiths and traditions already hold.

Here's what we know

CSE protects the same things our culture already protects, namely, children who are safe, respected, and prepared. It should be delivered in a way that fits this community and shaped by young people's own experiences here.

Evidence anchor

CSE reinforces values of care, protection and responsibility that families, faiths and traditions in African countries already hold.

Here's what we know

CSE doesn't push young people toward sex. It informs young people and means they are better able to protect themselves, and recognise abuse, and know how to be safe. The goal is safety, not encouragement. Silence, not information, is what leaves them exposed and at risk.

Evidence anchor

Age-appropriate CSE protects, it does not provoke. The evidence is clear it doesn't lead to earlier or more sexual activity.

Here's what we know

CSE works alongside parents, families and faith leaders, reinforcing the values you already teach, and adding support in the moments you can't always be there for. It's designed to stand with Community and Traditional leaders, not in place of you.

Evidence anchor

YPAR findings in Malawi show that when youth were exposed to CSE, they were more likely to follow advice from teachers and parents, not take away from their authority.

YOUR ROLE

Not to defend CSE or oppose it, but to help your community talk it through, ask its own questions, and reach its own understanding.

YOUR INVITATION TO THE COMMUNITY

Ask questions. Raise concerns. Let's work through this together.



*For structured conversation flows and full scripts for these and other common questions, see the accompanying Dialogue Facilitation Guide for Community and Traditional Leaders.