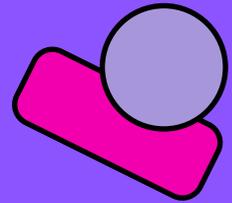
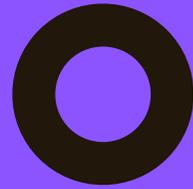


# Talking about life skills,

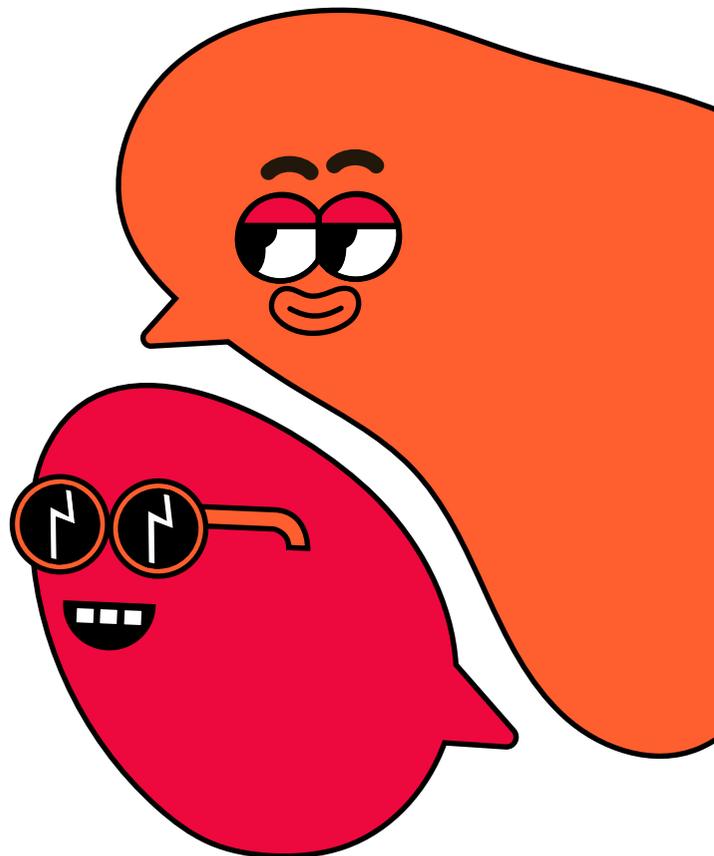
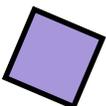
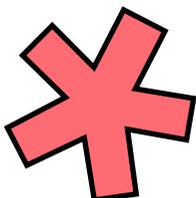
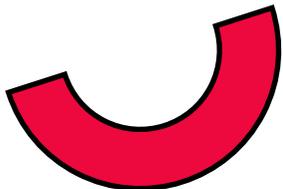
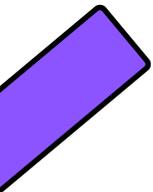
a **civil society  
dialogue** for  
reproductive  
health education

**more comprehensively**



## Summary Report

22 November - 3 December 2021



# Summary Report

22 November - 3 December 2021

Talking about life skills,

more comprehensively

The first 'Talking about Life Skills' dialogue was a gathering of civil society and grassroots activists, implementing partners, faith actors, funders, policy makers and other key stakeholders from across the world who shared their strategies and perspectives on how to ground activism for comprehensive sexuality education in real world contexts. We questioned and re-defined who has ownership of curriculum definition, and most importantly we ensured that civil society had space to lead the conversation.

The dialogue took place virtually from **Nov 23rd – Dec 3rd 2021**, and was organised by AmplifyChange, Faith to Action Network, Aahung, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) and Reseau Africain de l'Education pour la santé (RAES) – specialists in funding and supporting civil society activism for comprehensive sexuality education and SRHR.

Over **2** weeks

We held **30** sessions

With **350+** attendees

From over **100** organisations

Representing **25+** countries

## Key Objectives



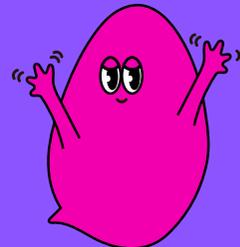
### Visibility

Greater visibility of grassroots activists and strengthening of relationships between civil society and policy/decision makers and funders



### Strategising

key strategies and areas for collaborations identified, enhancing stakeholder co-ordination and fostering a global movement



### Movement Building

Refreshed and new networks established, relationships and collaborations nurtured across movements for social change



### Learning

Create a platform created that offers space to learn from local stakeholders, enabling critical reflections and identifying lessons learnt

# Summary Report

22 November - 3 December 2021

Talking about life skills,

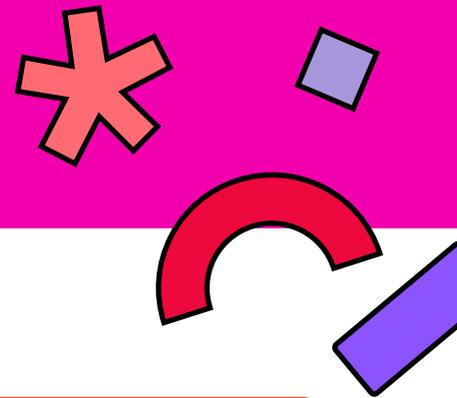
more comprehensively

Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) is not an inevitable part of a child's life as education systems improve. Outside school, the socialization of young people into a safe and confident sexuality does not happen automatically as societies evolve over time. The way we talk to children about sex continues to be a contested and debated issue around the world that relies on activism and bold leadership from civil society to create respectful, empathic and healthy norms.

We are at a critical juncture in ensuring the right to fully comprehensive sexuality education. There have been recent and significant challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic, current shifts in funding of international development corporation, and the continuous and growing opposition on comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Despite the increased need for financial support, funding sources for health and education programming have reduced or shifted, which requires careful reflection and coordination to advance the gains needed to ensure sustainable comprehensive sexuality education.

We therefore came together to connect, listen, challenge, learn, and most importantly, unlearn, to allow for further progress and expansion for comprehensive sexuality education. We spent two weeks strengthening our capacity as a movement, through acknowledging that current global CSE guidance is not, and cannot be, universally implemented.



**“Global guidance is a framework that has to be adapted to make sense to local young people in varying social contexts. We need to make the global, local.”**

Professor Anthony Brown, (he/him) Assoc.  
Professor of Inclusive Education & Life Orientation

# Summary Report

22 November - 3 December 2021

Talking about life skills,

more comprehensively

## Key Outcomes

1

Invest time and efforts to 'unpack' and personalise CSE with stakeholders in each context to grow relationships.

2

Shift the power back to the experts on the ground. This will democratise policy-making and knowledge production.

3

Empower messengers through continuous advocacy. Ensure that allies are 'content comfortable'.

4

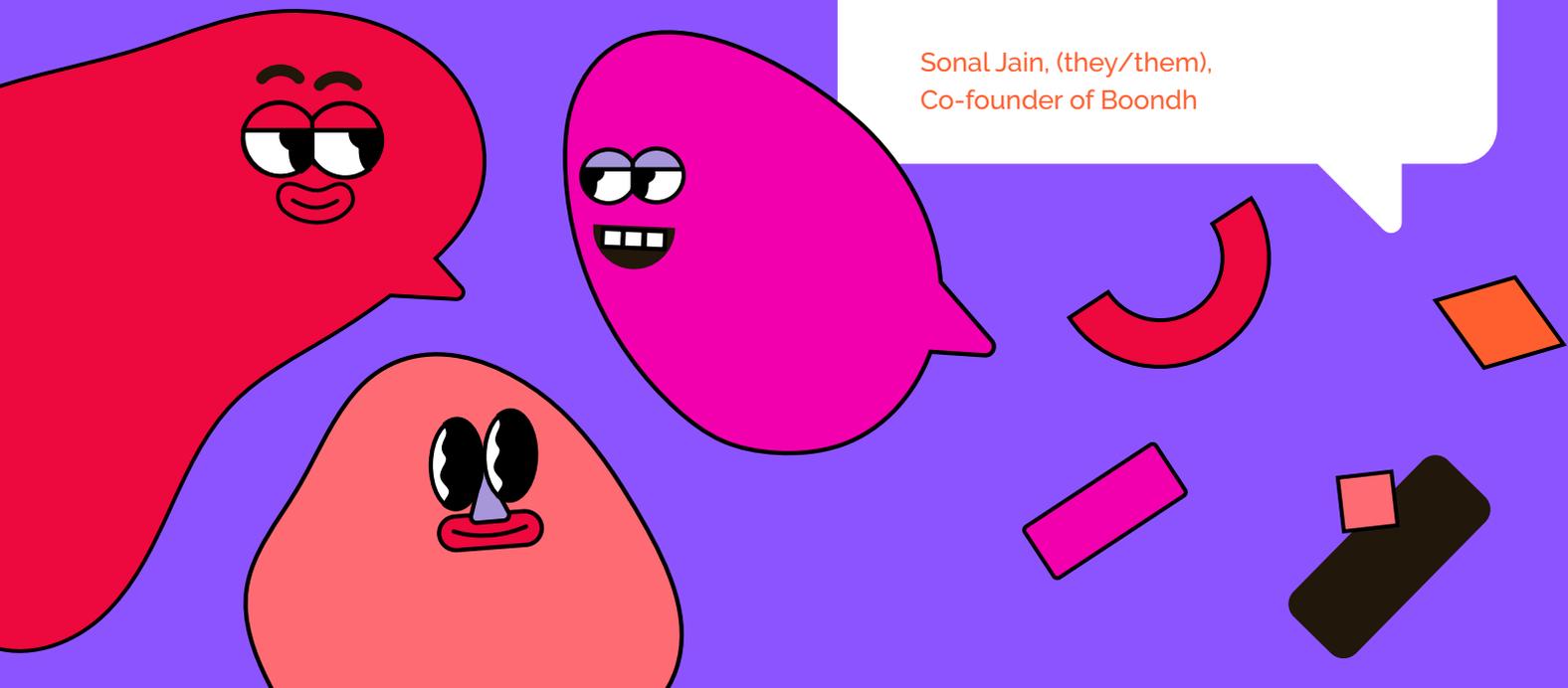
Assess and adapt the language you choose to talk about sexuality education, to fit the ecology you are working in.

5

Self-led groups are pioneering approaches to inclusion.

**"Create for now, don't create for the past. Children are catching up very fast - we need to live at their speed and talk to them in their language."**

Sonal Jain, (they/them),  
Co-founder of Boondh



## Key Outcomes

6

Increase and diversify financing for civil society.

**"It is important for us as donors to get information and intelligence from civil society. You are needed more than ever in these times when SRHR and gender equality is challenged from various sources, and in various contexts."**

Pia Engstrand (she/her), Lead Policy Specialist Health/SRHR, SIDA

7

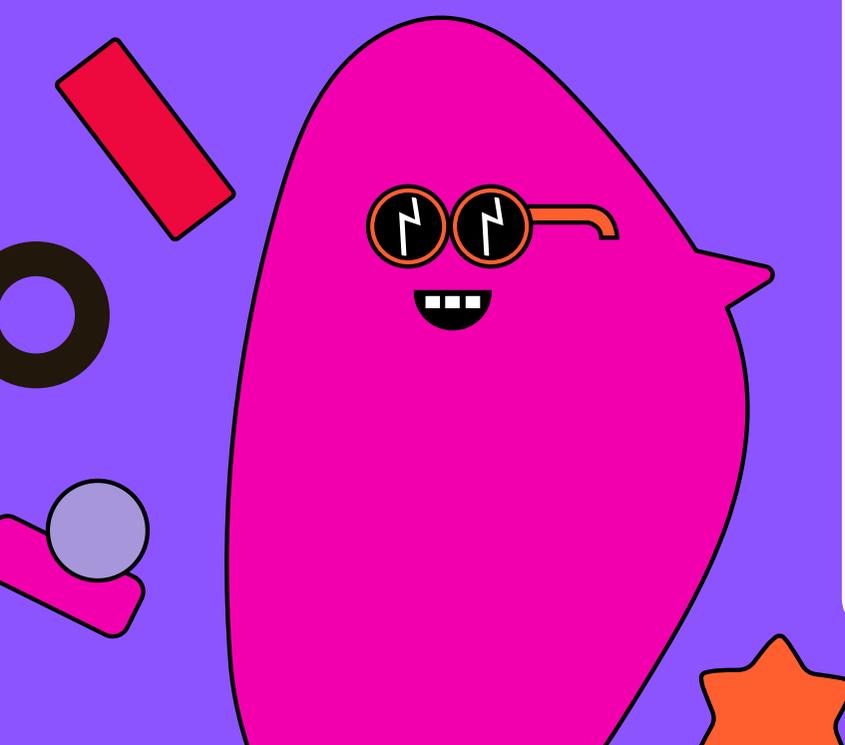
Bring religious and secular attitudes into the 21st century, by both respecting and challenging current norms.

8

Consider how to translate, demonstrate and communicate both evidence and impact to policy and decision makers

**"There are commonalities that bring us all to the table as civil society and researchers, and that is that evidence-based approaches to our work are increasingly seen as the way to do things. Policy makers at a pan-African level, know that they need to be doing evidence-based policy development and implementation. Civil society colleagues across the continent know that the evidence is there, and needs to be foregrounded."**

Professor Finn Reygan (he/him),  
Research Director at HSRC



# Summary Report

22 November - 3 December 2021

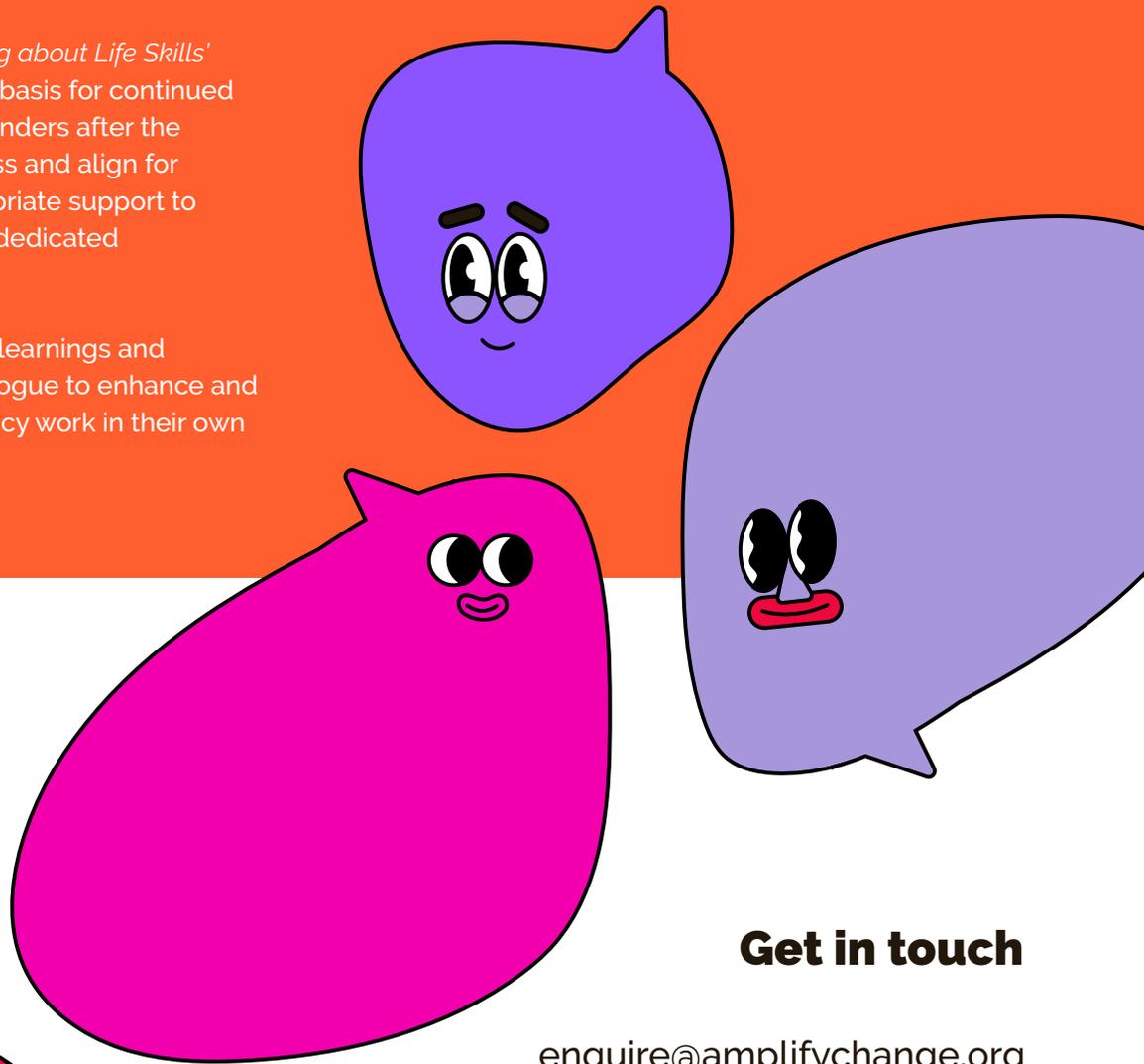
Talking about life skills,

more comprehensively

## Learnings

Learnings from the *'Talking about Life Skills'* dialogue will serve as the basis for continued conversations between funders after the dialogue, to review, discuss and align for more effective and appropriate support to the movement as well as dedicated high-level advocacy.

Civil society can use their learnings and connections from the dialogue to enhance and advance their CSE advocacy work in their own contexts.



## Get in touch

[enquire@amplifychange.org](mailto:enquire@amplifychange.org)  
[www.amplifychange.org](http://www.amplifychange.org)



**Thank you** to the many groups for bringing this conversation together.

