Country Profile: Belgium

Region: Western Europe

Identified policies and legal sources related to abortion:
- Reproductive Health Act
- General Medical Health Act
- Constitution
- Criminal / Penal Code
- Civil Code
- Ministerial Order / Decree
- Case Law
- Health Regulation / Clinical Guidelines
- EML / Registered List
- Medical Ethics Code
- Document Relating to Funding
- Abortion Specific Law
- Law on Medical Practitioners
- Law on Health Care Services
- Other

Related Documents

From Criminal / Penal Code:
- Penal Code

From Health Regulation / Clinical Guidelines:
- Social Support for Unwanted Pregnancy

From EML / Registered List:
- Royal Decree Regarding Mifegyne
- Mifepristone Information
- Misoprostol Information

From Abortion Specific Law:
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018

Concluding Observations:
None

Persons who can be sanctioned:
- A woman or girl can be sanctioned
- Providers can be sanctioned
- A person who assists can be sanctioned

Abortions at the woman’s request

- Gestational limit: 12 weeks

Legal Ground and Gestational Limit

Economic or social reasons:
- No

Related documents:
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)

WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Health grounds shall reflect WHO’s definitions of health, which entails a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.

Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 16)
The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Grounds-based approaches to restricting access to abortion should be revised in favour of making abortion available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends against laws and other regulations that restrict abortion by grounds. The guideline recommends abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person.

Until they are replaced with abortion on request, any existing grounds should be formulated and applied in a manner consistent with international human rights law. This requires that abortion is available when carrying a pregnancy to term would cause the woman, girl or other pregnant person substantial pain or suffering, including but not limited to situations where the pregnancy is not viable. Grounds-based approaches that require fetal impairments to be fatal for abortion to be lawful frustrate providers and leave women no choice but to continue with pregnancy. Being required to continue with a pregnancy that causes significant distress violates numerous human rights. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.

WHO Guidance

Laws or policies that impose time limits on the length of pregnancy may have negative consequences for women, including forcing them to seek clandestine abortions and suffer social inequities. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.7.

Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 64)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical health</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td>Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td>Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gestational limit</th>
<th>Weeks: No limit specified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td>Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
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<th>WHO Guidance</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 16)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td>Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Until they are replaced with abortion on request, any existing grounds should be formulated and applied in a manner consistent with international human rights law. This requires that abortion is available where the life and health of the woman, girl or other pregnant person is at risk. Abortion Care Guideline § 2.2.2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 64)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other</th>
<th>When it is certain that the unborn child will be suffering from an affection of a particular gravity and recognized as incurable at the time of the diagnosis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td>Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional Requirements to Access Safe Abortion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authorization of health professional(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO Guidance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third-party authorization requirements are incompatible with international human rights law, which provides that States may not restrict women’s access to health services on the ground that they do not have the authorization of husbands, partners, parents or health authorities, because they are unmarried, or because they are women. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After 12 weeks of gestation, the pregnancy can be interrupted only if the continuation of the pregnancy seriously endangers the health of the woman or when it is certain that the unborn child will be affected by a condition of particular gravity and recognized as incurable at the time of diagnosis. In this case, the requested doctor secures the assistance of a second doctor, whose opinion is attached to the file. Before 12 weeks of gestation, the interruption of pregnancy can be carried out by a doctor (speciality not specified).&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorization in specially licensed facilities only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Social Support for Unwanted Pregnancy (page 1 - Flemish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Social Support for Unwanted Pregnancy (page 1 - French)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

To establish an enabling environment, there is a need for abortion care to be integrated into the health system across all levels (including primary, secondary and tertiary) - and supported in the community - to allow for expansion of health worker roles, including self-management approaches. To ensure both access to abortion and achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), abortion must be centred within primary health care (PHC), which itself is fully integrated within the health system, facilitating referral pathways for higher-level care when needed. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.4.1.

- Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 52)

---

**Judicial authorization for minors**

Not specified

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

**Related documents:**

- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018

---

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.

- Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)

---

**Judicial authorization in cases of rape**

Not applicable

---

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.

- Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)

---

**Police report required in case of rape**

Not applicable

---

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.

- Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)

---

**Parental consent required for minors**

Not specified

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

**Related documents:**

- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018

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**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.

- Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)
### Spousal consent

**Not specified**

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

**Related documents:**
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018

---

### Ultrasound images or listen to foetal heartbeat required

**Not specified**

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

**Related documents:**
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018

---

### Compulsory counselling

**Yes**

**Related documents:**
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)

---

### Compulsory waiting period

**Yes**

**Related documents:**
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)

---

### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

### Spousal consent

While parental or partner involvement in abortion decision-making can support and assist women, girls or other pregnant persons, this must be based on the values and preferences of the person availing of abortion and not imposed by third-party authorization requirements. Third-party authorization requirements are incompatible with international human rights law, which provides that States may not restrict women's access to health services on the ground that they do not have the authorization of husbands, partners, parents or health authorities, because they are unmarried, or because they are women. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that abortion be available on the request of the woman, girl or other pregnant person without the authorization of any other individual, body or institution. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.2.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 81)

---

### Ultrasound images or listen to foetal heartbeat required

The right to refuse information, including the right to refuse viewing ultrasound images, must be respected. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends against the use of ultrasound scanning as a prerequisite for providing abortion services for both medical and surgical abortion. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.5.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 85)

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### Compulsory counselling

Counselling should be person-centred and may need to be tailored according to the needs of the individual; young people, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence or members of marginalized groups may have different information or counselling requirements.

The content of and approach to counselling will need to be adjusted depending on the reason for seeking abortion services. Therefore, it is important for the counsellor to be aware of and sensitive to the individual's situation and needs. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.2.2.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 77)

---

### Compulsory waiting period

Mandatory waiting periods delay access to abortion, sometimes to the extent that women's access to abortion or choice of abortion method is restricted. The Abortion Care Guideline recommends against mandatory waiting periods for abortion. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.1.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 79)

---

### Additional notes

As part of the abortion procedure it is mandatory for the physician to “recall the various possibilities for the reception of the unborn child.” At the request of the woman or the physician, the health establishment's information service may provide the woman with advice on the means to which she may have recourse to solve the psychological and social problems posed by her situation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical and Service-delivery Aspects of Abortion Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mandatory HIV screening test</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Not specified</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO Guidance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory, policy and programmatic barriers - as well as barriers in practice - that hinder access to and timely provision of quality abortion care should be removed. Abortion Care Guideline § Box 2.1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↓ Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other mandatory STI screening tests</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Not specified</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>↓ Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prohibition of sex-selective abortion</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Not specified</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO Guidance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In situations where abortion is restricted for sex selection purposes, terminating a pregnancy for this reason is likely to involve an unsafe procedure carrying high risks. Any policies or guidelines on the use of technology in obstetric and fetal medicine should take into account the need to ensure women's access to safe abortion and other services - efforts to manage or limit sex selection should also not hamper or limit access to safe abortion services. Preventing gender-biased sex selection: an interagency statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↓ Source document: Preventing Gender-Biased Sex Selection (page 17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restrictions on information provided to the public</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No data found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO Guidance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination of misinformation, withholding of information and censorship should be prohibited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information should be accessible and understandable, including formats catering to low-literacy and differently abled populations. Different modalities exist for the provision of information on abortion, e.g. remote access via hotlines and telemedicine, and through approaches such as harm reduction and community-based outreach, as well as in-person interactions with health workers. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.2.1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↓ Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restrictions on methods to detect sex of the foetus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No data found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO Guidance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A woman is entitled to know the status of her pregnancy and to act on this information. Prenatal tests and other medical diagnostic services cannot legally be refused because the woman may decide to terminate her pregnancy. Safe Abortion Guidelines § 4.2.3.4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>↓ Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 103)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No data found</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### National guidelines for induced abortion

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

National standards and guidelines for abortion care should be evidence based and periodically updated and should provide the necessary guidance to achieve equal access to comprehensive abortion care. Leadership should also promote evidence-based SRH services according to these standards and guidelines. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.3.3.

*Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 50)*

### Methods allowed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method allowed</th>
<th>Country recognized approval (mifepristone / mifepristone-misoprostol)</th>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vacuum aspiration</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dilatation and evacuation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination mifepristone-misoprostol</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misoprostol only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (where provided)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Source document:

- **WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 50)**

### Pharmacy selling or distribution

- **WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Mifepristone and misoprostol should be listed in relevant national EMLs (NEMLs) or their equivalent and should be included in the relevant clinical care/service delivery guidelines.

Inclusion in the NEML is one important component of ensuring that quality medicines are available. For induced abortion, Mifepristone (200 mg) and misoprostol (200 μg), are recommended in the WHO EML. The EML specifically mentions the following co-packaged formulation: 1 tablet mifepristone (200 mg) + 4 tablets misoprostol (200 μg).

Restrictions on prescribing authority for some categories of health workers may need to be modified or other mechanisms put in place to make the medicines available for these health workers within the regulatory framework of the health system. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.4.4.

*Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 55)*

### Related documents:

- Mifepristone Information (page 1)
- Royal Decree Regarding Mifepryn (page 1)
Country recognized approval (misoprostol)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Misoprostol Information (page 1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Misoprostol allowed to be sold or distributed by pharmacies or drug stores

Not specified

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.

- Misoprostol Information

### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Mifepristone and misoprostol should be listed in relevant national EMLs (NEMLs) or their equivalent and should be included in the relevant clinical care/service delivery guidelines.

Inclusion in the NEML is one important component of ensuring that quality medicines are available.

For induced abortion, Mifepristone (200 mg) and misoprostol (200 μg) are recommended in the WHO EML. The EML specifically mentions the following co-packaged formulation: 1 tablet mifepristone (200 mg) + 4 tablets misoprostol (200 μg).

Restrictions on prescribing authority for some categories of health workers may need to be modified or other mechanisms put in place to make the medicines available for these health workers within the regulatory framework of the health system. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.4.4.

Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 55)

### Where can abortion services be provided

**Related documents:**
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)
- Social Support for Unwanted Pregnancy (page 1)
- Social Support for Unwanted Pregnancy (page 1)

**Primary health-care centres**

Not specified

- Social Support for Unwanted Pregnancy
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018

**Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities**

Not specified

- Social Support for Unwanted Pregnancy
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018

**Specialized abortion care public facilities**

Not specified

- Social Support for Unwanted Pregnancy
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018

**Private health-care centres or clinics**

Not specified

- Social Support for Unwanted Pregnancy
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018

**NGO health-care centres or clinics**

Not specified

- Social Support for Unwanted Pregnancy
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018

**Other (if applicable)**

Care establishment where there is an information service which welcomes the pregnant woman and gives her detailed information. Medico-psycho-social support center for unwanted pregnancy.

- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)
- Social Support for Unwanted Pregnancy (page 1)
- Social Support for Unwanted Pregnancy (page 1)

### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

Where it is lawful, abortion must be accessible in practice. This requires both ensuring that health-care facilities, commodities and services are accessible (including sufficient providers), and that law and policy on abortion is formulated, interpreted and applied in a way that is compatible with human rights. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.3.1.

Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 48)

### National guidelines for post-abortion care

No data found

### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

National standards and guidelines for abortion care should be evidence based and periodically updated and should provide the necessary guidance to achieve equal access to comprehensive abortion care. Leadership should also promote evidence-based SRH services according to these standards and guidelines. Abortion Care Guideline § 1.3.3.

Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 50)
### Where can post abortion care services be provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Facility</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
<th>Source(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary health-care centres</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 133)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 133)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized abortion care public facilities</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 133)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private health-care centres or clinics</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 133)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO health-care centres or clinics</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 133)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends the option of telemedicine as an alternative to in-person interactions with the health worker to deliver medical abortion services in whole or in part. Telemedicine services should include referrals (based on the woman’s location) for medicines (abortion and pain control medicines), any abortion care or post-abortion follow-up required (including for emergency care if needed), and for post-abortion contraceptive services. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.6.1.

### Contraception included in post-abortion care

- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)

### Insurance to offset end user costs

- No data found

### Other (if applicable)

- Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 53)
Conscientious Objection

Who can provide abortion services

- Nurse
  - Not specified
- Midwife/nurse-midwife
  - Not specified
- Doctor (specialty not specified)
  - Yes
- Specialist doctor, including OB/GYN
  - Not specified

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends against regulation on who can provide and manage abortion that is inconsistent with WHO guidance. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.8.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 97)

Extra facility/provider requirements for delivery of abortion services

- Referral linkages to a higher-level facility
  - Yes
  - Abortion centres need to have an agreement with the gynaecology department of a nearby hospital regulating the situations in which a patient needs specialized assistance because of complications, serious risk to the life of the woman, foetal impairment, for women in need of general anesthesia

- Availability of a specialist doctor, including OB/GYN
  - Yes

- Minimum number of beds
  - Not specified

- Other (if applicable)
  - The abortion must be practiced under good medical conditions in a care facility where there is an information service that will accommodate the pregnant woman and give her detailed information

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

There is no single recommended approach to providing abortion services. The choice of specific health worker(s) (from among the recommended options) or management by the individual themself, and the location of service provision (from among recommended options) will depend on the values and preferences of the woman, girl or other pregnant person, available resources, and the national and local context. A plurality of service-delivery approaches can co-exist within any given context. Given that service-delivery approaches can be diverse, it is important to ensure that for the individual seeking care, the range of service-delivery options taken together will provide access to scientifically accurate, understandable information at all stages; access to quality-assured medicines (including those for pain management); back-up referral support if desired or needed; linkages to an appropriate choice of contraceptive services for those who want post-abortion contraception. Best Practice Statement 49 on service delivery. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.6.1.

**Source document:** WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 132)
### Public sector providers

**Related documents:**
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)

**Individual health-care providers who have objected are required to refer the woman to another provider**
- Yes
  - Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that access to and continuity of comprehensive abortion care be protected against barriers created by conscientious objection. It is critical that States ensure compliance with regulations and design/organize health systems to ensure access to and continuity of quality abortion care. If it proves impossible to regulate conscientious objection in a way that respects, protects and fulfils abortion seekers’ rights, conscientious objection in abortion provision may become indefensible. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.9.

**Additional notes**

No doctor, nurse or medical assistant is required to contribute to the termination of pregnancy. The requested doctor is required to inform the person concerned, from the first visit, of his refusal to intervene. In this case, the doctor indicates the contact details of another doctor, of a pregnancy termination center or of a hospital service that he can contact for a new request for termination of pregnancy. The doctor who refuses the voluntary interruption transmits the medical file to the new doctor consulted by the woman.

### Private sector providers

**Related documents:**
- Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)

**Individual health-care providers who have objected are required to refer the woman to another provider**
- Yes
  - Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

The Abortion Care Guideline recommends that access to and continuity of comprehensive abortion care be protected against barriers created by conscientious objection. It is critical that States ensure compliance with regulations and design/organize health systems to ensure access to and continuity of quality abortion care. If it proves impossible to regulate conscientious objection in a way that respects, protects and fulfils abortion seekers’ rights, conscientious objection in abortion provision may become indefensible. Abortion Care Guideline § 3.3.9.

**Additional notes**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Related documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neither Type of Provider Permitted</td>
<td>Individual health-care providers who have objected are required to refer the woman to another provider</td>
<td><em>Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td>No doctor, nurse or medical assistant is required to contribute to the termination of pregnancy. The requested doctor is required to inform the person concerned, from the first visit, of his refusal to intervene. In this case, the doctor indicates the contact details of another doctor, of a pregnancy termination center or of a hospital service that he can contact for a new request for termination of pregnancy. The doctor who refuses the voluntary interruption transmits the medical file to the new doctor consulted by the woman.</td>
<td><em>Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Facility type not specified</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Not specified</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Law on interruption of pregnancy, 2018 (page 38)</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions were extracted from WHO Abortion Care Guideline. Where there is a specific Recommendation, this is stated. Otherwise, these are excerpts.

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*Source document: WHO Abortion Care Guideline (page 98)*

**Additional notes**

When there is no explicit reference to an issue covered in the questionnaire in the relevant document(s), this is noted and no interpretation was made.
Indicators

Country specific information related to sexual and reproductive health indications. As data for the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators related to sexual and reproductive health become available, these will be provided, through periodic updates.

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)  
No data

1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable  
No data

1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)  
No data

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio  
No data

3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel  
No data

3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods  
No data

3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group  
4.9 (2015-2020)

3.8.2 Number of people covered by health insurance or a public health system per 1,000 population  
No data

3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution  
No data

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex  
No data

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and nondiscrimination on the basis of sex  
No data

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age  
No data

5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence  
No data

5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18  
No data

5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age  
No data

5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care  
No data

5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education  
No data

5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure  
No data

5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex  
No data
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

No data

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities

No data

10.3.1 Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

No data

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months

No data

16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation

No data

16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

No data

16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

No data

16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

No data

16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

No data

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet

No data

Additional Reproductive Health Indicators

Percentage of married women with unmet need for family planning

3.4 (1992)

Percentage of births attended by trained health professional

99.3 (1999)

Percentage of women aged 20-24 who gave birth before age 18

No data

Total fertility rate
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal marital age for women, with parental consent</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal marital age for women, without parental consent</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2009-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Inequalities Index (Value)</td>
<td>0.075</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Inequalities Index (Rank)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory paid maternity leave</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population, urban (%)</td>
<td>98.001</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of secondary school completion rate for girls</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender parity in secondary education</td>
<td>1.136</td>
<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of women in non-agricultural employment</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of seats in parliament held by women</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio at birth (male to female births)</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>