Country Profile: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Region: Latin America

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 EML / Registered List:
- Essential Medicine list, 2010

List of ratified human rights treaties:
- CERD
- CCPR
- Xst
- OP
- CESCR
- CEDAW
- CAT
- CAT-OP
- CEDAW-OP
- CRC
- CRC:OPSC
- CRC:OPAC
- CRC:OPIC
- CMW
- CRPD *
- CRPD-OP
- CED **

Concluding Observations:
- CEDAW
- CRC
- HRC

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

Abortion at the woman's request

No data found

Legal Ground and Gestational Limit

Economic or social reasons

No data found

Where there is evidence of the existence of a source document that could not be accessed, including those that could not be translated for any reason, this information is provided in an accompanying note.
The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

WHO defines health for member states as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.5.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 103)

Additional notes

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.

Foetal impairment

No data found

Where there is evidence of the existence of a source document that could not be accessed, including those that could not be translated for any reason, this information is provided in an accompanying note.

WHO Guidance

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

A woman is entitled to know the status of her pregnancy and to act on this information; health protection or social reasons can be interpreted to include distress of the pregnant woman caused by the diagnosis of fetal impairment. Prenatal tests and other medical diagnostic services cannot legally be refused because the woman may decide to terminate her pregnancy. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.4.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 103)

Additional notes

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.

Rape

No data found

Where there is evidence of the existence of a source document that could not be accessed, including those that could not be translated for any reason, this information is provided in an accompanying note.

WHO Guidance

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

The protection of women from cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment requires that those who have become pregnant as the result of coerced or forced sexual acts can lawfully access safe abortion services. Prompt, safe abortion services should be provided on the basis of a woman's complaint rather than requiring forensic evidence or police examination. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.3.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 102)

Additional notes

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.

Incest

No data found

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WHO Guidance

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

The protection of women from cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment requires that those who have become pregnant as the result of coerced or forced sexual acts can lawfully access safe abortion services. Prompt, safe abortion services should be provided on the basis of a woman's complaint rather than requiring forensic evidence or police examination. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.3.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 102)

Additional notes

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.
### Intellectual or cognitive disability of the woman

No data found

Where there is evidence of the existence of a source document that could not be accessed, including those that could not be translated for any reason, this information is provided in an accompanying note.

**Additional notes**

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.

### Mental health

No data found

Where there is evidence of the existence of a source document that could not be accessed, including those that could not be translated for any reason, this information is provided in an accompanying note.

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

The scope of mental health includes psychological distress or mental suffering caused by, for example, coerced or forced sexual acts and diagnosis of severe fetal impairment. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.2.

**Source document**: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 102)

**Additional notes**

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.

### Physical health

No data found

Where there is evidence of the existence of a source document that could not be accessed, including those that could not be translated for any reason, this information is provided in an accompanying note.

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

Physical health is widely understood to include conditions that aggravate pregnancy and those aggravated by pregnancy. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.2.

**Source document**: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 102)

**Additional notes**

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.

### Health

No data found

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**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

The fulfillment of human rights requires that women can access safe abortion when it is indicated to protect their health. WHO defines health for member states as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.2.

**Source document**: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 102)

**Additional notes**

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.

### Life

No data found

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### Additional Requirements to Access Safe Abortion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorization of health professional(s)</th>
<th>WHO Guidance</th>
<th>Additional notes</th>
</tr>
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<td>Third-party authorization should not be required for women to obtain abortion services. The requirement for authorization by hospital authorities may violate the right to privacy and women’s access to health care on the basis of equality of men and women. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2.2.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Authorization in specially licensed facilities only</th>
<th>WHO Guidance</th>
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<td>Restrictions on the range of providers or facilities that are authorized to provide abortion reduce the availability of services and their equitable geographic distribution. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2.4.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judicial authorization for minors</th>
<th>WHO Guidance</th>
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<td>Section</td>
<td>Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judicial authorization in cases of rape</td>
<td>A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Source document</strong>: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 105)</td>
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<td>Spousal consent</td>
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</table>
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Third-party authorization should not be required for women to obtain abortion services. The requirement for authorization by a spouse may violate the right to privacy and women’s access to health care on the basis of equality of men and women. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2.2.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 105)

### Additional notes

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.

---

**Ultrasound images or listen to foetal heartbeat required**

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

Regulatory, policy and programmatic barriers, one example of which is the requirement for mandatory ultrasound prior to abortion, that hinder access to and timely provision of safe abortion care should be removed. Safe Abortion Guidelines, Executive Summary, Box 7 - Recommendation.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 19)

### Additional notes

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.

---

**Compulsory counselling**

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

Many women have made a decision to have an abortion before seeking care, and this decision should be respected without subjecting a woman to mandatory counselling. Provision of counselling to women who desire it should be voluntary, confidential, non-directive and by a trained person. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 2.1.8.1.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 46)

### Additional notes

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.

---

**Compulsory waiting period**

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

States should consider eliminating waiting periods that are not medically required, and expanding services to serve all eligible women promptly. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2.6.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 107)

### Additional notes

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.

---

**Mandatory HIV screening test**

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

**Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 107)

### Additional notes

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.
The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

**Other mandatory STI screening tests**

No data found

Where there is evidence of the existence of a source document that could not be accessed, including those that could not be translated for any reason, this information is provided in an accompanying note.

**WHO Guidance**

Requirements for HIV and other tests that are not clinically indicated are potential service-delivery barriers. Safe Abortion Guidelines, p 88.

**Prohibition of sex-selective abortion**

No data found

Where there is evidence of the existence of a source document that could not be accessed, including those that could not be translated for any reason, this information is provided in an accompanying note.

**WHO Guidance**

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, p 10 - Recommendation.

**Restrictions on information provided to the public**

No data found

Where there is evidence of the existence of a source document that could not be accessed, including those that could not be translated for any reason, this information is provided in an accompanying note.

**WHO Guidance**

States should refrain from limiting access to means of maintaining sexual and reproductive health, including censoring, withholding or intentionally misrepresenting health-related information. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2.7.

**Restrictions on methods to detect sex of the foetus**

No data found

Additional notes

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.
Clinical and Service-delivery Aspects of Abortion Care

National guidelines for induced abortion

No data found

Methods allowed

- **Vacuum aspiration**
  - No data found

- **Dilatation and evacuation**
  - No data found

- **Combination mifepristone-misoprostol**
  - No data found

- **Misoprostol only**
  - No data found

- **Other (where provided)**
  - No data found

Country recognized approval (mifepristone / mife-misoprostol)

- No

**Related documents:**
- Essential Medicine list 1st Edition, 2010 (page 1)
The combination of mifepristone and misoprostol for medical abortion is included on the WHO model list of essential medicines. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 2.2.5

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 54)

Chemists/pharmacists can help women avoid unintended pregnancy through provision of accurate contraceptive information, pregnancy tests, contraceptive methods and referral to safe abortion services. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 3.3.1.1.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 13)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country recognized approval (misoprostol)</th>
<th>Yes, for gynaecological indications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Essential Medicine list 1st Edition, 2010 (page 31)</td>
<td></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.

• Essential Medicine list 1st Edition, 2010

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### Where can abortion services be provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary health-care centres</th>
<th>No data found</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities</td>
<td>No data found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized abortion care public facilities</td>
<td>No data found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private health-care centres or clinics</td>
<td>No data found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO health-care centres or clinics</td>
<td>No data found</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WHO Guidance

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

Abortion services should be available at primary-care level, with referral systems in place for all required higher-level care. Safe Abortion Guidelines, Executive Summary, Box 6- Recommendation.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 18)

### Additional notes

A Criminal Code of 1988 (Act No. 23) exists but could not be located as an official document.
National guidelines for post-abortion care

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

Standards and guidelines should be developed and updated with the intent of eliminating barriers to obtaining the highest attainable standard of sexual and reproductive health. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 3.3. Standards and guidelines should cover: types of abortion service, where and by whom they can be provided; essential equipment, instruments, medications, supplies and facility capabilities; referral mechanisms; respect for women’s informed decision-making, autonomy, confidentiality and privacy. Safe Abortion Guidelines, p. 63.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 75)

Where can post abortion care services be provided

- Primary health-care centres
- Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities
- Specialized abortion care public facilities
- Private health-care centres or clinics
- NGO health-care centres or clinics
- Other (if applicable)

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

The facilities and skills required to manage most abortion complications are similar to those needed to care for women who have had a spontaneous abortion (miscarriage). Safe Abortion Guidelines § 2.2.6.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 57)

Contraception included in post-abortion care

No data found

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

All women should receive contraceptive information and be offered counselling for and methods of post-abortion contraception, including emergency contraception, before leaving the health-care facility. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 2.3.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 62)

Insurance to offset end user costs

No data found

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

Financing of abortion services should take into account costs to the health system while ensuring that services are affordable and readily available to all women who need them. Safe Abortion Guidelines, Executive Summary, Box 6 - Recommendation. Abortion services should be mandated for coverage under insurance plans; women should never be denied or delayed because of the inability to pay. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 3.6.2.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 63)
**Who can provide abortion services**

Nurse
No data found

Midwife/nurse-midwife
No data found

Doctor (specialty not specified)
No data found

Specialist doctor, including OB/GYN
No data found

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

Subject to gestational age and method, abortion care can be safely provided by any properly trained health-care provider, including specialist doctors, non-specialist doctors; associate and advanced associate clinicians; midwives; and nurses. Health Worker Roles in Safe Abortion Care, p 33- Recommendation.

**Referral linkages to a higher-level facility**

No data found

Availability of a specialist doctor, including OB/GYN
No data found

Minimum number of beds
No data found

Other (if applicable)

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.

Abortion facilities within both the public and private sectors should be available at all levels of the health system, with appropriate referral mechanisms between facilities. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 3.3.1.

**Conscientious Objection**

Public sector providers
No data found

**WHO Guidance**

The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private sector providers</td>
<td>Health-care professionals who claim conscientious objection must refer the woman to another willing and trained provider in the same, or another easily accessible health-care facility. Where referral is not possible, the health-care professional who objects, must provide safe abortion to save the woman’s life, to prevent serious injury to her health and provide urgent care when women present with complications from an unsafe or illegal abortion. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2.5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider type not specified</td>
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<td>Neither Type of Provider Permitted</td>
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<td>Public facilities</td>
<td>The respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights require that governments ensure abortion services, that are allowable by law, are accessible in practice. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2.5.</td>
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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  
68 (2017)

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  
49 (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

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

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

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

5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age

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

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

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

5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

16.6.2 Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services

16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions

16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

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

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

17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet

Additional Reproductive Health Indicators

Percentage of married women with unmet need for family planning

Percentage of births attended by trained health professional

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

Total fertility rate

Legal marital age for women, with parental consent
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal marital age for women, without parental consent</td>
<td>18 (2009-2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Inequalities Index (Value)</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Inequalities Index (Rank)</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory paid maternity leave</td>
<td>no (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>32.9 (2020)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population, urban (%)</td>
<td>52.198 (2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of secondary school completion rate for girls</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender parity in secondary education</td>
<td>1.027 (2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of women in non-agricultural employment</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of seats in parliament held by women</td>
<td>13 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio at birth (male to female births)</td>
<td>1.03 (2018)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>