Country Profile: Liberia

Region: Western Africa

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:

From EML / Registered List:

Concluding Observations:
- CRC
- HRC
- CEDAW

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

Not Specified

Legal Ground and Gestational Limit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic or social reasons</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<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>
</tbody>
</table>

Related documents:

WHO Guidance

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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Foetal impairment | | Yes | Related documents:  
- Penal Law - Title 26 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised. § 16.3. Abortion. (page 74) |

**Gestational limit applies**

**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:**


**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 102)*

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 Safe Abortion Guidance (page 103)*

| Rape | | Yes | Related documents:  
- Penal Law - Title 26 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised. § 16.3. Abortion. (page 74) |

**Gestational limit applies**

**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:**


**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)*

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 Safe Abortion Guidance (page 103)*

| Incest | | Yes | Related documents:  
- Penal Law - Title 26 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised. § 16.3. Abortion. (page 74) |

**Gestational limit applies**

**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:**


**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)*

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 Safe Abortion Guidance (page 103)*

| Intellectual or cognitive disability of the woman | | No | Related documents:  

**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)*

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 Safe Abortion Guidance (page 103)*
### Mental health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Related documents:**
- Penal Law - Title 26 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised. § 16.3. Abortion. (page 74)

**Gestational limit applies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not specified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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:**

---

### Physical health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Related documents:**
- Penal Law - Title 26 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised. § 16.3. Abortion. (page 74)

**Gestational limit applies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not specified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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:**

---

### Health

**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)

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 Safe Abortion Guidance (page 103)
Additional Requirements to Access Safe Abortion

**Authorization of health professional(s)**

- Yes

**Related documents:**

- Penal Law - Title 26 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised. § 16.3. Abortion. (page 74 )

**Number and cadre of health-care professional authorizations required**

- 2
- Doctor (Specialty Not Specified)

The certificate must be submitted before the abortion (a) to the hospital where it is to be performed, or if the abortion is not performed in a hospital, to the Minister of Health, and (b) in the case of abortion following felonious intercourse, to the County Attorney or the police.

The CEDEAO/ECOWAS Harmonised Code of Ethics and Practice (2013) (which has no indication of being an official government document) states in Article 21 in Section I (general duties of practitioners): "Voluntary interruption of pregnancy cannot be practiced unless otherwise provided for by law. However, the practitioner is always free to refuse to perform such an act, but he should inform the person concerned of the condition and month of pregnancy as provided for by law." However, in Section V which deals with practitioners’ duties towards patients, the Code states in Article 141: "A therapeutic abortion may be performed if the intervention is the only means to save the life of the mother. When the safety of the mother that is seriously threatened requires a termination of pregnancy or the utilization of a therapeutic intervention that is capable of interrupting the pregnancy, the practitioner must consult at least two other doctors chosen for their competence, who, after review of the case, should jointly make a decision. A copy of the report of the consultation should be given to the patient and a copy kept by each of the two consultants. Also a memorandum of the decision that does not mention the name of the patient must be sent by registered mail to the Council. If there is a therapeutic indication for the termination of pregnancy, the practitioner must yield to any refusal by the patient who is duly informed. This rule does not apply in the case of emergency and when the patient is incapable of giving consent." The Code of Ethics is accessible at: http://www.medecins.ci/documents/Code-Harmonise-CEDEAO.pdf.

---

**Related documents:**

- Penal Law - Title 26 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised. § 16.3. Abortion. (page 74 )

**Additional notes:**

No gestational limit specified.
Authorization in specially licensed facilities only

- 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:**

**WHO Guidance**

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

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.

- Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 106)

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:**

**WHO Guidance**

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

Third-party authorization should not be required for women to obtain abortion services. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2.

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

Judicial authorization in cases of rape

- 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:**

**WHO Guidance**

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

Laws, policies and practices that restrict access to abortion information and services can deter women from care seeking and create a “chilling effect” (suppression of actions because of fear of reprisals or penalties) for the provision of safe, legal services. Examples of barriers include: requiring third-party authorization from one or more medical professionals or a hospital committee, court or police, parent or guardian or a woman’s partner or spouse. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2

- Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 104)

Police report required in case of rape

- 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:**

**WHO Guidance**

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

Laws, policies and practices that restrict access to abortion information and services can deter women from care seeking and create a “chilling effect” (suppression of actions because of fear of reprisals or penalties) for the provision of safe, legal services. Examples of barriers include: requiring third-party authorization from one or more medical professionals or a hospital committee, court or police, parent or guardian or a woman’s partner or spouse. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2

- Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 104)

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:**

**WHO Guidance**

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

Third-party authorization should not be required for women to obtain abortion services. The requirement for authorization by parents 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)
Spousal consent

- **WHO Guidance**
  
  The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.
  
  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)

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)

Compulsory counselling

- **WHO Guidance**
  
  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)

Compulsory waiting period

- **WHO Guidance**
  
  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)

Mandatory HIV screening test

- **WHO Guidance**
  
  The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.
  
  Requirements for HIV and other tests that are not clinically indicated are potential service-delivery barriers. Safe Abortion Guidelines, p 88.
  
  ↓ **Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 88)
### Clinical and Service-delivery Aspects of Abortion Care

#### Other mandatory STI screening tests

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Prohibition of sex-selective abortion

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Restrictions on information provided to the public

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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

No data found

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Additional notes


#### Other

No data found

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 75)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### WHO Guidance

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

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

- **Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 88)


- **Source document:** Preventing Gender-Biased Sex Selection (page 17)

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

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

#### 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.

- **Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 103)

---

### 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.

- **Source document:** WHO Safe Abortion Guidelines (page 63)
### Methods allowed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vacuum aspiration</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dilatation and evacuation</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination mifepristone-misoprostol</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misoprostol only</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (where provided)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### WHO Guidance

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

Vacuum aspiration is the recommended technique of surgical abortion for pregnancies of up to 12 to 14 weeks of gestation. The procedure should not be routinely completed by dilatation and sharp curettage (D&C). Safe Abortion Guidelines, Executive Summary, Box 1-Recommendation.

Dilatation and evacuation (D&E) and medical methods (mifepristone and misoprostol; misoprostol alone) are both recommended methods for abortion for gestations over 12 to 14 weeks. Safe Abortion Guidelines, Executive Summary, Box 3-Recommendation.

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

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.

**Related documents:**


### Country recognized approval (mifepristone / mife-misoprostol)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Yes, for gynaecological indications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### WHO Guidance

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

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

**Related documents:**


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### WHO Guidance

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

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

**Related documents:**

### Where can abortion services be provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary health-care centres</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized abortion care public facilities</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private health-care centres or clinics</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO health-care centres or clinics</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (if applicable)</td>
<td>No data found</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Related documents:**

### National guidelines for post-abortion care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No data found</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source document:**
- WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 18)

### Contraception included in post-abortion care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No data found</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source document:**
- WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 62)
## Related documents:

- **Penal Law - Title 26 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised. § 16.3. Abortion. (page 74)**

## Nurse

**Not specified**

- **Penal Law - Title 26 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised. § 16.3. Abortion.**

## Midwife/nurse-midwife

**Not specified**

- **Penal Law - Title 26 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised. § 16.3. Abortion.**

## Doctor (specialty not specified)

**Yes**

The CEDEAO/ECOWAS Harmonised Code of Ethics and Practice (2013) (which has no indication of being an official government document) states in Article 21 in Section I (general duties of practitioners): "Voluntary interruption of pregnancy cannot be practised unless otherwise provided for by law. However, the practitioner is always free to refuse to perform such an act, but he should inform the person concerned of the condition and month of pregnancy as provided for by law." However, in Section V which deals with practitioners' duties towards patients, the Code states in Article 141: "A therapeutic abortion may be performed if the intervention is the only means to save the life of the mother. When the safety of the mother that is seriously threatened requires a termination of pregnancy or the utilization of a therapeutic intervention that is capable of interrupting the pregnancy, the practitioner must consult at least two other doctors chosen for their competence, who, after review of the case, should jointly make a decision. A copy of the report of the consultation should be given to the patient and a copy kept by each of the two consultants. Also a memorandum of the decision that does not mention the name of the patient must be sent by registered mail to the Council. If there is a therapeutic indication for the termination of pregnancy, the practitioner must yield to any refusal by the patient who is duly informed. This rule does not apply in the case of emergency and when the patient is incapable of giving consent." The Code of Ethics is accessible at: http://www.medecins.ci/documents/Code-Harmonise-CEDEAO.pdf.

- **Penal Law - Title 26 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised. § 16.3. Abortion. (page 74)**

## Specialist doctor, including OB/GYN

**Not specified**

The CEDEAO/ECOWAS Harmonised Code of Ethics and Practice (2013) (which has no indication of being an official government document) states in Article 21 in Section I (general duties of practitioners): "Voluntary interruption of pregnancy cannot be practised unless otherwise provided for by law. However, the practitioner is always free to refuse to perform such an act, but he should inform the person concerned of the condition and month of pregnancy as provided for by law." However, in Section V which deals with practitioners' duties towards patients, the Code states in Article 141: "A therapeutic abortion may be performed if the intervention is the only means to save the life of the mother. When the safety of the mother that is seriously threatened requires a termination of pregnancy or the utilization of a therapeutic intervention that is capable of interrupting the pregnancy, the practitioner must consult at least two other doctors chosen for their competence, who, after review of the case, should jointly make a decision. A copy of the report of the consultation should be given to the patient and a copy kept by each of the two consultants. Also a memorandum of the decision that does not mention the name of the patient must be sent by registered mail to the Council. If there is a therapeutic indication for the termination of pregnancy, the practitioner must yield to any refusal by the patient who is duly informed. This rule does not apply in the case of emergency and when the patient is incapable of giving consent." The Code of Ethics is accessible at: http://www.medecins.ci/documents/Code-Harmonise-CEDEAO.pdf.

- **Penal Law - Title 26 - Liberian Code of Laws Revised. § 16.3. Abortion. (page 74)**

## Extra facility/provider requirements for delivery of abortion services

### 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

## WHO Guidance

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

Abortions 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.

- **Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 75)**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider type not specified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conscientious Objection</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public sector providers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO Guidance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion. 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. <strong>Safe Abortion Guidelines</strong>, § 4.2.2.5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional notes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The CEDEAO/ECOWAS Harmonised Code of Ethics and Practice (2013) (which has no indication of being an official government document) states in Article 21 in Section I (general duties of practitioners): “Voluntary interruption of pregnancy cannot be practiced unless otherwise provided for by law.” In addition, Article 141 in Section V (practitioners’ duties towards patients) states: “If the practitioner considers that his conviction does not allow him to advise or perform an abortion, he may withdraw while ensuring the continuity of care by a qualified colleague.” The Code of Ethics is accessible at: <a href="http://www.medecins.ci/documents/Code-Harmonise-CEDEAO.pdf">http://www.medecins.ci/documents/Code-Harmonise-CEDEAO.pdf</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private sector providers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO Guidance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion. 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. <strong>Safe Abortion Guidelines</strong>, § 4.2.2.5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional notes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The CEDEAO/ECOWAS Harmonised Code of Ethics and Practice (2013) (which has no indication of being an official government document) states in Article 21 in Section I (general duties of practitioners): “Voluntary interruption of pregnancy cannot be practiced unless otherwise provided for by law.” In addition, Article 141 in Section V (practitioners’ duties towards patients) states: “If the practitioner considers that his conviction does not allow him to advise or perform an abortion, he may withdraw while ensuring the continuity of care by a qualified colleague.” The Code of Ethics is accessible at: <a href="http://www.medecins.ci/documents/Code-Harmonise-CEDEAO.pdf">http://www.medecins.ci/documents/Code-Harmonise-CEDEAO.pdf</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neither Type of Provider Permitted</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHO Guidance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion. 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. <strong>Safe Abortion Guidelines</strong>, § 4.2.2.5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional notes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The CEDEAO/ECOWAS Harmonised Code of Ethics and Practice (2013) (which has no indication of being an official government document) states in Article 21 in Section I (general duties of practitioners): “Voluntary interruption of pregnancy cannot be practiced unless otherwise provided for by law.” In addition, Article 141 in Section V (practitioners’ duties towards patients) states: “If the practitioner considers that his conviction does not allow him to advise or perform an abortion, he may withdraw while ensuring the continuity of care by a qualified colleague.” The Code of Ethics is accessible at: <a href="http://www.medecins.ci/documents/Code-Harmonise-CEDEAO.pdf">http://www.medecins.ci/documents/Code-Harmonise-CEDEAO.pdf</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 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)  

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  

1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)  

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

3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio  

3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel  

3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods  

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

3.8.2 Number of people covered by health insurance or a public health system per 1,000 population
3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution

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 months

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)  
No data

16.6.2 Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services  
No data

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  
No data

16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age  
No data

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  
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  
No data

Additional Reproductive Health Indicators

Percentage of married women with unmet need for family planning  
31.1 (2013)

Percentage of births attended by trained health professional  
61.1 (2013)

Percentage of women aged 20-24 who gave birth before age 18  
38 (2009-2013)

Total fertility rate  
4.315 (2018)

Legal marital age for women, with parental consent  
No data

Legal marital age for women, without parental consent  
18 (2009-2017)

Gender Inequalities Index (Value)  
0.66 (2017)

Gender Inequalities Index (Rank)  
154 (2017)

Mandatory paid maternity leave  
yes (2020)

Median age  
19.4 (2020)

Population, urban (%)  
51.151 (2018)

Percentage of secondary school completion rate for girls  
0.4 (2013)

Gender parity in secondary education  
0.776 (2015)

Percentage of women in non-agricultural employment  
24.1 (2010)

Proportion of seats in parliament held by women  
9.9 (2017)
Sex ratio at birth (male to female births)

1.05 [2018]