Country Profile: Zimbabwe

Region: Eastern 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:
- Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act

From Health Regulation / Clinical Guidelines:
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014
- National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care

From EML / Registered List:
- Essential Medicines List and Standard Treatment Guidelines for Zimbabwe, 2011
- Register for Approved Human Medicines, 2015

From Abortion Specific Law:
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977

Concluding Observations:
- CEDAW
- CRC

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
## Legal Ground and Gestational Limit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic or social reasons</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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>Foetal impairment</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gestational limit

**Weeks:** 22

Both the National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care and the National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care define abortion as termination of pregnancy before 22 weeks of gestation or less than 500g foetal weight.

- National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care (page 6)
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 11)

### 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)

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rape</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gestational limit

**Weeks:** 22

Both the National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care and the National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care define abortion as termination of pregnancy before 22 weeks of gestation or less than 500g foetal weight.

- National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care (page 6)
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 11)

### WHO Guidance

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Permitted</th>
<th>Related documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incest</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2), National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Gestational limit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Weeks: 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Both the National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care and the National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care define abortion as termination of pregnancy before 22 weeks of gestation or less than 500g foetal weight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>WHO Guidance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual or cognitive disability of the woman</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2), National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2), National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical health</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2), National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care it states that rape, incest and "intercourse with a mentally handicapped woman" are all understood to be grounds for access to abortion under unlawful intercourse.

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.
Both the National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care and the National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care define abortion as termination of pregnancy before 22 weeks of gestation or less than 500g foetal weight.

- National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care (page 6)
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 11)

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)

Related documents:
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2)
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)

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)

The human right to life requires protection by law, including when pregnancy is life-threatening or a pregnant woman’s life is otherwise endangered. Both medical and social conditions can constitute life-threatening conditions. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.1.

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)

Related documents:
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2)
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)

Sexual intercourse in contravention of section 4 of the Sexual Offences Act [Chapter 9:21] which prohibits extra-marital sexual intercourse or immoral or indecent acts committed with an intellectually handicapped person. Additionally, the 2014 Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care state that “In Zimbabwe termination of pregnancy may be permitted for HIV positive women if they choose to do so.”

Related documents:
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 1)
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)

Additional notes
The National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care define abortion as termination of pregnancy before 22 weeks of gestation or less than 500g foetal weight.

**Related documents:**
- National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care (page 6)

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### Additional Requirements to Access Safe Abortion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorization of health professional(s)</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 (except in cases of emergency where no authorization is required)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor (Specialty Not Specified)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To terminate pregnancy on the grounds of threat to life or physical health, or malformation of the foetus, the hospital superintendent can only permit a medical practitioner of the institution to provide abortion if a second medical practitioner certifies. Otherwise, two medical practitioners who are not of the same medical partnership or involved in the same medical practice should certify.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Related documents:**
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2)
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2)

### 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 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.

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

### Additional notes

In order to terminate pregnancy on the grounds of threat to life or physical health, or malformation of the foetus, the hospital superintendent can only permit a medical practitioner of the institution to provide abortion if a second medical practitioner certifies. Otherwise, two medical practitioners who are not of the same medical partnership or involved in the same medical practice should certify.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorization in specially licensed facilities only</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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)

### Additional notes

The Minister has discretion to issue an instrument declaring a hospital, clinic or institution to be a designated institution for purposes of the Act.

**Related documents:**
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2)
for minors

**Related documents:**
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 10)

### WHO Guidance

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

**Judicial authorization in cases of rape**

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)

### Additional notes

According to the 2014 National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care “Under Zimbabwean Law, a minor, defined as any woman under the age of 16, who is pregnant, is deemed to be an ‘emancipated minor’ who can give consent for procedures associated with pregnancy and its complications, such as Caesarean Section or procedures for treating incomplete abortion. This means that parental consent may not always be required. If however a parent or guardian is involved in the health care of the minor, the health worker has an obligation to ask the minor whether consent should be sought from the adult present or parent. In the absence of the minor’s biological parents, any responsible adult who is acting as a guardian can sign the consent on behalf of the minor. In the absence of any guardian or parent, or if the patient is too ill to give consent or unconscious, the consultant in charge of her medical care or the most senior medical practitioner available in the institution, can sign consent for any surgical procedure on behalf of the minor.”

### Police report required in case of rape

**Yes**

**Related documents:**
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2)
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)

### 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)

### Additional notes

To access abortion on the ground of rape, the woman is required to have a certificate from the magistrate. To issue the certificate, the Magistrate ought to be satisfied that the woman launched a complaint with the authorities, and after examining documents submitted to him by the authorities, and after interrogating the woman concerned or any other person the magistrate considers necessary, he is of the opinion that on a balance of probabilities, there is a reasonable possibility that the pregnancy was a result of unlawful intercourse.

### Parental consent required for minors

**No**

**Related documents:**
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 10)
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)

Additional notes

According to the 2014 National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care “Under Zimbabwean Law, a minor, defined as any woman under the age of 16, who is pregnant, is deemed to be an ‘emancipated minor’ who can give consent for procedures associated with pregnancy and its complications, such as Caesarean Section or procedures for treating incomplete abortion. This means that parental consent may not always be required. If however a parent or guardian is involved in the health care of the minor, the health worker has an obligation to ask the minor whether consent should be sought from the adult present or parent. In the absence of the minor’s biological parents, any responsible adult who is acting as a guardian can sign the consent on behalf of the minor. In the absence of any guardian or parent, or if the patient is too ill to give consent or unconscious, the consultant in charge of her medical care or the most senior medical practitioner available in the institution, can sign consent for any surgical procedure on behalf of the minor.”

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:
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

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:
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

Compulsory counselling

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:
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

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 waiting period

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

**Related documents:**
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

**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)

### Mandatory HIV screening test

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

**Related documents:**
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

**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)

### Other mandatory STI screening tests

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

**Related documents:**
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

**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)

### Prohibition of sex-selective abortion

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

**Related documents:**
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

**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.
Clinical and Service-delivery Aspects of Abortion Care

### National guidelines for induced abortion

Yes, guidelines issued by the government

**Related documents:**
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 11)

**WHO Guidance**

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)

### Methods allowed

**Vacuum aspiration**

Yes (14 WEEKS)

- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 23)

**Dilatation and evacuation**

Yes (13 WEEKS)

- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 33)

**Combination mifepristone-misoprostol**

Yes (24 WEEKS)

- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 19)

**Misoprostol only**

- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 19)
Other (where provided)

Dilation and curettage

Dilation and curettage are permitted in the first trimester and early second trimester with or without prior use of misoprostol. According to the Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care 2014, dilation and curettage methods are also used for incomplete abortion beyond 13 weeks, no limit specified.

- Essential Medicines List and Standard Treatment Guidelines for Zimbabwe, 2011 (page 97)
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care, 2014 (page 33)

**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.

- Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 123)

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.

- Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 123)

The recommended method for medical abortion is mifepristone followed by misoprostol (regimen differs by gestational age). Safe Abortion Guidelines, Executive Summary, Box 2-Recommendation.

- Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 13)

Where mifepristone is not available, the recommended method for medical abortion is misoprostol (regimen differs by gestational age). Safe Abortion Guidelines, Executive Summary, Box 2-Recommendation.

- Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 14)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country recognized approval (mifepristone / mifepristone / misoprostol)</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Register for Approved Human Medicines, 2015 (page 25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pharmacy selling or distribution</th>
<th>Yes, with prescription only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Register for Approved Human Medicines, 2015 (page 25)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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

- 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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Register for Approved Human Medicines, 2015 (page 25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Essential Medicines List and Standard Treatment Guidelines for Zimbabwe, 2011 (page 97)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Misoprostol allowed to be sold or distributed by pharmacies or drug stores</th>
<th>Yes, with prescription only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Register for Approved Human Medicines, 2015 (page 25)</td>
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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)

Where can abortion services be provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary health-care centres
Not specified
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities
Not specified
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

Specialized abortion care public facilities
Not specified
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

Private health-care centres or clinics
Not specified
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

NGO health-care centres or clinics
Not specified
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

Other (if applicable)

National guidelines for post-abortion care

Yes, guidelines issued by the government

Related documents:
- National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care (page 1)

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 18)

Where can post abortion care services be provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Related documents:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care (page 1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary health-care centres
Yes
- National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care (page 11)

Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities
Yes
Insurance to offset end user costs

No data found

Other (if applicable)

WHO Guidance

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 18)

Who can provide abortion services

Related documents:
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2)

Nurse

Yes

WHO Guidance

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 18)

Contraception included in post-abortion care

Yes

Related documents:
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 9)
- National Guidelines for Post-Abortion Care (page 38)

WHO Guidance

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)

Specialized abortion care public facilities

Not specified

WHO Guidance

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)

Private health-care centres or clinics

Yes

WHO Guidance

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)

NGO health-care centres or clinics

Not specified

WHO Guidance

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)

Other (if applicable)

Tertiary level of health care delivery system: general, provincial and central hospitals

WHO Guidance

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)
The Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care 2014 state that “Manual Vacuum aspiration, as part of CAC may be performed by adequately trained medical doctors and nurses who acquired the skill from a program of training approved by the Ministry of Health and Child Care. Private medical practitioners and nurse/midwives may practice if they hold a recognized certificate of competence or are under the supervision of a registered Obstetrics and Gynaecology specialist.”

- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)

**Midwife/nurse-midwife**

Yes

The Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care 2014 state that “Manual Vacuum aspiration, as part of CAC may be performed by adequately trained medical doctors and nurses who acquired the skill from a program of training approved by the Ministry of Health and Child Care. Private medical practitioners and nurse/midwives may practice if they hold a recognized certificate of competence or are under the supervision of a registered Obstetrics and Gynaecology specialist.”

- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)

**Doctor (specialty not specified)**

Yes

- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 2)
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)

**Specialist doctor, including OB/GYN**

Yes

The Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care 2014 state that “Manual Vacuum aspiration, as part of CAC may be performed by adequately trained medical doctors and nurses who acquired the skill from a program of training approved by the Ministry of Health and Child Care. Private medical practitioners and nurse/midwives may practice if they hold a recognized certificate of competence or are under the supervision of a registered Obstetrics and Gynaecology specialist.”

- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)

**Other (if applicable)**

The Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care 2014 state that “Manual Vacuum aspiration, as part of CAC may be performed by adequately trained medical doctors and nurses who acquired the skill from a program of training approved by the Ministry of Health and Child Care. Private medical practitioners and nurse/midwives may practice if they hold a recognized certificate of competence or are under the supervision of a registered Obstetrics and Gynaecology specialist.”

- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014 (page 8)

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## 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**

Not specified

- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

**Availability of a specialist doctor, including OB/GYN**

Not specified

- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

**Minimum number of beds**

Not specified

- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

**Other (if applicable)**

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...
Conscientious Objection

Public sector providers

Individual health-care providers who have objected are required to refer the woman to another provider

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.

- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977

WHO Guidance

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. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2.5.

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

Private sector providers

Individual health-care providers who have objected are required to refer the woman to another provider

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.

- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977

WHO Guidance

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. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2.5.

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

Provider type not specified

Yes

Individual health-care providers who have objected are required to refer the woman to another provider

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.

- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
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. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2.5.

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

**Related documents:**
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977 (page 4)
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care, 2014

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Neither Type of Provider Permitted

**Individual health-care providers who have objected are required to refer the woman to another provider**

**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.

- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977

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Public facilities

**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:**
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care, 2014

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Private facilities

**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:**
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion Care, 2014

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Facility type not specified

**Not specified**
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  
458 (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

Neither Type of Facility Permitted

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:
- Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1977
- National Guidelines for Comprehensive Abortion care, 2014

WHO Guidance

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

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.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 106)
3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group

104.1 (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
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

16.6.1 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

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

10.4 (2014)

Percentage of births attended by trained health professional

78.1 (2015)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of women aged 20-24 who gave birth before age 18</td>
<td>21 (2009-2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fertility rate</td>
<td>3.615 (2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal marital age for women, with parental consent</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<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>0.53 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Inequalities Index (Rank)</td>
<td>128 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory paid maternity leave</td>
<td>yes (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>18.7 (2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population, urban (%)</td>
<td>32.209 (2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of secondary school completion rate for girls</td>
<td>0.79 (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender parity in secondary education</td>
<td>0.98 (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of women in non-agricultural employment</td>
<td>33.9 (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of seats in parliament held by women</td>
<td>36.2 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio at birth (male to female births)</td>
<td>1.02 (2018)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>