**Country Profile:** Lao People’s Democratic Republic

**Region:** South-Eastern Asia

**Last Updated:** 10 November 2021

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**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 Practicioners
- Law on Health Care Services
- Other

**Related Documents**

**From Criminal / Penal Code:**
- Penal Code, 1990
- Penal Code, 2017

**From Health Regulation / Clinical Guidelines:**
- Regulation on Maternal and Child Health, 2004
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016

**From EML / Registered List:**
- List of Essential Medicines

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**List of ratified human rights treaties:**
- CERD
- CCPR
- XSt OP
- 2nd OP
- CESCR
- CESCR-OP
- CAT
- CAT-OP
- CEDAW
- CEDAW-OP
- CRC
- CRC:OPSC
- CRC:OPAC
- CRC:OPIC
- CMW
- CRPD
- Maputo Protocol

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**Concluding Observations:**
- CEDAW
- CRC
- HRC

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

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**Abortion at the woman’s request**

- Not Specified

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**Legal Ground and Gestational Limit**
**Economic or social reasons**

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:**
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Penal Code, 2017

**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 foetal 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.

**Additional notes**

Under Article 36 of the Penal Code, if an individual takes action "to safeguard his/her own or another individual's life, health, or legitimate rights and interests" against public danger, it is considered a defence. As per article 37 any act "taken in a state of necessity" is also a defence and includes an act necessary to avoid threats against his/her own or another individual's life, health, or legitimate rights and interests. Neither provision specifically mentions abortions.

**Related documents:**
- Penal Code, 2017 (page 11)

**Foetal impairment**

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:**
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Penal Code, 2017

**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.

**Additional notes**

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.

**Related documents:**
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 7)

**Rape**

**Yes**

**Related documents:**
- Regulation on Maternal and Child Health, 2004 (page 6)

**Gestational limit**

**Weeks: 28**

**Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 7)**

**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.

**Additional notes**

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.

**Related documents:**
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 7)
Incest

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:
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Penal Code, 2017

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

Under Article 36 of the Penal Code, if an individual takes action "to safeguard his/her own or another individual's life, health, or legitimate rights and interests" against public danger, it is considered a defence. As per article 37 any act "taken in a state of necessity" is also a defence and includes an act necessary to avoid threats against his/her own or another individual's life, health, or legitimate rights and interests. Neither provision specifically mentions abortions.

Related documents:
- Penal Code, 2017 (page 11)

Intellectual or cognitive disability of the woman

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:
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Penal Code, 2017

Additional notes

Under Article 36 of the Penal Code, if an individual takes action "to safeguard his/her own or another individual's life, health, or legitimate rights and interests" against public danger, it is considered a defence. As per article 37 any act "taken in a state of necessity" is also a defence and includes an act necessary to avoid threats against his/her own or another individual's life, health, or legitimate rights and interests. Neither provision specifically mentions abortions.

The guidelines list the following health conditions as “necessary” indications for abortion provision: Mental illness (psycho). The gestational limit for these is 28 weeks.

Related documents:
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 6)
- Penal Code, 2017 (page 11)

Mental health

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:
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Penal Code, 2017

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

Under Article 36 of the Penal Code, if an individual takes action "to safeguard his/her own or another individual's life, health, or legitimate rights and interests" against public danger, it is considered a defence. As per article 37 any act "taken in a state of necessity" is also a defence and includes an act necessary to avoid threats against his/her own or another individual's life, health, or legitimate rights and interests. Neither provision specifically mentions abortions.

The guidelines list the following health conditions as “necessary” indications for abortion provision: Mental illness (psycho). The gestational limit for these is 28 weeks.

Related documents:
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 6)
- Penal Code, 2017 (page 11)
### Physical health

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:**
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Penal Code, 2017

### 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**

The guidelines list the following health conditions as "necessary" indications for abortion provision: - Severe and life-threatening disease such as heart disease, Pulmonary disease (e.g. pulmonary tuberculosis). The following are listed as or "considering" indications - HIV/AIDS, Genital tract cancer, Severe anemia. E.g. Thalassemia. The gestational limit for these is 28 weeks.

**Related documents:**
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 6)
- Penal Code, 2017 (page 11)

### Health

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:**
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Penal Code, 2017

### 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**

Under Article 36 of the Penal Code, if an individual takes action "to safeguard his/her own or another individual's life, health, or legitimate rights and interests" against public danger, it is considered a defence. As per article 37 any act "taken in a state of necessity" is also a defence and includes an act necessary to avoid threats against his/her own or another individual's life, health, or legitimate rights and interests. Neither provision specifically mentions abortions.

The guidelines list the following health conditions as "necessary" indications for abortion provision: - Severe and life-threatening disease such as heart disease, Pulmonary disease (e.g. pulmonary tuberculosis). Mental illness (psycho). The following are listed as or "considering" indications - HIV/AIDS, Genital tract cancer, Severe anemia. E.g. Thalassemia. The gestational limit for these is 28 weeks.

**Related documents:**
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 6)
- Penal Code, 2017 (page 11)

### Life

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:**
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Penal Code, 2017

### WHO Guidance

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

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)]

**Additional notes**

Under Article 36 of the Penal Code, if an individual takes action "to safeguard his/her own or another individual's life, health, or legitimate rights and interests" against public danger, it is considered a defence. As per article 37 any act "taken in a state of necessity" is also a defence and includes an act necessary to avoid threats against his/her own or another individual's life, health, or legitimate rights and interests. Neither provision specifically mentions abortions.

**Related documents:**
- Penal Code, 2017 (page 11)
### Additional Requirements to Access Safe Abortion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorization of health professional(s)</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 7)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1. Head of obstetric and gynecology unit.

In emergency cases, it depends on the decision-making of head of staff for daily duty.

- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 7)

**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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorization in specially licensed facilities only</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Regulation on Maternal and Child Health, 2004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Penal Code, 2017</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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judicial authorization for minors</th>
<th>Not specified</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Related documents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Regulation on Maternal and Child Health, 2004</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Penal Code, 2017</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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:
- Regulation on Maternal and Child Health, 2004
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Penal Code, 2017

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

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:
- Regulation on Maternal and Child Health, 2004
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Penal Code, 2017

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

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:
- Regulation on Maternal and Child Health, 2004
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Penal Code, 2017

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

Health providers should listen to and discuss with adolescents to make them understand the information and provide assistance and participation in decision-making.

Related documents:
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 7)

Spousal consent

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:
- Regulation on Maternal and Child Health, 2004
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Penal Code, 2017

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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ultrasound images or listen to foetal heartbeat required</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory counselling</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compulsory waiting period</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory HIV screening test</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other mandatory STI screening tests</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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)

- **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)

- **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)

- **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

### Prohibition of sex-selective abortion

<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:**
- Regulation on Maternal and Child Health, 2004
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016

### Restrictions on information provided to the public

**WHO Guidance**

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

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.

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

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

**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. 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)

### Other

**Related documents:**
- Regulation on Maternal and Child Health, 2004
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016

### Clinical and Service-delivery Aspects of Abortion Care

#### National guidelines for induced abortion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes, guidelines issued by the government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Related documents:**
- Regulation on Maternal and Child Health, 2004 (page 6)
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 1)

**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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Approval criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vacuum aspiration</td>
<td>Yes (14 WEEKS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dilatation and evacuation</td>
<td>Not specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination mifepristone-misoprostol</td>
<td>Yes (63 DAYS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misoprostol only</td>
<td>Yes (63-84 DAYS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (where provided)</td>
<td></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 recommended method for medical abortion is mifepristone followed by misoprostol (regimen differs by gestational age). Safe Abortion Guidelines, Executive Summary, Box 2- Recommendation.

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.

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:**
- List of Essential Medicines (page 1)
- List of Essential Medicines (page 41)

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**Country recognized approval (mifepristone / mifepristone-misoprostol)**

No

**Related documents:**
- List of Essential Medicines (page 1)

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**Country recognized approval (misoprostol)**

Yes, for gynaecological indications

**Related documents:**
- List of Essential Medicines (page 41)

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**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.

**Related documents:**
- List of Essential Medicines
Where can abortion services be provided

- Primary health-care centres
  - Not specified
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities
  - Not specified
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Specialized abortion care public facilities
  - Not specified
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Private health-care centres or clinics
  - Not specified
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- NGO health-care centres or clinics
  - Not specified
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
- Other (if applicable)
  - Health facility
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 6)

**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)

National guidelines for post-abortion care

- Yes, guidelines issued by the government

**Related documents:**
- Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 1)

**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)

Where can post-abortion care services be provided

**Primary health-care centres**

- Not specified
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016

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

- Not specified
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016

**Specialized abortion care public facilities**

- Not specified
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016

**Private health-care centres or clinics**

- Not specified
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016

**NGO health-care centres or clinics**

- Not specified
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016

**Other (if applicable)**

- Health facility
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016

**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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contraception included in post-abortion care</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 28)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHO Guidance**

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insurance to offset end user costs</th>
<th>No data found</th>
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</table>

**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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who can provide abortion services</th>
<th>Nurse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related documents:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016 (page 6)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.

Source document: Health Worker Roles in Safe Abortion Care and Post-Abortion Contraception (page 33)
### Referral linkages to a higher-level facility
- Not specified

### Availability of a specialist doctor, including OB/GYN
- Not specified

### Minimum number of beds
- Not specified

### 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.

Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 75)

### Conscientious Objection

#### Public sector providers

- **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:
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
  - Penal Code, 2017

#### 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

- **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:
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
  - Penal Code, 2017

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Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 106)

#### Provider type not specified

- **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:
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
  - Penal Code, 2017

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Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 106)
Neither Type of Provider Permitted

- **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:**
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
  - Penal Code, 2017

  **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)

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:**
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
  - Penal Code, 2017

  **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)

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:**
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
  - Penal Code, 2017

  **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)

Facility type not specified

- **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:**
  - Unsafe Abortion and Care guidelines, 2016
  - Penal Code, 2017

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

Neither Type of Facility Permitted

- **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.

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    - Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 106)
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  
185 (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  
62.6 (2015-2020)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No data

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

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

No data

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

No data

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

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

No data

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

No data

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

No data

16.6.1 Proportion 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

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

14.3 (2017)

Percentage of births attended by trained health professional

64.4 (2017)

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

18 (2009-2013)

Total fertility rate

2.667 (2018)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal marital age for women, with parental consent</td>
<td>No data</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal marital age for women, without parental consent</td>
<td>18 (2009-2017)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender Inequalities Index (Value)</td>
<td>0.46 (2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender Inequalities Index (Rank)</td>
<td>109 (2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandatory paid maternity leave</td>
<td>yes (2020)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>24.4 (2020)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Population, urban (%)</td>
<td>35.004 (2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of secondary school completion rate for girls</td>
<td>0.62 (2013)</td>
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<td>Gender parity in secondary education</td>
<td>0.934 (2018)</td>
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<td>Percentage of women in non-agricultural employment</td>
<td>75.5 (2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proportion of seats in parliament held by women</td>
<td>27.5 (2017)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio at birth (male to female births)</td>
<td>1.05 (2018)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>