

Country Profile: Nepal

Last Updated: 13 December 2019

Region: South-Central Asia



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 Reproductive Health Act:

- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act 2018](#)

From Criminal / Penal Code:

- [General Code](#)

From Health Regulation / Clinical Guidelines:

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care, Integrated Trainers Manual, 2015](#)
- [National Medical Standards](#)

From EML / Registered List:

- [National List of Essential Medicines, 2011](#)

From Other:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003](#)



List of ratified human rights treaties:

- ✓ CERD
- ✓ CCPR
- ✓ Xst
OP
- ✓ 2nd
OP
- ✓ CESC
CESCR-OP
- ✓ CAT
CAT-OP
- ✓ CEDAW
- ✓ CEDAW-OP
- ✓ CRC
- ✓ CRC:OPSC
- ✓ CRC:OPAC
- ✓ CRC:OPIC
- ✓ CMW
- ✓ CRPD *
- ✓ CRPD-OP
- ✓ CED **
Maputo Protocol

↓ [Download data](#)



Concluding Observations:

- [CEDAW](#)
- [CESCR](#)
- [CESCR](#)
- [CRC](#)
- [CEDAW](#)






Persons who can be sanctioned:

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

Abortion at the woman's request

✓ Gestational limit: 12

Legal Ground and Gestational Limit

Economic or social reasons	<p>No</p> <p>Related documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Code (page 378)• The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 (page 1) <p> WHO Guidance</p> <p>The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 103)</p>
Foetal impairment	<p>Yes</p> <p>Related documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 (page 7) <p>Gestational limit</p> <p>Weeks: 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 (page 7)• Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 (page 20) <p> WHO Guidance</p> <p>The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 103)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 103)</p>
Rape	<p>Yes</p> <p>Related documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 (page 7) <p>Gestational limit</p> <p>Weeks: 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 (page 7)• Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 (page 20) <p> WHO Guidance</p> <p>The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 102)</p>

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

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Safe Abortion Guidance \(page 103\)](#)

Incest

Yes

Related documents:

- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 7\)](#)

Gestational limit

Weeks: 28

- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 7\)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 20\)](#)



WHO Guidance

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

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

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Safe Abortion Guidance \(page 102\)](#)

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

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Safe Abortion Guidance \(page 103\)](#)

Intellectual or cognitive disability of the woman

No

Related documents:

- [General Code \(page 378\)](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 1\)](#)

Mental health

Yes

Related documents:

- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 7\)](#)

Gestational limit

Weeks: 28

- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 7\)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 20\)](#)



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 \(page 102\)](#)

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 \(page 103\)](#)

Physical health

Yes

Related documents:




- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 7\)](#)

Gestational limit

Weeks: 28

- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 7\)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 20\)](#)



	<p> WHO Guidance</p> <p>The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.</p> <p>Physical health is widely understood to include conditions that aggravate pregnancy and those aggravated by pregnancy. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.1.2.</p> <p>↓ Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 102)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 103)</p>
Health	<p>No</p> <p>Related documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 (page 6) • Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 (page 20) • General Code (page 378) • The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 (page 1) <p> WHO Guidance</p> <p>The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 102)</p>
Life	<p>Yes</p> <p>Related documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 (page 7) <p>Gestational limit</p> <p>Weeks: 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 (page 7) • Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 (page 20) <p> WHO Guidance</p> <p>The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 102)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 103)</p>
Other	

Additional Requirements to Access Safe Abortion

Authorization of health professional(s)	<p>Yes</p> <p>Related documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 (page 7) • Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 (page 20) <p>Number and cadre of health-care professional authorizations required</p> <p>1</p> <p>The texts provide differing descriptions, but include medical practitioner, expert physician, or expert</p>
--	--

The sources use different language to describe the requirements women seeking an abortion need to meet. The Safe Abortion Policy (1) refers to “with the advice of a medical practitioner” for abortions at any time during the pregnancy, including particularly after 18 weeks of gestation. The Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual (2) refers to “the certification of an expert physician.” The references in the General Code (6) is: “on the advice of an expert pursuant to the prevailing law that if abortion is not carried out, the life of such a woman may be in danger or the physical or mental health may be deteriorated or a disabled child may be born.”

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 6 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 20\)](#)



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

The sources use different language to describe the requirements women seeking an abortion need to meet. The Safe Abortion Policy refers to “with the advice of a medical practitioner” for abortions at any time during the pregnancy, including particularly after 18 weeks of gestation. The Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual refers to “the certification of an expert physician.” The references in the General Code is: “on the advice of an expert pursuant to the prevailing law that if abortion is not carried out, the life of such a woman may be in danger or the physical or mental health may be deteriorated or a disabled child may be born.” According to The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act 2018 women have access to abortion with their consent in cases of fetal abnormality “as per the opinion of the health worker involved in the treatment that damage may occur in the womb due to defects occurred in the fetus (gestation), or that there is such defect in the fetus of the womb that it cannot live even after the birth, that there is condition of disability in the fetus (gestation) due to genetic defect or any other cause.

Authorization in specially licensed facilities only

Yes

Related documents:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 7\)](#)



WHO Guidance

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

Restrictions on the range of providers or facilities that are authorized to provide abortion reduce the availability of services and their equitable geographic distribution. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2.4.

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Safe Abortion Guidance \(page 106\)](#)

Judicial authorization for minors



Not specified

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

Related documents:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)



WHO Guidance

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

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

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Safe Abortion Guidance \(page 105\)](#)

Judicial authorization in cases of rape



Not specified

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

Related documents:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)



WHO Guidance

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

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

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Safe Abortion Guidance \(page 104\)](#)

Police report required in case of rape



Not specified

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

Related documents:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)



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

Yes

Related documents:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 6 \)](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 8 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 20\)](#)

Can another adult consent in place of a parent?

Yes

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 8 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 20\)](#)

Age where consent not needed

16

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 8 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 20\)](#)



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

The Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act stipulates that “a woman [...] who has not completed the age of eighteen years, her guardian or curator shall have to give consent.”

Spousal consent

No

Related documents:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 6 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 20\)](#)



WHO Guidance

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

Third-party authorization should not be required for women to obtain abortion services. The requirement for authorization by a spouse may violate the right to privacy and women’s access to health care on the basis of equality of men and women. Safe Abortion Guidelines, § 4.2.2.2.

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Safe Abortion Guidance \(page 105\)](#)

Ultrasound images or listen to foetal heartbeat required



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:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)



WHO Guidance

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

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

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Safe Abortion Guidance \(page 19\)](#)

Compulsory counselling

No

Related documents:

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 50\)](#)



WHO Guidance

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

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

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Safe Abortion Guidance \(page 46\)](#)

Compulsory waiting period



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:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)



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

No

Related documents:

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 38\)](#)



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



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:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)



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

Yes

Related documents:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 8 \)](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 8 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 20\)](#)



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 information provided to the public

No

Related documents:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 9\)](#)



WHO Guidance

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

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

↓ **Source document:** [WHO Safe Abortion Guidance \(page 107\)](#)

Restrictions on methods to detect sex of the foetus

Yes

Related documents:

- [General Code \(page 378\)](#)

List of restrictions

No one shall commit or cause to be committed an act to identify (determine) the gender of the fetus for the purpose of committing the offence of abortion.

- [General Code \(page 378\)](#)





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

Clinical and Service-delivery Aspects of Abortion Care

National guidelines for induced abortion

Yes, guidelines issued by a professional body or non-governmental organization that are endorsed by the government

Related documents:

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 1 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care, Integrated Trainers Manual, 2015 \(page 1\)](#)



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 \(page 75\)](#)

Methods allowed

Vacuum aspiration

Yes (12 WEEKS)

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 116\)](#)

Dilatation and evacuation

Not specified

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)

Combination mifepristone-misoprostol

Yes (9 WEEKS)

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 108\)](#)

Misoprostol only

Not specified

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)

Other (where provided)



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 \(page 14\)](#)

Country recognized approval (mifepristone / mife-misoprostol)

Yes

Related documents:

- [National List of Essential Medicines, 2011 \(page 11 \)](#)

Pharmacy selling or distribution



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.

- [National List of Essential Medicines, 2011](#)



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 \(page 13\)](#)



Additional notes

The National List of Essential Medicines states that Mifepristone and Misoprostol in combination "requires close medical supervision" and is "approved for abortion services only in listed sites."

Country recognized approval (misoprostol)

Yes, indications not specified

Related documents:

- [National List of Essential Medicines, 2011 \(page 11\)](#)

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.

- [National List of Essential Medicines, 2011](#)



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 \(page 54\)](#)

Where can abortion services be provided

Related documents:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 7 \)](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 8\)](#)

Primary health-care centres

Not specified

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)

Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities

Not specified

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003](#)

- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)

Specialized abortion care public facilities

Not specified

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)

Private health-care centres or clinics

Yes

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 7\)](#)

NGO health-care centres or clinics

Yes

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 7\)](#)

Other (if applicable)

A licensed health institution

- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 8\)](#)



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:

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 1 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care, Integrated Trainers Manual, 2015 \(page 1\)](#)



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

Yes

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 7\)](#)

Secondary (district-level) health-care facilities

Yes

- [National Medical Standards \(page 139\)](#)

Specialized abortion care public facilities

Not specified

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003](#)

Private health-care centres or clinics

Yes

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 9\)](#)

NGO health-care centres or clinics

Yes

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 9\)](#)

Other (if applicable)

Health facilities which fulfil criteria to be certified as PAC sites.

- [National Medical Standards \(page 32\)](#)



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 \(page 57\)](#)

Contraception included in post-abortion care

Yes

Related documents:

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 57\)](#)



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 \(page 62\)](#)

Insurance to offset end user costs

No data found



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 \(page 18\)](#)

Who can provide abortion services

Related documents:

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 7 \)](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 8\)](#)

Nurse

Yes

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 1 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care, Integrated Trainers Manual, 2015 \(page 41\)](#)

Midwife/nurse-midwife

Not specified

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care, Integrated Trainers Manual, 2015](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)

Doctor (specialty not specified)

Yes

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 1 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care, Integrated Trainers Manual, 2015 \(page 41\)](#)

Specialist doctor, including OB/GYN

Yes

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 1 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care, Integrated Trainers Manual, 2015 \(page 41\)](#)

Other (if applicable)

Senior Auxiliary Nurse Midwives

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 1 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care, Integrated Trainers Manual, 2015 \(page 41 \)](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 8\)](#)



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 \(page 33\)](#)

Extra facility/provider requirements for delivery of abortion services

Referral linkages to a higher-level facility

Yes

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003 \(page 7 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 1 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care, Integrated Trainers Manual, 2015 \(page 214\)](#)

Availability of a specialist doctor, including OB/GYN

Not specified

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care, Integrated Trainers Manual, 2015](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)

Minimum number of beds

Not specified

- [National Safe Abortion Policy, 2003](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care, Integrated Trainers Manual, 2015](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)

Other (if applicable)

Minimum for MVA service delivery and be in a licensed health institution

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 1 \)](#)
- [Comprehensive Abortion Care, Integrated Trainers Manual, 2015 \(page 212 \)](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 \(page 8\)](#)



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

Related documents:

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 25\)](#)

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

Yes

Conscientious objection is only permitted when the woman's life or health are not in danger.

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 26\)](#)



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 \(page 106\)](#)



Additional notes

Conscientious objection is only permitted when the woman's life or health are not in danger.

Private sector providers

Related documents:

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 25\)](#)

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

Yes

Conscientious objection is only permitted when the woman's life or health are not in danger.

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 26\)](#)



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 \(page 106\)](#)



Additional notes

Conscientious objection is only permitted when the woman's life or health are not in danger.

Provider type not specified

Yes

Related documents:

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 25\)](#)

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

Yes

Conscientious objection is only permitted when the woman's life or health are not in danger.

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 26\)](#)



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 \(page 106\)](#)



Additional notes

Conscientious objection is only permitted when the woman's life or health are not in danger.

Neither Type of Provider Permitted

Related documents:

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 25\)](#)

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

Yes

Conscientious objection is only permitted when the woman's life or health are not in danger.

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 \(page 26\)](#)



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 \(page 106\)](#)



Additional notes

Conscientious objection is only permitted when the woman's life or health are not in danger.

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:

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)



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:

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)



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:

- [Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015](#)
- [The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018](#)



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 \(page 106\)](#)

Neither Type of



Not specified

Facility Permitted	<p> 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.</p> <p>Related documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Abortion Care Integrated Reference Manual, 2015 • The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 <p> WHO Guidance</p> <p>The following descriptions and recommendations were extracted from WHO guidance on safe abortion.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>↓ Source document: WHO Safe Abortion Guidance (page 106)</p>
---------------------------	--

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	186 (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	60.5 (2015-2020)
3.8.2 Number of people covered by health insurance or a public health system per 1,000 population	No data
3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution	No data

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

4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end

of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

No data

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

5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and nondiscrimination on the basis of sex

No data

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

No data

5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

No data

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

No data

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

No data

5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

No data

5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15- 49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

No data

5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

No data

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

No data

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

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

No data

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

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

No data

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

No data

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

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

No data

16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	No data
16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	No data
16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	No data
16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	No data
16.6.1 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	23.7 (2016)
Percentage of births attended by trained health professional	58 (2017)
Percentage of women aged 20-24 who gave birth before age 18	19 (2009-2013)
Total fertility rate	1.917 (2018)
Legal marital age for women, with parental consent	No data
Legal marital age for women, without parental consent	20 (2009-2017)

Gender Inequalities Index (Value)	.048 (2017)
Gender Inequalities Index (Rank)	118 (2017)
Mandatory paid maternity leave	no (2020)
Median age	24.6 (2020)
Population, urban (%)	19.74 (2018)
Percentage of secondary school completion rate for girls	0.45 (2013)
Gender parity in secondary education	1.073 (2019)
Percentage of women in non-agricultural employment	73.4100037 (2017)
Proportion of seats in parliament held by women	29.6 (2017)
Sex ratio at birth (male to female births)	1.07 (2018)
