

# Providing inclusive abortion care in restricted settings

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# Unsafe abortion in Africa

- 1/3 of all pregnancies in sub-Saharan Africa unintended
- 3 out of 4 abortions carried out in Africa are unsafe (WHO)
- About 70,000 deaths from unsafe abortions annually, 35% in Sub Saharan Africa



# Abortion Law in Africa

<b>Ethiopia</b>	Abortion permitted if pregnancy was a result of rape or incest, the continuation of the pregnancy endangers the life of the mother or the child, the fetus has an incurable or serious deformity or owing to physical or mental deficiency of the pregnant woman	Maternal mortality due to unsafe abortion reduced from 32% to under 10%
<b>Nigeria</b>	Abortion permitted when the pregnancy poses serious health dangers to the mother, mother is unstable or suicidal or fetus has untreatable disorders. Not permitted for social reasons even following rape or incest	3 in 5 adolescents have TOP, Often unsafe Low contraceptive prevalence rate of about 12%
<b>Ghana</b>	Permitted following rape, incest, mental or physical deficiency of mother or fetus has serious deformity	About 71% of abortions illegal in 2017 88 % of facility based PAC services were managing complications of unsafe abortion

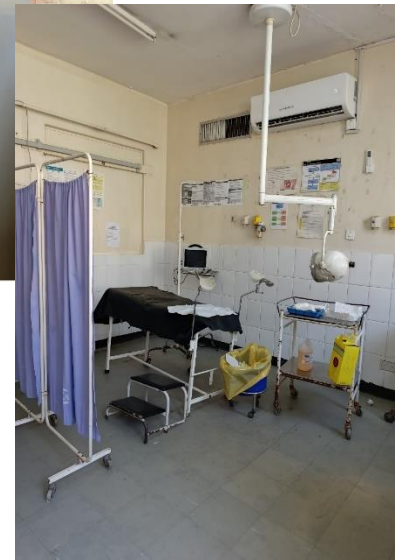
# Abortion care in Zambia

- One of the first countries to legalize abortion for social reasons in the 90s
- Unsafe abortion contributing about 7% to maternal mortality, a significant decline from about 40% over the past 2 decade
- Abortion offered in hospital settings with requirement of 2 doctors to sign as providers
- Fetal deformities, mothers health including mental health and socioeconomic reasons provided for





# Inclusive abortion care: the Zambian experience



# How quality care is delivered to diverse individuals: clinical approaches

- Standard guidelines developed in 2009 (reviewed at several intervals)
- Nurse providers trained to provide abortion services and manage incomplete abortions at primary health care level
- Manual vacuum aspiration (MVA)



How quality care is delivered to diverse individuals:  
socio cultural approaches

- **Unmarried adolescents** – ‘the adolescent corner’ respectful care without discrimination
- **Rural and remote women** – provider training at all levels of care supporting rural access
- **Women living in poverty** – free abortion care in all government services; essential drugs list
- **Sex workers; women with complex mental health needs** - integrated social worker support across all hospitals



# Interventions to enhance inclusive abortion care



- **Training of providers on abortion law** and need to provide safe abortion
- **Training of pharmacists** on abortion provision
- **Referral guidelines** for management of complicated abortions
- **Incorporation of other SRH services** such as contraception, cervical cancer screening



# Going forward

- Public sensitization on the law and availability of safe abortion
- Legal reforms, self administration
- Telemedicine





# Thank You

