



Global

Expanding access to safe abortion

 **SafeAccess.**

www.safeaccesshub.org

Enabling SafeAccess: A collaborative platform to eliminate unsafe abortion

 **SafeAccess.**

Providing guidance on:

Expanding access to safe services



Raising awareness and reducing stigma

Clinical quality in safe abortion and post-abortion care



Removing policy barriers to safe services



THE BRIEF

According to [the Guttmacher Institute](#), almost half of all abortions that will occur this year, an estimated 25 million, will be unsafe.

Clearly, there is still much work to be done to increase access to safe abortion.

Whether it's a lack of nearby trained providers or little clarity over what's permitted, barriers continue to force women to unsafe services.

To ensure that frontline practitioners have the tangible guidance needed to deliver safe services, and policy influencers have the evidence needed to remove unnecessary barriers, Marie Stopes International launched [SafeAccess](#): a cross-partner digital platform sharing best practice guidance on safe abortion and post-abortion care.

THE CHALLENGE

25 million unsafe abortions annually

It's [predicated](#) that seven million women and girls will suffer devastating injuries this year due to a lack of access to safe abortion. Over 22,000 women and girls will lose their lives.

According to [the WHO](#), almost every single one of these deaths could be prevented. With sexuality education, contraception, and the provision of safe, legal, induced abortion and post-abortion care, no woman or girl should die for the right to determine her own future.

However, frontline practitioners often lack the tangible guidance and resources needed to expand access to abortion safely. With SafeAccess, we aim to change this.

WHAT WE DID

Providing the evidence for safe care

Our approach to building on-the-ground knowledge on safe abortion provision is simple: to open up sector knowledge, with evidence-based, best practice guidance for implementers and policy makers. As implementing organisations, we share our own lessons on what works and what doesn't, with the hope that those on the frontline can use these learnings to expand access to life-saving services.

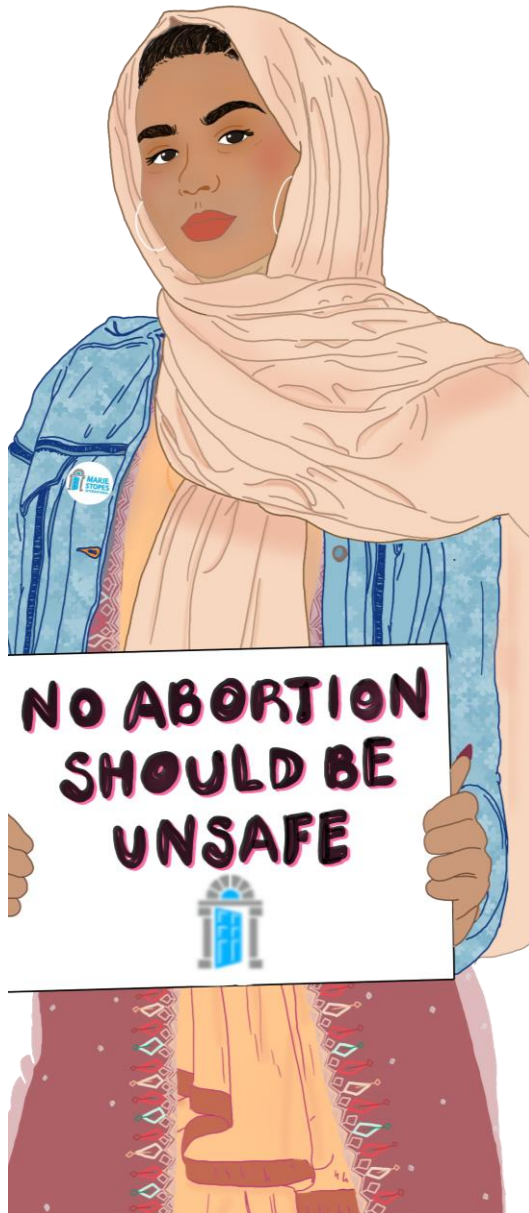
Launched in June 2019, SafeAccess currently houses over 60 multi-lingual and high quality resources, submitted by organisations across the sexual and reproductive health sector. In collaboration with partners, we are building a one-stop-shop for frontline implementers looking to expand access to client-centred safe abortion and post-abortion care.



"In Burundi we have many difficulties in challenging abortion stigma."

I think it important to share our experiences with other activists, through projects like SafeAccess, to discuss them and find possible solutions together." –

Jean Nkeshimana,
Coordinateur des projets at SFBSP-Burundi and SafeAccess user



THE IMPACT

Meeting a need in Francophone Africa

In Francophone Africa, the lack of guidance around safe abortion and post-abortion care is even more acute. To meet this need, we translated key resources into French and partnered with la Dialogue pour l'avortement Securise en Afrique Francophone to share the SafeAccess platform and resources with grassroots organisations in the region.

One organisation was L'organisation Solidarité des Femmes pour le Bien Être Social et le Progrès in Burundi (SFBSP-Burundi), who work to expand access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and rights for young women in Burundi. In tandem, they fight to prevent unsafe abortion.

In Burundi, abortion is only legal to save a woman's life, meaning unsafe abortion is common and access to safe post-abortion care is vital. To support this, SFBSP-Burundi were searching for guidance on how to destigmatise victims of unsafe abortion and post-abortion care providers. This is when they found SafeAccess, citing figures from the [Mon Corps, Ma Voix report](#) to demonstrate how common abortion is worldwide, and using the [guide to talking about abortion](#) with rights-based language, to help de-construct stigma.

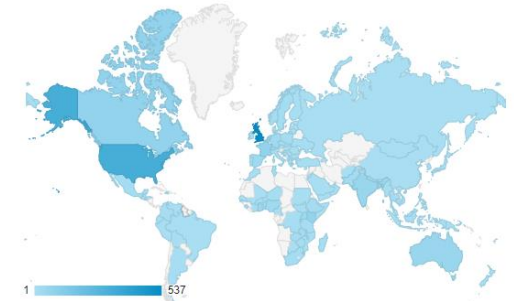
Jean Nkeshimana, Coordinateur des projets at SFBSP-Burundi, shared:

"In Burundi, we have many difficulties in challenging abortion stigma. I think it is important to share our experiences with other activists, through projects like SafeAccess, to discuss them and find possible solutions together."

"SafeAccess has had a hugely positive impact on our team at SFBSP-Burundi. We are using the resources to raise awareness and advocate for post-abortion care. Thanks to SafeAccess, we have improved our capacity to deliver services to the young women in our community."

We are proud to be supporting quality safe abortion and post-abortion care programming beyond borders via SafeAccess.

Where are SafeAccess users based?



NEXT STEPS

Partnering to scale SafeAccess

With the aim of reaching frontline implementers, policy influencers and grassroots organisations in the Global South, we are pleased to share that SafeAccess resources have been accessed over 11k times so far, across over 120 countries, enabling quality care in our country programmes and beyond.

To remain in-the-loop as we publish new resources each month, readers can [subscribe to the SafeAccess newsletter](#).

Now that SafeAccess is successfully launched, Marie Stopes International is committed to ensuring the platform is as useful and used as possible, continuing to expand access and knowledge to implementers in the Global South. Via continued cross-sector partnership, we believe we can get there.

Where can I find more information?

For more information on Marie Stopes International and the work that we do, please contact:

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Alternatively, visit our website: www.mariestopes.org

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