

# Enabling SafeAccess: a collaborative platform to eliminate unsafe abortion

## KEY LEARNINGS

There is still much work to be done to increase access to safe abortion. Whether it's a lack of trained providers or clarity over what's permitted, barriers continue to force women to turn to unsafe abortion.

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, MSI Reproductive Choices and partners – IPPF, PSI, Safe Abortion Action Fund and Ipas – launched SafeAccess: a digital platform sharing quality resources on safe abortion and post-abortion care.

Almost half of all abortions this year will be unsafe. That's an estimated

**35 million**

## THE CHALLENGE

### 35 million unsafe abortions annually

7 million women and girls suffer devastating injuries each year due to unsafe abortion and over 22,000 women and girls lose their lives.

According to the World Health Organisation, almost every single one of these deaths could be prevented. With sexuality education, contraception, and the provision of safe, legal 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.

## WHAT WE DID

### Providing the evidence for safe care

Our approach to building frontline knowledge on safe abortion provision is simple: we increase the accessibility of sector knowledge with evidence-based, practical guidance for providers 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 70 multilingual 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.

www.safeaccesshub.org



### 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**



## WHAT WE FOUND

### 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 Sécurisé 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 (SFBSB-Burundi), who advocate to expand access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and rights for young women in Burundi. This includes working to prevent unsafe abortion.

In Burundi, abortion is only legal to save a woman's life, meaning unsafe abortion is common and access to high-quality post-abortion care is vital. To support this, SFBSB-Burundi were searching for guidance on how to destigmatise survivors of unsafe abortion, and post-abortion care providers. This is when the team found SafeAccess. They used evidence from the Mon Corps, Ma Voix report to demonstrate how common abortion is worldwide, and used the guide to talking about abortion with rights-based language, to help deconstruct stigma.

#### Jean Nkeshimana, Coordinateur des projets at SFBSB-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 SFBSB-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 via SafeAccess.**

## WHAT THIS MEANS

### Partnering to scale SafeAccess

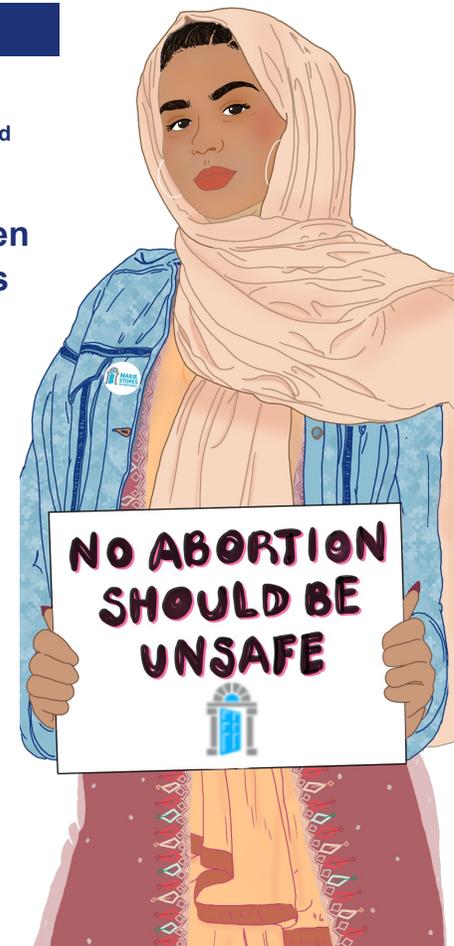
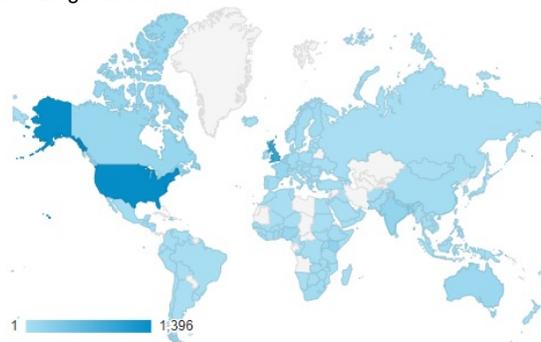
With the aim of reaching frontline implementers, policy influencers and grassroots organisations worldwide, we are pleased to share that:



**SafeAccess resources have been accessed over 32k times across 175+ countries**

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, MSI Reproductive Choices is committed to ensuring the platform is as useful as possible and frequently utilised, continuing to expand access and knowledge to implementers worldwide. Through continued cross-sector partnership, we believe we can get there.



### MORE INFORMATION

For more information on MSI Reproductive Choices and the work that we do, please contact:

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Alternatively, visit our website: [www.msichoices.org](http://www.msichoices.org).