

ANNEX: E

SAFE ABORTION ADVOCACY STRATEGY

Current situation

- The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act (CTOPA) of 1996 drew on a rights-based framework and addressed the pressing need to lower inequitable maternal mortality. The Act established abortion as a legally codified and constitutionally underpinned right, available on request during the first trimester, and available under certain circumstances during weeks 13–20 of gestation, and available under exceptional circumstances after 20 weeks of gestation
- Unsafe abortion, however, remains one of the major causes of maternal morbidity and mortality. [The Department of Health](#) estimated that unsafe abortions directly resulted in 23% of maternal deaths from septic miscarriages in public health facilities between 2008 and 2010
- The 2014-2016 Saving Mothers Report indicated unsafe abortion as an avoidable factor in 25% of maternal deaths due to miscarriage
- Even though most public healthcare facilities in South Africa could provide the service, currently it is [estimated](#) that only 7% of health facilities provide abortion services while some 50% of abortions take place outside the formal health setting
- There is silence among society about abortion
- The COVID-19 pandemic has also worsened the experiences of women. They are disproportionately suffering the burdens of COVID-19 on the healthcare system.

SWOT ANALYSIS

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <p>Section 10 of the CTOP Act notes that it is a crime for anyone to prevent a legal abortion or obstruct access to an abortion facility. The penalty is a fine or imprisonment for up to ten years.</p>	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information about abortion services remains scarce ▪ Access continues to be stigmatised and discriminatory ▪ Stock-outs of contraception and medical abortion drugs are common ▪ Limited facilities are designated to offer abortion services ▪ Limited numbers of doctors, nurses, and midwives are trained and willing to provide abortions.
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>International Treaties and protocols e.g. SADC gender protocol Availability of donor Funding for carrying out the campaign Already available programs within the CSOs</p>	<p>THREATS</p> <p>Religion Norms and culture Lack of funds, finances to pay for abortion Partisan-Members of parliament are afraid to push the subject as they are scared that it might hinder them to win elections.</p>

Key partners and influencers

- CSOs
- Government
- Faith Based Organisations
- Community leaders
- Parliament/Ministry of Health and Ministry of Gender
- Women’s Movement
- Development partners
- International NGOs
- Political parties
- Media
- Men

Key targets

Schools
Teachers
Health Care workers
Religious leaders and Traditional leaders
Influencers (e.g on radio and in communities)
CSOs
Adolescent girls/boys and young women

Key messages

#MybodyMydecision

#OurFutureCounts

#BeResponsible

#SupportiveMe

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS	ACTIVITIES	WHO RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME	OUTPUTS	RESOURCES
Strategic objective	To ensure safe abortion services and treatment of complications of unsafe abortion in line with the SADC SRHR strategy 2019 to 2030.				
Specific objectives: Abortion is legal. To destigmatize Abortion, Disseminate information about safe abortion					
1	To sensitize the key actors and partners.				
2	To destigmatize Abortion				
3	To liberate the minds of men and women.				
4	To open public discourse.				
5	To advocate for non- discriminatory, quality health services and facilities.				

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS	ACTIVITIES	WHO RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME	OUTPUTS	RESOURCES
<i>Agree on objectives with key partners and influencers (based on partner mapping – including youth organisations)</i>	Meet with all identified partners and potential influencers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree on objectives - Finalise messaging 	Members of the Alliance working with SAWID and Gender Links; and others partners	November 2021	<i>Meetings reports</i>	
<i>Develop/adapt advocacy material</i>	Using situation analysis, objectives and messaging prepare advocacy material – different material for different targets?	Members of the Alliance working with Lesotho Network advocating for legal abortion	November 2021	<i>Advocacy materials developed</i>	
<i>Meetings with targets (at least 5 policy-makers)</i>	Meeting with key officials (who?)	Members of the Alliance working with SAWID and Gender Links; and others partners	November 2021	<i>Meetings reports</i>	
	Meetings with parliamentarians (who?)	Members of the Alliance working with SAWID and Gender Links; and others partners	December/ Jan 2022	<i>Meetings report</i>	
	Meetings with statutory bodies – eg law reform commissions – who?)	Members of the Alliance working with SAWID and Gender Links; and others partners	Jan – Feb 2022	Meetings report	
<i>Engage with the mainstream media in obtaining media</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sixteen days of activism - 10 December- International Human rights day 	Members of the Alliance working with SAWID and Gender	Nov 2021 – March 2022	Days commemorated	

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS	ACTIVITIES	WHO RESPONSIBLE	TIME FRAME	OUTPUTS	RESOURCES
<i>coverage leveraging special dates in the calendar</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 8 March - International Women's Day - 16 June- Youth Day 	Links; and others partners			
<i>Set up and conduct follow up meetings with the relevant policy makers on the key actions and the way forward on safe abortion policies</i>	Follow up meetings with policy makers	Members of the Alliance working with SAWID and Gender Links; and others partners	Jan-Feb 2022	<i>Meeting reports</i>	
	Track policy and legislation process	Members of the Alliance working with SAWID and Gender Links; and others partners	Jan - March 2022	<i>Progress report on legislation process</i>	
<i>Document the policy and legislation development case study</i>	Write a case study on the policy and legislation development process on safe abortion policy	Members of the Alliance working with SAWID and Gender Links; and others partners	March 2022	<i>Case studies</i>	

¹ University of the Witwatersrand. A look at new abortion guidelines. International Safe Abortion Day – celebrated every year on 28 September – marks a woman's fundamental reproductive right to access safe, legal abortion. 2021; Available on: <https://www.wits.ac.za/news/latest-news/opinion/2021/2021-10/a-look-at-new-abortion-guidelines.html>.