



POUR ELLE

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REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SUPPLIES COALITION**

Increasing access to medical abortion in Francophone Africa

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Outline of presentation

1. Context for safe abortion
2. Challenges to increasing access to Medical Abortion (MA)
3. Opportunities for increasing access
4. Strategies for increasing availability
5. Key areas of work currently underway

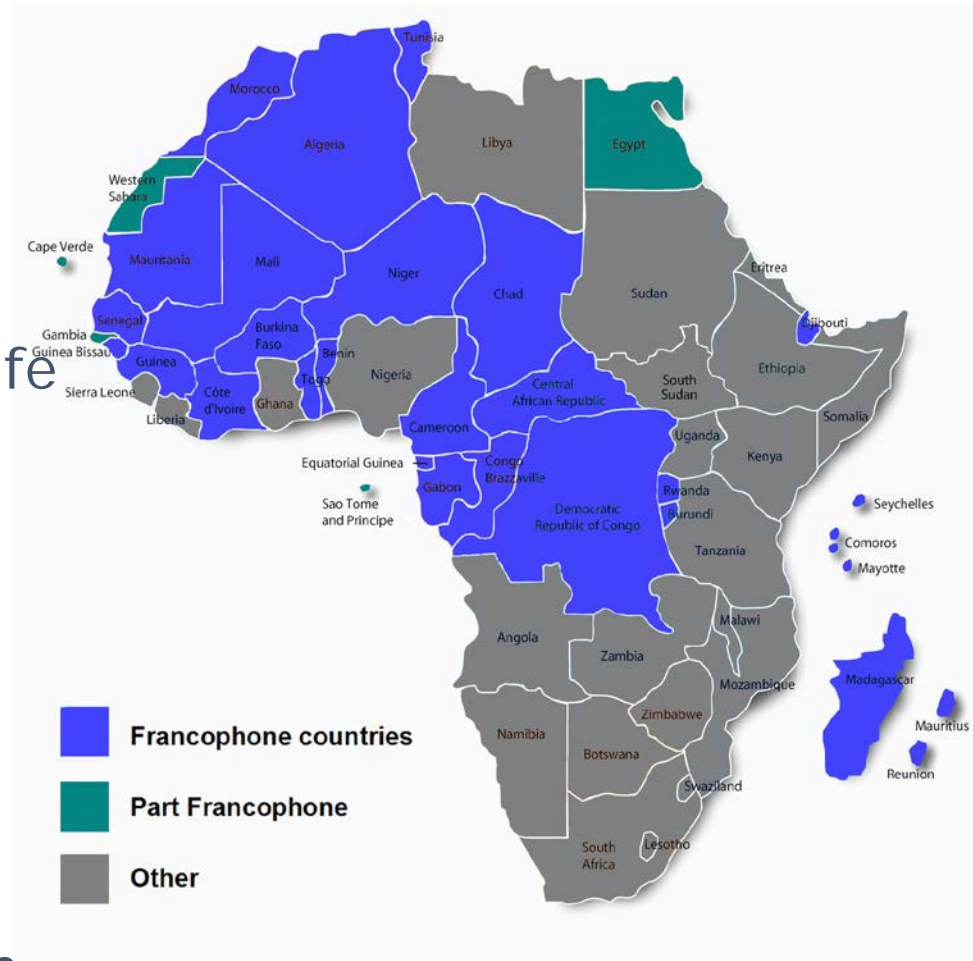
1. Context of Safe abortion service delivery

Restrictive laws, often “inherited” from colonial past (French law of 1920)

High incidence of unsafe abortion in the region

Primary service provision through surgical methods

Use of riskier methods of unsafe abortion including wide use of curettage in the region



2. Challenges for increasing access to MA

- Limited Mifepristone registration/access in the region
- Intense stigma for both women and girls and providers
- Limited opportunities for training of service providers
- Quality of medical abortion commodities - variable and can affect experience and outcomes for women
- Restrictive and ever changing political environment for safe abortion
- Dependence on some products, e.g. cytotec

3. Opportunities for safe abortion access

- Uneven implementation of laws and policies can provide opportunities for introduction
- Task sharing and task shifting have been a necessity given the current challenges
- Where available, medical abortion is well accepted by women and girls
- Increasing availability of medical abortion can contribute to a reduction in unsafe abortion

4. What strategies can be used to increase access

1. Pilot studies on the feasibility of introduction
2. Revise and align national guidelines along WHO guidelines
3. Special Import license for limited use
4. Registration of quality assured combipacks

5. Current efforts to improve access to medical abortion commodities

1. Advocacy and technical assistance to register the medical abortion combipacks - Benin, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire
2. Improve quality of Misoprostol available in the region - increase brands and share information with stakeholders
3. Introductory activities for medical abortion - counselling, training, guidelines and healthcare worker optimization



QUESTIONS?