

## IPPF launches free online medical abortion course

- Training co-created with *How To Use Abortion Pill*
- Training endorsed by the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)
- Training course complete with quizzes and an option to download a certificate upon successful completion
- Course comes as World Health Organisation (WHO) issues new guidelines on abortion care and will help put the WHO guidelines into practice globally
- Over 25 million unsafe abortions occur each year
- From 2015 to 2019 in Kenya, there were 2,380,000 pregnancies annually. Of these, 1,450,000 pregnancies were unintended and 551,000 ended in abortion
- Landmark High Court of Kenya ruling in March 2022 affirms abortion care as a fundamental right under the Constitution of Kenya

**Nairobi – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022** – International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and **HowToUseAbortionPill.org** have developed a free online medical abortion training course to equip healthcare workers with the necessary skills to provide care for women seeking medical abortion up to 13 weeks' gestation. The course is aimed at the full range of providers, including physicians, midwives, pharmacists, medical students and community health workers.

The course, which has been endorsed by the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), is a seven-lesson video series accessible via the link <https://elearning.howtouseabortionpill.org>. It covers an overview of abortion care; how to support a medical abortion; symptoms, side effects and complications; and aftercare. The training is framed around four principles of care: person-centred care, rights-based care, quality, and privacy and confidentiality.

*“Abortion care continues to be left off medical training curriculums,” said Mallah Tabot, Lead SRHR Programming at IPPF Africa Region. “This online course will fill a critical gap in the education of many health workers. It has the potential to significantly increase the number of health workers with the skills and knowledge to provide abortion care, especially in low-resource settings, and thereby increase the number of women supported to safely end a pregnancy.”*

Unsafe abortion remains a serious global threat to women's health and safety, causing an estimated 7 million hospitalizations and up to 13% of all maternal deaths worldwide each year.

Medical abortion is a non-invasive method using two pills - mifepristone and misoprostol - or misoprostol alone. Medical abortion is safe and effective and is recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Between 2015 and 2019 in Kenya, there were a total of 2,380,000 pregnancies annually. Of these, 1,450,000 pregnancies were unintended and 551,000 ended in abortion. In Nigeria, there were a total of 10,500,000 pregnancies annually with 2,990,000 unintended and 1,430,000 ended in abortion. In both countries abortion is legal to preserve the pregnant person's health. However, a majority of abortions are carried out by unqualified practitioners who run unsafe clinics.

*“Research shows that when women cannot access safe abortion care, they often seek unsafe methods,” said Rebecca Wilkins, Technical Lead, Abortion at IPPF. “This training course provides the information and resources necessary for health workers to support women who choose to have a safe abortion with pills in early pregnancy either within or outside a clinical setting.”*

