

Role of Guidelines in Increasing Access to Abortion Care

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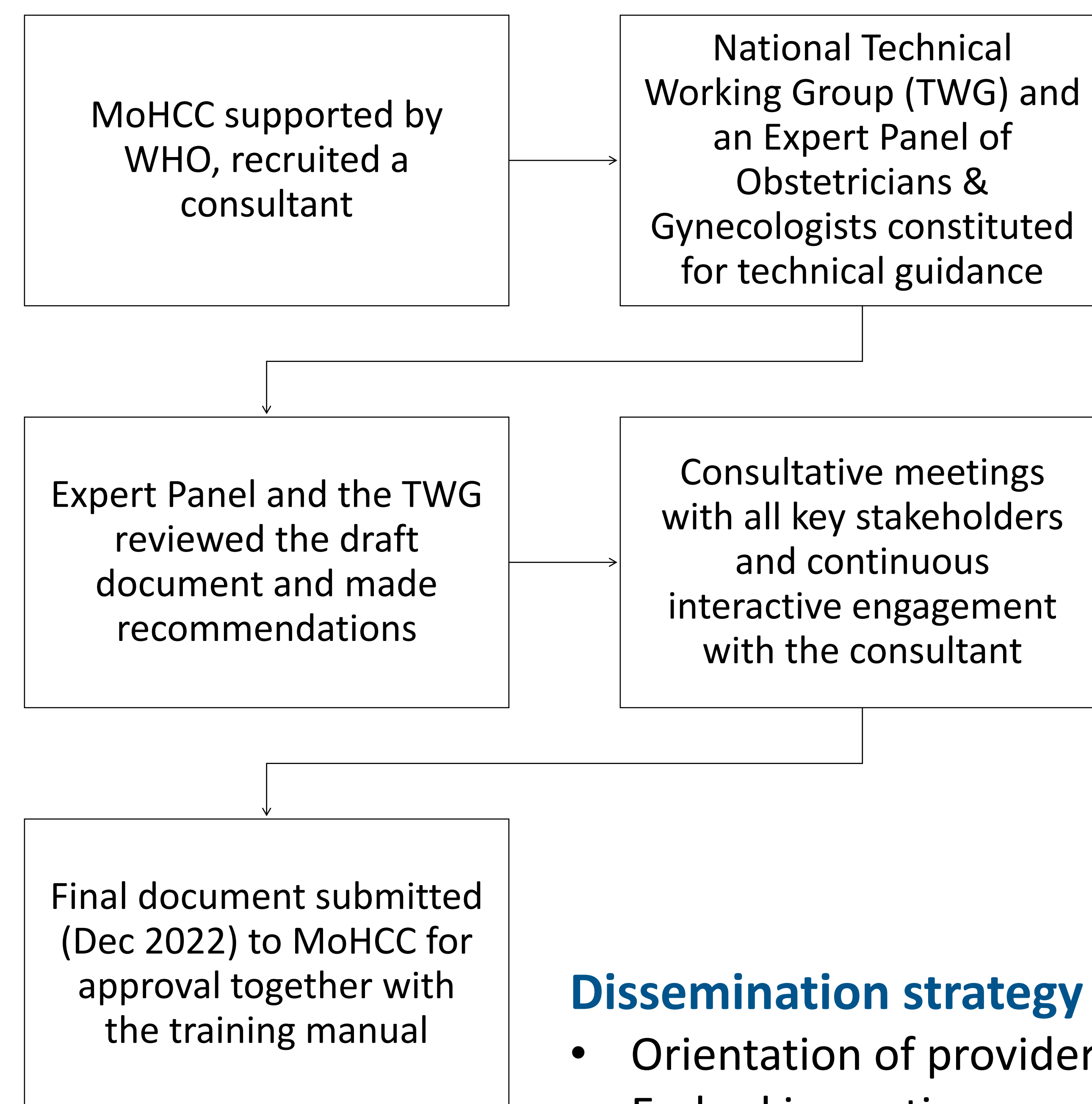
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Introduction

The Zimbabwe Ministry of Health & Child Care (MoHCC) is developing comprehensive abortion care (CAC) guidelines with support from World Health Organization (WHO). Current abortion care guidelines of 2007 (revised in 2014) are outdated and were not fully disseminated.

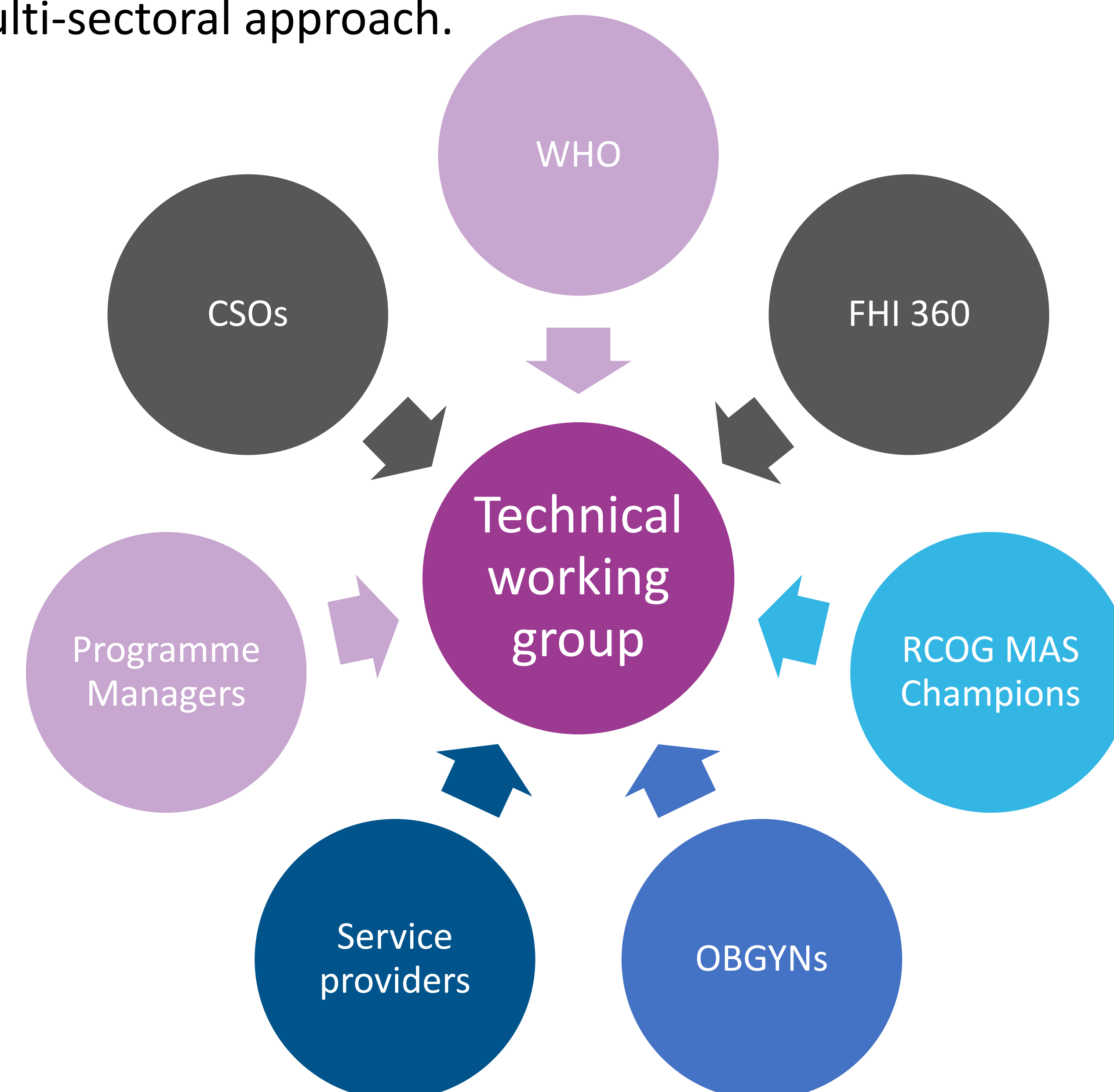
Methodology

The CAC guidelines development process in Zimbabwe was through a multi-sectoral approach.



Dissemination strategy

- Orientation of providers at all levels (In-service and Pre-service training)
- Embed in continuous professional development in the relevant professional associations



Making Abortion Safe

RCOG's global initiative to advocate for women's health

Discussion

- The new CAC guidelines can significantly improve access to abortion care services and medical abortion in Zimbabwe.
- Better dissemination and proper orientation on the new guidelines will empower health providers and capacitate them to provide comprehensive and quality services.
- The new guidelines will align service and treatment protocols with current best practices thereby supporting service providers to offer services in a conducive environment.
- Incorporating WHO abortion care best practices into the new guidelines will ensure essential commodities are included into the minimum standard of care package.
- The CAC guidelines will also promote the review of training curricula for health care providers across the board.
- The guideline development is an opportunity to strengthen advocacy efforts towards removing administrative and legal barriers in providing abortion care.

Conclusions

The development of the new comprehensive abortion care guidelines is a strategic opportunity for Zimbabwe to improve use of medical methods of abortion and to improve access to comprehensive and quality services. The new guidelines will be a key advocacy tool for policy and legislation review of the Termination of Pregnancy Act.

References:

- Making Abortion Safe Project, Zimbabwe Market Survey Report – Concept Foundation 2019.
- Post Abortion Care Guidelines for Zimbabwe – Ministry of Health & Child Care 2007.

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