

BACKGROUND

Where Iпас Works



El Salvador, pop. 6.1 million, is one of few countries that totally ban abortion and where women are imprisoned for abortion.

The abortion law of Pakistan, pop. 200 million, is unclear. Therefore, the majority of the 2.2 million abortions that take place yearly are performed by unskilled providers, contributing to maternal mortality and morbidity.

APPROACH

- Iпас takes a comprehensive approach to improving access to high-quality induced abortion and postabortion care, including health system strengthening, community engagement, policy/advocacy and evidence generation. Here we focus on our policy and advocacy approaches.
- Iпас builds political will at all levels to expand abortion access in varied legal settings.
- In El Salvador, health professionals formed safe abortion networks to increase political will for abortion access and human rights.
- Iпас Pakistan engaged policymakers to build support for the roll-out of WHO-approved methods of uterine evacuation throughout the health system.
- Iпас gives input into UN human rights process.

RESULTS

- El Salvador: a 50-member union of doctors provide abortion and speak out on the need to legalize.
- Pakistan National Standards and Guidelines on Uterine Evacuation approved after endorsement by key stakeholders in all provinces and regions.
- Government must broaden abortion law' said human rights treaty experts: Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to El Salvador and Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) to Pakistan.

PROBLEM

Women seeking abortion face barriers when political will is lacking, in all legal settings:

In El Salvador, health care providers report women to police when treating them for abortion complications or miscarriage.

In Pakistan, a range of stakeholders – including women, health workers, and government officials – lack understanding of the law.

LESSONS LEARNED

- ➔ In all legal contexts, we must build political will at all levels to improve access to abortion.
- ➔ We must engage a range of decision-makers— from community groups to front-line health providers to government officials— and continually cultivate their support for abortion care.
- ➔ UN human rights process are tools to influence policy change.

NATIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR HIGH-QUALITY SAFE UTERINE EVACUATION/POST-ABORTION CARE



Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination
Government of Pakistan
Islamabad

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The Guardian

Support building for landmark move to overturn El Salvador's anti-abortion law

Parliamentary bill proposing to loosen draconian restrictions on abortion finds favour after religious groups, doctors and others voice public support



▲ Protests in San Salvador on International Women's Day. A bill proposing to allow abortion has sparked open debate on the subject in El Salvador for the first time. Photograph: Marlon Gomez/LatinContent/Getty Images
El Salvador's controversial law banning abortion in all circumstances, which has provoked ruthless miscarriages of justice, could be overturned in what has been described as a historic move.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- ➔ Iпас will continue to build political will to remove barriers to abortion until everyone can control their own sexuality, fertility, health, and well-being.