

# DKT and Safe Abortion

*Providing global leadership towards increased access.*

There are an estimated 55 million induced abortions worldwide each year. As one of the largest providers of abortion products, services, and technology in the world, DKT International shoulders a global responsibility to ensure women have the information and resources they require to access safe abortion or post-abortion care if they so choose. To do this, DKT provides leadership and unwavering commitment in a number of areas.

## Registering and Selling the Abortion Pill

The increasing availability of mifepristone and misoprostol (also known as the 'abortion pills') is shifting how women determine their reproductive destinies since these pills do not always require a medical setting to be taken. Where legal, DKT works to register and distribute these high-quality, affordable drugs via our supply chains in countries around the world, selling them to



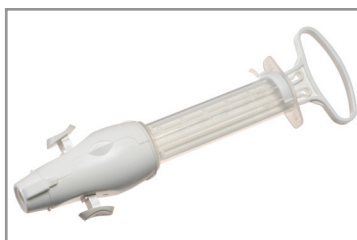
**DKT registers and distributes high-quality medical abortion products, including misoprostol and mifepristone. In Liberia (above), DKT is the sole distributor of these medical abortion pills to healthcare and product providers.**

distributors and wholesalers but also directly to clinics, health providers and pharmacies (misoprostol is also registered for the prevention of postpartum hemorrhaging and post-abortion care). Often, DKT's abortion pills are the first or only quality-tested products on the national market. In Ethiopia, for example, DKT was the first and only importer of medical abortion pills for many years, opening up the market and pushing acceptance of the method both within the government as well as among private providers. In Liberia, DR Congo, Mali, and Sierra Leone (among other countries), DKT is the sole distributor of these drugs. By trailblazing, DKT contributes to overall market development and eventually sets the precedent for the introduction of other product choices for women. Every year, DKT sells millions of these pills.

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## Global Distributor of the Ipas Manual Vacuum Aspiration Technology

The Ipas Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA) technology is the most commonly used medical equipment for in-clinic



**Ipas Manual Vacuum Aspiration Technology**

abortion and post-abortion care services. Since 2017, DKT has played a [unique global role](#) to ensure this product is widely available and affordable to more than 90 countries. DKT is thus the 'manufacturer on record' of this technology as well as the global distributor and marketer, selling to UNFPA, Ministries of Health, NGOs, and the private sector. This far-reaching distribution network allows DKT to provide worldwide access to safe abortion technology in both the private and public sectors. In addition, the MVA is



**DKT is the 'manufacturer on record' and the global distributor of the Ipas Manual Vacuum Aspiration technology in more than 90 countries.**

an important component of a safe abortion and post-abortion care product portfolio, not to mention a safer and faster replacement to prevailing methods of dilation and curettage.

## Building Capacity via Provider Training

DKT's commitment to forging safe abortion access goes beyond product availability. Safe abortion services are only as good as the providers that offer them. Every year, DKT hosts trainings for thousands of healthcare providers to strengthen their ability to deliver compassionate and high-quality care. This includes midwives, nurses, pharmacists, medical doctors, and frontline health workers. In Mozambique, for example, the Ministry of Health delegated DKT to implement comprehensive training programs on safe abortion (and other sexual and reproductive health commodities and techniques) to its network of public-sector providers. In Nigeria, Mexico, and Pakistan, DKT is training private providers directly to support their ability to better serve clients with post abortion care or safe abortion services. In India, DKT is educating thousands of doctors and pharmacists about abortion pills, including through the innovative online [DoctorStore](#).

In addition to formal training, DKT's trained medical detailers help to increase the capacity of a range of health providers, including pharmacists and their assistants. They visit public- and private-sector clinics and hospitals to speak about, demystify, and advocate for the



importance of offering safe abortion and post-abortion care services. In addition, the visit becomes a teaching moment to refresh product providers' knowledge of proper usage, normal symptoms, and adverse drug reactions. DKT also equips service-delivery and product providers with technical product information, easy-to-understand diagrams, and answers to frequently asked questions. In countries where provider intervention is not required, DKT de-medicalizes abortion, ensuring women may easily access the product and accurate information via in-person and online with instructions for self-care.



**DKT trains thousands of providers each year, ensuring they are educated on medical abortion pills and the MVA technology.**



## Online Access to Safe Abortion Resources

DKT partners with many websites that empower women with the information they need to make choices around abortion care. [HowToUseAbortionPill.org](https://www.howtouseabortionpill.org) and [safe2choose.org](https://www.safe2choose.org) are examples of two such websites that inform end-users about the abortion pill and self-care procedures, and refer women to outlets and clinics — all in more than twenty languages. The sites also offer safe abortion training videos to health providers in six languages. These websites extend their activities to social media, WhatsApp, and even occasional in-person events to direct women to reliable information sources online, otherwise muddled by misinformation and myths. HowToUse also features a chatbot, programmed by artificial intelligence to

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**DKT partners with educational websites, like [HowToUseAbortionPill.org](https://www.howtouseabortionpill.org), to inform end-users and providers about the abortion pill and self-care procedures.**

answer frequently asked questions on safe abortion. DKT is proud to partner with these and other related websites to offer such resources.

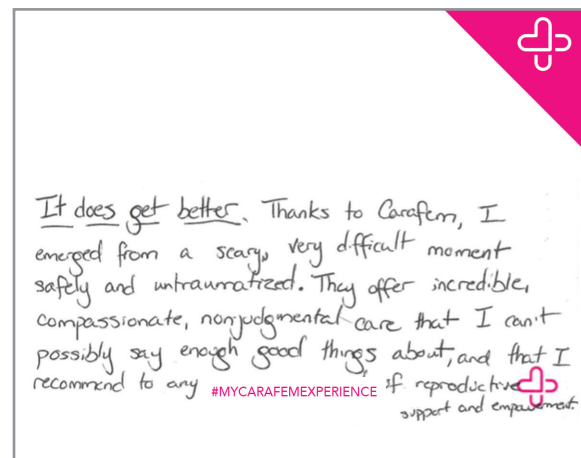
## Quality of Care and Equitable Access

While accuracy is core to its training curriculums, DKT presents safe abortion as more than a biomedical process. DKT's trainings and informal conversations with clients revolve around the humanity and sociocultural components of safe abortion access, and the increased stigma experienced by certain groups, such as young people. For this reason, DKT engages service-delivery and product providers in discussions on youth-friendly services, empathy-building, and judgement-free service provision.

DKT's sister organization, *carafem*, is a network of reproductive health centers across the United States, and is emblematic of high-quality medical care. *carafem* focuses on the needs of each individual client when providing comprehensive family planning and abortion care. From providing same day appointments, video visits, and professional medical staff who really listen, *carafem* provides service that is client-centered, timely, and comfortable. Janani, one of DKT's India-based programs in Bihar, has a network of *Surya Clinics* that uphold the



**DKT is committed to high-quality, compassionate abortion care and *carafem*'s waiting rooms reflect that with a warm, non-intimidating atmosphere.**



**Listening to client's needs and concerns is a critical part of ensuring equitable access.**

same values, providing clients with the chance to speak with a counselor prior to meeting the doctor. In Anglophone West Africa, DKT awards its top-performing *Lydia Partner Clinics* with a clinic makeover so client-experience remains a tenant of service provision.



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