

Expanding Access through Advocacy in 2025

In 2025, MSI country programs led advocacy efforts that contributed to 16 policy changes – many achieved through long-term work over two to five years.



By leveraging MSI's influence and working in collaboration with local partners, we continued to strengthen the wider movement by increasing access to services; holding the line on sexual and reproductive health and rights; mitigating attacks from anti-choice actors and strengthening accountability and civil society, which in many countries has been damaged and weakened by funding cuts and shrinking of civic space.

Ethiopia: Supporting Adolescent Health

New national guidance on adolescent reproductive health was approved for high school students, improving access to information and services for young people. [\[Read More\]](#)

Comprehensive abortion care training has also been developed and integrated into pre-service university health training programs. This means that future doctors, nurses, midwives, and other health professionals now learn evidence-based abortion care before entering the workforce.

Bangladesh: Increased Access to Long-Term Methods

The Ministry of Health approved a new family planning strategy to expand access to services in hard-to-reach and underserved areas. Now, long-acting contraceptive methods such as implants can be provided on outreach and any trained providers can deliver them. [\[Read More\]](#)

Burkina Faso: Removing Barriers to Care

Burkina Faso has taken a major step to support survivors of rape and incest by removing the requirement for public prosecutor approval prior to abortion services – long a source of delays and missed legal timeframes – and issuing new, practical national guidelines to ensure timely access to safe abortion care.

India: A Trusted Provider

The state of Rajasthan in northwestern India, introduced a new policy requiring state approval for NGO-led clinical outreach services to strengthen quality and oversight of care. As a result of MSI's high quality standards, we are currently the sole authorized provider in the state.

DRC: Abortion Training for Nurses

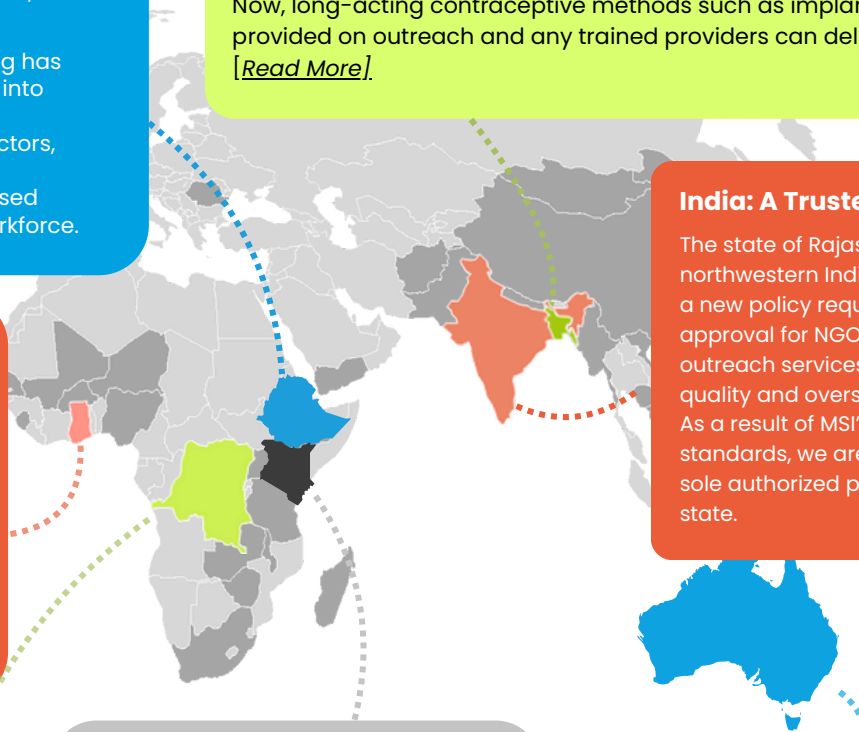
The Ministry of Health approved the inclusion of abortion care training in the national nursing curriculum. Nurses will now receive standardized, evidence-based instruction to abortion care, expanding access across the country.

Kenya: Post-Abortion Care Guidelines

National post-abortion care guidelines were renewed and updated in line with World Health Organization standards. The new guidelines will ensure that providers regularly receive post-abortion care training so that all women and girls in need receive the highest quality care. [\[Read More\]](#)

Australia: Access to Medication Abortion

A new law – the New South Wales Abortion Law Reform Amendment – allows nurses and midwives to prescribe medication abortion, not just doctors, which helps increase the number of trained health workers who can provide safe abortion care, increasing access for those who face barriers.



Sierra Leone: Teenage Pregnancy Roadmap

A national Teenage Pregnancy Roadmap was approved which helps to reduce early and forced marriage and incorporates a health pillar for adolescent access to services. The strategy was launched in 2025 and recently the number of adolescents aged 15–19 who are either pregnant or have had a child has reduced from 28% to 21%. [\[Read More\]](#)

Zimbabwe: Public Funding for SRH care

The government increased its national budget allocation for family planning services, which means additional public funding for contraceptive access, strengthening reproductive health services for women and girls. [\[Read More\]](#)

Nigeria: Improved Data Monitoring

With the recent USAID funding cuts, it will become much more difficult to monitor health data. MSI Nigeria supported updates to the national health information system to capture more detailed family planning data, including contraceptive method use and disability indicators which will help build a clear picture of the needs of Nigerian women and girls. [\[Read More\]](#)

The Ministry of Health also approved a new national strategy to strengthen sexual and reproductive health access for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable populations

Zambia: Abortion Care Communications

The Ministry of Health approved a revised national communications and advocacy strategy for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health that includes comprehensive abortion care and disability-inclusive messaging. The government now formally recognizes abortion care as essential to reproductive health and commits to stigma-free public health messaging. [\[Read More\]](#)

Uganda: Abortion Care Guidelines

The Ministry of Health approved updated post-abortion care guidelines for health care providers. These guidelines clarify when abortion is permitted and allow trained midwives to provide services at more local health facilities. For women and girls, this delivers clearer legal options and safer access to care. [\[Read More\]](#)

Malawi: Abortion Win for Adolescents

Legal grounds for abortion were expanded to include guidance for adolescents who experience sexual and gender-based violence. This is a major win for Malawians as it has been a highly restricted environment for generations. For girls in Malawi, this means that girls who become pregnant as a result of rape now have recognized legal rights to access safe, timely abortion services. [\[Read More\]](#)

Tanzania: Clear Guidance for Healthcare Workers

The Ministry of Health approved new family planning guidelines for healthcare workers, following the latest international evidence and best practices of the World Health Organization guidance. This means that when community health workers or clinic staff talk with people about family planning – which contraceptive methods are available and how to choose what's right, they now have clear, up-to-date, easy-to-use guidance to do it well.

In addition to these results, some significant interim milestones were achieved, including:

Papua New Guinea: Family planning is now a core part of Papua New Guinea's new 20-year national development plan, signaling the government's long-term commitment to healthier families and stronger communities.

DRC: The Government of the DRC and UNFPA have agreed on a new partnership that makes it easier to follow and improve how public funds are spent on reproductive health, ensuring resources reach the people who need them most.

Tanzania: Tanzania has joined the UNFPA Compact and reaffirmed its pledge to expand investment—both public and private—in family planning services, helping more women and families access the care they deserve.

Nepal: Parliament is currently considering legislation to extend access to abortion care beyond the existing 28-week gestational age limit, expanding abortion care for those in need.

Niger: A new bill that would allow survivors of rape to access safe abortion care has been sent to the President's Office for approval—an important step toward protecting the rights, health, and dignity of women and girls.

“The power of advocacy has helped MSI Zambia work in partnership with government to leave no one behind. It has also given MSI Zambia the confidence to be a critical friend of government, working with civil society partners to challenge and push decision-makers to make brave decisions that uphold and protect the rights of the most underserved women and girls

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In 2026, sexual and reproductive health rights and services face a turbulent global landscape, marked by entrenched barriers for women and girls and renewed backlash from the anti-choice movement. Political shifts in major donor countries are reshaping global health funding, with consequences that will be felt for generations. Yet MSI has weathered challenging crises before – from the return of the Mexico City Policy to the fall of *Roe V. Wade* – we stand strong in the face of restrictive policies worldwide. We will not be deterred until everyone can access the care they need.

Join us as we fight back. CHOOSE CHOICE.