West African Reproductive Health Costs: Unsafe abortion in Burkina Faso

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Issues and Objectives

Issue of Safe Abortion
• Cultural perspectives on abortion
• Legal context
• Unsafe abortion

Study Objectives:
• Determinants of unsafe abortions
• Social & economics costs
• Women experiences of post-abortion complications
Research and Study Design

Interdisciplinary approach to under-studied issue:

1. Ethnographic analysis of the politics of unsafe abortion
   • Policy analysis
   • Women’s life trajectoires
   • Healthcare provision for unsafe abortion

2. Economic analysis of the costs of unsafe abortion to the health system, to women and their households

3. Mapping of post abortion care (PAC) service provision
Social Determinants of Unsafe Abortions

Potential & Sequential Vulnerability

• Social and economic constraints for young people ➔ Strong social pressure for marriage and its internalization

• Premarital pregnancy

• Stigmatization of women in post-abortion care (PAC) services

• Important financial costs for hospitals and households
PAC Implementation

• PAC services are promoted by a public health policy to reduce maternal mortality and are more centered on the consequences of abortions than on the social determinants of abortions.

• Insufficient information is given to women about their health and contraceptive methods.

• This is the result of a technical cooperation policy between government actors and international partners.
Recommendations