



# KATHMANDU

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**19<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE  
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SUPPLIES COALITION**



## Access to quality drugs for medical abortion in Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries, Lessons learned

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## Concept Foundation: who are we? What do we do?



Concept Foundation is a not-for-profit, non-government organization, based in Bangkok and Geneva, with an international group of staff and consultants. We have a collaborative agreement with the World Health Organization.



“Our mission is to ensure that low income women worldwide have access to sexual and reproductive health products of assured quality at the lowest possible cost.”



## How do we do it?



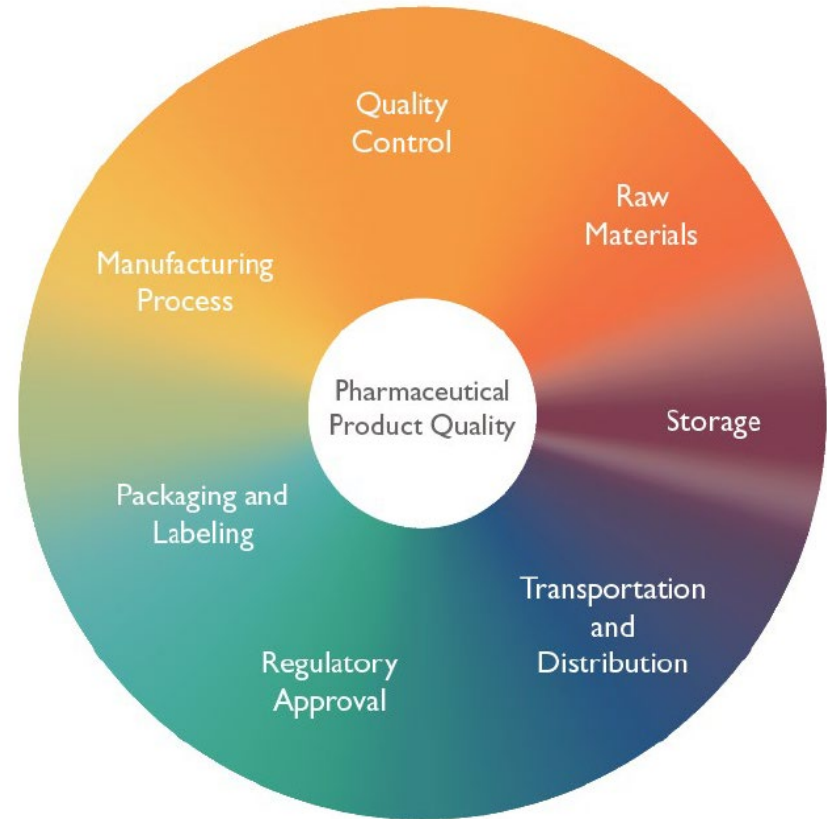
- Establishment and support of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) with pharmaceutical companies, WHO, NGOs, procurers
- Design and implement Access-to-Medicines programmes for selected products for reproductive health
- Systematic and coordinated approach to product introduction.



# Why is quality of drugs in RH so important ?

## Concerns about quality of products

- In studies we found products with low potency
- Especially misoprostol
- Which leads to a failed abortion attempt



## Quality - Five fundamentals

Quality comes first

Quality costs less

**Quality Assurance**, not just Quality Control

Quality Assurance is an investment

Quality Assured means SRA-approved, WHO PQed, or ERP recommended

Stringent regulatory authorities

WHO PreQualification

Members, Observers or Associates at the ICH:

- European Medicines Agency: EU member states
- EFTA: Swiss
- Norway
- Iceland
- Lichtenstein
- Japan
- US FDA
- Health Canada
- Australia



- Aims to ensure that medicines meet global standards of quality, safety and efficacy,
- The prequalification process consists of a transparent, scientifically sound assessment,
- It includes dossier review, consistency testing or performance evaluation and GMP inspections of manufacturers.
- For generic products it includes a bio-aequivalency testing



World Health  
Organization





## Availability of QAed products from UNFPA

- [www.UNFPAprocurement.org](http://www.UNFPAprocurement.org)
- Product Catalog
- Reproductive health supplies
- Mife-miso-combi
- Price: contact UNFPA





## Kyrgyzstan, Country framework

Abortion in Kyrgyzstan is permitted:

- on request without restriction up to 12 weeks of gestation, and
- for socio-economic reasons up to 22 weeks.

The number of abortions taking place is unknown, however, modeled estimates show there may be approximately 65,500 abortions each year in the country.





## Kyrgyzstan, 2011 WHO strategic assessment

**Findings:** Safe abortion services are limited:

- mainly D&C,
- lack of trained providers,
- supplies' shortage: MVA and MA drugs in the rural areas



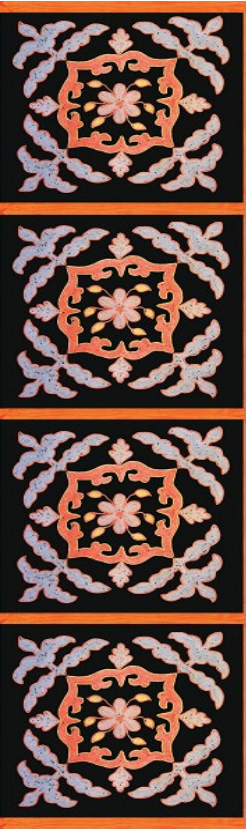
## Kyrgyzstan, 2011 WHO strategic assessment

### Recommendations:

- To train PLC providers, including midwives,
  - on contraception,
  - on medical abortion,
  - on pre- and post abortion counseling;
- To register and ensure the supply of quality assured combi -pack of Mifepristone and Misoprostol

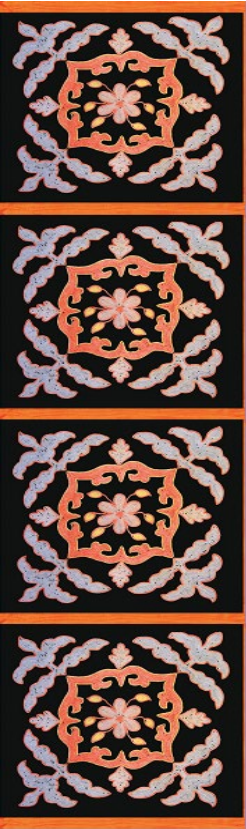


## Kyrgyzstan, 2018 CF activities

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- Conducted situational analysis and market assessment
  - Supported registration of Medabon® quality-assured mife-miso combipack through:
    - support to product manufacturer
    - engagement with national stakeholders
  - Worked on the development of a National Medical Abortion Programme



## Kyrgyzstan, Bottlenecks faced during CF activities

- 
- Issues with the regulatory Agency with regard to instructions for distribution
  - Resulting in lack of interest from potential distributors
  - Lack of awareness among national stakeholders of the importance of making quality-assured MA products available.



## Kyrgyzstan, Lessons learned

### Comprehensive understanding of the country's abortion market and environment

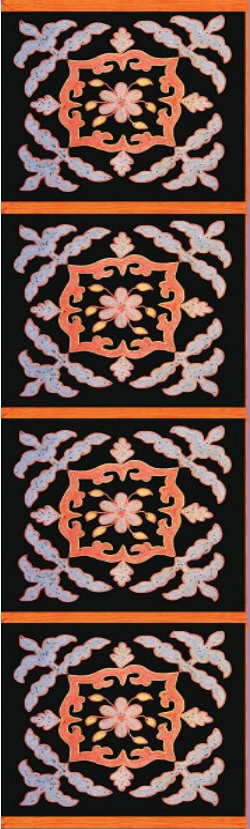
- Market assessment
- Country landscape and analysis
- Understand traditions and cultural beliefs and barriers



## Kyrgyzstan, Lessons learned (Cont'd)

### Registration

- Importance of the market analysis
- Early engagement of the Government
- Strong coordination and engagement of all national stakeholders







## Kyrgyzstan, Lessons learned (Cont'd)



### Partnerships

- Request WHO help
- Private-public collaboration
- Inclusive and participative
- Develop demand for quality products
- Share information



## Kyrgyzstan, Lessons learned (Cont'd)



### Common vision for safe abortion strategy

- Close collaboration with Government, donors and civil society
- Create national ownership of the new safe abortion strategy
- Think of a common ultimate objective: reduce maternal deaths due to unsafe abortion
- Positive and appropriate safe abortion advocacy messages:
- No abortion number increase → reducing unsafe abortions



Thank you