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Creating a sustainable supply of manual vacuum aspiration instruments in humanitarian settings

Manual vacuum aspiration (MVA) has been used worldwide for more than four decades, enabling millions of women in developed and developing countries to undergo safe and effective uterine evacuation for treatment of incomplete abortion and first-trimester abortion. More than 40 years of clinical and programmatic research worldwide has shown MVA for uterine evacuation to be safer than—and as effective as—sharp curettage, also known as dilatation and curettage.

World Health Organization (WHO) guidance recommends vacuum aspiration—manual or electric—and medical methods as the preferred methods for induced abortion in early pregnancy. The WHO also recommends MVA as a preferred method for uterine evacuation in the treatment of incomplete abortion.

Manual vacuum aspiration is:

- Included in Kit 8 (Management of complications of miscarriage or abortion) of the Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits
- Simple, safe and effective
- Reliable technology—it does not require running water, electricity or sophisticated equipment
- Reusable after appropriate instrument reprocessing
- Effectively used by many provider cadres such as nurses, midwives and clinical officers, with no difference in effectiveness and complication rates compared to doctors
- Easily provided in both hospitals and outpatient settings, and in any facility that provides basic emergency obstetric and newborn care or similar services

In humanitarian settings, MVA should already be available for postabortion care as a signal function in emergency obstetric and newborn care. With safe abortion care now included in the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) as a response to sexual assault survivors and as an “other priority activity,” MVA should also be available for these needs. For more information on how to use MVA for abortion and postabortion care, see Chapter 8: Comprehensive Abortion Care in the *Inter-Agency Field Manual (IAFM)*: <http://iawg.net/iafm/>

Ipas MVA Plus® aspirators and Ipas EasyGrip® cannulae have important advantages over other uterine evacuation equipment, including greater durability and more processing options—such as steam autoclave, boiling and standard high-level chemical disinfectants. Ipas instruments are US FDA-listed, CE-marked, and ISO 13485 compliant.

How to order Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits

For an acute emergency, Ipas MVA equipment is available in the Inter-Agency RH Kits (Kit 8) through UNFPA:

Procurement Services Branch
Marmorvej 51
2100 Copenhagen, Denmark
procurement@unfpa.org
www.unfpa procurement.org/humanitarian-supplies

After an acute crisis, it is important to identify sustainable medical supply channels for MVA equipment. In 2017, DKT International became the worldwide distributor for Ipas MVA technology. DKT now markets and distributes the Ipas MVA in over 100 countries.



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Two ways to access Ipas MVA equipment other than the Inter-Agency Reproductive Health Kits:

- Place an order with DKT WomanCare by sending an inquiry to: orders@dktwomancare.org
- Find a local distributor of Ipas MVA equipment. Learn more about DKT WomanCare and its distribution network by visiting: <https://dktwomancare.org/how-to-buy>

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