Emergency Contraceptive Pills (ECPs) are an essential component of women’s reproductive health. They offer women an important second chance to prevent pregnancy when a regular method fails, no method was used, or sex was forced. Research over the past 30 years has shown that ECPs are safe and effective.

Women’s access to ECPs is significantly influenced by the availability of EC products in their setting. A number of dedicated EC products – those that are packaged and labeled specifically for EC use – exist, but women can only access these products if at least one product is registered and/or imported in their country. One or more dedicated EC products should be widely available through a range of outlets (clinics, pharmacies, hospitals, etc.). (In cases in which no dedicated EC product is available, however, off-label use of conventional oral contraceptives for EC (i.e. the Yuzpe regimen) represents an important option.)

The International Consortium for Emergency Contraception has identified the following three registration statuses for ECPs and organized countries accordingly.¹,²

- **22** Countries have no ECP brands registered and appear not to import EC
- **26** Countries have no registered product but currently import EC or have imported EC products previously
- **146** Countries have at least one ECP brand registered

**22 Countries have no EC pill brands registered and appear not to import EC:**
These countries do not have a registered product, and there is no evidence that they have ever imported EC products. The registration status was obtained from the International Consortium for Emergency Contraception’s [Status & Availability Database](#) and cross-checked with the RHInterchange database.

Of the 22 countries with no registered product, several of the countries on this list, namely Costa Rica, Honduras, Malta, and the Philippines, have been sites of active opposition to EC. These countries are marked with the * symbol. Others, such as East Timor, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, and Western Sahara, have recently been or are currently affected by conflict (these countries are marked with +). Eight of the countries on this list have populations of fewer than one million people (marked with #), and of these, five have populations under 500,000. Although these very small countries may not be attractive to commercial distributors of EC, they may be able obtain EC through other means. It appears that the other countries that have no product registered are located in the Middle East (Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bahrain</th>
<th>Malta*</th>
<th>Samoa#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunei#</td>
<td>Micronesia#</td>
<td>Somalia+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Verde#</td>
<td>Montenegro#</td>
<td>Sudan+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica*</td>
<td>North Korea+</td>
<td>Tuvalu#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Timor+</td>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras*</td>
<td>Philippines*</td>
<td>Western Sahara+#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya+</td>
<td>Saint Kitts &amp; Nevis#</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ See.[1](#) ² See.[2](#)
26 Countries have no registered product but currently import EC or have imported EC products previously:
These countries do not have a registered product but currently import or have previously imported EC, usually for the public sector and with support from donors, UN agencies, or NGOs. These countries may have a licensing arrangement which allows them to import contraceptive supplies on an on-going basis. This information was obtained from the RHInterchange database, which is maintained by the United Nations Population Fund.³

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Afghanistan</th>
<th>Guinea-Bissau</th>
<th>Sao Tome &amp; Principe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>Seychelles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comoros</td>
<td>Kosovo</td>
<td>Syria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
<td>Maldives</td>
<td>Tonga</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>Papa New Guinea</td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>West Bank and Gaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>Saint Vincent &amp; Grenadines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

146 Countries have at least one EC pill brand registered:
The registration status was obtained from the International Consortium for Emergency Contraception’s Status & Availability Database. Data came from pharmaceutical companies and key informants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Albania</th>
<th>Burkina Faso</th>
<th>El Salvador</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andorra</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antigua</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Finland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>Gabon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>Congo-Brazzaville</td>
<td>Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Congo, Democratic Republic</td>
<td>Grenada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Guinea-Conakry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Guyana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Hungary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Iran
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Ivory Coast
Jamaica
Japan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Laos
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macedonia
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Moldova
Monaco

Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar (Burma)
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russian Federation
Saint Lucia
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Sri Lanka
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Taiwan
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Venezuela
Vietnam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

1 Although we have made every effort to ensure that the above information is accurate, if you notice that something is incorrect, please write us at info@cecinfo.org.

2 Please note that certain countries, namely the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Denmark, and China have overseas territories and dependent areas. Since these territories and areas tend to adopt many, if not all, of the regulations that are implemented in the mainland, we believe that they also have access to EC. We have not listed them separately.

3 In terms of methodology, ICEC downloaded the complete list of all countries that have imported ECPs from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2015 from the RHInterchange database.