

Condoms recalled in Uganda over quality concerns: charity

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Global health charity Marie Stopes said Wednesday it had recalled hundreds of thousands of faulty condoms on sale in Uganda, where HIV rates are among the highest in the world.

The recall followed a warning from Uganda's National Drug Authority (NDA) that the Life Guard brand condoms had failed manufacturing "quality tests" because they contained holes and may burst.

The affected condoms were manufactured by India-based MHL Healthcare in April 2019 and have an expiry date of April 2024, the government regulator said.

Marie Stopes Uganda spokesman David Kamu told AFP on Wednesday that the two affected batches each contained "around 400,000" condoms.

Earlier reports had suggested millions of condoms could have been involved but NDA spokesman Fred Ssekyaana told AFP the figure was below one million.

Marie Stopes Uganda said more than half of the condoms of concern had been recalled.

"While the LifeGuard brand follows strict quality controls, unfortunately two recent batches have fallen short of the quality we demand," the charity's country director, Carole Sekimpi, said in a statement Tuesday.

Marie Stopes is the largest and most specialised sexual reproductive health organisation in Uganda, the charity says on its website.

According to UNAIDS, 1.4 million Ugandans are living with HIV.

Last year 53,000 people were newly infected with the disease in the East African country, the UN agency said.

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