



HIV AND INFANT FEEDING IN EMERGENCIES: OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE

The duration of breastfeeding and support from
health services to improve feeding practices
among mothers living with HIV



World Health
Organization

unicef 

HIV and infant feeding in emergencies: operational guidance

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ANC	antenatal care
ART	antiretroviral therapy
ARV	antiretroviral drug
AZT	zidovudine
BMS	breast-milk substitute(s)
ENN	Emergency Nutrition Network
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IFE	infant and young child feeding in emergencies
IYCF	infant and young child feeding
MTCT	mother-to-child transmission of HIV
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NVP	nevirapine
OG-IFE	<i>Infant and young child feeding in emergencies. Operational guidance for emergency relief staff and programme managers, version 3, 2017 (6)</i>
PITC	provider-initiated HIV testing and counselling
PLW	pregnant and lactating women
PMTCT	prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV
RUIF	ready-to-use infant formula
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

Definitions and key terms

Antiretroviral (drug) (ARV): the medicine used to treat HIV infection.

Antiretroviral therapy (ART): the use of a combination of three or more ARV drugs for treating HIV infection. ART involves lifelong treatment.

ARV drugs for HIV prevention: ARV drugs for the prevention of HIV transmission, including ARV drugs given to the mother or infant for preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV; ARV drugs to reduce the transmission of HIV among serodiscordant couples; and ARV drugs to prevent people from acquiring HIV when they are exposed (post-exposure and pre-exposure prophylaxis).

Concentrated HIV epidemic: HIV has spread rapidly in one or more defined subpopulations but is not well established in the general population. Numerical proxy: HIV prevalence is consistently over 5% in at least one defined subpopulation but is less than 1% among pregnant women in urban areas.

Exclusive breastfeeding: the infant receives only breast milk without any other liquids or solids, not even water, except for oral rehydration solution or drops or syrups of vitamins, minerals or medicines.

Generalized HIV epidemic: HIV is firmly established in the general population. Numerical proxy: HIV prevalence is consistently over 1% among pregnant women. Most generalized HIV epidemics are mixed in nature, where certain (key) subpopulations are disproportionately affected.

HIV: the human immunodeficiency virus. There are two types of HIV: **HIV-1 and HIV-2**. The vast majority of people living with HIV infections globally have HIV-1.

HIV-exposed infant or child: an infant or child born to a mother living with HIV until the infant or child is reliably excluded from being HIV infected.

HIV-free survival: an infant or young child born to a mother living with HIV who remains both HIV uninfected (confirmed negative HIV status) and also alive over a defined follow-up period. HIV-free survival is commonly reported at 18 months or 24 months of age.

Low/high HIV prevalence: low HIV prevalence refers to settings with less than 5% prevalence in the population surveyed; high HIV prevalence refers to settings with 5% prevalence or more.

Mixed feeding: an infant younger than 6 months of age is given other liquids and/or foods together with breast milk. This could be water, other types of milk or any type of solid food.

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