## A SHORT GUIDE ON METHODS

## MEASURING THE IMPACT OF NATIONAL PMTCT PROGRAMMES

Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections Among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive

**JULY 2012** 



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We would value any feedback you may have on the content or format of this guide that would make it more useful. Please send any comments to: pmtctmoneval@who.int.

### **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ANC	antenatal care
ART	antiretroviral therapy
ARV	antiretroviral drug
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DBS	dried blood spot
DHS	Demographic and Health Surveys
DPT	diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus
DSS	demographic surveillance site
EID	early infant diagnosis
ELISA	enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
EMTCT	elimination of mother-to-child transmission (of HIV)
HEI	HIV-exposed infant
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IATT	Interagency Task Team
ICD	International Classification of Diseases
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
PEPFAR	US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PMTCT	prevention of mother-to-child transmission (of HIV)
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 BACKGROUND**

The Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections Among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive (1) was launched in June 2011. With the goal of virtually eliminating new HIV infections of children by 2015, the plan sets ambitious targets—for example, reducing new paediatric HIV infections by 90%, reducing HIV-associated deaths to women during pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium by 50%, and reducing mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV to less than 5% at the population level. While progress towards these targets will be modelled at the global level, directly measuring impact at the country level is important. Impact assessment activities should be part of every country's plans for the elimination of mother-to-child-transmission of HIV (EMTCT).

#### **1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE**

This short guide summarizes the different approaches to assessing specific outcomes of interventions to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV. It can serve as a reference that provides an overview of methods to measure PMTCT impact. It also can be used when planning impact assessment activities because the description may support the selection of activities and estimation of the cost of a particular assessment method.

For most methods described, more detailed guidance or a generic protocol will be developed, which can be adapted for country implementation. These generic protocols will provide more information about each method and the practical steps necessary to implement it.

This guide and the generic protocols, as they become available, will be posted on the WHO web site at http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/me/en/index.html.

#### **1.3 OUTCOME MEASURES OF PMTCT IMPACT**

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