



World Health
Organization

PMTCT STRATEGIC VISION

2010–2015

Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV
to reach the UNGASS and
Millennium Development Goals

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Preface

This publication, *PMTCT strategic vision 2010–2015: preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV to reach the UNGASS and Millennium Development Goals*, reflects an important part of the World Health Organization's (WHO's) health sector response to HIV/AIDS and will contribute directly to the new *Outcome framework* of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

The purpose of this document is to define WHO's commitment to global and country support to scale up access to prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV services and integrate these services with maternal, newborn and child and reproductive health programmes. The objectives included in this *PMTCT strategic vision 2010–2015* illustrate WHO's ongoing commitment to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) goals on PMTCT and strengthening support for PMTCT within the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

As the co-lead for PMTCT within the United Nations, WHO will use this strategic vision to accelerate support for PMTCT with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNAIDS and the expanded Interagency Task Team (IATT) on Prevention of HIV Infection in Pregnant Women, Mothers and their Children. WHO will work to enhance global collaboration among key partners, increase its capacity at the regional and country levels for providing technical assistance and support, strengthen strategic partnerships with key funding and implementing agencies such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and help develop and lead the UNAIDS *Outcome framework*.

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Abbreviations

AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ANC	antenatal care
ARV	antiretroviral
ART	antiretroviral therapy
Global Fund	The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IATT	interagency task team
IMAI	integrated management of adolescent and adult illness
IMCI	integrated management of childhood illness
IMPAC	integrated management of pregnancy and childbirth
IHP+	International Health Partnership and related initiatives
MCH	maternal and child health
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MMR	maternal mortality ratio
MNCH	maternal, newborn and child health
MTCT	mother-to-child transmission (of HIV)
NGO	nongovernmental organization
PEPFAR	US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PMTCT	prevention of mother-to-child transmission (of HIV)
RH	reproductive health
SRH	sexual and reproductive health
STI	sexually transmitted infection
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

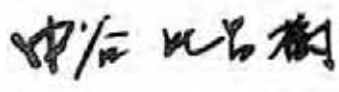
Foreword

Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV has been at the forefront of global HIV prevention activities since 1998, following the success of the short-course zidovudine and single-dose nevirapine clinical trials. These offered the promise of a relatively simple, low-cost intervention that could substantially reduce the risk of HIV transmission from mother to baby. Research and programme experience over the past ten years has demonstrated newer and more effective ways to prevent new paediatric infections, particularly in high-burden, low-resource settings.

In the context of the 2010 UNGASS HIV/AIDS goals and 2015 Millennium Development Goals, this is a critical time for the global public health community to assess current progress towards and needs for PMTCT, and to recommit to help achieve national and international scale-up of effective PMTCT services.

According to the latest data, significant progress has been made in delivering PMTCT services in low- and middle-income countries. However, much work remains to be done. An estimated 430 000 children were newly infected with HIV in 2008, the vast majority of them through mother-to-child transmission. Even in countries with strong PMTCT programmes, there is no room for complacency. In many developed countries, paediatric HIV has been virtually eliminated. The revised 2009 WHO recommendations for HIV treatment, PMTCT and HIV and infant feeding provide an important new opportunity to implement highly effective interventions in resource-limited settings, and promote the health of mother and child.

We are pleased to present this *PMTCT strategic vision 2010–2015*. WHO is committed to developing norms and standards for effective interventions, and supporting countries to scale up quality PMTCT services integrated within maternal, newborn and child health programmes and with sexual and reproductive health programmes. The activities included in this strategic vision have the potential to save lives, help eliminate paediatric HIV, and greatly improve the health of women and children.



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Executive summary

An estimated 430 000 children were newly infected with HIV in 2008, over 90% of them through mother-to-child transmission (MTCT). Without treatment, about half of these infected children will die before their second birthday. Without intervention, the risk of MTCT ranges from 20% to 45%. With specific interventions in non-breastfeeding populations, the risk of MTCT can be reduced to less than 2%, and to 5% or less in breastfeeding populations.

To prevent the transmission of HIV from mother to baby, the World Health Organization (WHO) promotes a comprehensive approach, which includes the following four components:

- Primary prevention of HIV infection among women of childbearing age;
- Preventing unintended pregnancies among women living with HIV;
- Preventing HIV transmission from a woman living with HIV to her infant; and
- Providing appropriate treatment, care and support to mothers living with HIV and their children and families.

As the lead United Nations (UN) agency in the health sector and the only UN agency with the technical and programmatic mandate to address all four components of the comprehensive approach to prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, WHO is in a unique position to help support global PMTCT efforts.

In many developed countries, paediatric HIV has been virtually eliminated. The newly revised 2009 WHO recommendations for HIV treatment, PMTCT and infant feeding provide an important new opportunity to implement highly effective interventions globally, and particularly in resource-limited settings, and promote the health of mother and child.

This *PMTCT strategic vision 2010–2015* defines WHO's commitment to help countries achieve agreed international goals on PMTCT, increase access to quality PMTCT services and integrate these services with maternal, newborn and child health and sexual and reproductive health programmes. The objectives of the strategic vision illustrate WHO's ongoing commitment to the PMTCT-related goals of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) and to strengthen support for PMTCT within the context of the Millennium Development Goals.

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