

# GOVERNANCE



GOVERNANCE FOR THE

## VALIDATION OF ELIMINATION OF MOTHER- TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV, SYPHILIS AND HEPATITIS B VIRUS

AN OVERVIEW OF VALIDATION STRUCTURES AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND  
GLOBAL LEVELS

2022

MONITORING AND EVALUATION



World Health  
Organization



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## Governance for the validation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B virus: an overview of validation structures and responsibilities at national, regional and global levels

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# ESSENTIAL WHO EMTCT RESOURCES

*The criteria for validation established in Global guidance on criteria and processes for validation: elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B virus is an essential companion to the governance outlined in this document. It is available at:*

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240039360>

Additional information on validation of EMTCT of HIV, syphilis and HBV, including updated tools and other guidance, are available on the WHO websites:

Triple elimination initiative of EMTCT of HIV, syphilis and HBV <https://www.who.int/initiatives/triple-elimination-initiative-of-mother-to-child-transmission-of-hiv-syphilis-and-hepatitis-b/validation>

## EMTCT validation processes and tools

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/triple-elimination-initiative-of-mother-to-child-transmission-of-hiv-syphilis-and-hepatitis-b/validation/process-and-tools>

# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>EMTCT</b>	elimination of mother-to-child transmission
<b>HBV</b>	hepatitis B virus
<b>HIV</b>	human immunodeficiency virus
<b>GVAC</b>	Global Validation Advisory Committee
<b>GVS</b>	global validation secretariat
<b>HBV</b>	hepatitis B virus
<b>HHS</b>	WHO Global HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections Programmes
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>NVC</b>	national validation committee
<b>NVS</b>	national validation secretariat
<b>PRG</b>	preparatory review group
<b>PTE</b>	path to elimination
<b>RVC</b>	regional validation committee
<b>RVS</b>	regional validation secretariat
<b>STI</b>	sexually transmitted infection
<b>TOR</b>	terms of reference
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Achieving validation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT), or vertical transmission, of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B virus (HBV) is a tremendous accomplishment, requiring health-ministry-led accountability, rigorous data analysis, intensive programme assessment and multilevel collaboration. Maintaining validation is equally important and requires sustained, broad programme efforts to prevent new infections in infants, children and adults.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined EMTCT as a reduction in the number of new HIV, syphilis and HBV infections among infants and children to a level at which these infections are no longer considered a public health problem. WHO has developed criteria for validation of elimination in *Global guidance on the criteria and processes for validation: elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B virus (2021)*. This governance document supplements the *Global guidance* document. Validation of elimination requires rigorous assessment at the national, regional and global levels of the impact and process indicators and the fulfilment of the four foundational requirements for (1) data quality, (2) strong programmes, (3) laboratory quality and (4) human rights, gender equality and community engagement.

Our United Nations (UN) partners provide critical support to the validation process for health system strengthening, providing comprehensive services that respect and protect the human rights of women living with HIV, syphilis or HBV and ensuring that these women are meaningfully involved in health programme planning and service delivery.

As of March 2022, 16 countries and territories have been validated for EMTCT of HIV and/or syphilis (in chronological order: Cuba, Thailand, Belarus, Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Bermuda, Anguilla, Montserrat, Cayman Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Dominica and Oman). In 2021, Botswana has become the first country with high HIV burden to be certified for achieving the required indicators for the silver tier on the path to elimination (PTE) of HIV.

This document contains the governance guiding all structures and processes for validation. Replacing edition 1, published 15 June 2020, this revised governance document aligns with new information in the *Global guidance on the criteria and processes for validation: elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B virus*, which (1) includes criteria and processes for EMTCT of HBV, with specific guidance and strategies to achieve “triple elimination”; (2) provides clarity, consistency and detail related to the validation process based on lessons learned from previous

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