

ELIMINATION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV, SYPHILIS, HEPATITIS B, AND CHAGAS DISEASE (EMTCT-PLUS)



+ Impact goal

Elimination as a public health problem

+ Elimination targets

≤2% of HIV prevalence of mother-to-child transmission
≤0.5 incidence of congenital syphilis per 1,000 live births
≤0.1% hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) prevalence in children aged 4–6
≥90% of newborns with *T. cruzi* infection cured

+ Programmatic targets

≥95% of newborns born to positive mothers with *T. cruzi* diagnosis and timely etiological treatment

≥95% HIV and syphilis testing and ≥90% hepatitis B and Chagas testing in pregnant women

≥95% pregnant women treated in a timely manner for HIV and syphilis

≥95% timely birth-dose hepatitis B vaccination within 24 hours and complete a 3-dose schedule

Action steps to achieve elimination

1 Screen and test:

- For HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B, and Chagas disease during routine antenatal care in endemic countries
- Use multi-disease point-of-care tests (e.g., HIV/syphilis dual test)

2 Postnatal care: Beyond birth

- Monitor mothers and newborns to confirm diagnosis, ensure treatment adherence, and cure for syphilis and Chagas disease
- Ensure long-term treatment and care for HIV-positive mothers and those with hepatitis B virus (HBV)

3 Empower with counseling:

- Educate mothers and their partners to reduce transmission risk and ensure timely treatment

Best buys

4 Diagnose and treat in a timely manner:

- HIV:** Provide antiretroviral therapy for HIV-positive pregnant women and post-exposure prophylaxis for newborns
- Syphilis:** Treat syphilis-infected pregnant women with penicillin to prevent congenital syphilis
- Hepatitis B:** Vaccinate newborns within 24 hours and ensure a complete 3-dose schedule
- Chagas:** Test, confirm, and treat mothers and newborns as soon as possible

More information

· World Health Organization. Global guidance on criteria and processes for validation: elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B virus. Geneva: WHO; 2021. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240039360>.

· World Health Organization. Elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B. Geneva: WHO; 2024 [cited 10 April 2025]. Available from: <https://who.int/initiatives/triple-elimination-initiative-of-mother-to-child-transmission-of-hiv-syphilis-and-hepatitis-b>.

· Pan American Health Organization. EMTCT Plus. Framework for elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B, and Chagas. Washington, D.C.: PAHO; 2017. Available from: <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/34306>.



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