

Concept note on technical consultation measuring early and late MTCT rates

9-11 September 2019, Geneva

Background

Globally, about 4 in 5 or 82 per cent of pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV are accessing lifelong antiretroviral therapy (ART). From 2010 to 2018, the final mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) rate of HIV including breastfeeding has decrease by 38% from 21 to 13 infants newly infected with HIV for every 100 HIV-positive pregnant women. Over half (54%) of these child infections occur during pregnancy or delivery. These programmatic achievements have resulted in averting 2 million additional child HIV infections and saving lives of an estimated 150,000 AIDS-related deaths among children aged 0-5 due to ART programmes since 2010. Despite these impressive achievements, final outcome measurement of mother-to-child HIV transmission at the cessation of breastfeeding largely relies on mathematical models such as the AIDS Impact Model (AIM) in Spectrum. In order to supplement and validate assumptions and MTCT outputs from Spectrum, a number of impact evaluations have been conducted or ongoing in a number of countries. In addition, the MTCT final outcome measurement is key in assessing PMTCT programme success and evaluating countries that are planning to submit for path to elimination. It is against this background that a technical consultation meeting on measuring early and late MTCT rates is being convened.

Meeting Goal and Objectives

The goal of the technical consultation meeting will focus on reviewing methods and evidence available on measuring MTCT rates during pregnancy and at the cessation of breastfeeding. The meeting also aims at coming up with agreed upon procedures and near-final protocol of measuring MTCT rates. **This will be a strategic information focused technical meeting rather than programme.**

Objectives

- a. Gain consensus on how to measure final outcome of MTCT rate from surveillance and patient monitoring systems mathematical models
- b. Review, compare and validate final MTCT results between Spectrum outputs and current study results
- c.
- d. Develop a generic MTCT measurement protocol to guide countries on the elimination or path to elimination agenda

Expected Outputs

- i. Validation of MTCT rates between mixed methods and studies
- ii. Consensus statement on the MTCT measurement methods that work based on country context
- iii. Generic MTCT measurement protocol that responds to different HIV epidemic mix and responses

Location, date and duration

The meeting is proposed to take place in Geneva for 3 days between 9-11 September 2019, and will be jointly hosted by UNICEF, UNAIDS and WHO. The meeting format will combine presentations, and plenary discussions to deliver on expected meeting outputs.

Participants

Approximately **25-30 strategic information technical experts, coinvestigators and researchers** will be drawn from host country governments, UNICEF, UNAIDS, WHO, CDC, EGPAF, ICAP and other relevant research institutions.

Proposed Agenda

Time	Session Description	Moderator /Facilitator/Presenter	Expected Outcome
Day 1: Presentation of methods and key findings from published and ongoing final MTCT impact studies/evaluations			
Session 1 Objective: Review, compare and validate MTCT results between country studies and spectrum		Moderator:	Current methods, approaches, data sources and limitations of measuring final MTCT rates reviewed
09.00 - 09.10	Introductions and welcome remarks	Shaffiq, Mary, Surbhi	
09.10 – 09.30	The importance of measuring MTCT rates using mixed methodologies and approaches including spectrum	Mary	
9:30 – 10:15	Current MTCT measurement methods: type, existing data sources, and challenges/limitations including PEPFAR reporting countries	Surbhi	
10:15 - 10:30	<i>Summary of important points to consider during development of the measurement protocol</i>	Surbhi	
10.30 – 11.00	BREAK		
Session 2 Objective: Review and compare current mixed MTCT measurement methods, data sources and their limitations		Moderator:	Country MTCT study results compared and validated with modelled spectrum estimates, and results used to improve paediatric model assumptions
11:00 - 11:45	Population-based household surveys and Cross-sectional		
11:45 - 12:00	<i>Summary of important points to consider during development of the measurement protocol</i>		
12:00 - 12:45	Community-based Household studies – eSwatini, Lesotho, Zimbabwe		
12:45 - 13:00	<i>Summary of important points to consider during development of the measurement protocol</i>		
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK		
14:00 - 14:45	Prospective cohort studies - Lesotho		
14:45 - 15:00	<i>Summary of important points to consider during development of the measurement protocol</i>		
15:00 - 15:45	Other studies – Mother infants from immunization		
15:45 – 16:00	BREAK		
16:00 - 16:15	<i>Summary of important points to consider during development of the measurement protocol</i>		
16:15 - 16:45	Other studies - Concentrated and low Epidemics		
16:45 - 17:00	<i>Summary of important points to consider during development of the measurement protocol</i>		
17:00 - 17:15	<i>Wrap-up</i>		
Day 2: Drafting of the generic protocol for MTCT measurement			
Session 3 Objective: Parallel group work sessions on development of different aspects of the MTCT measurement protocol		Moderator:	1st draft of generic protocol for MTCT measurement developed for review
09:00 - 09:15	Recap of day 1 and instructions for group work		
09:15 - 13:00	Group 1: Sampling		
	Group 2: Data collection tool development		
	Group 3: Indicator definitions		
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK		
14:00 - 16:30	Group 1: Sampling		
	Group 2: Data collection tool development		
	Group 3: Indicator definitions		
16:30 - 16:45	Wrap-up		
Day 3: Feedback session on the draft generic protocol for MTCT measurement			
Session Objective: Feedback and finalisation of the development of the generic protocol for MTCT measurement		Moderator:	

09.00 – 09:30	Group 1- Presentation on Sampling section of draft MTCT measurement generic protocol		2nd draft of generic protocol for MTCT measurement developed
09:30 - 09:45	Discussion/Q&A		
09:45 - 10:15	Group 2: Presentation on Data collection tool development of draft MTCT measurement generic protocol		
10:15-10:30	Discussion/Q&A		
10.30 – 11.00	BREAK		
11.00 - 11.30	Group 3: Presentation on Indicator definitions of draft MTCT measurement generic protocol		Action plan for finalizing and disseminating generic protocol for MTCT measurement developed
11:30 -11:45	Discussion/Q&A		
11:45 -12:00	Summary take-aways on three working groups feedback and areas of consideration for further review		
12:00 -12: 45	Groups revise their work based on feedback		
12:45 - 13:15	Recommendations and action plan/next steps and closing		
13.15 – 14.15	LUNCH		