

SECTION 6: Glossary, definitions and further resources



This section contains:

- Glossary/definition of terms
- Acronyms used
- Resources on HIV and breastfeeding listed alphabetically and with website addresses, where known, on
 - Policy
 - Reports
 - Review articles
 - Training materials, manuals and job aids
 - Slides and videos
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Glossary/Definition of Terms Used

Abrupt weaning means immediate cessation of breastfeeding which may be forced on the infant by the mother, or on the mother and infant by others.

AIDS means **Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome**: the active pathological condition that follows the earlier, non-symptomatic state of being HIV-positive.

AFASS Acceptable, feasible, affordable, sustainable and safe – the conditions required for safe replacement feeding in previous policy, now updated

ART, an abbreviation of antiretroviral therapy and usually meaning one or two antiretroviral drugs used to treat people infected with HIV to reduce their viral load.

ARV, an abbreviation of antiretrovirals, meaning antiretroviral therapy or antiretroviral prophylaxis

Breastmilk substitute refers to any food being marketed or otherwise represented as a partial or total replacement for breastmilk, whether or not suitable for that purpose.

CD4 cells (also known as T4 or helper T cells) are lymphocytes (a type of white blood cell), which are important in immune responses. These are the main target cells for HIV. Their numbers decrease during HIV infection, and their level is used as a marker of progression of the infection.

Cessation of breastfeeding means completely stopping breastfeeding, which includes no more suckling at the breast.

Child refers to a child aged aged 0 – 5 years.

Commercial infant formula, a product that meets the applicable Codex standard for infant formula.

Complementary food means any food, whether manufactured or locally prepared, used as a complement to breastmilk or to a breast-milk substitute, when either becomes insufficient to fully satisfy the nutritional requirements of the infant.

Codex Alimentarius Standards are internationally recognised standards of food and food safety, developed by a Commission established by WHO and FAO.

Cup feeding means feeding an infant or child using a cup.

ELISA means the Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay HIV test which identifies antibodies to HIV in an infected person's blood.

Exclusive breastfeeding means an infant receives no other food or drink, not even water, other than breastmilk (which can include expressed breastmilk), with the exception of drops or syrups consisting of vitamins, mineral supplements or medicines. When expressed milk is given, the preferred term is breast milk feeding.

Formula feeding: involves the use of commercial infant milk that is formulated industrially in accordance with applicable Codex Alimentarius standards.

HAART means highly active antiretroviral therapy – a combination of three or more different antiretroviral drugs at the same time.

Health care worker means a person who is involved in the provision of health services to a user, including lay counsellors and community caregivers.

HIV, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, the viral infection which destroys parts of the body's immune system

HIV-exposed infant: Infant born to an HIV-positive woman.

HIV-free survival means the absence of a combined outcome of either (1) HIV infection or (2) death before HIV infection due to other causes. This concept has emerged as a consensus outcome to evaluate strategies.

HIV-negative refers to people who have had an HIV test and who know that they tested negative, or to young children who have tested negative and whose parents or guardians know the result.

HIV-positive refers to people who have had an HIV test and who know that they tested positive, or to young children who have tested positive and whose parents or guardians know the result.

HIV postnatal transmission is defined in an infant who has had a negative HIV-1 PCR at 30 days of age and who later has either a positive PCR result or, if older than 18 months, shows a positive HIV serology.

HIV status unknown refers to people who either have not taken an HIV test or who have had a test but do not know the result.

HIV-infected refers to people who are infected with HIV, whether or not they are aware of it.

Infant refers to a baby or child less than 12 months of age.

- Informed choice** means receiving or acquiring sufficient information with which to reach a knowledgeable decision.
- Mixed feeding** means breastfeeding with the addition of fluids, solid foods and/or non-human milks such as formula and ready-to-use therapeutic foods before the age of six months.
- MTCT** means Mother To Child Transmission of HIV, also known as vertical transmission, *postnatal transmission*, or *parent-to-child transmission* (PTCT) or *HIV-transmission to infants*. MTCT is the term most often used for HIV transmission during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding, because the immediate source of the child's HIV infection is the mother. Some people advocate for use of the terms *parent-to-child transmission*, or *vertical transmission* to avoid the blame for infection seeming to be the responsibility of the mother alone, when she is likely to have been infected through unprotected sex with an infected partner; often the child's father. Consensus on the use of one or other of these terms has not been reached. In this HIV Kit WABA also uses terminology such as *paediatric HIV* and *perinatal HIV transmission* in preference to MTCT.
- Newborn or neonate** means an infant aged from birth to 28 days.
- Opportunistic infection** means an infection that can infect people when their immune system is weakened, as with HIV infection, but not when they are healthy.
- Parent to child transmission or PTCT** means vertical transmission or postnatal transmission. This term is used to avoid the blame for infection seeming to be the responsibility of the mother alone, when she is likely to have been infected through unprotected sex with an infected partner; often the child's father. Consensus on the use of one or other of these terms has not been reached. MTCT remains the most commonly used term.
- Paediatric HIV** means HIV in children. This term is used in connection with the child's infection and illness, whatever the source and to recognise that not all children's infections come from the mother.
- Perinatal HIV transmission** is defined as HIV transmission from mother to child during pregnancy, labor and delivery.
- PCR** means the Polymerase Chain Reaction HIV test, which tests for copies of HIV in blood and other body fluids including breastmilk.
- PITC** means Provider Initiated Testing and Counselling.
- PMTCT** means Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission, and is often used to describe preventive programmes.
- Postnatal transmission** means vertical transmission of HIV during the breastfeeding period, measured as occurring 4 – 6 weeks after birth in a baby who is breastfed. It may be used interchangeably with *MTCT*, *PTCT* or *vertical transmission*.
- Replacement feeding** means the process of feeding a child who is not receiving any breastmilk with a diet that provides all the nutrients the child needs until the child is fully fed on family foods.

‘Spillover’ is a term used to describe the unnecessary spread of artificial feeding among mothers who either know that they are HIV-negative or do not know their HIV status – they do not breastfeed, or they breastfeed for a short time only, or they mix-feed, because of unfounded fears about HIV, or misinformation, or the ready availability of breast-milk substitutes.

Stigma means a mark or sign of disgrace or discredit.

Vertical transmission means transmission of HIV from the mother to an infant, during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding, also known as mother to child transmission, or MTCT.

Weaning means the process of feeding the infant any other food or drink apart from breast milk or expressed breast milk and drops or syrups consisting of vitamins, mineral supplements or medicines.

Young child means a toddler or child from aged from 12 – 36 months.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

≤	less than or equal to
3TC	lamivudine
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral therapy, usually means 1-2 drugs, used in early studies
ARV	Antiretroviral
AZT	zidovudine (also known as ZDV)
BF	Breastfeeding
BFHI	Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative
BHITS study	Breastfeeding and HIV International Transmission Study
cARV	Combined antiretroviral therapy
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
EBF	Exclusive Breastfeeding
ELISA	Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDC	Fixed dose combination ART, e.g., lamivudine, stavudine, and nevirapine
HAART	Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy, 3 or more drugs for more effective treatment used in later studies
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency virus
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IF	Infant feeding
IYCF	Infant and young child feeding
LPV	Lopinavir
mm³	cubic millimetre
MTCT	Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NVP	Nevirapine
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
RF	Replacement Feeding
Rit	Ritonavir

RNA	Ribonucleic acid, one of the three major macromolecules (along with DNA and proteins) that are essential for all known forms of life
sdNVP	single dose NVP
UN Agencies	United Nations Agencies
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
WABA	World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO Guidelines 2010	– WHO 2010 Guidelines on HIV and infant feeding
WHO	World Health Organization
ZDV	Zidovudine (same drug as AZT)

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WHO 1981, International code of marketing of breast-milk substitutes. Geneva: WHO. http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/code_english.pdf Also see subsequent related World Health Assembly Resolutions at <http://www.ibfan.org/english/resource/who/fullcode> and responses to frequently asked questions on the Code at <http://www.who.int/entity/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/9789241594295/en/index.html>



The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) is a global network of individuals and organisations concerned with the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide. WABA action is based on the Innocenti Declaration, the Ten Links for Nurturing the Future and the Global Strategy for Infant & Young Child Feeding. WABA is in consultative status with UNICEF and an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).