

# Validation for elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis

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## ABSTRACT

In 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued global guidance on criteria and processes for validation of elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV and syphilis. The new global health sector strategies on HIV and sexually transmitted infections 2016-2021 advocate for zero new HIV infections among infants by 2020 and elimination of congenital syphilis by 2030. A country must fulfil several criteria to be validated for EMTCT, which include impact targets of a case rate of new paediatric HIV infection of  $\leq 50$  per 100,000 live births and a mother-to-child HIV transmission rate of  $< 5\%$  in breastfeeding populations (or  $< 2\%$  in non-breastfeeding populations), and a case rate of congenital syphilis of  $\leq 50$  per 100,000 live births. Service delivery targets require that  $\geq 95\%$  of women receive at least one antenatal care,  $\geq 95\%$  of pregnant women receive HIV and syphilis testing,  $\geq 95\%$  of women infected either with HIV or syphilis receive treatment. The service coverage and impact targets include both, public and private sector data of all residing population. When a country believes that it has achieved impact targets for at least one year and service delivery targets for at least two years, it submits a validation request and a national report to WHO. The report is reviewed by independent experts followed by in-country assessment to determine whether the country has met all criteria. The country assessment involves a rigorous programmatic and system's review. A country must demonstrate a combination of high-level political commitment, strong maternal and child health and disease control programs, reliable laboratory services, and a robust health information system. Each of these must be achieved while abiding by human rights standards and gender equity as well as participation and involvement of civil society including women living with HIV. In 2015, Cuba became the first country in the world to receive validation, followed by Thailand and Belarus in 2016. Several countries are currently under process of validation.

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# Effect of zoonotic transmission towards global strategy for elimination of malaria

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## ABSTRACT

The theme of the 2016 WHO Malaria Day, "End Malaria for Good", reflects the vision of a world free of malaria and the confidence of achieving it. The Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030 was adopted by the WHA in 2015 with an ambitious target i.e. to achieve, within 15 years only (despite the failure of the MEP in 1960's), 90% reduction in malaria prevalence, 90% reduction in malaria mortality, elimination in 35 countries and preventing re-establishment of malaria in malaria free country. This confidence is based on the belief that we now have effective tools to combat malaria and epidemiological data in recent years supported this notion. Significant global investment since 1990's to control malaria (Roll Back Malaria, enhanced R&D, Global Fund) has yielded equally encouraging outcomes – since 2000, global incidence has dropped by 37%, mortality declined by 60% and we did achieve MDG by 2015. Zoonotic malaria infection is not new and sporadic infections with simian plasmodium have been reported. However, recent reports of large foci of *P. knowlesi* infection in Malaysia has raised certain concern of its possible implications for malaria elimination. Apart from Malaysia, it has been reported in Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam. Studies in Malaysia revealed the natural reservoir host among *Macaca fascicularis* and *M. nemestrina* and the infection is transmitted by the *Anopheles leucosphyrus* group. The reported human cases fall within the distribution of the reservoir animals and the *Anopheles* vector in Southeast Asia. Nevertheless, only in Malaysia that it has been reported extensively and it is now the most prevalent malaria infection in the country. Will Malaysia be able to achieve malaria elimination by 2020 and will it impact on global elimination strategy and targets?