

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV: Role of WHO

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Meeting of the Expert Panel on the Prevention of Mother-to-
Child Transmission

Washington, 9 January 2008

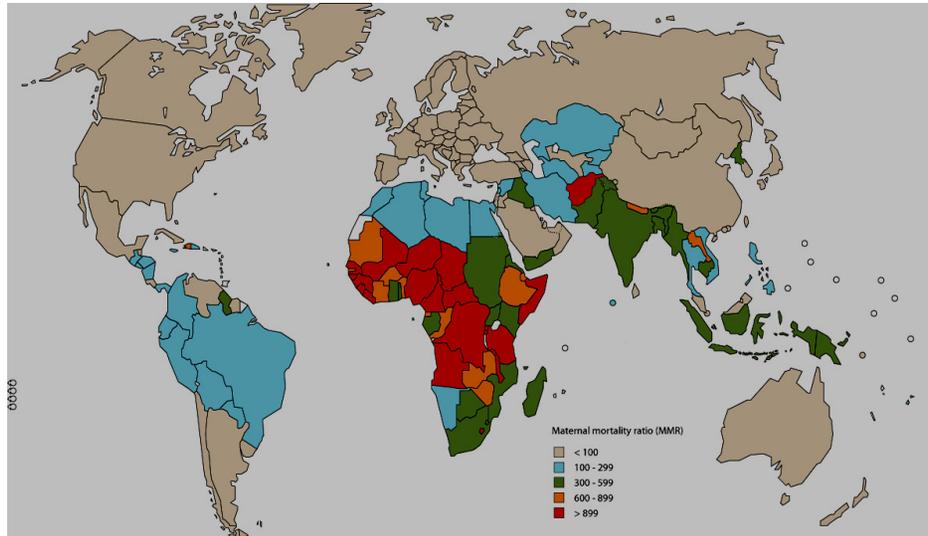
PMTCT - Role of WHO

- Background
- Core functions
- Global and normative work
- Regional work
- Country work
- Challenges and opportunities

Without accelerated efforts on PMTCT and HIV in women, MDGs 4, 5, and 6 will not be met

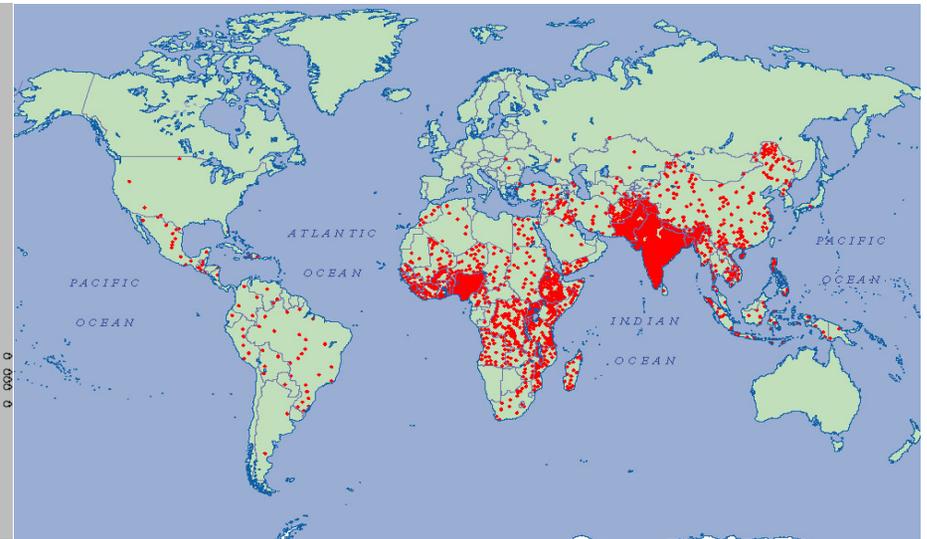
Maternal mortality in 2005

Estimates developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and The World Bank



Source: WHO, 2007

World distribution of under-five deaths each dot represents 5000 deaths

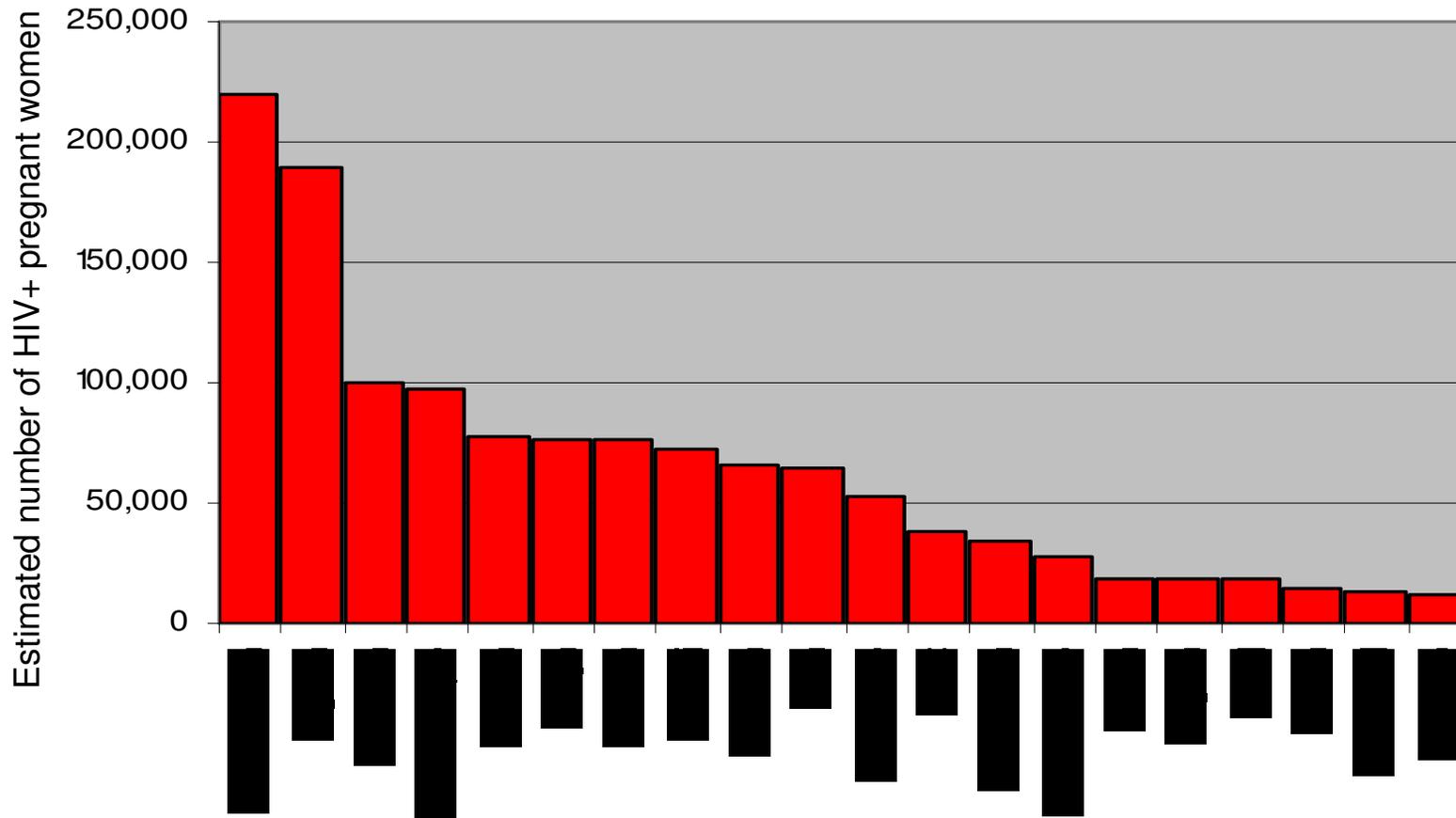


Source: Black et al 2003

Public health approach to preventing HIV in infants and young children

- Aims at:
 - Preventing HIV in infants and mothers
 - Addressing maternal (including reproductive) and child health in the context of HIV
- Recasts PMTCT and HIV in women:
 - Issue of HIV prevention, care and treatment for the family

Almost 90% of HIV in pregnant women is found in 20 countries



Core Functions of WHO

- Leadership and partnerships in health
- Defining, disseminating and translating knowledge and knowledge gaps
- Setting and promoting norms and standards
- Developing policy options
- Technical support and capacity development
- Monitoring health trends.

Global Work

- Development of normative guidance in collaboration with agencies, universities and individual researchers
- Keeping abreast of science and programme results
- Working with UN, bilateral and other agencies for effective response to the epidemic
- Guidance around monitoring and evaluation, with systematic reporting
- Coordination of implementation in countries through interagency collaboration

Global level normative guidance

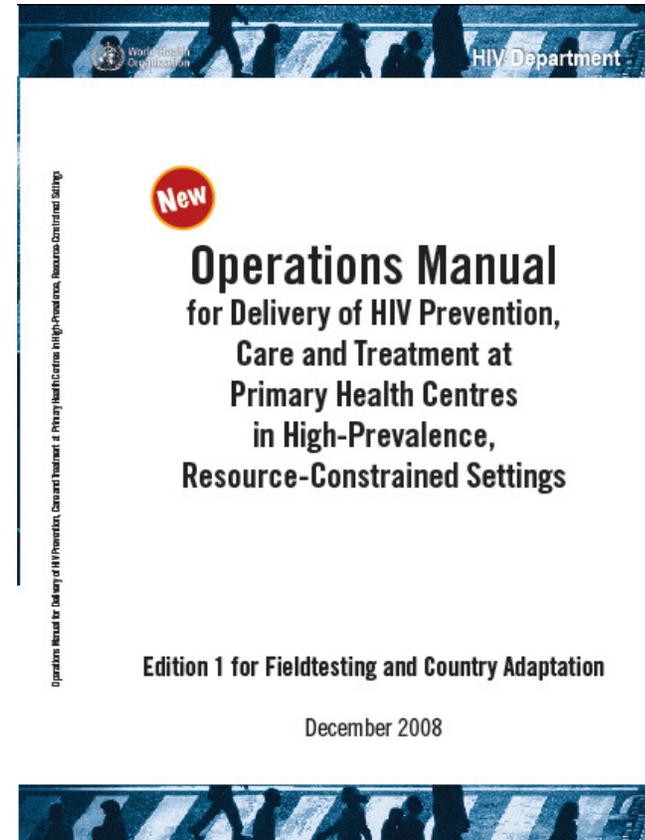


WHO PMTCT guidelines revision - 2009

- An expert consultation, November 2008
 - Purpose: Review and analyse new evidence since early 2006 regarding ARVs for PMTCT
 - Conclusion: Results of studies are promising, but more evidence is needed to fully assess which interventions are the most effective, feasible and safe
- A guideline review meeting is planned for 3rd quarter 2009

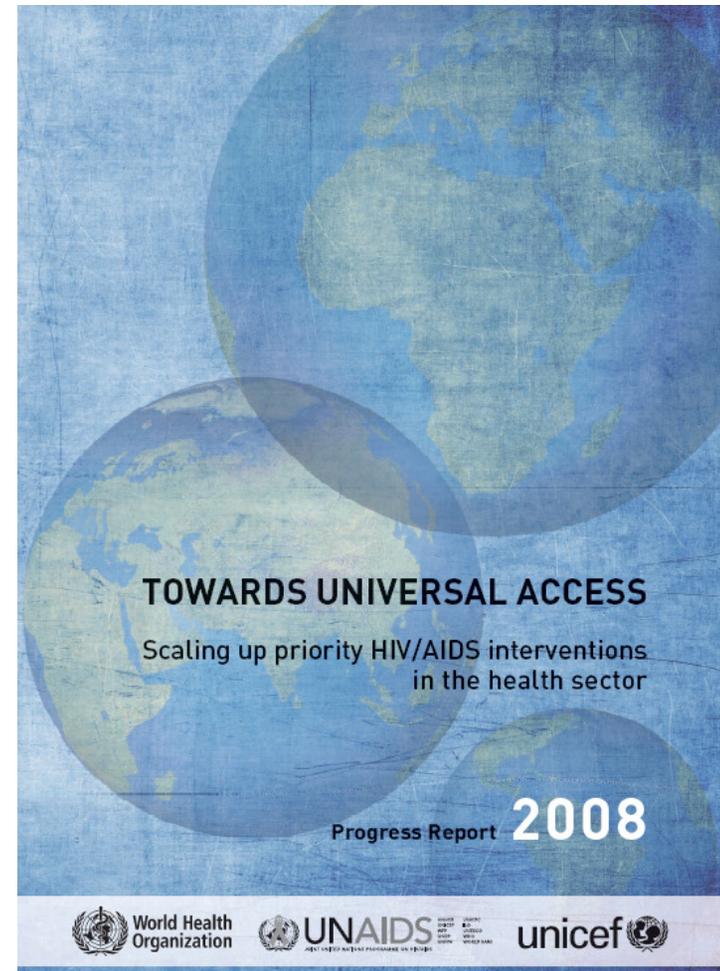
WHO operational tools

- IMAI/IMPAC
- IMCI
- Monitoring and reporting:
M&E framework including
indicators

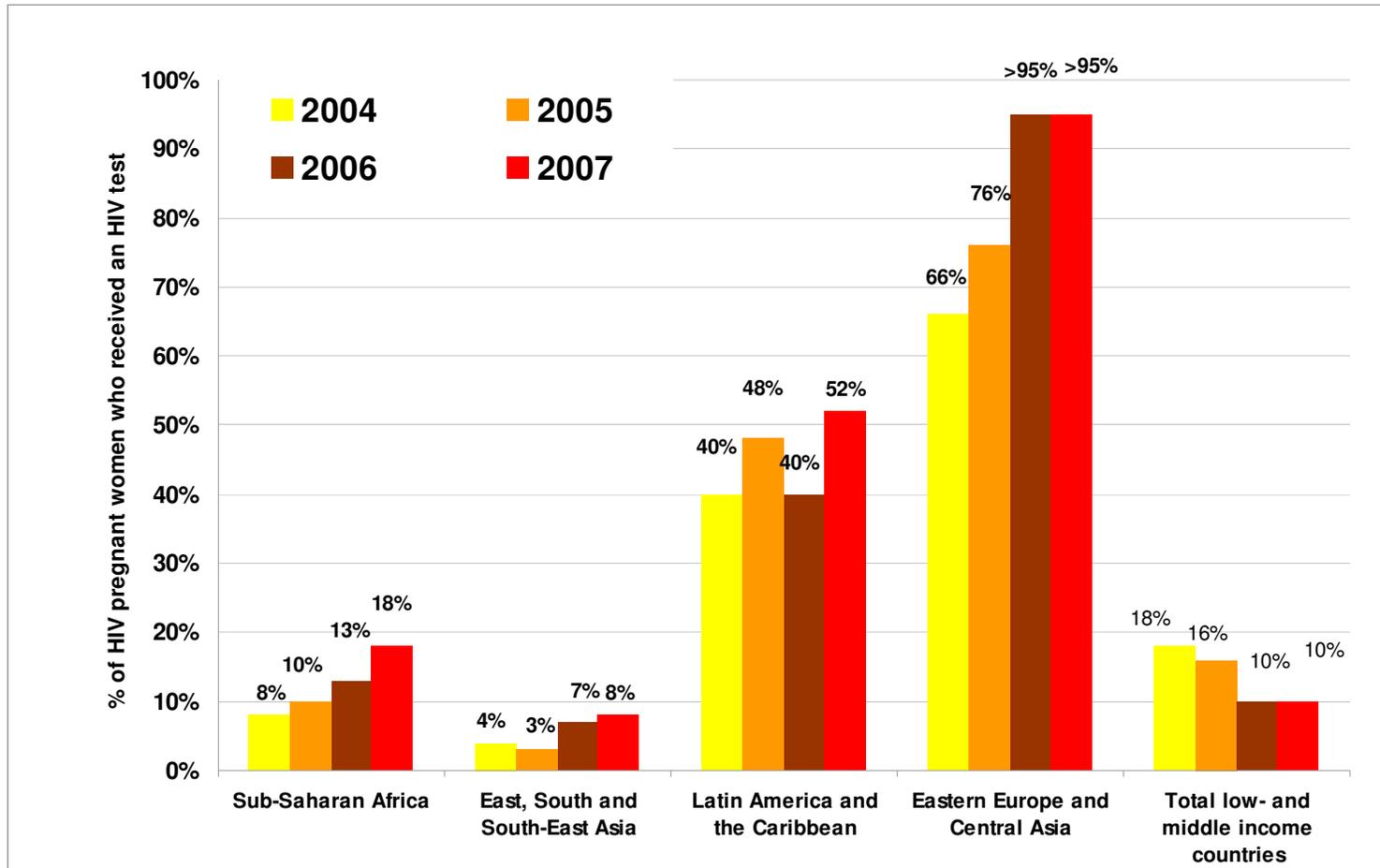


Progress towards universal access WHO/UNAIDS/UNICEF report 2008

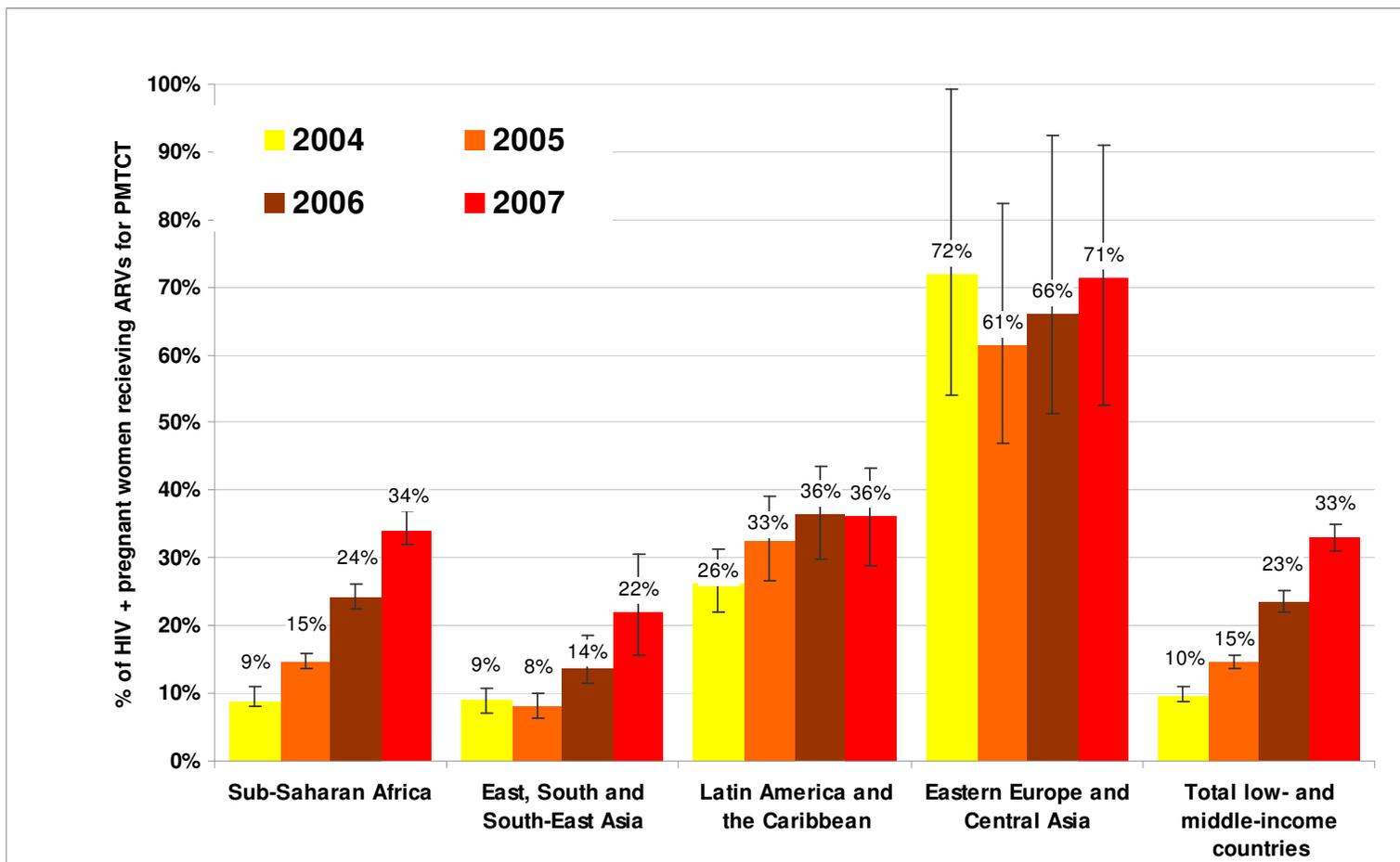
- Antiretroviral treatment
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission
- HIV testing and counselling
- Interventions for injecting drug users
- STI control
- HIV surveillance
- Target-setting



Percentage of pregnant women receiving an HIV test by region, 2004-2007 (low- and middle-income countries)



Percentage of pregnant women with HIV receiving ARVs for PMTCT, 2004-2007



Close collaboration with partners

- Strategic Information: Estimates of pregnant women and children, HIV and STI surveillance, epidemiologic estimates
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Pre-qualification of medicines including those for HIV and AIDS (several UN agencies)
- Strengthening health systems
- Political advocacy to increase visibility and funding of PMTCT
- Technical assistance for GFATM grant application and implementation

Regional level collaboration

- Six regional offices with focal technical staff responsible for inter- and intra-agency coordination and collaboration
- Development of interagency regional strategies to guide the response, e.g. regional PMTCT strategy for Europe, Africa etc.
- Coordination of capacity building activities, e.g. Knowledge Hubs, WHO Collaborating Centres in collaboration with bilateral and regional resources

Country level collaboration

- Several mechanisms in countries: UN task force, working group on PMTCT, etc
- Convenor role at country level in health sector
- Privileged relation with Ministry of Health
- Country WHO HIV officers (ex-3x5)
- Access to government through the WHO Country Representative

Specific funding for country implementation

- CIDA – 15 million CAD for 9 countries in Africa (CAR, DRC, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe)
- UNITAID (in collaboration with UNICEF) – 2 rounds totalling 59 million USD (21 + 38) mainly for commodities in 17 countries (in Africa, India, China, Haiti and Myanmar)

WHO Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

- Lack of financial resources
- Limited human capacity

Opportunities

- Structure of the Organization - three levels allow diverse response and extensive reach
- Core functions
- Programmatic research ("learning by doing") – working more closely with implementing agencies
- Country targeting – responding to all types of epidemic

Links

WHO pages:

<http://www.who.int/hiv/mtct/en/index.html>

Guidelines on PMTCT and antiretroviral therapy:

<http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/guidelines/pmtctguidelines3.pdf>

Guidelines on Infant feeding

<http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/en/index.html>