Dr Nathan Shaffer is the Prevention of Mother-to-Child HIV Transmission (PMTCT) Team Leader in the HIV/AIDS Department of WHO. In this role, Dr Shaffer provides technical and programme leadership on PMTCT and coordinates PMTCT-related activities across departments to promote an integrated approach with maternal, newborn, child and reproductive health.

Since joining WHO in 2009, he led the revision of the WHO PMTCT ARV guidelines and the development of WHO's PMTCT Strategic Vision 2010-2015. He works closely with UNAIDS, UNICEF, the Global Fund and bilateral partners to promote PMTCT programme scale-up of effective regimens and interventions in resource-limited settings, and to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of PMTCT programs.

Dr. Shaffer worked for 23 years at the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) where he became an internationally-known researcher and programme leader in PMTCT. In 1998, he led the successful short-course AZT Thai trial, which was the first clinical trial to show that a short, simple intervention could reduce risk of mother-to-child transmission in resource-limited settings. He then established and led the PEPFAR PMTCT program, which successfully introduced and continues to scale up PMTCT programs in multiple high burden countries world-wide.

A US citizen, Dr Shaffer received his medical degree from Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons (New York) and completed residency training in internal medicine at Boston City Hospital. He completed a 2-year training in applied epidemiology at CDC, and has worked on outbreak investigations, research projects and programme support in HIV/AIDS, malaria, and enteric diseases. He is the author or co-author of more than 80 publications and articles on mother-child HIV transmission, HIV/AIDS and other public health issues.