UPDATE ON DISSEMINATION AND USE OF NEW AND REVISED HIV AND INFANT FEEDING PUBLICATIONS
August 2004 - July 2005

INTRODUCTION

Several publications related to HIV and infant feeding have been produced by CAH with various partners from 2003 to the present. These tools are helping countries to support HIV-positive mothers, while at the same time protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding for the vast majority of mothers who are either HIV-negative or unaware of their HIV status. This report deals with documenting the use of these publications, with particular reference to HIV and Infant Feeding: Framework for Priority Action, HIV and Infant Feeding: Guidelines for Decision-makers and HIV and Infant Feeding: A Guide for Health-care Managers and Supervisors. It includes activities from August 2004 to July 2005. The focus during this time period was in familiarizing countries about the tools through meetings and visits, and helping the countries use the tools. For a report specific to the previous year, please see http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/New_Publications/NUTRITION/HIV_IF_publications.pdf.

USE OF PUBLICATIONS

General dissemination

WHO Consultation on Nutrition and HIV/AIDS in Africa, Durban, 2005
The main purpose of this conference was to solicit commitment to including nutrition support as part of the response to HIV/AIDS. Participants from about 20 countries in East and Southern Africa attended. In the session on HIV and infant feeding, the Guiding Principles for Feeding Non-breastfed children from 6-24 months was presented. Many copies of all the HIV and infant feeding documents were distributed during the conference. The distribution led to at least one country soliciting help in adapting the HIV and infant feeding counseling tools.

Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, Kobe, 1-5 July 2005
Approximately 500 leaflets describing the HIV and infant feeding publications were distributed at the WHO publications booth to conference participants.

Inter-country introduction with CAH-HQ participation

Regional Workshop to develop action plans for the implementation of appropriate infant feeding in the context of HIV/AIDS, Cotonou, Benin, 2005
The purpose of this meeting, carried out by AFRO in collaboration with UNICEF regional offices for East and Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa, was to familiarize participants on the HIV and infant feeding Framework and related tools, agree on priority actions for updating national plans of action on infant feeding in the context of HIV and make recommendations for the way forward. Representatives from 11 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and Togo) participated. The Framework was used to structure the meeting, with country teams preparing/revising national action plans addressing the areas suggested in the document. Other new tools presented included the Guiding principles for Feeding non-breastfed children from 6-24 months, and the HIV and infant feeding counseling tools.
Regional Planning Meeting on the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding, Maputo, Mozambique, 2005
The objectives of this meeting were to help Lusophone countries identify key elements to be considered for inclusion in national strategies on infant and young child feeding, develop a country framework for a detailed implementation plan to support the national strategy and define measureable indicators to monitor and evaluate the strategy. The meeting was attended by participants from five countries (Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe) and representatives from WHO, UNICEF, IBFAN-Africa, LINKAGES, and USAID. HIV and infant feeding tools were presented and distributed to all countries.

Central American Sub-regional Meeting on Implementing the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding, Guatemala, Guatemala, 2005
The main objective of the meeting was to develop or strengthen national plans of action on infant and young child feeding. A total of 35 participants including representatives from Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, WHO-HQ, PAHO, UNICEF Guatemala and La Leche League-Guatemala attended the meeting, as well as 52 observers and guests from the Guatemalan Ministries of Health and Labour, FAO, USAID, local NGOs and fortified food manufacturers. The HIV and infant feeding tools were introduced and distributed.

Southern Cone Sub-regional Meeting on Implementing the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2005
The main objective of the meeting was to develop or strengthen national plans of action on infant and young child feeding, including inter-programmatic activities such as nutrition, IMCI and HIV. Participants included representatives from Argentina (all provinces), Paraguay and Uruguay. The HIV and infant feeding tools were introduced and distributed.

Regional Offices

AFRO
- Followed up with countries that made utilization plans at inter-country meetings.

EURO
- Used documents to adapt training course on HIV and infant feeding counselling for the region, and will use the materials as background for the course. The work is almost finalized, so the course can be introduced.

AMRO
- Country offices have been provided with multiple copies and encouraged to share them with relevant stakeholder institutions.
- Tools were introduced at the national meetings on the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding in Guyana in November, 2004.
- Presentations on HIV and infant feeding using the Framework and Guidelines as a basis were made in the Honduran Pediatric Society meetings in August 2005

WPRO
- The WHO office in China shared copies of the Framework with the Ministry of Health.
Country activities

- A large number of countries in Africa (all the participants at the Cotonou meeting as well as Ghana and Nigeria) are using these publications as they develop their national policies and strategies on infant feeding.
- Burundi and Madagascar have presented draft revised national plans of action following the Cotonou meeting, and these are now being further developed.
- Mozambique and a number of other countries have used the tools as the basis to review their HIV and infant feeding policies.

Partner Activities

Other agencies have used the Framework and introduced the guidelines in similar activities:

- **UNICEF** has circulated the Framework electronically to all nutrition officers in East and Southern Africa and West and Central Africa Regions. Hard copies of the Guidelines and Guide have been distributed to all country offices in both regions. The West and Central Africa office has taken advantage of regional meetings of different kinds in Dakar, including the Regional USI consultation and the Pan African Forum on polio eradication, to distribute the materials. Copies were also shared with Helen Keller International's regional office for their Country Directors' meeting.

- **UNHCR** distributed the publications during joint assessment regional training of UNHCR-WFP in Cairo and Tanzania for about 80 participants, including partners. The documents will also be included in UNHCR's revised tool kit for health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS focal points in all UNHCR operations.

- **UNFPA** included the publications in its Docushare system, which is an internal online UNFPA information system used by field offices as well as headquarters.

Through other publications/websites

**Leaflet**

CAH produced a leaflet which has been widely distributed describing all the new and revised HIV and infant feeding and related materials.

**Websites**

Several organizations have reviewed the HIV and infant feeding Framework, and put it on their websites. These include:

Women, children and HIV: Resources for prevention and treatment

Bernard Van Leer Foundation exchange
http://www.ids.ac.uk/sourcesearch/bvl/bvlfull.cfm?ID=35029&bvl=BVL_PreventionMCT

Helen Keller International
http://www.hki.org/research/nna_storage/nna_abst_en_aug1504.htm

**Translations**

- PAHO translated the Framework and Guidelines into Spanish, and they are available on its web site.
- The Framework, Guidelines, Guide and Review have all been translated into French. The Framework is on the WHO website, and the other documents will be added shortly.
- The Framework has been translated into Portuguese, and will also be available on the CAH website later this year.
CONCLUSION
This report gives an overview of the utilization of the Framework and related tools. In Africa, where they have been most widely disseminated, their use by countries to develop or refine infant and young child feeding and HIV strategies and policies is becoming common. This is partly to do with close partner collaboration in following-up some of the regional and inter-country activities. WHO at HQ and regional levels needs to foster and support this collaboration in other regions.

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