

# Understanding International Policy on HIV and Breastfeeding: a comprehensive resource



This HIV Kit provides an overview of infant feeding in the context of HIV. The content is based on evidence available at the time of writing (late 2012). HIV is an area of active research and new information becomes available all the time. Sources are listed from which you can access the latest information. There are six sections, with information, issues to think about and to discuss, actions to take, and contacts for further resources.

- **SECTION 1** **Introduction:** This Section provides an overview of the importance of breastfeeding and reviews current HIV and infant feeding guidelines for prevention of vertical transmission of HIV. It explores the need for support in disseminating and implementing an effective programme to maximise the health and survival of HIV-positive women and their children.
- **SECTION 2** **The global HIV pandemic and how it affects women and children:** This Section explores the AIDS pandemic's unique impact on women and babies, their vulnerability to HIV, how they become infected, how HIV-infection is determined, and how HIV affects women in the societies and communities in which they live.
- **SECTION 3** **Interventions to maximise mother and child health and survival:** This Section reviews risk factors for postnatal transmission of HIV (through breastfeeding) and outlines the up-to-date research underpinning current interventions to improve the health of HIV-positive mothers and maximise HIV-free child survival.
- **SECTION 4** **Counselling HIV-positive mothers about how to feed their babies using current HIV and infant feeding recommendations:** This Section outlines current recommendations for breastfeeding with ARV interventions; the role of counselling to assist and support exclusive and continued breastfeeding and current criteria for deciding if replacement feeding is appropriate.
- **SECTION 5** **Chronology and evolution of HIV & IF policy:** This section summarises the stages of development of HIV and infant feeding policies from 1985 to 2012.
- **SECTION 6** **Glossary, definitions and further resources:** This Section contains definitions of terms and acronyms used in the kit, as well as a list of further resources on HIV and breastfeeding, eg policy documents, reports, review articles and training materials.



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).

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