

Ensuring a Generation Free of Diseases

Strengthening of the Primary Prevention and Treatment services for EMTCT Plus in Maternal and Child Program

Elimination Initiative 3+



*India-UN Development
Partnership Fund
supporting the
Caribbean Region in the
Strengthening of the
EMTCT Plus Strategy*

In 2025, the EMTCT Plus project was launched and rolled out in the Caribbean. Since then, the project has made significant progress, fostering deeper collaboration and coordination among health care providers for Maternal and Child Health Services among others, while expanding awareness and capacity across CARICOM Member States and Territories.



Participants from maternal and Child Health Services across the Caribbean at inception meeting

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the MCH services to provide effective primary prevention and treatment services to pregnant women and their exposed infants to ensure a generation free from HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B in the Caribbean.

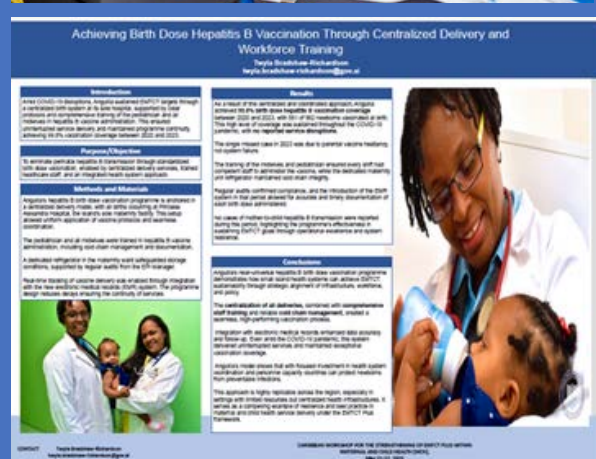
Caribbean countries collaborating for EMTCT Plus

South South Cooperation

Knowledge Café: Sharing lessons learned and good practices to attain and maintain the EMTCT of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B

During the regional meeting for health care professionals of maternal and child health held in May 2025, the knowledge café provided a platform for a rich exchange of technical guidance to facilitate alignment. Countries shared best practices and experiences from a health system perspective and addressed common gaps and challenges in region including:

- Community outreach/follow-up for EMTCT Plus- Jamaica
- National Laboratory EQA program- Jamaica
- MCH leadership/integration and monitoring of EMTCT Plus -Belize
- Monitoring framework for EMTCT Plus-Guyana
- Scaleup hepatitis B birth dose vaccination- Anguilla
- Laboratory legislation/ policy- St. Vincent & Grenadines.



Belize and The Bahamas

Belize successfully shared their experiences and lessons learned with Bahamas from the integration and implementation of the EMTCT Plus strategy (primary prevention and treatment services) within MCH, mechanisms to strengthen the monitoring and follow-up of the exposed infants for HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B and norms, standards and protocols for review and adaptation.

In exchange, Belize provided guidance based on the county's EMTCT validation exercise. The experience supported The Bahamas in further strengthening the EMTCT Plus strategy and surveillance system within Maternal and Child Health.

The Bahamas is on the path to eliminating the mother to child transmission of these diseases.



Belize and Bahamas Representatives

Capacity Building

Countries have updated national guidelines for EMTCT Plus based on the generic document developed by PAHO.

Bahamas, and Turks have completed in-country training for health care providers within MCH, and with the support of PAHO, there have been regional training on the EMTCT guidelines based on WHO recommendations.

Virtual capacity building sessions to date focused on the EMTCT of HIV, and the use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis to reduce HIV transmission during pregnancy.



Updated EMTCT Plus Guidelines for The Bahamas

Training on the guidelines for EMTCT of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B in Jamaica



Strengthening Surveillance for Attainment/Maintenance of EMTCT Plus Certification

The strengthening of surveillance within maternal and child health is important to ensure the effective timely monitoring of cases.

The Bahamas has implemented the perinatal system which was rolled-out and is used in all the primary care facilities. Belize, Barbados, Guyana, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, have all strengthened the national system to the availability of reliable data for the EMTCT of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B. With the support of the regional project, countries acquired computers to support data collection from Maternal and Child Health and other sources.



Handover of computers in Trinidad and Tobago



Suriname



Turks and Caicos



The Bahamas

LAUNCH OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (CCoP) IN COLLABORATION WITH CARICOM



The CCoP brings together policymakers, service providers, HIV programme managers, EMTCT coordinators, and laboratory personnel to support EMTCT Plus programmes.

Endorsed at the Montego Bay workshop, the network will establish a virtual platform for sharing best practices and innovative approaches to accelerate progress toward EMTCT in the Caribbean.

Voices from the Member States



"Training in addition to other national activity such as the strengthening the flow of blood samples from the subnational to the national, coupled with the acquisition of computers have greatly enhanced and improved the EMTCT services in Belize."

Dr. Natalia Beer, Maternal and Child Health Coordinator, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Belize

"This collaborative effort ensures that every child has the right to be born and remain free from HIV, syphilis, and other perinatally transmitted infections, moving us closer to a future where mothers and children across the Caribbean can thrive in health and dignity."

Dr. Wendy Telgt Emanuelson, Director, PANCAP

"The funding has greatly enhanced the work we do regarding the EMTCT of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B, fostering better outcomes for our mothers and infants in the populations that we serve here in the Bahamas."

Arleta Rolle, Maternal and Child Health Coordinator, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health and Wellness, The Bahamas