

# **The Framework to Eliminate Mother to Child Transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B in Asia and the Pacific**

**Dr. Tammy MEYERS**

**Head of International Exchange, Centre for Global Health**

**Adjunct Assistant Professor, Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care,  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong**

**Honorary Associate Professor, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa**

The sustainable development goal (SDG) agenda, in particular SDG3, targets elimination and/or control of major infectious diseases including HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections for which global health sector strategies have been set. Included in these are plans to eliminate mother to child transmission (eMTCT) of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B, which are all congenitally acquired from infected pregnant women. The targets set for the elimination these diseases include; zero new HIV infections among infants ( $\leq 50$  new paediatric infections per 100 000 live births and a transmission rate of either  $< 5\%$  in breastfeeding populations or  $< 2\%$  in non-breastfeeding populations) by 2020, for syphilis:  $\leq 50$  cases congenital syphilis per 100,000 live births in 80% of countries by 2030 and for Hepatitis B: 1% HBsAg prevalence among children by 2020 and 0.1% by 2030. Progress in countries and territories in the Asia Pacific Region towards eMTCT of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B in infants will be discussed and compared with the global situation. The Asia-Pacific region has already witnessed some success in the quest to eliminate mother to child transmission (MTCT) of HIV and syphilis, with Thailand becoming the first country in the region to be validated for eliminating these diseases in 2015. Traditionally, control programmes for these diseases have operated vertically. However, efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis are essential components of quality maternal, newborn and child health care. China has implemented a triple eMTCT programme, which is coordinated through Maternal Child Health, and the talk will cover the processes required and the challenges faced by countries towards implementing an integrated eMTCT programme within the Asia Pacific Region.