



The Road to Melbourne: Meeting #3

IATT Community Engagement Work Group & Integration of Early Childhood Development for Children Born into HIV-Affected Families

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Overview

- I. Background on IATT CEWG
- II. IATT CEWG Members' Contributions to Early Childhood Development (ECD) Integration
- III. Community-based Examples of ECD Integration
- IV. IATT CEWG Messages for Melbourne
- V. Suggestions for CCABA Messages
- VI. Other ideas for CCABA to consider



Background on IATT CEWG

- IATT Community Engagement Work Group formed in 2011
- Communities can play a vital role in reducing vertical transmission and keeping women and mothers alive by:
 - Improving the supply and quality of services
 - Increasing the uptake of services, including ARV adherence and facility delivery and follow-up
 - Creating an enabling environment (e.g. by promoting community engagement in policies and strategies)
- Technical Assistance
- Ad Hoc Assistance



IATT CEWG Members' Contributions to Early Integration

- A Treatment Literacy Guide for Pregnant Women living with HIV, Mothers, and Infant Caregivers
- Plans for 2014
 - Qualitative Study on the Perspectives of mothers living with HIV and caretakers of children living with HIV regarding Early Infant Diagnosis



Community-based Examples of Early Childhood Development Integration

Patel D et al. *Journal of the International AIDS Society* 2012, **15**(Suppl 2):17404
<http://www.jiasociety.org/index.php/jias/article/view/17404> | <http://dx.doi.org/10.7448/IAS.15.4.17404>



Research article

Facilitating HIV testing, care and treatment for orphans and vulnerable children aged five years and younger through community-based early childhood development playcentres in rural Zimbabwe

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Abstract

Introduction: Early diagnosis of children living with HIV is a prerequisite for accessing timely paediatric HIV care and treatment



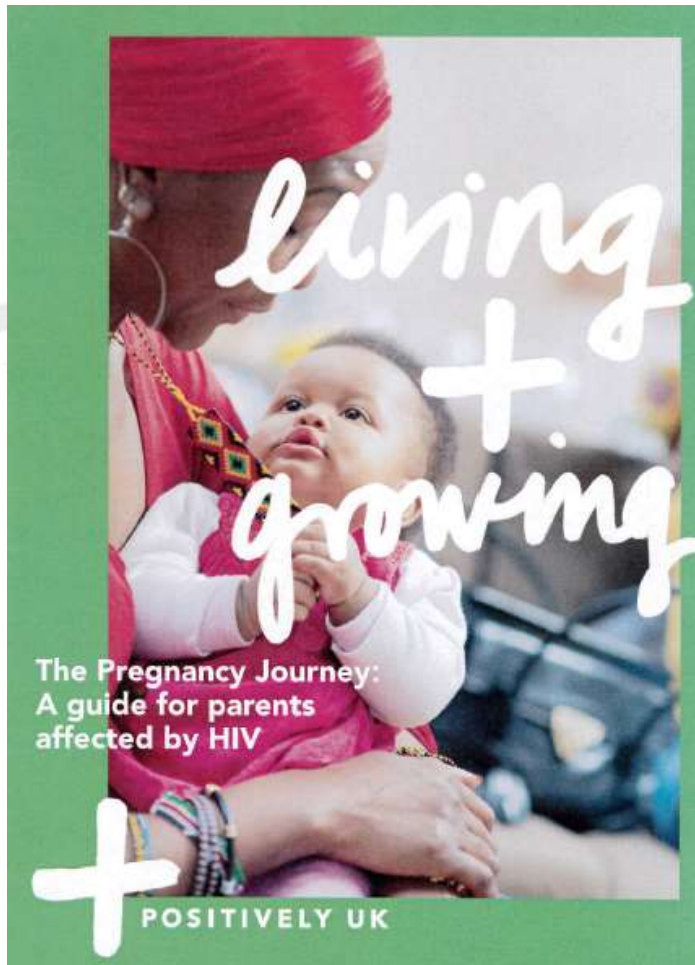
Community-based Examples of Early Childhood Development Integration

YABONGA Living positively
with HIV





Community-based Examples of Early Childhood Development Integration



- The Power of Peer support
- Recognising the importance of follow-up of mothers and infants.
- Providing a continuum of care from pregnancy to delivery and beyond.



IATT CEWG Messages for Melbourne

- Move beyond approaches grounded solely in the clinical Continuum of Care Model to a more comprehensive approach
- What this means practically:
 - Providing family-centred care instead of separating adults and children in separate groups.
 - Ensuring that parents are linked to care and remain so, and maintain their quality of life so that they are better able to care for their children over a longer period of time.
 - Providing child sensitive counselling to children as well as their parents/caregivers



Suggestions for Road to Melbourne message

- Make explicit reference to the fact that **child survival is intricately linked to maternal health**
- Recognise that in many societies, **involvement/support of men is important** to ensure that children and mothers are **able to access services**
- Engaging the community is more than engaging parents - **community engagement to support early childhood development integration requires involvement of community health workers/caregivers and advocacy by community leaders**



Other advocacy ideas to consider

- It would be helpful for joint advocacy efforts for The Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS to highlight the most important barriers to early childhood development integration and make recommendations on ways to address these (at national or global level)
- Also examples of clinical and development interventions that should be integrated would be helpful
- It would be good to discuss ways to bring greater focus (through research, advocacy & programmes) on children of key populations or those with disabilities as they are often most disadvantaged and face double stigma



“As for children, no one is more committed to keeping children alive and well than their mothers.”

Amina Chitembo, et al. (December 2012)



Thank you!

On behalf of the
IATT Community Engagement Work Group
Thank You!