

# MACEDONIA

## Report Card: 2017

### The State of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)

Policies and Programmes (Indicator 1-10)	Practices (Indicator 11-15)
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Score Out of 10</b></p> <p><b>1. National Policy, Programme and Coordination</b> <i>Concerns national policy, plan of action, funding and coordination issues.</i></p> <p><b>2. Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative</b> <i>Concerns percentage BFHI hospitals, training, standard monitoring, assessment and reassessment systems.</i></p> <p><b>3. Implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast milk Substitutes</b> <i>Concerns implementation of the Code as law, monitored and enforced.</i></p> <p><b>4. Maternity Protection</b> <i>Concerns paid maternity leave, paid breastfeeding breaks, national legislation encouraging work site accommodation for breastfeeding and/or childcare and ratification of ILO MPC No 183.</i></p> <p><b>5. Health and Nutrition Care Systems</b> <i>Concerns health provider schools and pre-service education programmes, standards and guidelines for mother-friendly childbirth procedures, in-service training programmes.</i></p> <p><b>6. Mother Support and Community Outreach- Community-based support for the pregnant and breastfeeding mother</b> <i>Concerns skilled counselling services on infant and young child feeding, and its access to all women. (During pregnancy and after birth)</i></p> <p><b>7. Information Support</b> <i>Concerns national IEC strategy for improving infant and young child feeding, actively implemented at local levels.</i></p> <p><b>8. Infant and Young Child Feeding and HIV</b> <i>Concerns policy and programmes to address infant feeding and HIV issue and on-going monitoring of the effects of interventions on infant feeding practices and health outcomes for mothers and infants.</i></p> <p><b>9. Infant and Young Child Feeding during Emergencies</b> <i>Concerns policy and programme on infant and young child feeding in emergencies and material on IYCF in emergencies integrated into pre-service and in-service training for emergency management.</i></p> <p><b>10. Mechanism of Monitoring and Evaluation System</b> <i>Concerns monitoring, management and information system (MIS) as part of the planning and management process.</i></p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Indicator 11: Early Initiation of Breastfeeding (Score: 3/10)</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Indicator 12: Exclusive Breastfeeding for the first 6 months (Score: 6/10)</b></p> </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>Indicator 13: Median Duration of breastfeeding (score :3 /10)</b></p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Indicator 14: Bottle-feeding (Score: 3/10)</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Indicator 15: Complementary Feeding (Score: 3/10)</b></p> </div> </div>
<p><b>Total Score (Indicator 1-15): 68.5/150</b></p>	
<p><b>Key to scoring, colour- rating, grading and ranking:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The level of achievement of infant feeding practices is taken in 'percentage' except median duration, which is an absolute number of months.</li> <li>For indicators 1 to 10, there is a sub set of questions leading to key achievement, indicating how a country is doing in a particular area. Each indicator has a maximum of 10.</li> <li>In the case of indicators 11 to 15 on practices, key to rating is used from the WHO's "Infant and Young Child Feeding: A tool for assessing national practices, policies and programmes". Scoring and colour-rating are provided according to IBFAN Asia Guidelines for WBTi. Each indicator is scored out of maximum of 10.</li> <li>IBFAN Asia Guidelines for WBTi for rating individual indicators 1 to 15 are as: 0 - 3 is rated Red, 4 - 6 is rated Yellow, 7 - 9 is rated Blue and more than 9 is rated Green.</li> <li>Total score of all indicators 1 to 15 is calculated out of 150.</li> </ol>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key Gaps</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive written infant and young child feeding policy is not in place.</li> <li>Strategies for enhancing BFHI program implementation and continuation and expansion of program evaluation activities are missing.</li> <li>Macedonia has no Code dedicated legislation, and Code related provisions incorporated in other legal measures are not enough visible for appropriate surveillance and monitoring practices.</li> <li>Monitoring of infant and young child feeding practice is not part of regular health statistic system and only reliable data has been obtain from UNICEF survey.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key Recommendations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policies on infant and young child feeding should be integrated into one comprehensive policy according to WHO Infant and young child feeding policy and practice in order to improve the implementation.</li> <li>Reassessment of all designated BF hospitals and identification all weakness and strengths in providing supportive breastfeeding environments</li> <li>Improve the legislative framework within the "Food safety law" and make some provisions more visible for appropriate surveillance and monitoring practices of Code and subsequent WHO resolution violation.</li> <li>The standardised system of monitoring IYCF practices based on WHO infant feeding definitions should be established.</li> </ol>

# World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi)

## Country Assessment

Following the WBTi training workshop, held 19-21<sup>ST</sup> October, 2016 in Lisbon, a core working group was appointed among health professionals working on breastfeeding promotion and infant and young child feeding.

Each member had a role to collect relevant data and information for specific indicator through desk research and communicated with relevant professionals and institutions. Data collection process was conducted in the period January – April, 2017 following by several consultation meetings with CGM in order to discuss the relevance of the findings and additional support needed for clarification. Draft Report is communicated with BPNI and finalized based on the suggestions and recommendation for improvements.

## Partners and data sources:

1. Ministry of Health : National Breastfeeding Committee
2. UNICEF Office –Skopje
3. Institute of Public Health
4. Health Center Skopje- Institute for mother and child health
5. State Statistical Office
6. University St Cyril -Medical faculty
7. Neonatology Association of Macedonia

## Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC)

Based on the second periodic report of Macedonia, (CRC/C/MKD/2) at its 1508th, 1510th and 1512th meetings (see CRC/C/SR.1508, CRC/C/SR.1510 and CRC/C/SR.1512) held on 27 May 2010, and adopted at the 1541st meeting, held on 11 June 2010, the following concluding observations were pointed out related to breastfeeding issues :

- The Committee welcomes the insertion of provisions of the International Code banning breast milk substitutes in the Law on food safety and the Law on consumer protection and that paid maternity leave and breast-feeding breaks are guaranteed by law. The Committee, nevertheless, regrets the declining rate of exclusive breastfeeding that the pediatric association, which controls breastfeeding guidelines, accepts sponsorship from the baby food industry; and that baby food products are marked “for 4 months” and are widely promoted in private maternity clinics and available in pharmacies and supermarkets.

**The Committee recommends** that the State party enforce existing legislation, enhance efforts to promote exclusive breastfeeding practices and comply with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

## Global Commitments on Infant and Young Child Feeding

- **Global Strategy for infant and Young Child Feeding 2002:** World Health Assembly (WHA) and UNICEF adopted the Global Strategy, which sets five additional targets: national policy on infant and young child feeding, community outreach, information support, infant feeding in difficult circumstances and monitoring and evaluation. [http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/New\\_Publications/NUTRITION/as\\_ivcf.pdf](http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/New_Publications/NUTRITION/as_ivcf.pdf)
- **Innocenti Declaration on the Protection, Promotion and Support of Breastfeeding 1990:** <http://www.unicef.org/programme/breastfeeding/innocenti.htm>
- **World Health Assembly Resolutions:** call upon Member States to implement policies and programmes to improve infant nutrition. The recent resolution adopted on May 27, 2006 calls on Member States to implement Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding and multilateral and bilateral donor arrangements and international financial institutions to direct financial resources for Member States to carry out these efforts. Resolutions 49.15, 58.32, 61.20 call upon member states to avoid conflicts of interests in programmes of child health.   
[http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA58/WHA58\\_32-en.pdf](http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA58/WHA58_32-en.pdf)  
[http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/A61/A61\\_R20-en.pdf](http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/A61/A61_R20-en.pdf)
- **WHO HIV and Infant Feeding Technical Consultation Consensus Statement, Geneva, October 25-27, 2006:** <http://www.who.int/hiv/mediacentre/infantfeedingconsensusstatement.pdf>
- **Millennium Development Goals:** [www.un.org/millenniumgoals/](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/)
- **Innocenti Declaration 2005 on Infant and Young Child Feeding:** [www.unicef.org/nutrition/index\\_breastfeeding.html](http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_breastfeeding.html)
- **Maternity Protection Convention:** <http://www.ilo.org/>

For detailed report please contact:



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[www.onemillioncampaign.org](http://www.onemillioncampaign.org)

The World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) is IBFAN Asia's flagship programme. WBTi is being implemented as an integral part of two projects "Global Breastfeeding Initiative for Child Survival" (GB/CS), in partnership with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and Global Proposal for Coordinated Action of IBFAN and WABA: Protecting, Promoting and Supporting Breastfeeding through Human Rights and Gender Equality" in partnership with Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).