

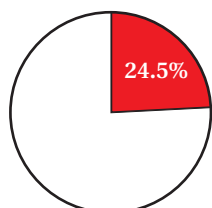
INDIA

Report Card 2008

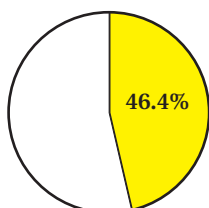


The State of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)

Practices (Indicator 1-5)



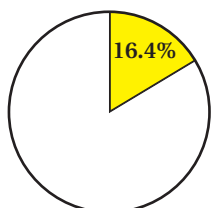
Indicator 1:
Early Initiation of Breastfeeding (Score: 3/10)



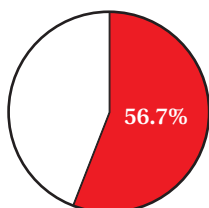
Indicator 2:
Exclusive Breastfeeding for the first 6 months (Score: 6/10)

24.4 months

Indicator 3: Median Duration of breastfeeding (Score: 10/10)



Indicator 4:
Bottle-feeding (Score: 6/10)



Indicator 5:
Complementary Feeding (Score: 3/10)

Total Score (Indicator 1-15): 69/150

Policies and Programmes (Indicator 6-15)

6. National Policy, Programme and Coordination

Concerns national policy, plan of action, funding and coordination issues.

Score Out of 10

2

7. Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative

Concerns percentage BFHI hospitals, training, standard monitoring, assessment and reassessment systems.

4

8. Implementation of the International Code

Concerns implementation of the Code as law, monitored and enforced.

8

9. Maternity Protection

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.

5

10. Health and Nutrition Care Systems

Concerns health provider schools and pre-service education programmes, standards and guidelines for mother-friendly childbirth procedures, in-service training programmes.

4

11. Mother Support and Community Outreach-Community-based support for the pregnant and breastfeeding mother

Concerns skilled counseling services on infant and young child feeding, and its access to all women. (During pregnancy and after birth)

4

12. Information Support

Concerns national IEC strategy for improving infant and young child feeding, actively implemented at local levels.

5

13. Infant Feeding and HIV

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.

2

14. Infant Feeding during Emergencies

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.

0

15. Mechanisms of Monitoring and Evaluation System

Concerns monitoring, management and information system (MIS) as part of the planning and management process.

7

Key to scoring, colour-rating, grading and ranking:

- The level of achievement of infant feeding practices is taken in 'percentage' except median duration, which is an absolute number of months.
- In the case of indicators 1 to 5 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 and grading are provided according to IBFAN Asia Guidelines for WBTi. Each indicator is scored out of maximum of 10.
- For indicators 6 to 15, there is a sub set of questions leading to key achievement, indicating how a country is doing in a particular area. Each question has possible score of 0-3 and the indicator has a maximum of 10.
- IBFAN Asia Guidelines for WBTi for rating and grading individual indicators 1 to 15 are as: 0-3 is rated Red or graded D, 4-6 is rated Yellow or graded C, 7-9 is rated Blue or graded B and more than 9 is rated Green or graded A.
- Total score of all indicators 1 to 15 is calculated out of 150.

Key GAPS

- Lack of policy status for 'National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding'.
- No sustained action to revive baby friendly hospital initiatives.
- Inadequate mechanism to enforce "The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992", as Amended in 2003 (IMS Act).
- No policy framework for protecting and supporting breastfeeding in private sector and informal sector for working women.
- No practical training of doctors and nurses regarding infant and young child feeding in pre-service education.
- Crèches, as an essential service to support working mothers to breastfeed are completely inadequate in terms of number and quality with respect to the existing need.
- Lack of stated strategy on communication for infant and young child feeding.
- Inadequate counselling to HIV positive women regarding infant feeding options.
- There is no policy on infant and young child feeding in action plans for disasters.
- Too large a time gap between two consecutive national family health surveys to monitor infant and young child feeding indicators.

Key Recommendations

- Exiting 'draft national plan of action on IYCF' should be adopted as a national policy.
- IEC strategy, a strategy for IYCF in the context of HIV / AIDS as well as disaster management should be included in the national policy.
- Conversely, all relevant policies and guidelines (such as policies and guidelines on disaster management) must conform to the above-mentioned policy.
- A national IYCF/Breastfeeding coordinating body with some authority should be constituted.
- BFHI programme should be revived immediately linking it to community outreach and to make 'breastfeeding' as a standard of care in health systems.
- IMS Act should be enforced effectively, explicit monitoring mechanisms at state and district level should be in place.
- Protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding for the working mothers, specially for women in the informal sector, should be a part of policy framework.
- Pre-service IYCF training of doctors and nurses must be conducted during or before their internship.
- Crèches should be implemented and monitored at worksites in accordance with existing laws and the policy recommended above.
- Annual report on IYCF indicators should be made available at all levels-district to national level.

India Assessment 2008

During the year 2008, as a part of IBFAN Asia's World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi), more than 50 countries of the world conducted national assessments of the state of implementation of the *Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding* - policies and programmes related to infant and young child feeding/breastfeeding. The Public Health Resource Network (PHRN) and the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) jointly coordinated the India assessment.

The process included constituting a core group; study and analysis of the policy and programme documents and information gathered using the Right to Information Act. The core group found gaps in all ten areas of action in the policy and programmes. Findings were shared with a larger group in which 23 participants from 14 organizations took part. Each indicator was discussed in detail and consensus was achieved in the final meeting on 4th October 2008. This group also developed a set of recommendations on how to bridge these gaps. This report card informs in brief the

state of breastfeeding/ infant and young child feeding in India. Similar assessment was carried out in 2005, not much has changed.

Partner Organisations

1. Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI)
2. Federation of Obstetric & Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI)
3. Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP)
4. Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine (IAPSM)
5. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
6. International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), Asia
7. Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA)
8. Mobile Crechés
9. National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)
10. National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC)
11. Office of Commissioners to the Supreme Court (on Right to Food, CWP 196/2001).
12. Public Health Resource Network (PHRN)
13. Trained Nurses' Association of India (TNAI)
14. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

CRC Commitment

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC): The Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by United Nations in 1990 is a legal obligation of the Member States to protect mothers and families to support breastfeeding practices. Article 24 (paragraph 2a) of the CRC states that State Parties shall "take appropriate measures to diminish infant and child mortality." This article also says that State parties shall take appropriate measures...."To ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition (and) the advantages of breastfeeding...."

India has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Its infant and young child policies and practices are reviewed regularly by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Committee's recommendations made at the last review should be included as another indicator of progress.

Recommendations of the CRC Committee 2004

India was reviewed for the 2nd time by the CRC Committee in January 2004 (session 35).

In its Concluding Observations, the Committee on the Rights of the Child made a direct recommendation concerning infant and young child feeding. Paragraph 53 recommends the State party to "ensure access for all children to primary, free and quality health services...; combat malnutrition; promote health nutrition habits, including breastfeeding; improve immunisation uptake and increase access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation...."

Concerning HIV/AIDS, para 55 recommends the government to "strengthen measures to prevent mother-to-child transmission inter alia by combining it with activities to reduce maternal mortality...."

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/gs_iycf.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/A61/A61_R20-en.pdf
- **WHO HIV and Infant Feeding Technical Consultation Consensus Statement, Geneva, October 25-27, 2006:** <http://www.who.int/niv/mediacentre/Infantfeedingconsensusstatement.pdf>
- **Millennium Development Goals:** www.un.org/millenniumgoals/
- **Innocenti Declaration 2005 on Infant and Young Child Feeding:** www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_breastfeeding.html
- **Maternity Protection Convention:** <http://www.ilo.org/>

For detailed report please contact:

National Coordinating Organisations



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WBTi Coordinating Office



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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" (GBICS) in partnership with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and Global Proposal for Coordinated Action of IBFAN & WABA: Protecting, Promoting and Supporting Breastfeeding through Human Rights and Gender Equality" in partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).