



## **Report on CALL TO ACTION, ADVOCACY EVENT in Vietnam (Based on WBTi assessments)**

**1. Name of the event:**

*“Workshop on Optimal Breast-feeding and Infant Young Child Feeding – From policy to practices in Vietnam*

**2. Time:** December, 2015

**3. Place of event:** in Hanoi,

Place of meeting/discussion: LIGHT office – 126 Nguyen Khanh Toan, Cau Giay, Hanoi

Place of workshop: Youth Hotel – 15 Ho Xuan Huong – Hanoi.

**4. Organize Institution:**

Institute for Community Health and Development – LIGHT

Cooperate with Center for Public Health Community Development – CEPHAD

**5. Support Organization:**

International Baby Food Network Asia

**6. Objectives of event:**

The WBTi assessment 2015 in Vietnam show that there is a gap between good policies on maternal and Child Health Care & Breastfeeding (BF) and Infant, Young Child Feeding (IYCF) .

Based on the WBTi assessment, objectives of the event was identified as follows:

- To provide a real situation on BF, IYCF in Vietnam for policy makers, leaders of Ministries, National organization, Obstetric and Gynecology Hospital, Nutrition Institute, Mass organization, local authorities, Communities...
- To discuss and to get the agreements on BF and IYCF is a human right issue
- To obtain commitment from various agencies on increasing activities for support, promote optimal BF and IYCF

**7. Activities:**

- Meeting of two agencies: - LIGHT and CEPHAD to discuss and identify the objectives, create activities and plan for the event.

- Preparation meeting for workshop: Agenda, information for mass media, responsible of each organizer, meeting with mother group to collect their ideals....
- Sending the objectives and suggestion to the leader parliament.
- Conduct the workshop on December 15, 2015
- Collect all commitments from participants and share on email to government agencies: Ministry of health, Labour Union, Women Union...

**8. Participants:** 75 participants from agencies:

- Committee for Social Affairs of the National Assembly
- Vietnam General Federation of Labor, Federation of Labor in Hanoi
- Ministry of Health
- Vietnam Women's Union
- Institute of Nutrition
- Center for Health Education and Communication
- Centre Hospital for Maternity
- Hanoi Hospital for Maternity
- Gynecology Association in Vietnam
- INGOs, NGOs
- Research institutes
- Mass media
- Pregnant women, women having children under 6 months old, women living with HIV...
- .....

(Participants list attached)

**9. Comments and commitments from governments:**

- *Ms. Nguyễn Thúy Anh –Deputy Chairman of Committee for Social Affairs of the National Assembly:*
  - Breastfeeding for infants have been discussed by National Assembly and mainstreamed in various policies: Law on Gender equality, Labour Code, Law on Marriage and Family, Law on Social Insurance, even Criminal Code.
  - The reflection of breastfeeding in various legal instrument is harmony with human rights based approach and protected by laws
  - However, the laws and policies are not implemented properly in practice. The National Assembly commits to support, monitor and improve the legal implementation at different levels in different implementing bodies.

- ***Ms. Công Thị Thanh Hằng – Secretary for Vice President of General Labor Confederation VN:***
  - Vietnam General Federation of Labor is representative institution to protect labor rights, especially for female laborers.
  - During recent years, federation of labor collaborates with various agencies to promote breast feeding practices, e.g advocacy for 6 month maternity leave, 30 minute on leave for mothers having children under 12 months for their breast feeding purpose. Federation of labor involves in monitoring relevant laws and policies implementation.
  - Federation of Labor recently influenced several enterprises to pilot “breast feeding cabin” in industrial zones. Up to 11/2015 nearly 70 cabins have been set up, 11 of which are in Hanoi. Vinh Phuc and Phu Tho provinces have performed this practice properly.
  - We are committed to scale up breast feeding cabins model in other industrial zones, we also support and monitor implementation of laws and policies on breast feeding (BF) and infant and young child feeding (IYCF).
  
- ***Dr. Nguyen Mai Huong – Mother and Child health Care Department - MOH:***
  - MCH dept. is leading institution on managing and guiding the implementation of BF and IYCF program in Vietnam
  - Due to limited resources, Ministry of Health has mainstreamed the breast-feeding into mother and child health care issues, and put the breast feeding criterion into one of hospitals’ criteria.
  - Ministry of Health will enhance the on-going monitoring and collaborate with Federation of Labor to set up breast feeding cabins in industrial zones.
  - Ministry of Health commits to reflect breast feeding content in training materials on reproductive health system, and focus on counseling services in different health care settings.
  
- ***Dr. Nguyen Duc Vy – Representative of Gynecology Association in Vietnam:***
  - Initiative on friendship hospital is interesting.
  - Infant and young child feeding issue receives special attention and support from many agencies during last years.
  - Gynecology Association and Central Maternity Hospital are leading agencies in this issue, yet they have not performed their coordination role properly during years.

- Personally, as former president of Gynecology Association in Vietnam and current standing member, I commit to promote the BF and IYCF program in Vietnam, and enhance my communication with other association members to understand and support the issue.
- ***Ms. Hà Thị Nguyệt Thu – Director of O2TV – National Television channel:***
  - We gain better understanding about the importance and practice of breast feeding in Vietnam.
  - O2 television channel is specialized for health issues in Vietnam. We are committed to strengthening the breastfeeding practices in our programs, commend the good work and not support advertisements for milk products, which are contrary to the rights of breastfeeding for both mothers and children.

**10. General commitment of workshop participants :**

In the end of the workshop, participants responded to calls for action by the organizers, all the participants involved in "fingerprint" act to support IYCF and BF programs in Vietnam

By their fingerprint on fabric, participants expressed their commitment to support the practice of breastfeeding in different areas in VN.



*(Dr. Quan Le Nga present at workshop)*



*(Speed of Dr. Nguyen Duc Vy at workshop)*



*(Speed of Ms.Cong Thi Thanh Hang at workshop )*



*(Speed of Dr. Mai Huong at workshop)*

*“Fingerprint” activity at workshop:*



