

CROATIA

Report Card: 2015



The State of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)

Policies and Programmes (Indicator 1-10)	Practices (Indicator 11-15)
<p align="right">Score Out of 10</p> <p>1. National Policy, Programme and Coordination <i>Concerns national policy, plan of action, funding and coordination issues.</i></p> <p>2. Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative <i>Concerns percentage BFHI hospitals, training, standard monitoring, assessment and reassessment systems.</i></p> <p>3. Implementation of the International Code <i>Concerns implementation of the Code as law, monitored and enforced.</i></p> <p>4. Maternity Protection <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>5. Health and Nutrition Care Systems <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>6. Mother Support and Community Outreach <i>Concerns skilled counseling services on infant and young child feeding, and its access to all women. (During pregnancy and after birth)</i></p> <p>7. Information Support <i>Concerns national IEC strategy for improving infant and young child feeding, actively implemented at local levels.</i></p> <p>8. Infant Feeding and HIV <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>9. Infant Feeding during Emergencies <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>10. Mechanisms of Monitoring and Evaluation System <i>Concerns monitoring, management and information system (MIS) as part of the planning and management process.</i></p>	<p align="center">80%</p> <p><i>Indicator 11: Early Initiation of Breastfeeding (Score: 9/10)</i></p> <p align="center">65%</p> <p><i>Indicator 12: Exclusive Breastfeeding for the first 6 months (Score: 9/10)</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>5 Months</p> <p>Indicator 13: Median Duration of breastfeeding</p> <p>(Score 3 / 10)</p> </div> <p align="center">>29%</p> <p><i>Indicator 14: Bottle-feeding (Score: 3/10)</i></p> <p align="center"><59%</p> <p><i>Indicator 15: Complementary Feeding (Score: 3/10)</i></p>
<p>Total Score (Indicator 1-15): 92.5/150</p>	
<p>Key to scoring, colour-rating, grading and ranking:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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. 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 question has possible score of 0-3 and the indicator has a maximum of 10. IBFAN Asia Guidelines for WBT for rating and grading 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. Total score of all indicators 1 to 15 is calculated out of 150. 	
<p align="center">Key Gaps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unreliable data on infant and young child feeding practices No national guidelines on infant feeding during emergencies No national guidelines on infant feeding and HIV No long-term, sustainable, effective mechanism for maintaining/improving Baby-Friendly standards No monitoring mechanisms or sanctioning of Code violations 	<p align="center">Key Recommendations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Regular collection of national data using WHO definitions and indicators Publication and distribution of national guidelines on infant feeding in emergencies Incorporation of guidelines on infant feeding and HIV in national guidelines on the prevention of HIV/AIDS Partnership with government and other agencies to secure funding of Baby-Friendly activities Monitoring and sanctioning of Code violations by relevant Ministries

World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi)

Country Assessment

Following the WBTi training workshop, held 13th-15th May, 2015 in Geneva, a core working group was appointed among members of the National Breastfeeding Committee and indicators were selected. Several Skype calls were held to discuss assessment criteria, report format, translation of documents. On 7th July a one day face-to-face meeting of core group members was held to discuss indicator scores in detail. Queries were forwarded to IBFAN Asia for clarification. Core group members consulted relevant professional and government organizations to verify the status of infant and young child feeding policy and practices in Croatia. In addition, the first draft of the report was sent to all relevant organizations (16 in total) in Croatia for comment. Feedback was integrated into the report, translated and submitted to IBFAN on 30th October, 2015.

Partner Organisations

1. Ministry of Health
2. Ministry of Social Policies and Youth
3. UNICEF Croatia
4. Croatian Public Health Institute
5. School of Public Health, Split-Dalmatia County
6. Croatian Paediatric Society
7. Croatian Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
8. Croatian Paediatric Nurses' Society
9. Community Nurses' Society
10. Croatian Association of Breastfeeding Support Groups
11. Croatian Association of Lactation Consultants
12. RODA- Parents in Action

Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC)

CRC C

Recommendations of the CRC Committee

Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Croatia, adopted by the Committee at its sixty-seventh session (1-19 September 2014)

1. While noting that the measures taken by the State party, such as the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, have resulted in an increase of breastfeeding, the Committee is concerned that:
 - a) There is still a lack of awareness of the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding and risks of formula feeding;
 - b) Despite the prohibition of its distribution, the "Happy baby" package, which violated the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, is still being distributed through obstetrics and gynaecology offices, pharmacies and by signing up on the company's website; and
 - c) Systematic monitoring of breastmilk substitutes marketing is not carried out.
 - d) The Committee recommends that the State party take action to improve the practice of exclusive breastfeeding, through awareness-raising measures, the provision of information and training to relevant officials, particularly staff working in maternity units, and parents. The Committee also recommends that the State party take all the necessary legislative and structural measures, including monitoring, to control the marketing of breast-milk substitutes.
 - e)

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_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/qa/ebwho/pdf_files/WHA58/WHA58_32-en.pdf http://www.who.int/qa/ebwho/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/
- **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

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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" (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).