

The State of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF)

Scores are out of 10: 0-3.5 4-6.5 7-9 >9

Total Score France (Indicator 1-15): 74.5/150

Policies and Programmes (Indicator 1-10) :

Score Out of 10

1. National Policy, Programme and Coordination

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

2

2. Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative

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

5

3. Implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

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

5

4. 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.

7

5. 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.

5.5

6. 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)

7

7. Information Support

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

4

8. Infant and Young Child 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.

7

9. Infant and Young Child 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

10. Mechanisms of Monitoring and Evaluation System

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

5

Practices (Indicator 11-15)

65%

Indicator 11:
Early Initiation of
Breastfeeding
(score 9/10)

9.9%

Indicator 12:
Exclusive Breastfeeding for
the first 6 months
(score 3/10)

4
months

Indicator 13: Median Duration of breastfeeding
(score 3/10)

80%

Indicator 14:
Bottle-feeding
(score 3/10)

87.5%

Indicator 15:
Complementary Feeding
(score 9/10)

Key Gaps

1. Absence of a National Breastfeeding (BF) Committee
2. Absence of financial provisions to initiate a long term BF policy.
3. Absence of National message to promote BF
4. Insufficiency of training in BF support for Health Care Providers (HCP).
5. No national share of good practice.
6. Insufficient implementation and monitoring of the Code.
7. French statistics are not compatible with WHO standards.

Key Recommendations

1. Create a National Breastfeeding (BF) Committee.
2. Provide finances to initiate a long term BF policy with National campaigns to promote BF as mainstream.
3. Create syllabus on training in BF support for HCP.
4. Write national guide about good practice for BF.
5. Implement the entire Code, provide monitoring to avoid conflict of interest of BF policies with pharmaceutical as well as the agro-nutritional (baby food) sector.
6. Adopt indicators to comply with WHO standards.
7. Extend maternity leave up to 6 months.
8. Write policy and organize training for Infant Feeding in Emergencies

What is the WBTi?

The World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) is a collaborative national assessment of the implementation of key policies and programmes from the WHO's *Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding*. Unlike other assessments, the WBTi brings together the main agencies and organisations involved in aspects of IYCF in a particular country to work together to collect information, identify gaps and generate recommendations for action. This is the first WBTi assessment for France; the process is repeated every 3–5 years in order to track trends.

Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC)

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child is the body of 18 independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its state parties. France is a signatory to the Convention and was last assessed in February 2016. The Committee recommends:

61. Despite noting with appreciation that the health of children is one of the priorities of the national health-care strategy defined in 2013, the Committee is concerned by the inadequacy of resources, the lack of specialized child health personnel and the general deterioration of services and structures, including at school and in maternal and child welfare protection centres, especially in the overseas departments and territories, in shantytowns and in refugee camps. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The fact that children are not automatically allowed to be accompanied by parents when hospitalized overnight;
- (b) The low rate of exclusive breastfeeding and the incomplete implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes;
- (c) The persistent excessively high level of infant mortality and early pregnancy in the overseas departments and territories, particularly in Mayotte;
- (d) The high rates of preventable infectious diseases in the overseas departments, particularly in French Guyana and Mayotte, including HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis;
- (e) The fact that migrant children without a valid residence permit continue to experience difficulties in exercising their right to health services.

62. [...] The Committee also recommends that the State party:

- (a) Review the conditions governing hospitalization from a child-rights perspective, and allow children to be accompanied and cared for by parents during hospitalization;
- (b) Fully implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and further promote exclusive breastfeeding practices (see CRC/C/FRA/CO/4 and Corr.1, para. 75);
- (c) Increase efforts to reduce existing disparities in access to health-care services for children and mothers in the overseas departments and territories, particularly in Mayotte;
- (d) Undertake targeted programmes for addressing preventable diseases, including HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, particularly in French Guyana and Mayotte;
- (e) Increase the necessary resources to ensure that all children, including unaccompanied children and migrant children without a valid residence permit, have access to basic health care.

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fFRA%2fCO%2f5&Lang=en

The World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) is IBFAN Asia's flagship programme in partnership with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and IBFAN and WABA: Protecting, Promoting and Supporting Breastfeeding through Human Rights and Gender Equality" in partnership with Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

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