# MACEDONIA

## Report Card: 2017

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

### Policies and Programmes (Indicator 1-10)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Score Out of 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. National Policy, Programme and Coordination</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Maternity Protection</td>
<td>6,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Health and Nutrition Care Systems</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Mother Support and Community Outreach - Community-based support for the pregnant and breastfeeding mother</td>
<td>6,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Information Support</td>
<td>5,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Infant and Young Child Feeding and HIV</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Infant and Young Child Feeding during Emergencies</td>
<td>7,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Mechanism of Monitoring and Evaluation System</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Practices (Indicator 11-15)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11: Early Initiation of Breastfeeding (Score: 3/10)</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12: Exclusive Breastfeeding for the first 6 months (Score: 6/10)</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13: Median Duration of breastfeeding (score: 3/10)</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14: Bottle-feeding (Score: 3/10)</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Score (Indicator 1-15): 68.5/150

### Key Gaps

1. Comprehensive written infant and young child feeding policy is not in place.
2. Strategies for enhancing BFHI program implementation and continuation and expansion of program evaluation activities are missing.
3. 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.
4. 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.

### Key Recommendations

1. 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.
2. Reassessment of all designated BF hospitals and identification all weakness and strengths in providing supportive breastfeeding environments.
3. 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.
4. The standardised system of monitoring IYCF practices based on WHO infant feeding definitions should be established.
Country Assessment

Following the WBTi training workshop, held 19–21st 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. UNICEFF 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/nutrition/topics/breastfeeding/EN_GS_iycf.pdf](http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/breastfeeding/EN_GS_iycf.pdf)
- World Health Assembly Resolution: 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 40.15, 58.12, 61.20 call upon member states to avoid conflicts of interest in programmes of child health. [http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/breastfeeding/EN_WHA58_S12_an.pdf](http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/breastfeeding/EN_WHA58_S12_an.pdf) [http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/breastfeeding/EN_WHA61_S20_an.pdf](http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/breastfeeding/EN_WHA61_S20_an.pdf)
- Innocent Declaration 2005 on Infant and Young Child Feeding: [www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_breastfeeding.html](http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_breastfeeding.html)

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” (GBICS), 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).