# Sri Lanka

## Report Card: 2018

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score Out of 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>National Policy, Governance and Funding</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative / Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Maternity Protection</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Health and Nutrition Care Systems (in support of breastfeeding &amp; IYCF)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Counselling Services for the Pregnant and Breastfeeding Mothers</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Accurate and Unbiased Information Support</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Infant Feeding and HIV</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Infant and Young Child Feeding during Emergencies</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Score (Indicator 1-10): 91/100**

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

1. The level of achievement of infant feeding practices is taken in percentage except median duration, which is an absolute number of months.
2. 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 indicator has a maximum of 10.
3. The WBTi Guidelines for rating individual indicators 1 to 10 are as: 0 – 3.5 is rated Red, 4 – 6.5 is rated Yellow, 7 – 9 is rated Blue and more than 9 is rated Green.
4. Total score of policy and programmes indicators 1 to 10 is calculated out of 100.
5. In the case of indicators 11 to 15 on practices, key to rating is used from the WBTi’s “Infant and Young Child Feeding: A tool for assessing national practices, policies and programmes”. Colour rating are provided according to WBTi Guidelines.
   - The WBTI Guidelines for indicators 11 to 15 are: 0 – 19% is rated Red, 20 – 49% is rated Yellow, 50 – 80% is rated Blue and 81 – 100% is rated Green.

#### Practices (Indicator 11-15)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Early Initiation of Breastfeeding</td>
<td>90.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Exclusive Breastfeeding for the first 6 months</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Median Duration of breastfeeding</td>
<td>30 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Bottle-feeding</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Complementary Feeding</td>
<td>88.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Gaps**

1. Despite the recent amendments to the legislation of maternity benefits for private sector, a few discrepancies in maternity benefits exist among the government sector, private sector, formal sector and informal sector
2. Law enforcement for violations of Breastfeeding Code are not executed regularly
3. External assessment of BFHI status of hospitals is not fully implemented
4. IEC material on breastfeeding are not adequately targeted (eg: Working mothers)
5. The programme has been unable to bring about a behaviour change in reducing use of bottle feeding

**Key Recommendations**

1. The remaining discrepancies in maternity benefits among the government sector, private sector, formal sector and informal sector has to be addressed and rectified.
2. Law enforcement of breastfeeding code to be strengthened.
3. Develop IEC materials of all suitable forms on breastfeeding, based on the requirements of the clientele
4. BFHI assessment and accreditation to be incorporated into the hospital accreditation system and to scale up the system nationally
5. Implement targeted programmes to reduce the use of bottle feeding after further analysis of available data of DHS 2016
Country Assessment .......

The Family Health Bureau of the Ministry of Health as the national focal point for IYCF in Sri Lanka conducted the country assessment and prepared this report, following a request by the Sarvodaya Women’s Movement. All the policy documents (Nutrition policy, MCH policy), strategic plans (MNH strategic plan, IYCF strategy), annual plans (of the MoH, FHB, Nutrition Divisions), current relevant surveys (EmONC survey, Demographic Health Survey, Nutrition month information, Routine MIS of the Family Health Bureau) were reviewed prior to preparation of the report. Furthermore, the minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee on Newborn and Child Health, Maternal and Child Nutrition Subcommittee, Nutrition Steering Committee, Breastfeeding Code Monitoring Committee were perused where relevant.

Partner Organisations

- Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine
- Family Health Bureau
- Health Promotion Bureau
- Nutrition Division
- Estate and Urban Health Unit
- Department of Nutrition, MRI
- World Health Organization
- UNICEF
- Sarvodaya Women’s Movement

Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC)

CRC Commitment

- Legislative, institutional and policy measures such as National Plan of Action for Children of Sri Lanka (2016-2020), the plan of action on social protection for children 92016-2019) and the Policy Framework and National Plan of Action to address Sexual and Gender-based Violence were adopted to implement the Convention.
- Reconciliation efforts made by the government and the progress made in reducing child and maternal mortality

Recommendations of the CRC Committee

- Transpose the Convention into its national legislation to ensure that all the principles and provisions of the Convention can be applied by the judicial and administrative authorities
- Increase its efforts to implement the National Plan of Action for Children of Sri Lanka (2016–2020) and allocate the necessary human, technical and financial resources
- Dissemination and awareness-raising in all languages to ensure that understanding of the importance of children’s rights and their implementation and all the principles and provisions of the Convention among adults and children training of relevant categories
- Increase the minimum age of marriage for all to 18 years of age for all communities

Global Commitments on Infant and Young Child Feeding

- Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding 2012
  https://www.who.int/childgrowth/documents/gsiyf12/en/
- Innocenti Declaration on the Protection, Promotion and Support of Breastfeeding 1990:
- Innocenti Declaration 2005 on Infant and Young Child Feeding:
  www.unicef.org/mothers2000/breastfeeding/breastfeed宣言.html
- International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes
  http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/43754/1/9241541601.pdf
- WHO/UNICEF’s: Global Breastfeeding Collective
- Declaration of WRCC 1 (2012) & WRCC 2 (2015) and call to action
- WSHA targets for 2015 to increase by 50% globally
- World Health Assembly Resolutions: call upon Member States to implement policies and programmes to promote infant nutrition. The recent resolution adopted on May 27, 2016 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: 41.15, 58.32, 61.20 call upon member states to avoid conflicts of interest in programmes of child health
- Millennium Development Goals: "Ensure access to safe, affordable, nutritious and adequate food for all.

For detailed report please contact

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