# Uganda's WBTi Experience, how the Government considered the report

Barbara Nalubanga

International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)
Uganda

### Background

- Total land area: 199,810km<sup>2</sup> (77,147 sq miles)
- Population Size: 45,641,795
- Fertility rate: 5.01
- Infant Mortality Rate
  - 43 per 1,000 Live births
- Under 5 Mortality Rate
  - 64 per 1,000 Live births
- Prevalence of Stunting: 21%
- Prevalence of Wasting: 4%



### **Breastfeeding Situation in Uganda**

#### Increased/Improved

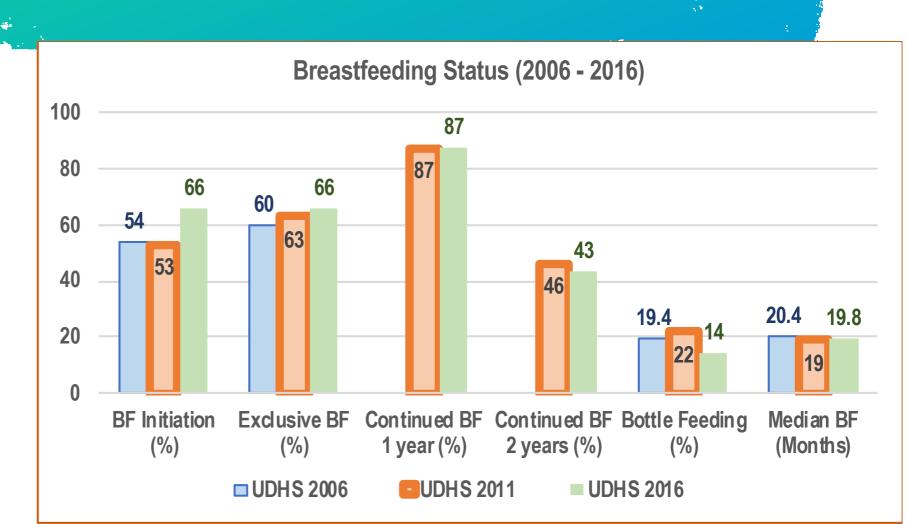
- Initiation of Breastfeeding
- Exclusive breastfeeding
- Bottle feeding
- Median duration of Breastfeeding

#### **Decreased**

Continued breastfeeding at 2 years

#### Remained same

Continued breastfeeding at 2 years



### Policy Statements on IYCF

#### **Counsel and Support:**

- All mothers irrespective of their HIV status on timely BF initiation and breastfeed exclusively
- Mothers of LBW infants:
  - Can suckle to breast feed
  - Cannot suckle well to express breast milk & give by cup, spoon or nasogastric tube
- All mothers living with HIV on adherence to ART while continue to breastfeed until baby is 12 months of age
- Mothers, caretakers and families to practice optimal IYCF in emergencies and other exceptionally difficult/ special circumstances

# ...Policy Statements on IYCF

#### **Counsel and support:**

- Mothers/caretakers to give children a diversified diet with a variety of locally available foods from main food groups
- Parents on timely introduction of nutritionally adequate, safe and appropriate complementary foods
- Mothers/caretakers to feed sick and recuperating infants and children on small, frequent meals of soft consistency and enriched with high protein, fat and mineral content

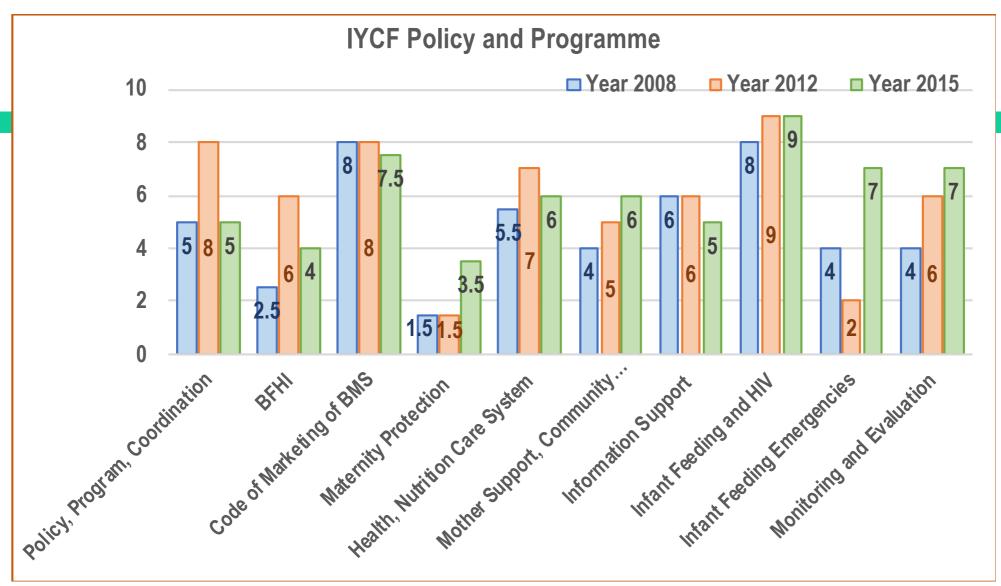
## WBTi Process in Uganda

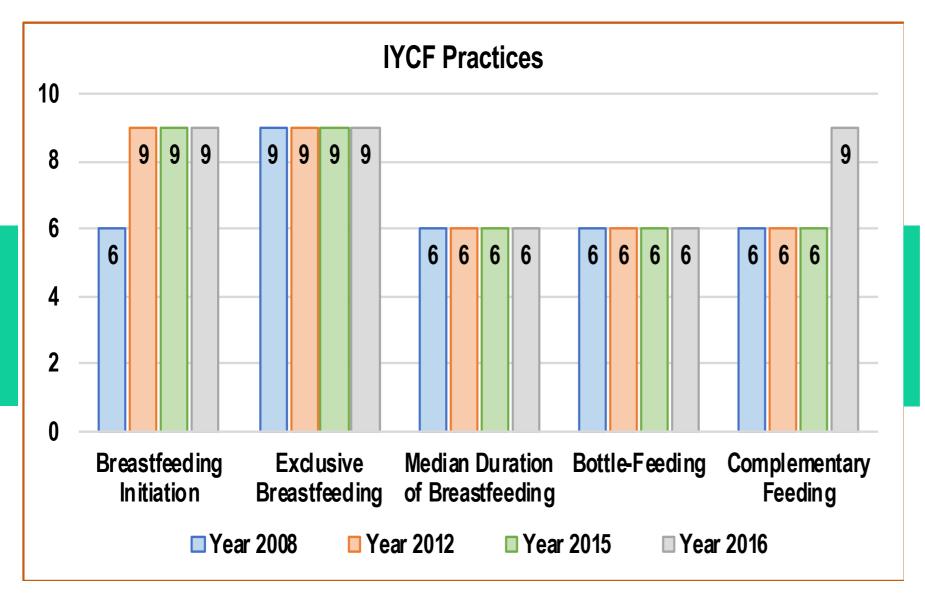
- WBTi Training conducted in Swaziland with a team of experts – One person from IBFAN Uganda participated
- In collaboration with National IYCF focal person, trained a core team of IYCF experts on WBTi at National level
- National IYCF focal person coordinated Uganda WBTi Assessments:
  - First in 2008
  - Second in 2012
  - Third in 2015

## WBTi Process in Uganda

- Established 32 member WBTi core group
  - Ministry of Health 9
  - Development partners (UN, USAID) 4
  - NGOs 10
  - Universities 4
  - Hospitals 3
  - District 1
  - Line Ministry 1
- Role of IBFAN in WBTi's process
  - Supported the assessments financially and technically
  - Built capacity of focal person and team of experts
  - Coordinated drafting and finalization of the report

#### **WBTi Assessments**





### Improvements 2008 and 2016

- \* Breastfeeding initiation
- \* Timely introduction of Complementary Foods

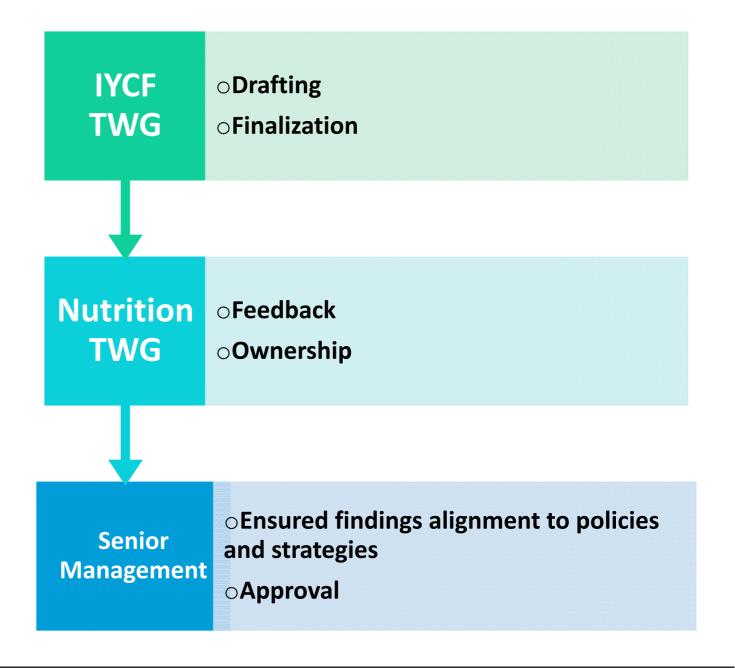
### Declined between 2008 and 2016

\* None

#### No change/Difference

- \* Exclusive Breastfeeding
- \* Median duration of BF
- \* Bottle feeding

# Government Response to WBTi Reports



# Government commitment following WBTi Assessments

- Improvements in policies, programmes and funding
  - Revised policies on IF/HIV (new WHO guidance), IFE (IMAM), M&E (HMIS), MP (Workplace policies)
  - Drafted multisectoral Uganda Nutrition Action Plan II prioritized BF as cost effective intervention
  - Laws related to Maternity Protection currently being revised
  - Regulations on marketing of BMS being revised to address gaps in monitoring and enforcement
- Development of strategies and tools for improved IYCF
  - MIYCAN guidelines and Action Plan
  - MIYCAN training manuals for community and health care providers
  - MIYCAN counselling job aides with strong component on IYCF

# Government commitment following WBTi Assessments

- Improved collaboration and partnership
  - Fully functional committee on Nutrition Legal based on Regulations on marketing of Infant Foods
    - Addresses issues of IYCF among others
- Enriching surveys and reporting systems
  - Strengthened effort to monitor and report on IYCF indicators through HMIS and sector reports
  - Monitoring of the Regulations on marketing of Infant Foods improved
- Capacity Building for Improved Health Delivery
  - Trainings on BFHI, Code, IFE, IYCF related surveys
  - Building capacity of both public and private health facilities in BFHI implementation

# Challenges in Applying WBTi

- Support from leadership at the subdistrict level for IYCF
  - Adaptation of the tool for use at subdistrict level??
- Sustaining the WBTi working group
- There is no stipulated budget lines earmarked for WBTi yet reassessment is due