



International Baby Food
Action Network

Universal Periodic Review – Session 20

Who we are?

IBFAN is a 35-old years coalition of more than 273 not-for-profit NGOs in more than 168 countries.

We work towards a just and healthy society free of commercial pressures, where every child enjoys the highest attainable standard of health, where breastfeeding is the norm for feeding infants and young children and where women and families are empowered to optimally care for their children.

We fight for the implementation, enforcement and monitoring of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent WHA resolutions.

We are also committed to advance a better maternity protection and we support the implementation of the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI).

Breast

What does the Convention on the Rights of the Child say about it

recognizes the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and urges States Parties to pursue full implementation of this right by taking appropriate measures to:

- diminish infant and child mortality
- combat disease and malnutrition through, inter alia, the provision of adequate nutritious food
- ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers
- ensure that all segments information, access to education and are support in the use of basic knowledge of, inter alia, child health and nutrition and the advantages of breastfeeding

Article 24 CRC

Referring to the “Protect, Promote and Support” framework (Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding, 2002), the

Comment 15

on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (article 24) urges States parties to:

- protect and promote exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months of age
- protect and promote continued breastfeeding until 2 years of age
- introduce into national law, implement and enforce, inter alia, the International Code on Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes
- promote community and workplace support to mothers in relation to pregnancy and lactation, and feasible and affordable child-care services
- comply with the ILO Convention No 183 (2000) on maternity protection

CRC Committee’s Concluding Observations

During its latest review in 2012, the CRC Committee issued direct recommendations to Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding breastfeeding (para 54-55):

49. The Committee [...] is concerned that: [...] d) baby-friendly practices in hospitals are inadequate, with low rates of early initiation of breastfeeding, and less than 20 per cent of all children under the age of 6 months being exclusively breastfed; (e) the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes is not enforced at the State level and there is no systematic monitoring mechanism in place, which results in widespread violation of the Code.

REINSTATING ITS BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION PROGRAMME - FUNDING FOR ITS BABY-FRIENDLY HOSPITAL INITIATIVE ENFORCING THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF MARKETING OF BREAST-MILK SUBSTITUTES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL MONITORING MECHANISMS SANCTIONS

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50. The Committee [...] recommends that the State party consider

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and
COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION OF DISAGGREGATED DATA

, with effective
and commensurate for violations of

the Code.

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In addition, the Committee also urged the country to develop a coordinated system for a (para 18).

Current national implementation of CRC's Concluding Observations

➤ **CO1: Reinstatement of the national breastfeeding promotion programme:**

Since UNICEF stopped supporting the 'Breastfeeding Promotion Programme' in 2008, the Breastfeeding Committee has stopped working and no promotion initiative focused on optimal breastfeeding practices has been launched at the national level.

➤ **CO2: Funding for the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI):**

Since 2008 and the end of the Breastfeeding Promotion Programme, the Ministry of Health has not made any further progress in implementing the BFHI. Currently, there are 11 out of 24 maternity facilities that are certified as "baby-friendly".

➤ **CO3: Enforcement of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes at the national level, with effective monitoring mechanisms and commensurate sanctions for violations of the Code:**

Currently, the International Code has still not been fully implemented into national legislation and is so far implemented as a voluntary measure. Indeed, the adopted EU Directive 2006/141/EC does not cover all Code provisions. Furthermore, there is no monitoring of Code violations (inter alia, formula advertisements in maternity facilities and sponsorship of paediatric congresses) that occur on a frequent basis.

➤ **CO4: Development of a coordinated system for a comprehensive collection of disaggregated data:**

Currently, no coordinated system for a comprehensive collection of disaggregated data has been established.

Other important elements related to breastfeeding

With regard to the CRC General Comment 15, the 2002 Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding and the 2007 Operational Guidance on Infant and Young Feeding in Emergencies, there are other key policies and initiatives that have to be implemented in order to "Protect, Promote and Support" breastfeeding:

- **Training of health professionals:** since 2006, no courses on breastfeeding for health professionals have been organised, creating a huge gap in the country and affecting badly the quality of professional support and counselling provided to parents on this issue.
- **Breastfeeding in emergencies:** currently, there is no emergency preparedness to ensure integrated response to protect and support breastfeeding in case of emergencies.

Our recommendations to the Universal Periodic Review

Bosnia and Herzegovina should be urged to:

1. Revive the national breastfeeding promotion programme, rehabilitate the national Breastfeeding Committee and develop comprehensive promotion initiatives in order to disseminate information on optimal breastfeeding practices amongst the population.
2. Allocate funds and make operational plans for Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI).
3. Implement fully all provisions of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and its subsequent WHA resolutions into national law and ensure that effective monitoring as well as dissuasive sanction mechanism for Code violations are set up.
4. Develop a coordinated system for a comprehensive collection of disaggregated data, including data on breastfeeding practices.
5. Urgently integrate comprehensive training on breastfeeding practices in the curricula of health professionals.
6. Ensure integrated response to protect and support breastfeeding in case of emergencies.