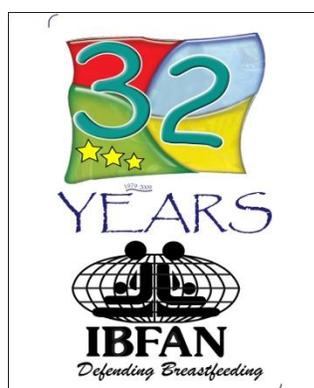


THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Session 60
May-June 2012

REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING IN CYPRUS



May 2012

Prepared by:

Geneva Infant Feeding Association (IBFAN-GIFA)

Data sourced from:

Countdown to 2015 Maternal, Newborn & Child Survival. 2010 Report

UNICEF, The State of World's Children 2010

UNICEF, The State of World's Children 2011

ILO, Maternity protection database

International Code Documentation Center (ICDC)

Optimal infant and young child feeding means that mothers are empowered to initiate breastfeeding within one hour of birth, to breastfeed exclusively for the first 6 months and to continue to breastfeed for 2 years or more, together with nutritionally adequate, safe and age-appropriate, feeding of solid, semi-solid and soft foods starting in the 6th month.

1) General points concerning reporting to the CRC

Cyprus' 3rd and 4th periodic report will be reviewed by the CRC Committee. At the last review in 2003 (session 33), IBFAN did not present an alternative report, and there were no recommendations by the CRC Committee on infant and young child nutrition.

2) General situation concerning breastfeeding

General data¹

Under five mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	4 (2009)
Infant mortality (per 1000 live births)	3 (2009)

Breastfeeding data

There is absolutely no data available on infant nutrition and breastfeeding. The State party report affirms that “A new survey is currently being carried out by the statistics service to collect systematic data on breastfeeding and the newborn weight. The results will be available in 2009.”² However, we note with disappointment that, three years after the announced publication, the data is not available yet.

3) Government efforts to encourage breastfeeding

Specific information concerning the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes:

Cyprus has adopted the *EU Directive 2006/141/EC on infant formulae and follow-on formulae*, as a measure to implement the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. This directive contains only a few of the provisions of the Code.

The CRC Committee should inquire further on the current situation of the marketing provisions as well as related violations, and recommend that the government develop a comprehensive policy to promote, protect and support optimal feeding of infants and young children.

¹ UNICEF, State of the World Children 2011, <http://www.unicef.org/sowc2011/statistics.php>

² From the french version of the Cyprus report to the CRC Committee : “Une nouvelle enquête est actuellement lancée par le service des statistiques pour recueillir de manière systématique des données sur l’allaitement maternel et le poids des nouveau-nés. Les conclusions de l’enquête seront disponibles en 2009.”

4) Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI)

According to the World Health Organisation, Cyprus has not developed the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative.

5) Maternity Protection

According to the ILO, working women in Cyprus have right to 16 weeks maternity leave, with cash benefits at 75% of the salaries, covered by Social security.

6) Obstacles and recommendations

*The following **obstacles/problems** have been identified:*

- **Very little is known about the state of breastfeeding in Cyprus, which is due to the absolute absence of data on infant and young child feeding. The data that was announced to be in the process of being collected in 2009 is not yet publicly available.**
- **Cyprus has ratified the EU Directive 2006/141/EC which aims at implementing the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. This directive is weaker than the Code, and there is no information with regards to its effective enforcement in Cyprus.**
- **Cyprus has not implemented the baby-friendly Hospital Initiative.**

Our recommendations include:

The government of Cyprus should:

- **Systematically collect comprehensive data on infant and young child feeding (early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding rates, continued breastfeeding, complementary feeding, etc.) and publicly disseminate the data.**
- **Publish the data on breastfeeding collected in 2009, in order to inform national policies on infant feeding.**
- **Strengthen legislation that regulates marketing of breastmilk substitutes to include all provisions of the International Code and subsequent relevant WHA resolutions, and adopt enforcement mechanisms (monitoring, oversight authority, disciplinary actions, etc).**
- **Immediately take steps to implement the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative.**
- **Maintain maternity protection legislation, even in the face of possible future economic crisis.**