



Caribbean Workshop on the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant Young Child Feeding and the New WHO Child Growth Standards,

October 13-14, 2005
Martinique

Working Group 1:

The objectives of the first working group session are to:

- review the status of infant and young child feeding policies and programs
- identify critical barriers, opportunities, and priority actions required for improving the protection, promotion and support of optimal infant and feeding practices based on the aims and objectives and recommended interventions outlined in the Global Strategy; and
- identify critical barriers, opportunities, and priority actions required for strengthening national growth monitoring/promotion programs and the incorporation of the new international growth standards in child health services.

Areas to be addressed are listed in the table below. Some key issues to be considered in the discussion include:

- Advocacy strategies for increasing political commitment for the adoption of the global recommendations and the mobilization of resources for implementation at country level
- Identification of realistic goals and objectives for improving feeding practices based on specific country needs and resources
- Strengthening information systems for monitoring feeding practices and evaluating the impact of policies and programs
- Strategies for building alliances and partnerships for effective intersectoral action in the promotion and protection of child health and nutrition
- The integration of the IYCF policy into other relevant national policies (e.g. reproductive health, family planning, PMTCT/HIV infection, IMCI, NPAN)
- Capacity building and skills development for increasing effective support to mothers/families

Methodology:

1. Choose a group coordinator
2. Choose a group secretary
3. Determine the methodology for working in the group and save some time to prepare a presentation which **summarizes** the key issues of the discussion, using the tabular format shown below.

Group # -----

1. IYCF Policies and Targets

Policy/Target	Achievements	Barriers	Opportunities	Priority Actions
1. Development/implementation of national comprehensive policy on IYCF				
2. Appointment of national coordinator and committee responsible for IYCF				
3. Adoption of measures for implementation of the International Code				
4. Adoption of legislation consistent with ILO standards for protecting and supporting breastfeeding among working women				

2. IYCF Programs

Program	Achievements	Barriers	Opportunities	Priority Actions
1. Development/implementation of national IYCF program with measurable objectives				
2. Full implementation and active monitoring of the BFHI				
3. Development/implementation of standards and guidelines for mother-friendly childbirth procedures				
4. Review of IYCF curricula in pre-service education programs for health care providers to ensure provision of basic knowledge, attitudes and skills for promotion of optimal feeding practices				
5. Review/strengthening and organization of in-service training programs for health care providers				
6. Implementation of effective community-based IYCF outreach and support activities				

Program	Achievements	Barriers	Opportunities	Priority Actions
7. Implementation of comprehensive IEC strategy for improving IYCF				
8. Development/implementation of standards and guidelines for provision of contraceptive support to breastfeeding women				
9. Development/implementation of policies for the provision of infant counselling and support to HIV-positive mothers in line with current recommendations				
10. Development/implementation of policy and plan related to IYCF in emergencies				
11. Strengthening of growth monitoring/promotion programs including the revision/updating of growth charts				
12. Development/implementation of nutrition surveillance system including monitoring of key IYCF practices				