

Global Congress on Implementation of the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes June 2023

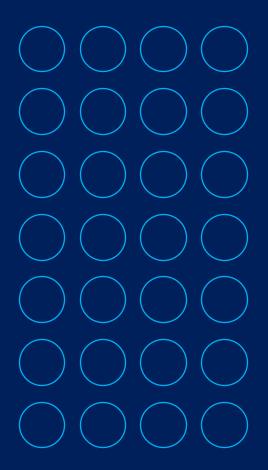
## Welcome!

Please take your seats.

The program will begin shortly.









## Grainne Moloney

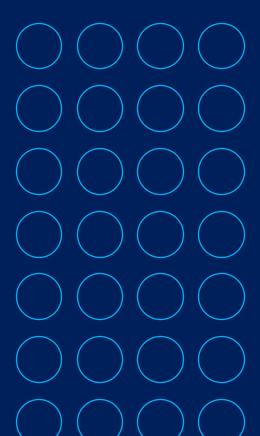
Senior Advisor, Early Childhood Nutrition Nutrition and Child Development, Programme Group UNICEF HQ New York

## Laurence M. Grummer-Strawn

World Health Organization Food and Nutrition Action in Health Systems Department of Nutrition and Food Safety







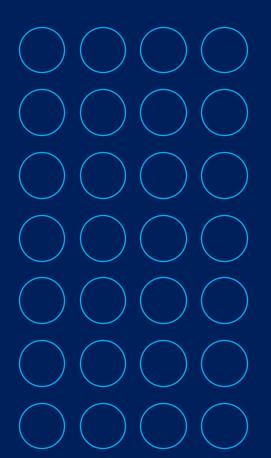


## Marcus Stahlhofer

Advisor on Human Rights and Child Health and Nutrition WHO









## Building and strengthening national monitoring and enforcement mechanisms

Marcus Stahlhofer
Human Rights & Law
Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing
World Health Organization

22 June 2023





# 2022 WHO/UNICEF/IBFAN Report on the Legal Status of the Code

#### Checked for provisions which:

- identify who is responsible for monitoring compliance (5)
- define sanctions for violations (3)
- require that monitoring and enforcement should be independent, transparent and free from commercial influence (2)

A total score of 10 was given for countries which had all three provisions in place

- Of the 144 countries which have adopted legal measures to implement at least some of the provisions in the Code:
  - 17 countries scored 10 out of 10 for monitoring and enforcement
  - 58 countries scored 8 out of 10
  - 10 Countries scored 5 out of 10
  - 6 countries scored 3 out of 10
  - 45 countries scored 0 out of 10



### **Key challenges for Code Monitoring and Enforcement**

Little improvement was observed on the indicators for monitoring and enforcement of the legislation ....



#### Why?

- lack of high level and sustained political will
- interference from manufacturers and distributors
   in both law making and implementation
- absence of coordination among key actors
- lack of sufficient data and expertise
- limited resources for legislation, monitoring and enforcement

## 2022 WHO/UNICEF/IBFAN Report – Conclusions and Recommendations on Monitoring and Enforcement

Governments must allocate adequate budgets and human resources to ensure that national Code legislation is monitored and fully enforced, guaranteeing that deterrent sanctions are routinely applied in the case of violations.

#### 2018 Report:

Governments must establish robust and sustainable monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to implement national laws and regulations aimed at eliminating inappropriate marketing practices.

#### Such mechanisms:

- need to involve all relevant government agencies authorized to monitor and enforce various elements of the Code;
- must be adequately funded and sourced with knowledgeable staff; and
- should allow for public engagement and scrutiny, including through the periodic release of implementation reports.

### **Ongoing Code Monitoring System**

This requires, among other things, the establishment of a monitoring system that:

- enables the government to perform its duties and tasks without external pressure, fear or influence;
- gives the government the authority and sufficient resources to investigate Code violations;
- empowers the government to take remedial action in line with its national laws and regulations following investigation and verification of alleged violations;
- makes information related to monitoring activities, final results and remedial actions taken publicly available and accessible; and
- has safeguards to detect and exclude persons or bodies that have a conflict of interest and thus preserve its independence, integrity, trustworthiness and credibility.

All this requires a robust and sustainable system

### **Ongoing Monitoring System - Advantages**



Implementation of *ongoing monitoring* - advantages:

- can lead to immediate results, if violations are identified, verified and enforcement action taken
- requires active government involvement at the onset as, by default, it
  must be embedded within existing systems related to the control and
  regulation of customs, food and advertising, among others
- ongoing monitoring may improve compliance with the Code and national laws by manufacturers, distributors and the health sector as they become aware of its existence

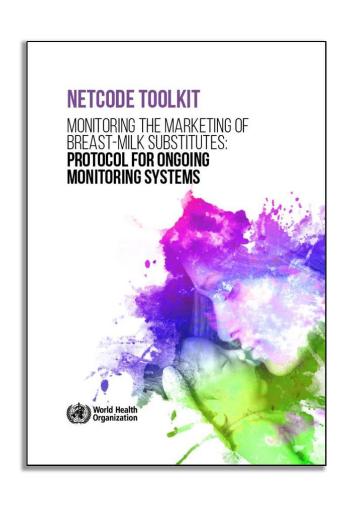
### Ongoing Monitoring System - Objectives

The specific objectives of the ongoing monitoring system are to:



- detect violations of the national laws and/or the Code
- document and report such violations
- investigate and validate whether the reported activities are indeed violations
- activate an enforcement mechanism that would stop such violations and deter future violations
- hold manufacturers, distributors, retail outlets, the health-care system and health-care workers to account for their breeches of national laws and/or the Code

# Establishing an ongoing code monitoring system



.... describes the process of setting up an ongoing government-run monitoring system, ideally integrated into existing regulatory and enforcement systems, to continuously monitor adherence to the Code in a systematic and sustainable way so as to take immediate enforcement action.

## The Steps

Negotiating the political and bureaucratic environment

Determining the coverage and extent of monitoring Building a national monitoring team

Costing and budgeting for monitoring

Evaluation of the system

Monitoring and enforcement

Building capacity of monitors

Developing standard monitoring

Negotiating the political and bureaucratic environment

# Negotiating the political and bureaucratic environment

- Obtaining high-level commitment
- Engaging relevant ministerial departments and other agencies
- Identifying external supporters
- Anticipating and addressing opposition

How do you obtain high-level commitment for Code monitoring?

Are there existing health priorities which can be used?

What other opportunities exist?

How do you secure a multi-sectoral strategy and engage all relevant offices, both within and outside MoH?

Who are relevant external supporters that should support monitoring and enforcement?

How do you ensure avoidance of conflict of interest?

Are there strategies to anticipate and address opposition?

Who is the opposition and what channels does it use to influence Code policy making and monitoring?



Determining the coverage and extent of monitoring

## Coverage and extent of monitoring

#### **1** What to monitor?

#### **2** Where to monitor?

- Monitoring activities should be conducted where relevant products enter the country
- In settings where the main targets of promotional and marketing efforts are to be found

e.g. media channels and social networks, TV, radio, billboards, Internet (webpages, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, smartphone apps, etc.), printed materials (magazines, newspapers, flyers, brochures, etc.), health facilities (public and private), point of sale (supermarkets, stores, pharmacies, groceries), public areas (day care centers, parks, theatres, cinemas, open spaces, etc.) and within communities

#### **9** When to monitor?

- Ongoing process designed to identify violations as and when they occur
- Code monitoring ideally to be integrated into existing monitoring processes
- This may or may not be under the jurisdiction of the MoH

Determining the coverage and extent of monitoring

### **Existing Monitoring Mechanisms**

## Product registration

- Product registration should ensure that labels of relevant products adhere to the provisions of the Code and/or the provisions of the national measure.
- In general, products that do not comply with the Code and/or national laws should not be given a product registration or license for importation.

### Customs and border control

- Product inspections and requirements for importation should include the requirements set by the Code and/or national laws related to labels and product quality.
- Products that do not comply with requirements should not be allowed to enter the country.

# Food and drug inspection activities at point of sale

- Agencies tasked to conduct routine monitoring and inspection of food products at point of sale should ensure that products covered by the Code are also integrated in their monitoring efforts.
- Monitoring will focus on whether they are marketed in line with the provisions of the Code and/or national laws.

Building a national monitoring team

### Building a National Team

Who should be the lead agency for a national monitoring team?

#### Designate a lead agency ... and build the team

Table 1 Potential monitoring agencies for different areas of monitoring

Area of Monitoring	Potential Monitoring Agencies
1. Product registration	<ul> <li>Licensing departments and agencies,</li> <li>Inspectors and monitors of the food and drug authority (FDA)</li> </ul>
2. Customs and border controls	Custom and border inspectors
<ol> <li>Food and drug inspection activities at point of sale</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>Ministry of Trade and Commerce,</li> <li>Ministry of Health, FDA</li> </ul>
4. Media monitoring	<ul> <li>Advertising boards</li> <li>Ministry of Trade and Commerce</li> <li>Ministry of Health</li> <li>Ministry of Information and Communication</li> </ul>
5. Health facility monitoring and assessments	<ul> <li>Ministry of Health (FDA, MCHN, Hospital Licensing and Accreditation, National Health Insurance Programme, BFHI monitoring)</li> </ul>
6. Monitoring health and nutrition programmes at community level	Ministry of Health (FDA, MCHN)

What monitoring systems already exist, which could be used for monitoring compliance with relevant provisions of the law?

Who are the relevant authorized agencies?

How do you secure participation by NGOs, public-interest civil society groups and the general public?



### Costing and Budgeting



Necessary to estimate the cost of operationalizing monitoring activities at national and sub-national levels, so as to:

- identify available resources (human and financial) that can be allocated for monitoring the Code and/or national laws;
- estimate resources that need to be requested and/or advocated for at national and/or sub-national levels; and
- review systems and plans in order to ensure their sustainability and efficiency

#### Ask:

- Has a costing exercise been undertaken?
- If not, what are the challenges/obstacles in doing so?
- Are there existing budgets which can be utilized?

Costing and budgeting for monitoring

## A number of key assumptions are relevant to costing the monitoring system and activities:

- Government monitors are existing salaried staff
- Existing communication and digital equipment
- Logistical support of government monitors
- There is no need for additional infrastructure



#### Possible list of costs (one-off and recurrent costs) to be identified.

- initial training of monitors (residential; non-residential; or self-training)
- incorporation of Code monitoring into pre- and in-service training for relevant agencies
- development, adaptation and finalization of SOPs and monitoring tools
- development of centralized monitoring database (development and maintenance)
- printing and reproduction of recording and reporting forms
- regular meetings of the monitoring team (operation costs, per diem, logistics)
- development of annual national reports (consultant or in-house)
- publication and dissemination of annual national reports
- development of a web-based reporting system

Developing standard monitoring tools and a database

# Standard Monitoring Tools and Database

#### **Standard Monitoring Tools**

- Existing monitoring tools
- Universal monitoring and reporting form
- Data collection tools
  - Paper
  - Online/mobile
  - SMS
- Databases



Universal Monitoring and Reporting Form

Use this form to report any practice that violates the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent World Health Assembly Resolutions or the relevant

national measure. Violations by manufacturers, distributors or by any person who works for or on their behalf must be reported to the

\*Date and Time

When was the violation observed?

designated authority.

Where (place, town) was violation observed?

(For newspapers and periodicals, indicate the name and date of publication; for TV/Radio indicate channel, or frequency; webpage; Facebook account, name of health facility, shop)

\*Product name

Developing standard monitoring tools and a database

## Standard Monitoring Tools and Database



Relevant ministries and agencies may already have monitoring tools for their inspectors and monitors

e.g. existing tools used to monitor quality of care in health facilities

It is recommended to integrate additional information on monitoring of promotional practices for designated products

Where no existing monitoring tools exist, a practical, user-friendly universal monitoring form can be used



## Standard Monitoring Tools and Database



Are there existing monitoring forms which can be used or modified, e.g. used for existing monitoring systems?

In what format do monitoring forms need to be? Paper, electronic?

Can existing database be used, or should there be a central database for compiling alleged Code violations?



# Building the Capacity of Monitors



Monitors of participating agencies should complete hands-on training that will help them understand:

- 1. Why breastfeeding is important and the state of Infant and young child nutrition in the country;
- 2. The importance of regulating the marketing of breast-milk substitutes for the protection of infant and young child nutrition;
- 3. The aim, scope and major provisions of the Code and the national law;
- 4. Functions, roles and responsibilities for monitoring and enforcement;
- 5. What, where and when to monitor;
- 6. How to monitor (vis a vis their existing monitoring roles and responsibilities);
- 7. The monitoring protocols and procedures to follow;
- 8. Reporting and enforcement mechanisms.



# Building the Capacity of Monitors



#### Keep in mind:

- importance of breastfeeding should be part of training for monitors not familiar with the issue
- identified monitors should be familiarized with provisions of relevant laws for proper identification, reporting and documentation of violations
- consider whether all monitoring agencies should be trained together or whether training should be tailored to individual agencies
- capacity building on monitoring the national laws should be integrated into induction and in-service training, where appropriate
- monitoring responsibilities should be included in job descriptions of relevant monitors



# Building the Capacity of Monitors



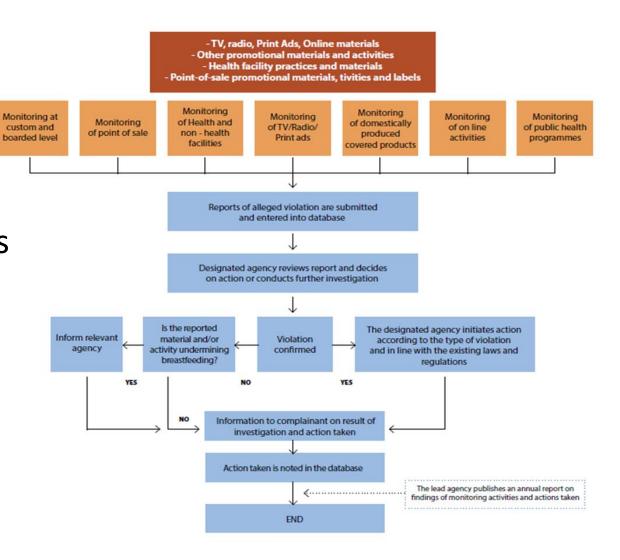
- Do you have available expertise in Code monitoring training? Do you need a ToT?
- Do all identified monitors need to be trained together or should training be tailored to individual agencies?
- How do you integrate capacity building on monitoring the national laws into induction and in-service training? What are the opportunities for this?

Monitoring and enforcement

## **Monitoring and Enforcement**

- Identifying violations
- Reporting on violations
- Verifying and acting on violations
- 4 Disseminating monitoring findings







### **Evaluation of the System**



#### Aim of the evaluation:

- to determine the system's relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability

Periodic evaluation to determine whether it is effectively ensuring full compliance with national laws

Engage external entity in conduct of evaluation to ensure unbiased process and outcome

Include both qualitative and quantitative information collection

Evaluation findings and recommendations should be written up in a report, and a publicly available summary should be considered (should be made known to both evaluators and evaluates prior to involvement in evaluation)



### **Evaluation of the System**



Reviews of monitoring databases will be valuable to evaluate what types of violations are being reported, how they are being followed up, and whether they are increasing or decreasing

Examination of reports to the system that do not ultimately end in sanctions may be especially important:

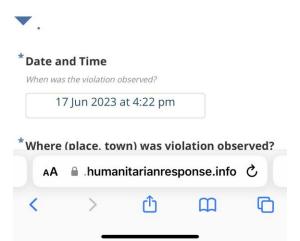
- may point to aspects of the Code that are not adequately covered by existing national laws or where the national laws are not clearly written
- may indicate poor training of monitors who do not adequately understand the Code and national laws

## Using the Kobo Toolbox for monitoring

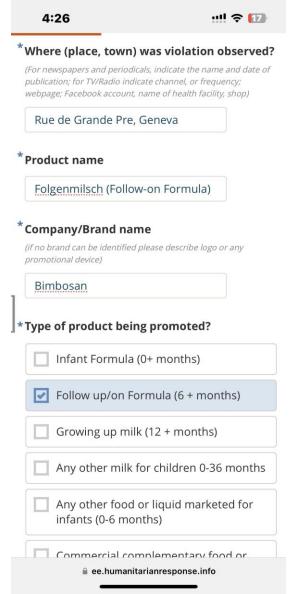


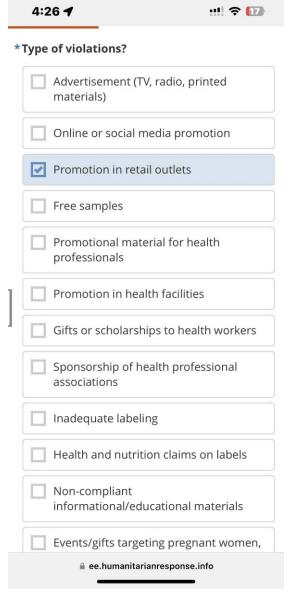
## Universal Monitoring and Reporting Form

Use this form to report any practice that violates the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent World Health Assembly Resolutions or the relevant national measure. Violations by manufacturers, distributors or by any person who works for or on their behalf must be reported to the designated authority.

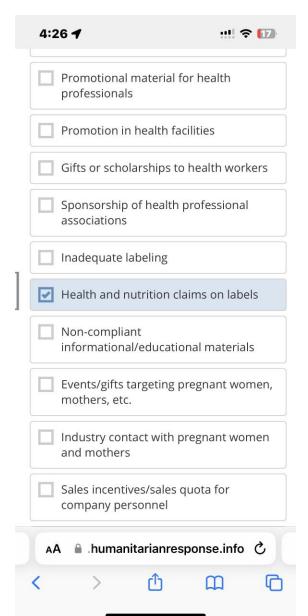


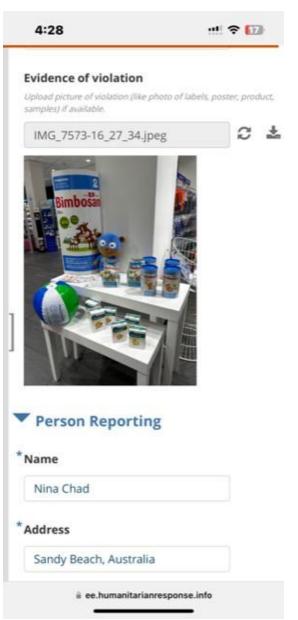


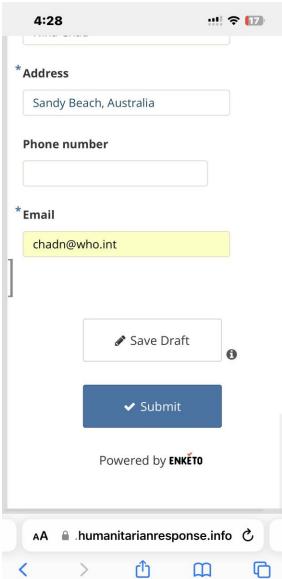


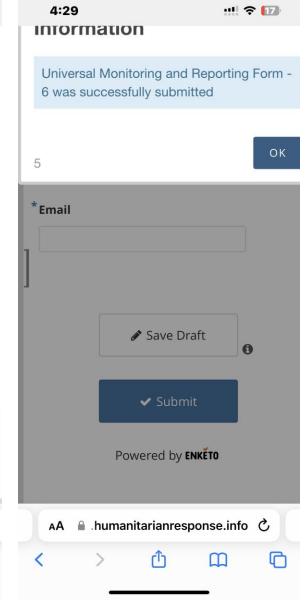


### Using the Kobo Toolbox for monitoring







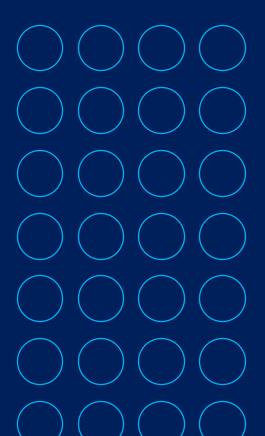


## Using the Kobo Toolbox for monitoring – data dashboard

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**NEXT** ▶

**◆ PREV** 



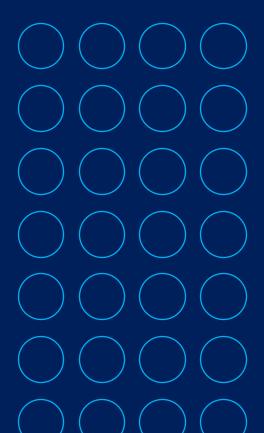


## Go out and monitor!!

## Thank You







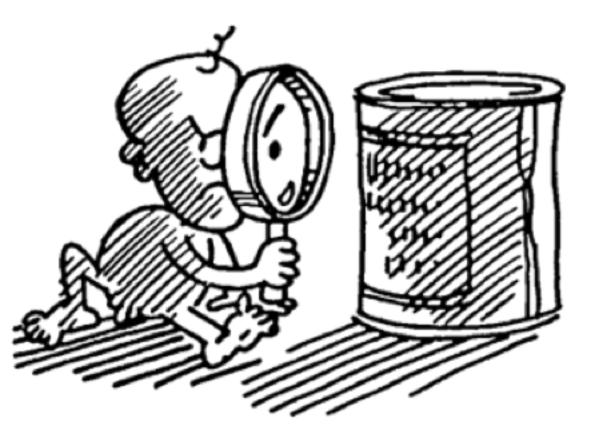


## Arun Gupta

Coordinator of the Breastfeeding Promotion Network Of India









Global Congress on Implementation of the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes June 2023

Grassroots
Monitoring: The
Code/National Laws

Dr. Arun Gupta MD(Ped.), FIAP

Founder and Coordinator Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI), India.





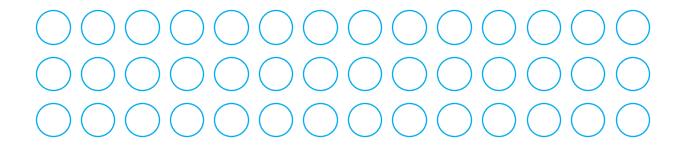


### Overview

- What is Code Monitoring at the Grassroot level?
- Why Monitoring is essential?
- Who can monitor?
- What to monitor?
- Actions to be taken by the governments

### What is Code Monitoring at the Grassroot level?

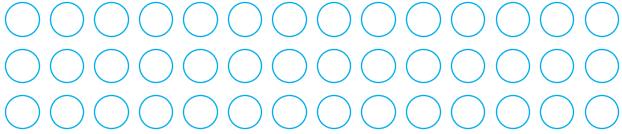




- Monitoring is carried out by the bottom-up approach to show what is happening on the ground
- Individuals and communities are involved.
- Governments leads.
- Civil society/academics/lactation professionals and other people monitor and report
- Independent (Without any conflicts of interest)

## Why monitoring of the Code is essential?



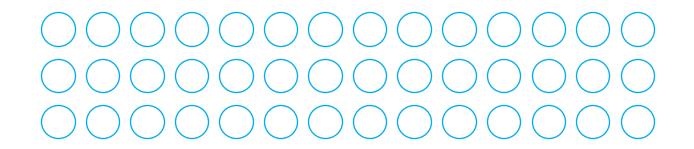


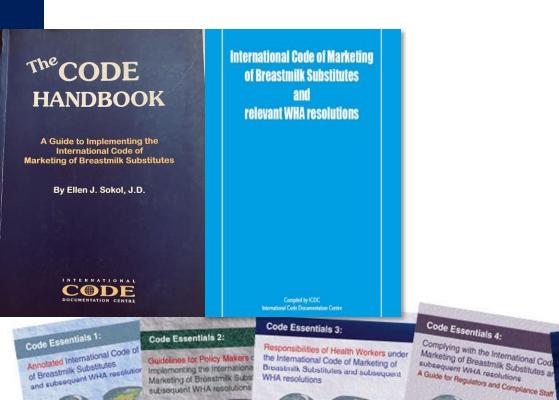
 To ensure protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding...3 pillars for success.

## Added value of grassroots monitoring

- A watchdog function
- Complimentary to government led monitoring
- Identifies loopholes, new and problematic areas of promotion.
- Creates an evidence base for action and programme planning
- Helpful in advocacy for framing new sections/ amendments to existing Code/laws.
- It helps holding the regulators and industry accountable.

#### Who can monitor?





3

CODE

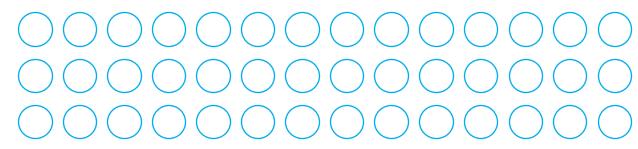
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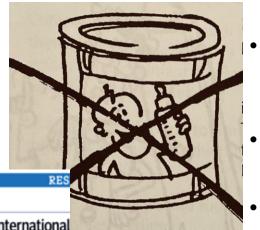
- Monitors: Need training to have through understanding of the Code and resolutions/National laws
- Solid foundation to identify violations.

Protecting Infant Health

- Establish plans to monitor and report.
- Governments should support such activity

#### What to Monitor?





#### Health and nutrition claims for infant formula: international sectional survey

Ka Yan Cheung, 1 Loukia Petrou, 1 Bartosz Helfer, 2.3,4 Erika Porubayeva, 5 Elena Dolgikh, 5 S Insaf Ali, Lindsay Archibald-Durham, Meredith (Merilee) Brockway, Polina Bugaeva, Rishma Chooniedass, 11 Pasquale Comberiati, 12 Erika Cortés-Macías, 13 Sofia D'Elios, 12 Gavriela Feketea, 14,15 Peter Hsu, 16 Musa Abubakar Kana, 17 Tatiana Kriulina, 18 Yuzuka K Comfort Madaki, 20 Rihab Omer, 21 Diego Peroni, 12 Jana Prokofiev, 22 Melanie Rae Simps Naoki Shimojo, 19 Linda P Siziba, 21 Jon Genuneit, 21 Sohini Thakor, 1 Marium Waris, 2 Qua Sadia Zaman, 1 Bridget E Young, 25 Brighid Bugos, 25 Matthew Greenhawt, 26 Michael E Lo Jonathan Zheng, 28 Robert J Boyle, 2 Daniel Munblit2,5

101-9652-6856)

To review available health and nutrition claims for infant formula products in multiple countries and to evaluate the validity of the evidence used for substantiation of claims.

#### mial is published

International cross sectional survey.

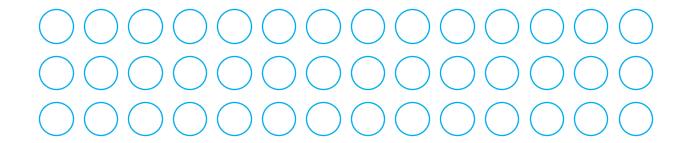
Public facing and healthcare professional facing company owned or company managed formula industry websites providing information about products marketed for healthy infants delivered at full term in 15 countries: Australia, Canada, Germany,

brain and/or eyes and/or nervous system" (53%) products, 13 ingredients), "strengthe supports a healthy immune system" (239 ( products, 12 ingredients), and "helps/supt growth and development" (224 (37%) prod 20 ingredients). 41 groups of ingredients w associated with ≥1 claims, but many claims without reference to a specific ingredient (3 products). The most common groups of ingr cited in claims were long chain polyunsatur fatty acids (278 (46%) products, 9 different prebiotics, probiotics, or symbiotics (225 (3 products, 19 claims); and hydrolysed prote (20%) products, 9 claims). 161/608 (26%) with >1 claims provided a scientific referen

- At Grassroot level: Pharmacy, drug stores, grocery shops, maternity hospitals for posters, display, discounts.
- Study of Labelling for health claims, idealization of bottle-feeding, warnings.
- Watch the activity of health systems and professional organizations for sponsorship, gifts, free supplies, direct contact with mothers.
- Look at E-commerce sites for discounted sales
- While assessing BFHI asking questions from health workers (gift/sponsorship) and mothers (free supplies) is helpful too.

the **bmj** | BMJ 2023;380:e071075 | doi: 10.1136/bmj-2022-071075

## Monitoring policy interference



**PARTNERS** 

http://diet4life.fssai.gov.in/partners.html

1/16/2018









**IPACI** 













#### Is India's food safety authority above Parliament?

News > Is India's food safety authority above Parliament?

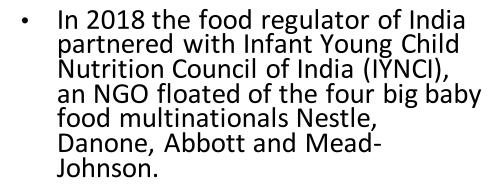












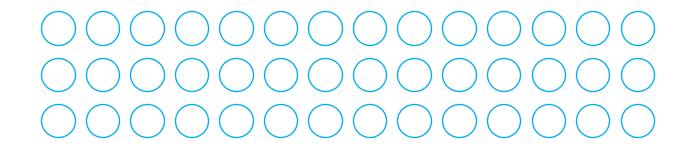
Came in the guise of importing special formula or IEMs. And led to getting exemption from existing law.

Sponsorships of conferences began to happen openly

It took BPNI 18 months to get it right.

Lesson is never partner with organisations having conflicts of interest.

#### Critical to monitor



Is ZeroSeparation Astroturfing? How business groups use babies to recruit allies





A new Zero Separation campaign was launched on 9th July by the European Foundation for the Care of Newborn infants (EFCNI) through an entity called GLANCE - the Global Alliance for Newborn Care. You can see the host on NGOs that have signed up to this call here: https://we.tl/t-gby4wD2IUe

It is important to know that the EFCNI website lists the US baby food company Abbott as its first funder in 2008 and later thanks the following corporate partners: The Nestlé Nutrition Institute. Prolacta Bioscience® Inc.Royal DSM (manufacturer of formula ingredients) and Phillips (manufacturer of bottles and teats).

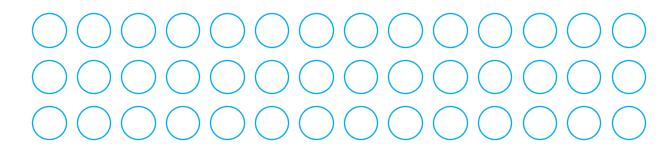
We are pleased that after being alerted about the conflicts of interest, UNICEF has decided not promote the Zero Separation in its World Breastfeeding Week materials.

The call to keep mothers and babies together is one we all support - especially now when so many are being separated - in some part because of industry promoted fears of COVID transmission - so its important to look closely at who is behind this.

The EFCNI Transparency page and its Policy regarding cooperation, funding and donations of specific industries -could be reassuring for those who do not know the Code well but it is very misleading about Conflict of Interest. For example it states:"EFCNI is aware of the WHO's code in relation to marketing of infant formulas and will not enter into initiatives which contravene these. EFCNI accepts financial donations from milk manufacturers. EFCNI will not provide direct endorsement of infant milk products e.g. logo on packaging or promotions which promote infant formula instead of breastfeeding."

How industry use new techniques like **Astroturfing-** masking the sponsors and creating fake impressions of grassroots efforts.

# IBFAN: Monitoring on the ground since 1981





- IBFAN -ICDC-Sharing of reports based on grassroots monitoring
- Training of the government or civil society staff for implementing
- Organising grassroots individuals, groups and networks
- National groups like BPNI reporting on regular basis
- Company campaigns: Hold companies accountable, analyses of company policies and alerting grassroot players for action.
- Inputs into international, regional and national policy development.

## Monitoring reports



# Reports and expose brings the issues upfront...so go on !!



#### 'Baby food brand ads on social media violate law'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

SEVERAL baby food brands are violating laws by using social media to advertise products like infant milk substitutes, according to the latest report released by the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI).

The report, which flags 15 top brands, was released on May 21. also World Breastfeeding Day. BPNI, which has been mandated by the government as a child welfare non-profit to flag such violations, said a new trend has emerged in promoting these products using social media, and unsuspecting influencers are becoming partners in crime. Moreover, some of these products are being promoted by celebrities like Bollywood actors Anushka Sharma and Mira Rajput Kapoor, wife of Shahid Kapoor.

"New tactics of involving celebrities, social media influencers, mothers and mother bloggers on Instagram and YouTube is certainly catching on," said the report adding that knowingly or unknowingly, they are also infringing the law and are liable to be penalised.

There is no system to monitor and investigate such violachecked. The law prohibits any kind of "promotion" of food products or feeding bottles, including advertising, incentives eration promotion playground; proven to be contributing to in-



#### WHAT THE REPORT SAYS

Law prohibits any kind of "promotion" of baby food products or feeding hottles, including advertising, incentives or directly reaching out to moms, for children under the age of 24

Child welfare nonprofit BPNI, which has been mandated by the government as organisation to flag such violations, says: New trend emerged in promoting these products using social media

Some products are being promoted by celebrities like Bollywood actors

No system to monitor and investigate such violations, which have remained unchecked

> Social media is the new promotion playground. It must be monitored and notified diligently. Digital technologies used for marketing breast milk substitutes are proven to be contributing to increasing sales and consumption of baby formula across the world. Our findings confirm WHO observations

Breastfeeding Promotion Network

age of 24 months

months

"Social media is the new-gen-

tions, which have remained unmoms, for children under the and notified diligently. Digital technologies used for marketing breast milk substitutes are

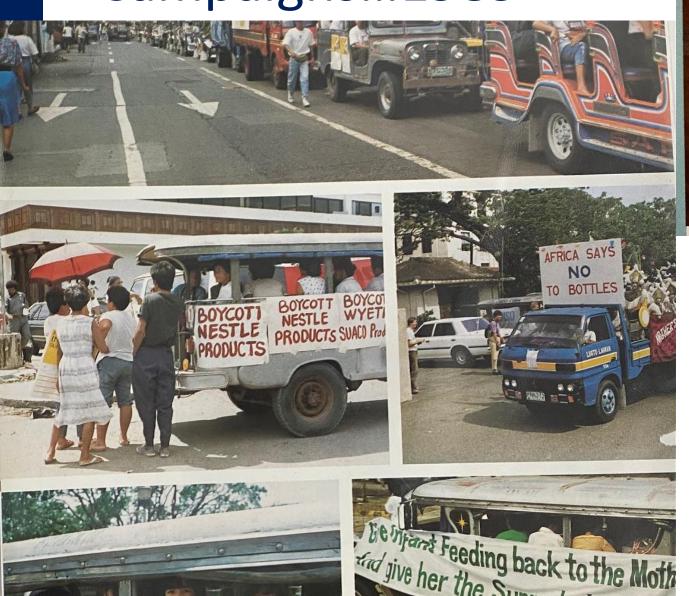
creasing sales and consumption of baby formula across the world. Our findings confirm World Health Organisation's observations," said the report titled "Indian Law Baby Food Offenders "

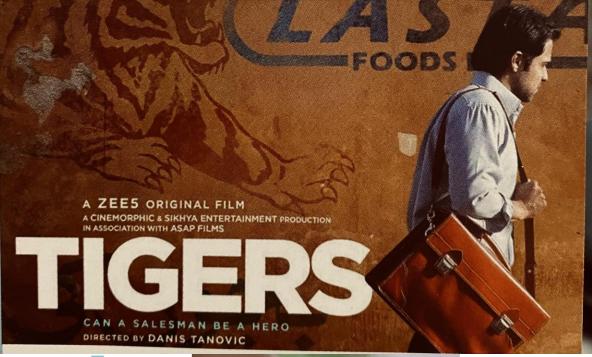
The Indian government enacted the Infant Milk Substitutes Feeding Bottles, and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 1992, and Amendment Act 2003 (IMS Act) in order to control the marketing of the baby foods as a follow-up to the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes and subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions.

Speaking to this paper, Arun Gupta, one of the four founder paediatricians of BPNI said, undermining breastfeeding and complementary feeding through commercial influence also violates child's right to life and health and mother's right to breastfeed. Non-stop promotion continues even after 32 years of the established law.

He said they have flagged these 15 violations of the IMS Act by major companies and the platforms used by them with the union health ministry. BPNI has also written a letter to Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), chief Priyank Kanoongo flagging the

## Campaigns...1989





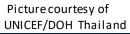


## Actions to be taken

Governments can consider following actions to strengthen grassroots monitoring:

- Appointment of a point person to monitor Code/Law
- Preparation of individuals, teams and organisations to monitor and report
- Launch a mobile App for people to monitor and report
- Integrate monitoring with BFHI enquiry
- Building a database of reports
- Establish efficient enforcement mechanisms
- Initiate legal or other punitive action when necessary
- Allocation of funding for all of the above
- Reviewing annually







Global Congress on Implementation of the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes
June 2023

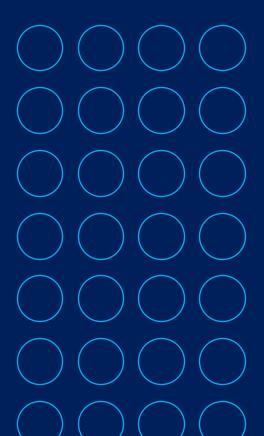




## Thank you!









# Khatthanaphone Phandouangsy

Deputy Director General

Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion

Ministry of Health, from the Lao People's Democratic Republic







# Strengthening Monitoring of the Breast-Milk Substitutes Code in LAO PDR

Using real-time information system

Ministry of Health



#### Presentation outline

Background

Key strategic actions

Key findings

Way forward

# **BACKGROUND**

Strengthening Monitoring of the Breast-Milk Substitutes Code in LAO PDR

#### Objectives of BMS Monitoring System



To capture and report violations related to advertisements/ promotions on BMS products

To capture and report violations related to labeling on BMS products





To analyze and use data for evidence-based decision making

#### **Products Monitored**





Infant formula powder or milk powder



2

Commercial complementary foods



3

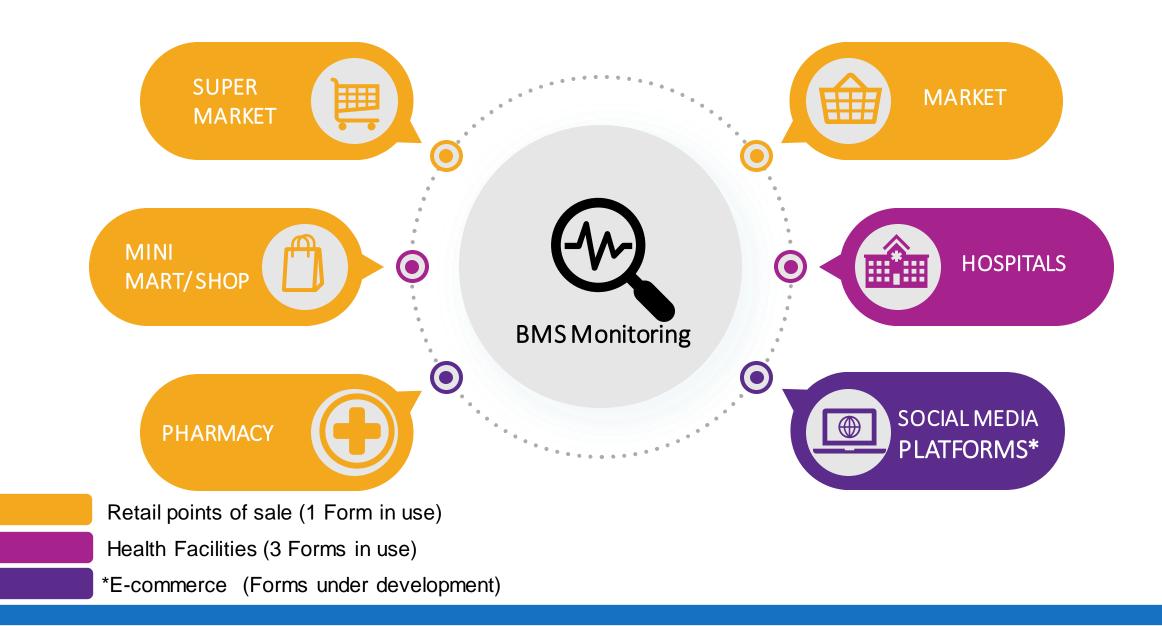
Any other food products for infants and toddlers





Feeding equipment (milk bottle, teat etc)

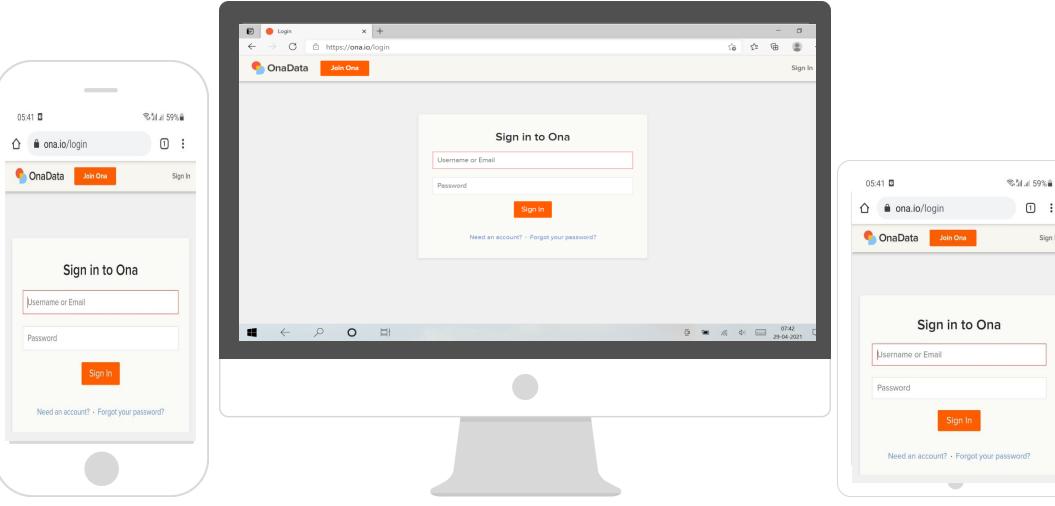
## Targeted places for BMS Monitoring



# **KEY STRATEGIC ACTIONS**

Strengthening Monitoring of the Breast-Milk Substitutes Code in LAO PDR

### Developed BMS monitoring system using Ona

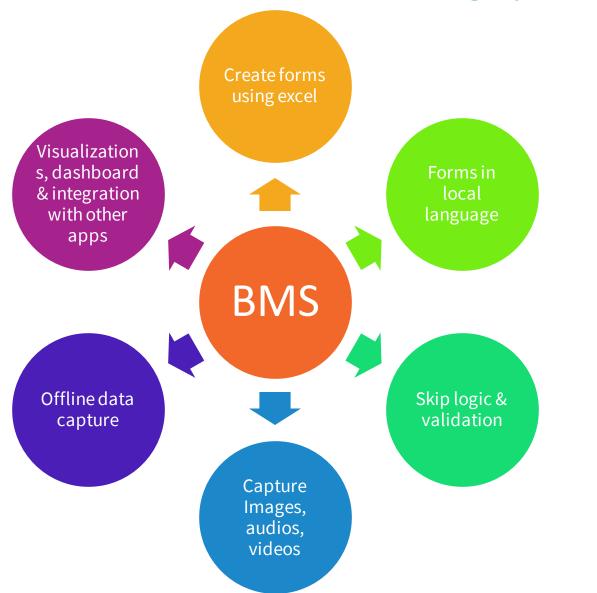


1 :

Sign In

Ona is a mobile based data collection platform for conducting field surveys and assessments

## Features of BMS Monitoring System



### Work-Flow of BMS Monitoring System



#### 01. Design

Create survey form using Excel and have instant access on android phones



#### 02. Collect

Easily distribute survey on an Android device or on the web. Data connection not needed



#### 03. Analyze

Visualize data as it is collected and gain understanding using powerful insights tools

### Steps for Reporting BMS Violations

#### 01. Get blank form

Download blank form from server

#### 02. Fill blank form

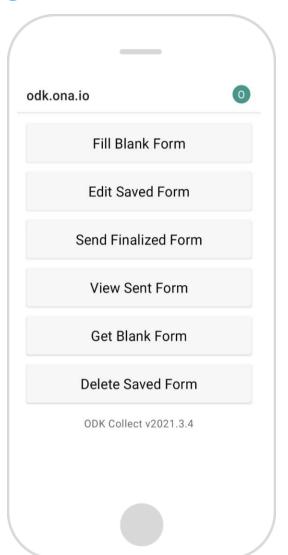
Enter data for BMS products

#### 03. Edit saved form

Modify data if required

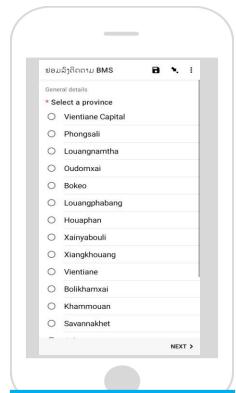
#### 04. Send finalized form

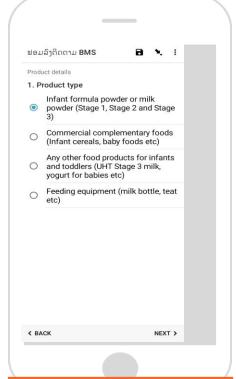
Upload data to the server

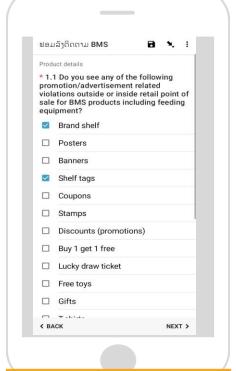


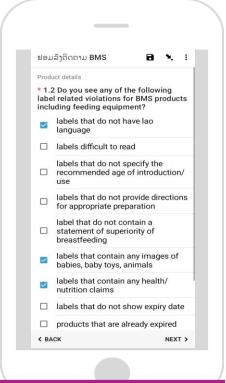


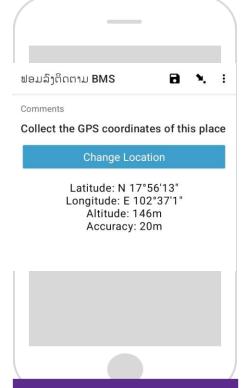
### Data Captured in BMS Monitoring System











**General data** 

**Product types data** 

**Promotion data** 

**Labelling data** 

**GPS** data

## Key stakeholders involved in BMS Monitoring



## Established Master Trainers in BMS Monitoring







## Strengthened Capacity of Provinces and Districts









### **BMS Monitors in Action**







# BMS Monitoring in Lao PDR



12 PROVINCES

73 DISTRICTS

646 RETAIL POINTS OF SALE

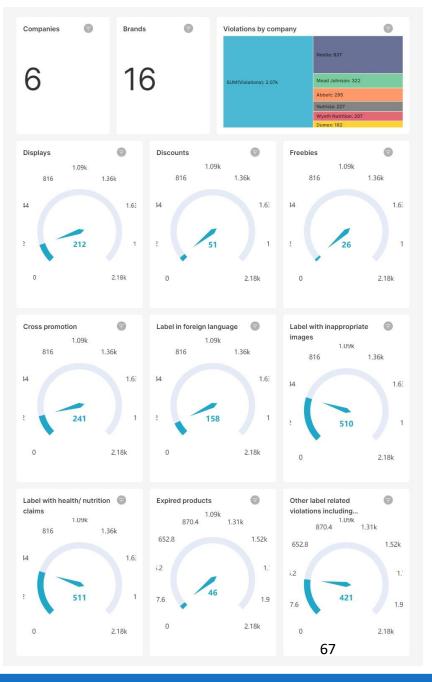
# DATA ANALYSIS AND VISUALIZATION

Strengthening Monitoring of the Breast-Milk Substitutes Code in LAO PDR

# **Automated** dashboards

- Easy overview:
  - Most common types of violations
  - Location of violations
  - By province,district or even bycompany/brand





#### Way forward

- Scale up of BMS monitoring at retail points of sale (from 12 to all 18 provinces by July 2023)
- Scale up of BMS monitoring at both public and private hospitals (12 out of 18 provinces by December 2023)
- Development of tool to capture BMS violations in e-commerce and/or social media platforms (by December 2023)
- Increased awareness of legislation amongst retailers and health officials as well as the general public

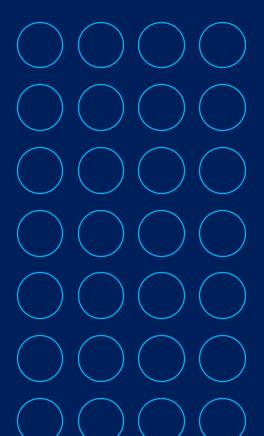


## **Thank you**









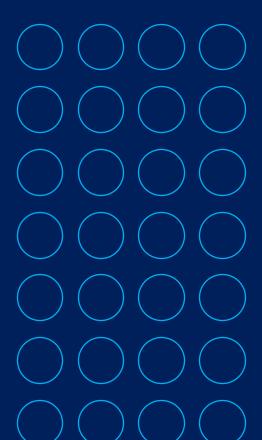


# Snong Thongsna

Vice Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
Lao People's Democratic Republic







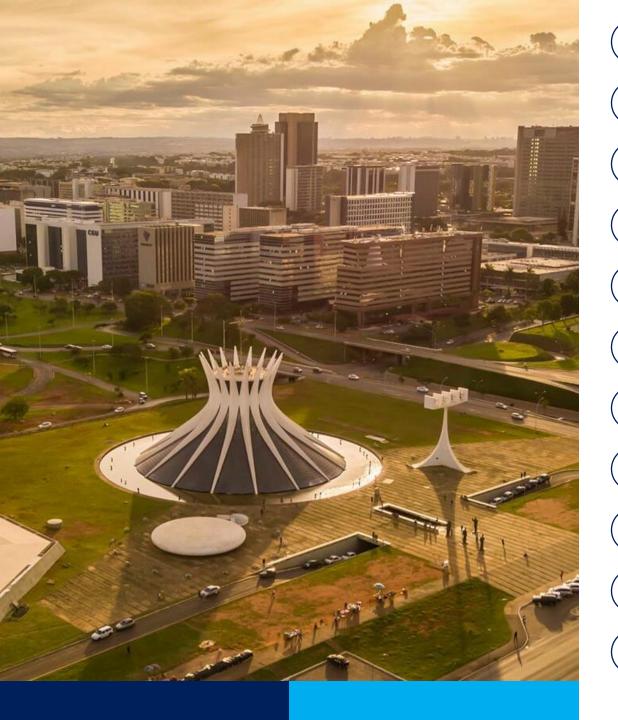


# Renata de Araujo Ferreira

Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency









Global Congress on Implementation of the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes June 2023

Experiences: establishing and operationalizing monitoring systems - Brazil

Renata de Araujo Ferreira Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency ANVISA





# NBCAL (Brazilian Code of Marketing of Infant and Toddler's Food Teats, Pacifiers and Baby Bottles)

Federal Law n. 11.265/2006

Decree n. 9.579/2018

Anvisa Resolutions – RDC n. 221 and 222/2002

## NBCAL is an essential part of the Brazilian breastfeeding policy (PNAM)

Components of the Brazilian Policy for the Promotion, Protection and Support of Breastfeeding



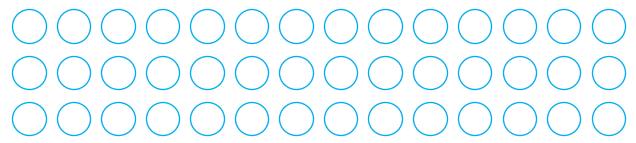
### NBCAL monitoring and enforcement

- The NBCAL monitoring and enforcement is a legal responsibility of all Brazilian Health Regulatory System (SNVS), which includes ANVISA and regulatory bodies in 27 States and 5568 Municipalities;
- Anvisa acts at the federal level and the other bodies according to their responsibility (state or municipal)



### **Anvisa**

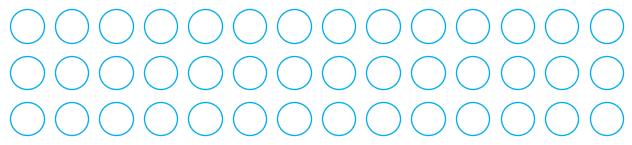




- The Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency (Anvisa) is an autarchy linked to the Ministry of Health, part of the Brazilian National Health System (SUS) as the coordinator of the Brazilian Health Regulatory System (SNVS).
- Anvisa's role it to promote the protection of the population's health by executing sanitary control of the production, marketing and use of products and services subject to health regulation, including related environments, processes, ingredients and technologies, as well as the control in ports, airports and borders.

# Non-compliance investigations





- Between 2020 and 2023, 26 processes were started by Anvisa at the federal level to investigate non-compliance with NBCAL;
- There is no national database with information on investigations processes and sanctions filed by states and municipalities;

## Epinet: e-commerce monitoring project



- Pilot project started in 2022 by Anvisa;
- Anvisa defines terms and conditions and uses artificial intelligence (a contracted company) that searches internet for irregular advertisements;
- When a non-compliance is identified, an electronic tool automatically notifies the company to delete the content;
- The company may request clarification to Anvisa about the notification by email;
- After notification, the electronic tool monitors whether the irregular content has been deleted from the internet and whether it will not be published again.



Queda de cabelo

Produto "natural"

Hormônio

0 K%

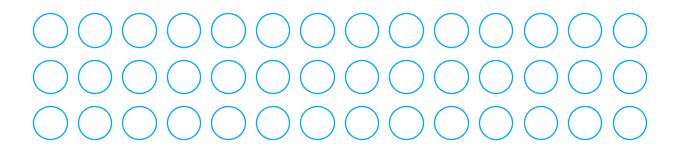
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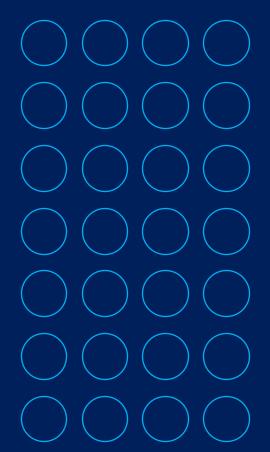


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### Sanctions



- Non-compliance with NBCAL by companies related to advertising can have the following sanctions, established in Federal Law n. 6437/77: warning, prohibition of advertising, suspension of sales, imposition of rectifying message, suspension of advertising and fine;
- Penalties can be accumulated;
- The amount of the fine can vary between BRL 2,000.00 (U\$ 400,00) to BRL 1,500,000.00 (U\$300.000,00);
- The recurrence of the same irregularity doubles de fine.

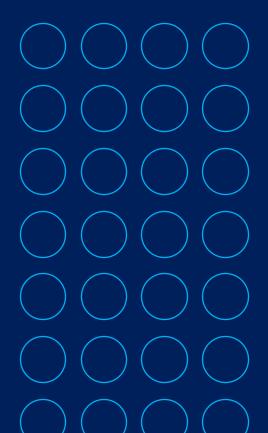




Brazil has many challenges and non-compliance with NBCAL, but we continue to work on improving our monitoring system.







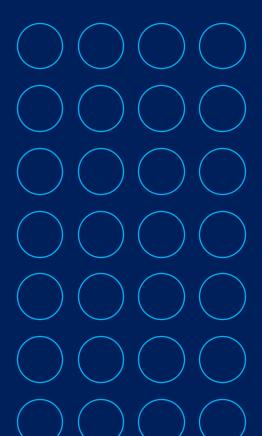


## Thank you

Obrigada!









## Nina Chad

Breastfeeding Counsellor and Technical Consultant
Department of Nutrition and Food Safety (NFS)
World Health Organization









Global Congress on Implementation of the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes June 2023

Monitoring digital marketing of breast-milk substitutes





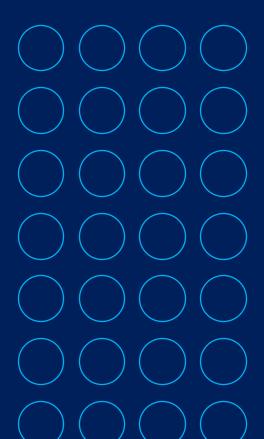
## Monitoring challenges

#### Digital promotions may:

- be ephemeral or fleeting;
- not be publicly visible;
- originate from outside the country;
- be difficult to recognise as promotions.

### Monitoring in digital ecosystems

- periodic sampling (eg WHO CLICK protocol)
- public reporting portal
- require platforms to filter content
- social media intelligence monitoring
- purchase commercial market reports
- persistent monitoring (eg VIVID)
- combination approaches





## Nguyen Mai Huong

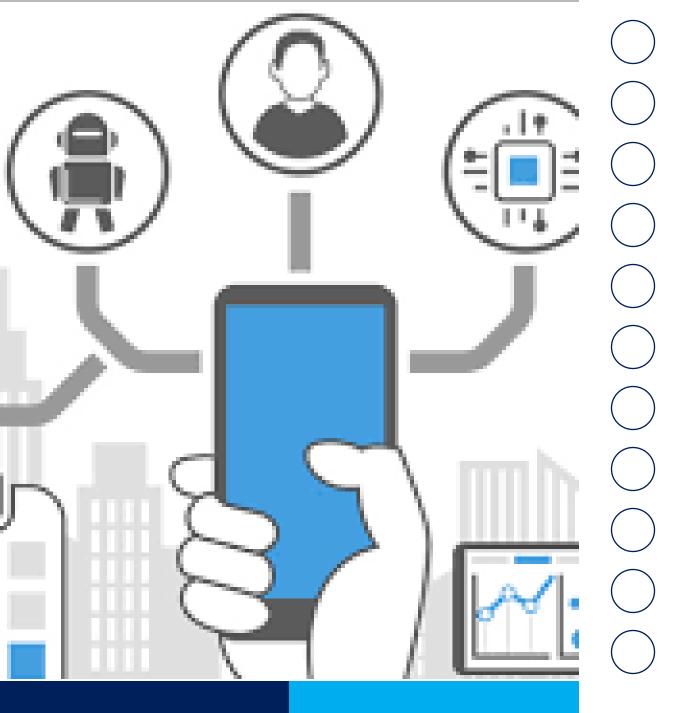
Senior Officer

Department of Maternal and Child Health

Ministry of Health Viet Nam









Global Congress on Implementation of the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes June 2023

# Innovation in monitoring harmful digital marketing

**Dr Nguyen Mai Huong, MD, MPH**Department of Maternal and Child
Health, Ministry of Health





## Viet Nam – a fast growing digital economy

- Viet Nam with total population of 100 million is among top 15 countries with smartphone users
- Ranked Facebook's 7<sup>th</sup> largest user base with an estimated 58 million active users.
- Online ads industry is growing rapidly, reaching US\$390 million in revenues in 2016 and tripled in 2020.
- Since 2014, social networks overtook search engines to become the most-used online advertising method.



# Despite legal framework to prohibit marketing of BMS products for children up to 24 months old...

- Law on Advertisement 2012
- Decree 100/2014/ND-CP on the trading in and use of nutritious products for infants, feeding bottles and teats.
- Decree 70/2021/ND-CP on Digital Advertising since July 2021:
  - Online platforms to report annually on advertisement violations and remove violations within 24 hours.

## ... increase in Code violations on online platforms while limited human resources to enforce the Code

- Digital marketing accounts for 70% of total spending for marketing.
- 32% of mothers report seeing BMS marketing on social media.





# VIVID (Virtual Violations Detector) – an artificial intelligence powered application was developed by multi stakeholder partnership.





- Department of Maternal and Child Health
- Department of Legislations Affairs
- Department of Health Inspection
- Viet Nam Food Administration







VIVID scans 43 fanpages and websites of companies accounting for 95% of breast-milk substitutes sales in Viet Nam.



























**itaDairy** 





VIVID scans baby shop websites, fanpages, shopping platforms.















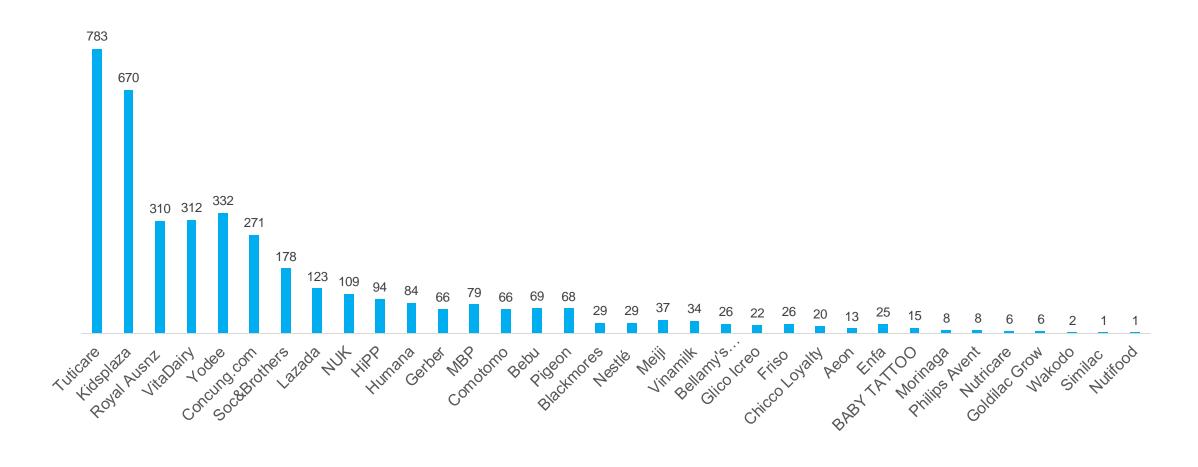


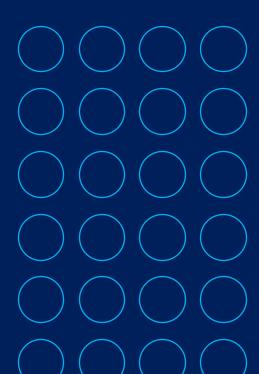




# In 2022, VIVID scanned 35,790 posts and detected 3,922 Code violations.

(~ 15 violations per day, accuracy rate of 77%).



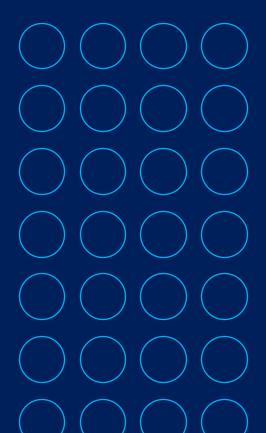




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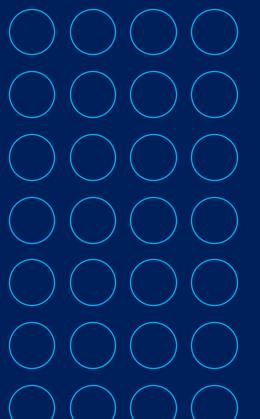


## Constance Ching

Consultant, Code Implementation & Advocacy Alive & Thrive, East Asia Pacific









# Options for monitoring digital marketing

Al as Solution: Capabilities and Findings

Constance Ching Technical Consultant on Code Advocacy and Implementation

Alive & Thrive | East Asia Pacific FHI Solutions | Innovation Incubator





### Al and digital technology have been used to

- Disrupt businesses, improve productivity and increase bottom line
- Exploited for unethical and predatory marketing targeting women, children and families
- Data mining and algorithms: Big data enhances marketing capacity and ACUITY

Yet the application of AI to protect vulnerable groups and improve public health still has much room for exploration

To aid, not to replace monitoring.

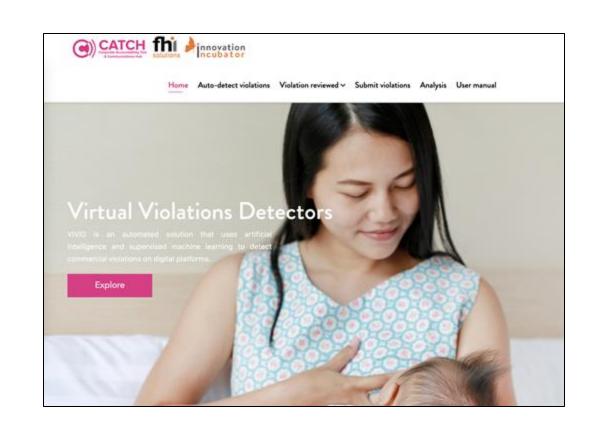
To disrupt the status quo "not able to do anything about digital marketing"





### What is a Virtual Violations Detector (VIVID)?

- Virtual assistant that uses human trained and supervised artificial intelligence to monitor inappropriate marketing on digital platforms
- Trained to identify Code violations and types of violations
- VIVID Viet Nam in national language and based on national legal measures
- VIVID Code (pilot) in English and based on the International Code (and WHA resolutions)
- Code + Can be adapted to national context to aid monitoring and enforcement





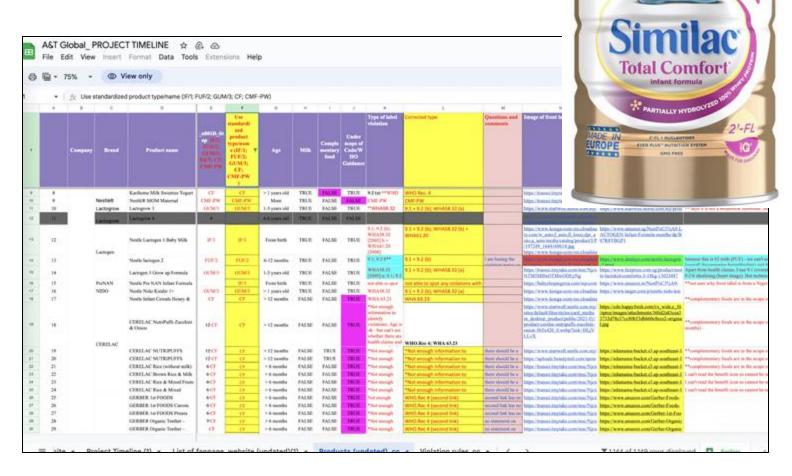
Prototype in beta phase: ongoing developing and usability testing

# How does it work? Snapshots of Development and Human Training Process "WHAT, HOW, WHERE"

1. WHAT: Image and Text Recognition

#### Identify products (scope)

- breastmilk substitutes (up to 36 months / infant formula, followup formula, and growing-up milk)
- bottles and teats
- food for infants and young children
- commercial milk formula for pregnant and lactating women



### **Cross-Promotion**

### "Womb to tomb marketing"







Home Auto-detect violations Violation reviewed V Submit violations Analysis

Login

#### Auto-detect violations

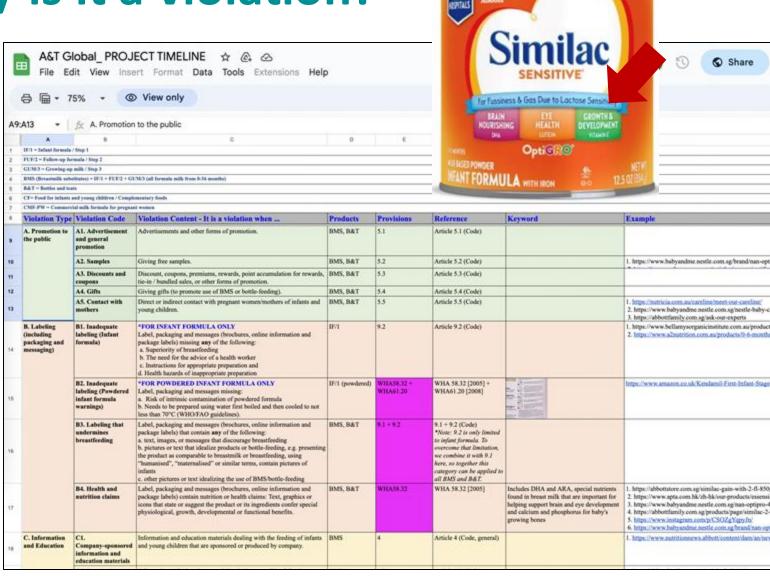


No	Country ↑↓	Company ↑↓	Brand ↑↓	Caption	Image	Published date ↑↓	Crawl date ↑↓	Link	VIVID		
									Status 1	Code article	Violation type
1	Malaysia	FrieslandCampina	Friso mum	7 DAYS left to win! Our contest ends on 31 May! Last chance to win up to RM600,000 worth of prizes! Buy Friso® Gold and be in the running to win a gorgeo		05-25-2023	05-26-2023	8	Violation	5.1	Promotion to the public
:	Malaysia	Mead Johnson Nutrition	Enfagrow	Only+ Enfagrow A+ MindPro provides expert DHA levels* & MFGM to nurture both IQ & EQ^. Give your child to try today to support his holistic brain development. ^Coupl	11	02-28-2023	05-26-2023	8	Violation	5.1 4.2 WHA58.32	Promotion to the public Information and education Nutrition or health claims
1	Malaysia	NUK		Shopee Pay Day is happening now! Shop now to get up to 55% off only on 25th May! Enjoy Free Shipping benefits with min spend of RM20 and an RM10 off voucher f	08/8	05-25-2023	05-25-2023	в	Violation	5.1 5.3 5.4	Promotion to the public
4	Malaysia	Mead Johnson Nutrition	Enfagrow	Only+ Enfagrow A+ MindPro provides expert DHA levels* & MFGM to nurture both IQ & EQ^. Give your child to try today to support his holistic brain development. ^Coupl		02-28-2023	05-25-2023	8	Violation	5.1 4.2 WHA58.32	Promotion to the public information and education Nutrition or health claims
5	Malaysia	NUK		Make those first months more peaceful with the help of NUK Star Latex Soother with an extra soft baglet Our orthodontic soother helps perfect teeth alignme	* 9	05-23-2023	05-24-2023	8	Violation	5.1	Promotion to the public

### 2. HOW: How/Why is it a violation?

Set up violation 'rules' according to provisions in the Code and relevant WHA resolutions (2016 WHO Guidance)

Trained the machine to identify the type of violations and Code articles/Resolutions E.g. WHA 58.32 Nutrition and health claims





### One post – multiple violations

Violation	5.1 5.3 5.4 4.2 9.1 + 9.2,4.2 WHA58.32	Promotion to the public Information and education Messages, information, educational materials, and labeling Nutrition or health claims
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<u>Malaysia</u>	Mead Johnson Nutrition	<u>Enfagrow</u>	Get a FREE* Piano Block Set or Kid Playground Set at BIG Baby Expo @Southkey, JB MidValley. Choose Enfagrow A+ MindPro. Nurturing your child's IQ with Expert D
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Malaysia Mead Johnson Nutrition Enfagrow

Only+ Enfagrow A+ MindPro provides expert DHA levels\* & MFGM to nurture both IQ & EQ^. Give your child to try today to support his holistic bra...





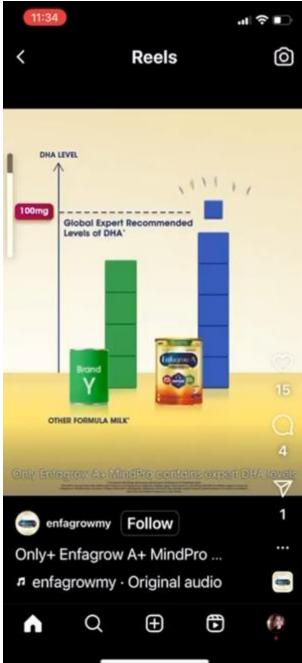
Violation

5.1 4.2 WHA58.32

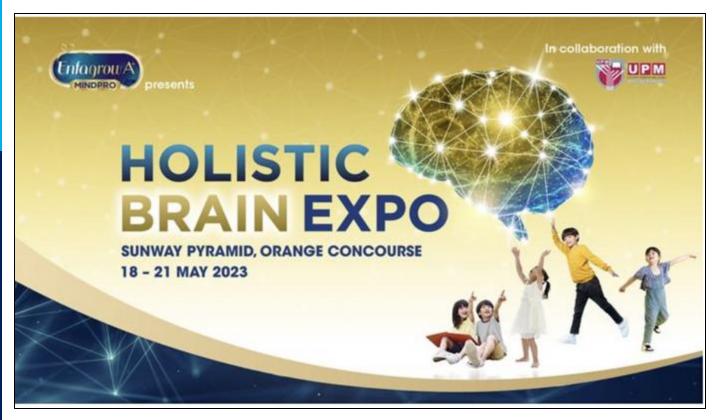
Promotion to the public Information and education Nutrition or health claims

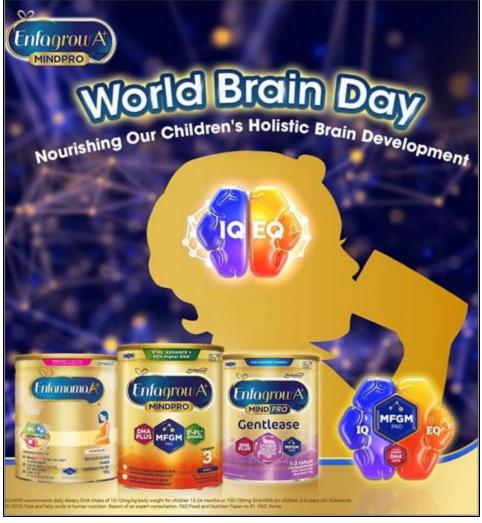






"Only Enfagrow A+
MindPro provides expert
DHA levels\* & MFGM to
nurture both IQ & EQ^.
Give your child to try
today to support his
holistic brain
development."





#### 3. WHERE: Where are the violations?

- Identified links and pages where companies are active: Facebook, Instagram, and company websites (\*with 50-page limitation)
- Select companies from each of the countries covered
- Consulted partners / monitors on the ground
- Only public posts/pages
- Therefore, monitoring is extremely important in providing examples and machine training

Prototype: Australia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Singapore, UK, USA, and \*Viet Nam.

A	В	C
24		https://www.nuk.sg/
25	Singapore	https://www.instagram.com/nuksingapore/
26		https://www.nestle.com.hk/en/brands/baby
27	Hong Kong	https://www.tommeetippee.com.hk/
28		https://www.frisogold.com.my/
29		https://www.facebook.com/FrisoGoldMY
30		https://www.instagram.com/frisogoldmy/
31		https://www.startwell.nestle.com.my/
32		https://www.mamil.com.my/en/
33		https://www.facebook.com/DumexMamil/?ref=br_rs
34		https://abbottnutrition.com.my/
35		https://www.enfagrow.com.my/
36		https://www.facebook.com/enfagrowmalaysia
37		https://www.instagram.com/enfagrowmy/
38		https://mymambaby.com/
39		https://www.instagram.com/mymambaby/
40		https://www.wyethnutrition.com.my/brands/wn/growing-milk/g
41		https://www.facebook.com/TommeeTippeeMY_
42	Malaysia	https://www.facebook.com/nuk.my/
43		www.a2nutrition.com.au
14		https://www.facebook.com/a2PlatinumToddler/
45		https://bellamysorganic.com.au/
46		https://www.facebook.com/bellamysorganic/?ref=page_internal
47		https://www.instagram.com/bellamysorganic/
48		www.nestlebabyandme.com.au
49		https://www.bellamysorganicinstitute.com.au/
50		https://www.facebook.com/NestleBabyandMeAU
51		https://www.medela.com.au/
52		https://natureonedairy.com/
53		https://www.facebook.com/natureonedairy
54		
54		https://www.instagram.com/natureonedairyaustralia/
55		https://www.facebook.com/pigeonbabyau/photos/?ref=page_inte mal
56	Australia	https://www.instagram.com/pigeonbabyau/
57		https://www.konga.com/category/baby-kids-toys-8

#### Submit violations: Violation identifier



Encourage public/citizen participation in monitoring



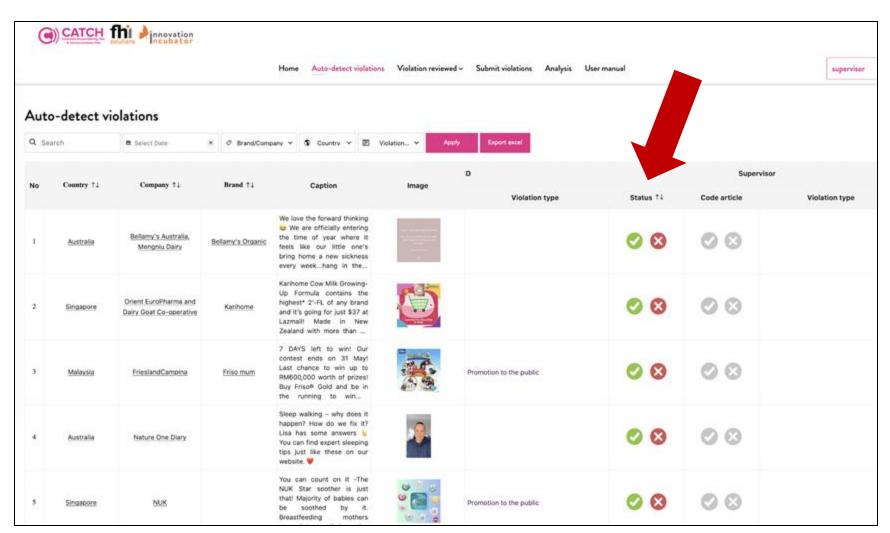




Importance of human vetting / supervised

**functions** 

- Al supervised machine learning to verify and improve accuracy
- Engagement in monitoring and enforcement (government, CSO)



# Viet Nam: CSO works together with Ministry of Health and Ministry of Information and Communications to vet and go through the detected violations

No	Brand ↓↑	Caption	Image	Public date	Crawl date	Link	Violation code	Status	Supervisor 1	Supervisor 2	Operator
1	Royal Ausnz	SỮA DÊ GOAT 2 THÓM MÁT, CHO CON TỪ 6-12 THÁNG DINH DƯỚNG TRỌN VỆN, ĐỂ KHÁNG VỮNG VÀNG (Đ) Con không uống được sữa bò không sao, con hấp thu kém mới đáng lo! (Đ) Con biếng ăn không lo, không chọn được	SUA GOAT 2 THOM MAT CHO CON TO 6-15 THANG SIGN DURING TRON VER. DE KHANG VUNG VANG	14/09/2021	14/09/2021	Ø	6.1-SCT	Violation	Reviewing	Reviewing	80
2	Bellamy's Organic	BELLAMY'S ORGANIC - ĐỐNG HÀNH CỦNG BỂ LỚN KHỐN LÀNH MẠNH Dược sản xuất từ nguồn nguyên liệu hữu cơ tươi ngon, chất lượng cao và đạt chứng nhận, các sản phẩm của Bellamy's chứa đổi dào thành	Thien Whien	14/09/2021	14/09/2021	Ø	6.1-SCT	Violation	Reviewing	Reviewing	<b>S</b>
3	Kidsplaza	#Minigame HOT ∰ HOT ? Đố ba mẹ biết ông trùm "Ví điện tử" nào sẽ cùng Kids TUNG TRIỆU MÃ MỚI GIẨM BANH NÓC vào ngày 15.9.2021? ② Bí mật lắm Ad không gợi ý tí gì đầu ♥AL.	acato Control	13/09/2021	14/09/2021	B		Non- violation	Reviewing	Reviewing	<b>S</b>
4	Webtretho	CÂU ĐỐ VUI, tối ngày 13/09/2021 *Lưu ý: Câu trả lời hợp lệ là câu trả lời ở trong cộng đồng Webtretho nhé mọi người. Cơ hội nhận thường mỗi ngày với 2 giải thường là QUÀ TẶNG trị giá 100.000 VNĐ	một người quá giải nhưng bị chết sớm gọi là pi 7	13/09/2021	14/09/2021	8		Non- violation	Reviewing	Reviewing	<b>3</b>

# Tracking actions: From monitoring to enforcement/penalty: Companies are asked to take down their posts



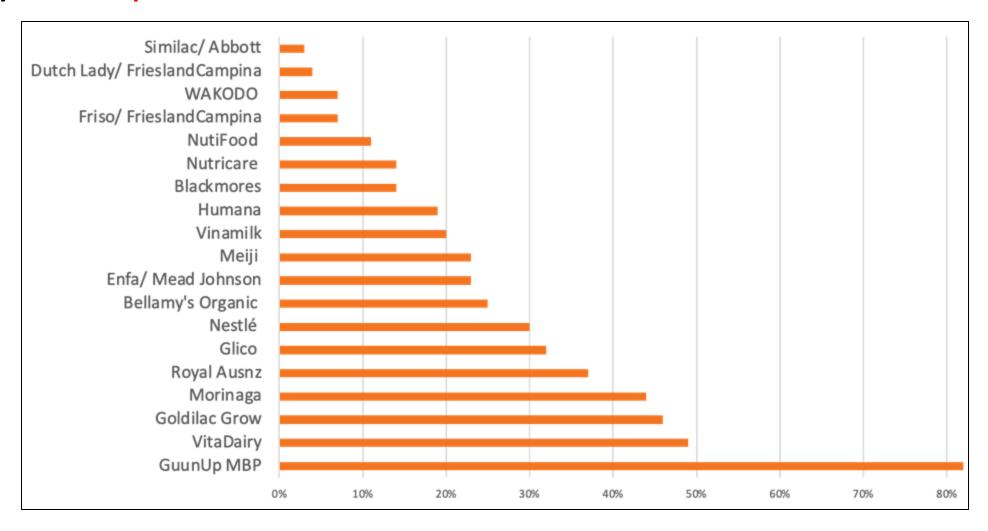




Brand 🏠	Caption	Image	Public date ↓↑	Checking date	Penalty issued ু 🔭	Link	Legal documents	Violation code	Change status
Bellamy's Organic	CÔNG BỐ DANH SÁCH TRÚNG THƯỜNG - Livestream ngày 18/9 Buổi livestream Hướng dẫn Phòng & Chẳm sóc sức khỏe cho Mẹ bấu và Trẻ nhỏ mắc Covid 19 do Bellamy's Organic Việt Nam thực hiện với sự chia sẻ	Of the end	28/09/2021	30/09/2021		G	Select 🗸	11.2 <mark>d</mark> d, 61- SCT	==>
Marinaga			28/09/2021	30/09/2021		60	Select 🗸	6.1-SCT	S. T. C.
Bellamy's Organic	CÔNG BỐ DANH SÁCH TRÚNG THƯỜNG - Livestream ngày 18/9 Buổi livestream Hưởng dẫn Phong & Châm sóc sức khóc cho Me bầu và Trẻ nhỏ mắc Covid 19 do Bellamy's Organic Việt Nam thực hiện với sự chia sẻ		28/09/2021	28/09/2021		в	Select 🗸	11.2. <mark>d</mark> d, 6.1- SCT	

# TRACK PREVALENCE FOR ANALYSIS, REPORTING, AND RESEARCH

Example: Percentage of Code violations among select social media pages in Viet Nam in 2022 by BMS companies



# TRACK PREVALENCE FOR ANALYSIS, REPORTING, AND RESEARCH

#### Deployed in October 2022 26915 entries scanned in total

No	Code Article	Violation Types	Entries
1	5.1	Promotion to the public	13673
2	WHA58.32	Nutrition or health claims	7850
		Messages, information, educational	
3	9.1 + 9.2,4.2	materials, and labelling	7230
4	5.5	Promotion to the public	3340
5	5.3	Promotion to the public	3068
6	4.2	Information and education	3054
7	5.4	Promotion to the public	2542
8	5.2	Promotion to the public	1016
	WHA58.32 + WHA61.20-		
9	Label_contam	Labeling, packaging and messaging	918
		2016 Guidance [Foods for infants and	
10	WHO Rec. 4	young children]	746

#### TRACK PREVALENCE FOR ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH

Company	Entries	Violations
Abbott	3483	1820
Danone	2380	1609
Mead Johnson Nutrition	3108	2613
Nestlé	3280	2594

(not exhaustive numbers/list)

## **Even though...**

- Existing Code laws that prohibit general promotion of BMS (and related products) do not exclude digital media
- Generally, mainstream marketing practices on digital platforms such as advertising, discounts, promotion coupons, and contact with mothers are broadly covered by these legal measures.
- These digital marketing practices do call for greater regulatory clarity and specificity: additional laws/regulations, amendment or adaptations to existing law, and necessary to specifically stipulate the type of sanctions and the actor responsible for carrying them out.



# But challenges persist in monitoring and enforcement

WHA Resolution 75.21 in 2022 to develop guidance for governments on how to restrict digital marketing of BMS and related products

## Certain grey areas exist

**Strategies such as:** 

**User generated content Influencers Cross-border** marketing **Data mining** 

Who is accountable? How to restrict/enforce?

#### Malaysia: Encouraging User Generated Content





Prenatal v Tips & v
Hub Resources

Why V

Why V Enfagrow

Enfamil A+ 
Coupons &
Offers

Tools V Q

Home / Milestone memories

#### Enfamil A+®Milestone Memories™

#### LITTLE MOMENTS, BIG MEMORIES

Every tumble, babble, and wide-eyed discovery comes with an amazing story behind it. Share unique, spontaneous and precious moments of your baby.



#### **Upload your pictures**

Would you like to share a photo of your baby on Enfamil.ca?

You can post it on Instagram & Twitter using #enfamil, #enfamilcanada, #enfa



Upload a photo



Tweet using #enfamil, #enfamilcanada or #enfa



Post on Instagram with #enfamil, #enfamilcanada or #enfa

#### **Upload your photo**



## Watch and then share your precious moments

You love to capture baby's precious moments. Now there's a place to upload your photos and stories to share with other parents—and to enjoy what they've posted.

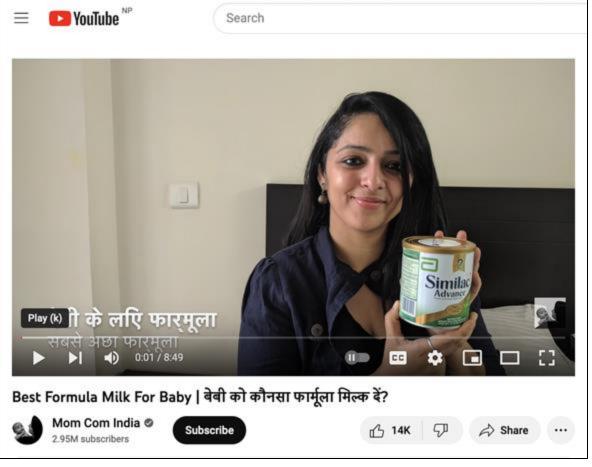
Learn more

#### Influencer marketing



The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, 2020: SGM (Danone) MomBassadors in Indonesia

Content created by influencers (who could be paid by the company) or users (who would not be paid).



Mom Com India: Close to 3 million subscribers

#### Digital marketing IS powerful. But do not let that paralyze us.

It is exactly because of how powerful it is that we need to remember the importance of monitoring – the spirit of monitoring – to hold companies to account.





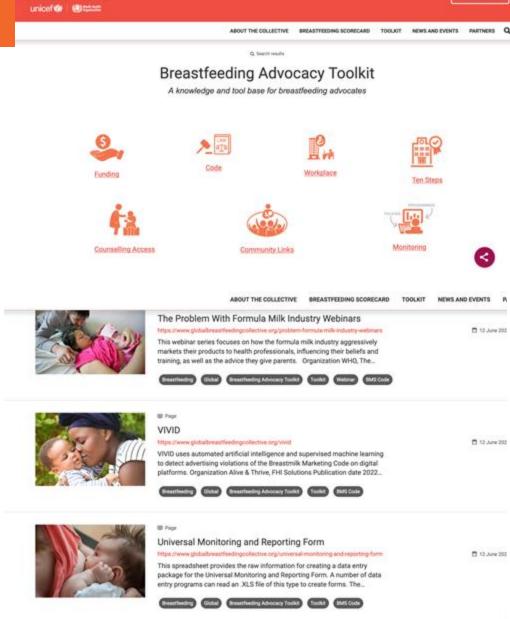








Visit the VIVID tool through our CATCH (Corporate Accountability Tool & Communications Hub) platform



#### **GBC Breastfeeding Advocacy Toolkit**







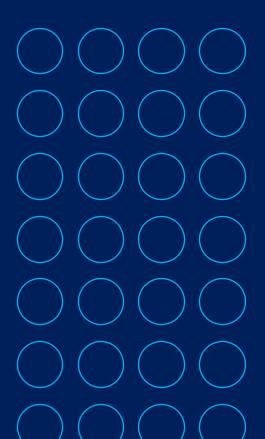
STAY CONNECTED

@fhisolutions
www.fhisolutions.org

Email: cching@fhi360.org

Check us out at: code.corporateaccountabilitytool.org/articles/auto-detection





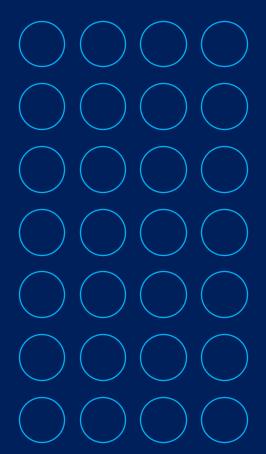


# David Clark

Code expert Former legal specialist at UNICEF









# Considerations for ensuring effective legal enforcement

David Clark, International Legal Consultant

Slides by Katherine Shats, UNICEF HQ





## REMEMBER

MANY REASONS LAWS ARE NOT ENFORCED COULD HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED FROM THE BEGINNING AND BUILT INTO THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

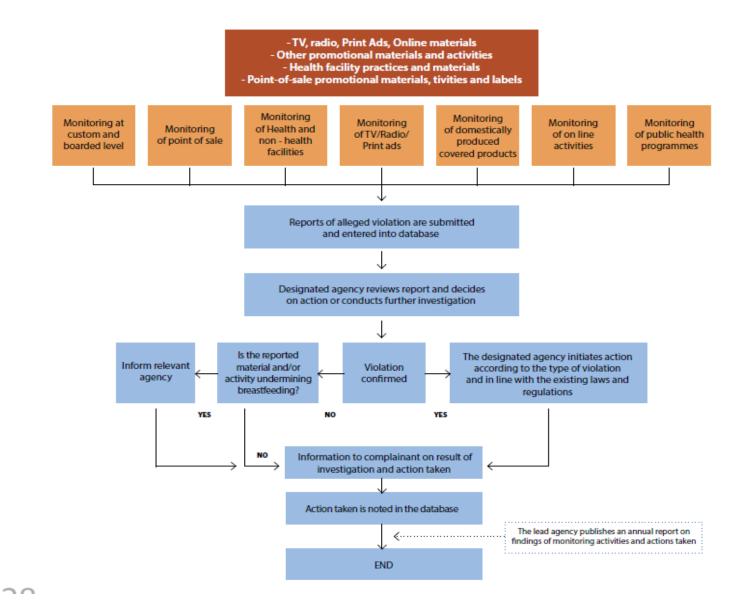


# **Enforcement of Code legislation**

- Code Status Report Recommendations:
- Governments should establish robust and sustainable monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to implement national laws and regulations
- Such mechanisms must involve all relevant government agencies, be adequately funded, and allow for public engagement and scrutiny, including through the periodic release of implementation reports
- Governments should apply deterrent sanctions in the case of violations of national Code legislation



# Monitoring and Enforcement



# Specifying monitoring and enforcement authorities, powers and duties

The law should specify which authorities/agencies have the power and duty to a) monitor and inspect for compliance and b) initiate enforcement action, investigate, resolving complaints and administer penalties.

The authorities' powers should include entering relevant premises, obtaining evidence, conducting interviews, seizing products that do not comply with the law and issuing notices or on-the-spot fines.

# Establishing the necessary mechanisms

Selection of a monitoring and enforcement entity should be guided by several criteria:

Enforcing agency should be

- completely free of conflict of interest
- competent to enforce the legislation effectively
- Have the political will
- BE CONSULTED

Enforcement agents should receive **adequate training** in content of the law, monitoring and enforcement procedures, reporting processes ...

Some aspects of enforcement may best be handled at a national level, while others may require the involvement of local agents or officers (in some countries, with decentralized health services, monitoring and enforcement will be a shared responsibility of local government units)

# Financing the enforcement mechanisms

Once the appropriate enforcement agencies are identified, consider how they will be **financed**.

- What is covered under the agency's current budget? Will it need to be increased to include Code violations? Is it tied to the scope of their duties as defined in another law? Should this law expand their duties so that extra budget can be allocated?
- Will the body require additional resources or expertise to enforce the law? If so, where will these resources come from and how will they be appropriated? Does this require additional legislative or policy change?
- What about manpower/human resources to issue warnings, adjudicate complaints, refer for prosecution?

# Imposing sanctions

Sanctions must be serious enough to deter violations

If considering criminal sanctions, would the criminal penalty for violations be consistent with criminal penalties under comparable laws?

Sanctions should be **proportional** to the nature and seriousness of the violation and the legal duty of the violator (a small retailer, the CEO of large manufacturer, and a health worker cannot be subject to the same sanction); and increase for repeat violations.

Other forms of penalties may include cease and desist orders, suspension of licenses removal of inappropriate promotional materials, requiring counteradvertising at the cost of the violator, return of donated goods, etc

## Imposing sanctions

Procedures used to impose sanctions also vary widely - may involve same procedures used in criminal or civil cases before the courts

Alternatively, procedures may involve hearings or other administrative proceedings within the enforcement agency

If the agency has the legal competence and capacity to conduct administrative hearings, this approach may speed and simplify enforcement, while reducing expenses

# Enforcement procedures

If possible **select enforcement procedures that function well in relation to other laws**, Are there good examples in the field of tobacco or pharmaceuticals?

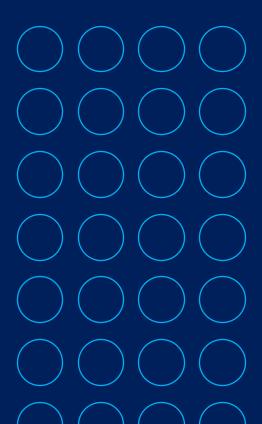
Make sure there are mechanisms to feed monitoring findings to the appropriate enforcement agencies.

Whichever procedures are chosen, they should meet basic standards of fairness and transparency and are consistent with the jurisdiction's legal and constitutional standards of due process of law and procedural fairness.

## REMEMBER

MANY REASONS LAWS ARE NOT ENFORCED COULD HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED FROM THE BEGINNING AND BUILT INTO THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK







# Hou Kroeun

Cambodia Country Director Helen Keller International









Global Congress on Implementation of the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes June 2023

# Cambodia's Experience in Code Monitoring and Enforcement

Hou Kroeun, Country Director Helen Keller Intl on behalf of the Cambodia team

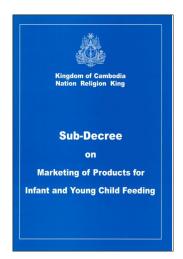








#### National Breast Milk Substitutes (BMS) Regulations





## Sub-Decree on Marketing of Products for Infant and Young Child Feeding (Sub-Decree 133)

- Endorsed by the government in 2005.
- o BMS & foods up to 24 months of age.
- Executive Working Group enforces the implementation.

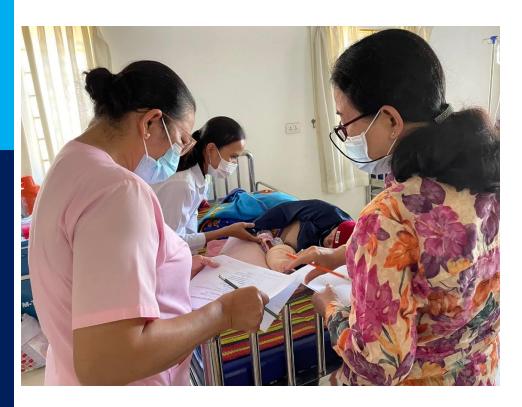
#### Inter-Ministerial Prakas No. 061

- o Endorsed in 2007.
- o Identified the four responsible line ministries.
- Outlined their key mandates.

#### **New Inter-Ministerial Pakas**

- Close loopholes of Sub Decree 133.
- BMS and foods from 24 36 months.
- Expected to be endorsed before June 30, 2023.

## **New Inter-Ministerial Prakas (Joint Prakas)**



- o Further strengthen enforcing the Sub Decree 133.
- Increase target groups to 24-36 months.
- Prohibit promotions, advertisements, labels & packaging, displays, information boards, billboards, donations, and samples of food products.
- Regulate the marketing of BMS products through social/digital media platforms.
- Prohibit health and nutrition claims, and crosspromotion.
- Regulate that the labels must be written in Khmer.
- Regulate the violator's penalties.

# PILOT TEST ACTIONS, TOOLS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MONITORING SYSTEM

**SD Monitoring Training** 





**Use of SD Monitoring Checklist** 



**Testing actions taken against violators** 





#### **ROLL-OUT OF MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM**

**SD Monitoring Training** 





**Conducting SD Monitoring as part of Routine Monitoring** 







# Achievements and actions against violators (sources: MOC and MOH 2023)



- Conducted 1,176 monitoring visits (2021-2022).
- Monitored 165 locations (2021-2022).
- o Generated 3,528 reports (2021-2022).
- Performed 1,176 verbal warnings (2021-2022).
- Issued 83 written warnings (2021-2023).
- 82 cases were financially penalized (2021-2023).
- Sued one BMS company with fake labelling.

#### BMS case in a court battle









- 22 infants given BMS products were hospitalized with anemia and iron deficiency.
- A petition was sent to the government to examine the quality of milk powder.
- Products were sent to a lab in Singapore for testing of the content of iron and zinc.
- Test results found that the product labelling was fraudulent.
- The case was sent to the court and the parents won the battle!
- Court ordered the company to compensate each parent from \$10,000 - \$20,000 and sentenced the CEO to 10 months in prison, with \$2,000 fine.

#### BMS donation during COVID-19 crisis

- MOH received a request to approve a donation of 79,716 cans of BMS.
- Intended for children 0-24 months from poor families.
- Offered by a foreign company.
- SD133/BMS Code prohibits donations, as stipulated in Articles 13, 14 and 15.
- H.E Prof. Minister of Health issued a response letter with a decision not to accept the donation.
- Development Partners consisting of 17 UN agencies, donors, Civil Society Organizations, and SUN Civil Society Alliance endorsed and applauded the MOH's action.



September 23, 2021

H.E Prof. Mam Bunheng Minister of Health Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia

Subject: Appreciation Letter

Dear H.E Prof. Mam Bunheng

We, the below development partner signatories concerned with public health in Cambodia, strongly endorse a letter dated September 6, 2021, from Your Excellency, on the decision not to accept a donation of 79,716 cans of breastmilk substitutes (BMS) that would be distributed to babies and young children in poor families in Rattanakiri province. We hereby express our sincere appreciation to Your Excellency and the Ministry of Health for your swift response. We recognise and praise your ongoing effort, commitment and continued work to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of Cambodian children, and congratulate the Ministry of Health for taking this major step to protect our children.

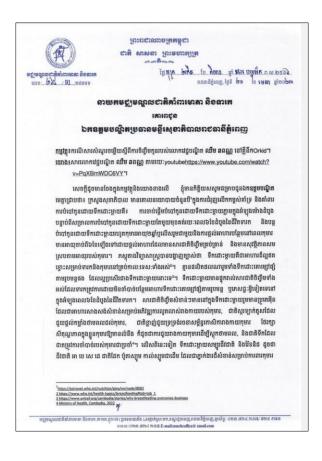
We fully agree with the content of your decision letter and the references you made to Cambodia's Sub Decree 133 on The Marketing of Products for Infant and Young Child Feeding (Sub Decree 133) and the National Policy on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF Policy). These policies ensure adequate and safe nutrition for infants and young children by protecting and promoting exclusive breastfeeding for children 0-6 months and encouraging appropriate and timely complementary feeding at 6 months, with continued breastfeeding until 2 years and beyond. Furthermore, we completely agree with Your Excellency that both Sub Decree 133 and the IYCF Policy play a critical role in promoting and protecting the nutrition and health of children in Cambodia. They also help to protect Cambodian children and their families from misleading and inappropriate promotions of infant formula and other breastmilk substitutes.

We present our compliments to Your Excellency and the Ministry of Health with the highest regard. It is our honour to inform Your Excellency that the Operational Guidance on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2010, highlights that exclusive and continued breastfeeding remains recommended and feasible, even during emergency situations. Unsolicited donations and distribution of BMS undermines breastfeeding, which can lead to increased malnutrition, illness and maternal stress. We applaud the Ministry of Health for their continued commitment to promoting breastfeeding throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is our honor to also inform Your Excellency that development partners are working together, and in partnership with other external stakeholders, to support the Ministry of Health and other relevant ministries to promote, support and protect breastfeeding practices in Cambodia, including the strengthened enforcement of Sub Decree 133.

#### Action taken against a private sector violation

- A medical doctor from this clinic made and posted a video clip with incorrect messages violating Sub Decree 133.
- He advised mothers to breastfeed and feed BMS products.
- He advised mothers to mix BMS powders with rice porridge.
- MOH's NMCHC Director sent an official letter to the clinic Director to make corrections to the video clip due to incorrect advice to the public.
- 24 hours after receiving the letters, a video clip posted on Facebook and YouTube was removed.



ពីជំងឺនានា។ សូមបញ្ជាក់ថា ក្នុងរយៈពេល៦ខែជំបូងនៃជីវិតទារកកូនត្រូវបៅទឹកដោះម្ដាយតែមួយមុខគត់ ដោយគ្មានផ្ដល់អាហារណាមួយបន្ថែមទេ សូម្បីទឹកដោះគោម្សៅផ្សិតាមរូបមន្តក៏ដោយ។

នៅក្នុងពេលថ្មីៗនេះយើងសង្កេតឃើញថា មានម្តាយជាច្រើននាក់បានគូញត្អែរតែបញ្ហាសុខភាពកូនៗ របស់ពួកគាត់បន្ទាប់ពីបានបំជៅទីកដោះគោឡៅផ្សិតមនុបចន្ទ។ ក្នុងចំណោមម្តាយៗទាំងនោះមានម្តាយ មួយចំនួនបានបញ្ជាក់ថាកូនៗរបស់ពួកគាត់មានបញ្ហាស្លោកស្លាំង បន្ទាប់ពីបានបំជៅទីកដោះគោឡៅផ្សិតាម រូបមន្តរួចមក ហើយលទ្ធផលពិនិត្យនៅមន្ទីរពេទប្រានបញ្ជាក់ថា កូនរបស់គាត់មានបញ្ហាកនៈជាតិដែក។

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សុខភាពជិកគេលោក (WHO) បានបញ្ជាក់ទៀតថា៖ ការផ្ដល់អាហារផ្សេង១ដល់ទារករកប្រក្រាម៦ខែ ធ្វើឱ្យ
ពួកគេប្រឈមនឹងជំងឺភាកកខ្លះអាហរប្រពន្ធ និងបញ្ជាសុខភាពជាច្រើនទៀតបាន។

អាស្រ័យដូចបានជម្រាបជូនខាងបើ សូម ឯកឧត្តមបណ្ឌិត មេត្តាចាត់ចែងឱ្យលោកវេជ្ជបណ្ឌិត យើម ឆពណ្ណ នៅគ្គីនីក Orkot កែតម្រូវខ្លឹមសារសំណួរចម្លើយស្ដីពីការចិញ្ចឹមកូនដើម្បីកុំឱ្យមានការកាន់ ច្រឡំនៅក្នុងចំណោមសាធារណជនទៅលើគោលនយោបាយរបស់គ្រូសុធ្វីស្មុទូរតិប្លាល្អ។

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សូម ឯកឧត្តមបណ្ឌិត ទទួលនូវការគោរពរាប់អានអំពីនាងខ្ញុំ។

ផ្ល. នឹម ត្រែលា

https://freshnewsasia.com/index.php/en/localnews/171542-2020-09-23-09-27-46.htm

#### **Boycott the involvement of BMS companies**

- MOH decided to turn down a request for a meeting with a regional association linked with BMS company.
- Helen Keller and A&T requested SUN CSA, UN, and government officials to consider boycotting the regional food system dialogues due to a BMS violator in the panel discussion.

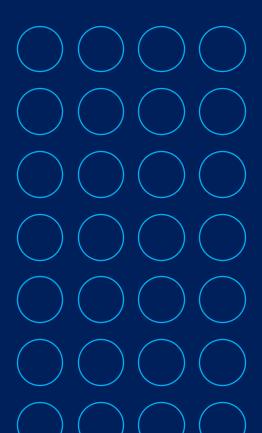


#### **Lessons learned**

- Strong national regulations on BMS
- Strong enforcement mechanism
- Buy-in from the high political level
- Government champions
- Clear and active monitoring and reporting system
- BMS monitoring integrated into routine systems
- Vital role of CSOs to hold stakeholders accountable
- Continued technical and financial support from development partners







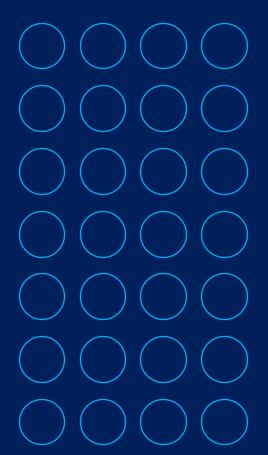


# Veronica Kirogo

Director of Nutrition and Dietetics Services Ministry of Health, Kenya









# Kenya Experience in Enforcing the Code

Veronica Kirogo
Director of Nutrition and Dietetics Services
Ministry of Health







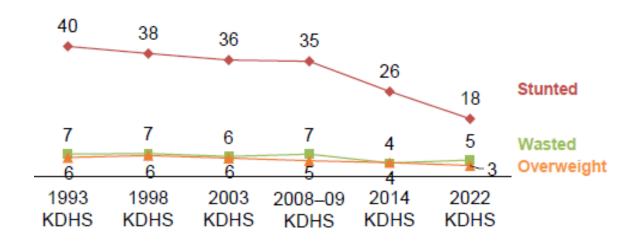
## Background



- The Constitution of Kenya (2010) guarantees
  - every person the right to be free from hunger and to have adequate food of acceptable quality (article 43 (1c)
  - ✓ every child the right to basic nutrition (article 53(1c))
- The Kenya Health Policy 2014-2030 identified *child malnutrition,* sub-optimal breastfeeding and poor infant and young child feeding practices as major risk factors to morbidity and mortality.
- The economic impact of child undernutrition is estimated at Ksh 373.9 billion (USD 2.68 billion) or equivalent to 6.9% of the GDP.

## Status of Infant and Young Child Nutrition

Trend in stunting, wasting and overweight among U5s in Kenya 1993-2022



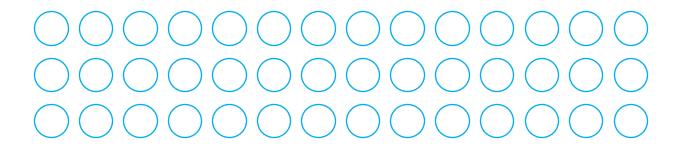
**Key Infant and Young Child Feeding Indicators** 

- 60% of infants initiated to breastfeeding within 1 hour of birth.
- 60% rate of exclusive breastfeeding.
- 34% of children below 24 months fed from a bottle with a nipple.
- 31% of children 6-23 months fed on minimum acceptable diet.

Source: KDHS 2022

# Status of Implementation of the Code in Kenya: *The BMS Act, 2012*





- Kenya was the 1<sup>st</sup> government to vote in favor of (WHA34.22) Resolution on adopting the Code in 1981.
- In 2012, Kenya enacted the BMS Act to provide for appropriate marketing and distribution of breast milk substitutes; safe and adequate nutrition for infants through the promotion of breastfeeding and proper use of breast milk substitutes, where necessary and for connected purposes.

### Challenges

Continued violation of the BMS Act, 2012 observed:



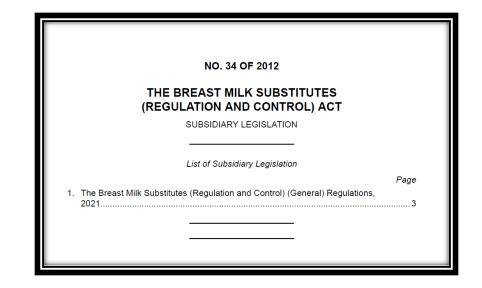




 Continuous medical education (CME) sponsored by infant formula manufacturers through professional associations

### The BMS (General) Regulations, 2021

- Section 28(1) of the Act gives the Cabinet Secretary for Health to make Regulations in consultation with the National Committee on infant and young child feeding.
- In August 2021, the BMS (General) Regulations were published and came to effect on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
  - http://kenyalaw.org/kl/fileadmin/pdfdownloads/LegalNotices/2021/LN184 2021.pdf
- The objects of the Regulations is to ensure that all persons that use, manufacture, sell and market BMS understand that BMS undermines breastfeeding and that suboptimal feeding is a leading but preventable cause of serious child illnesses and deaths.



### **Scope of the Regulations**

- Procedures relating to the use of designated products and prepackaged complementary food
- Donations of designated products and pre-packaged complementary food
- Labelling of designated products and pre-packaged complementary food
- IV. Interactions between manufacturers, distributors and health workers
- v. Information, education and communication materials
- vi. Enforcement

### **Key Enforcement Tools**

- Registration form
- Application for donation
- Returns for donation
- Seizure forms

SC			

[r. 12(2)]

#### Form BMS 1

#### APPLICATION FOR DONATION

	Donation Case No: Date:			
	TAKE NOTICE that I/We(Name			
	of donor) of Identity/Registration No and			
	Addressseek consent to be	allowed to	make a	donation
IO.	to (Name of donee)			

#### SEIZURE FORM A

(r. 42(2))

(To be used in case of seizure of 'articles' where the 'articles' are to be removed from the premises where they are seized).

To (Name ar	nd address of the	e vendor)	

# Lessons from Enforcement of the BMS Act and Regulations

- Effective enforcement requires collaboration and teamwork among the various enforcement agencies.
- Registration of manufacturers and distributors ongoing; so far close to 10 companies have registered.
  - Lesson Need for sensitization/publicity of the Regulations alongside enforcement
- Slow process in the revision of labels in compliance with the Regulations
  - Lesson Manufacturers are cautious in ensuring compliance to labelling regulations and have been requesting for review of the revised labels by MOH and KEBS
- Push from the industry to reconsider exemption of infant formula for special medical purposes
- Adequate budget for enforcement is necessary to ensure: sensitization of critical number of enforcement officers; optimal facilitation of the National committee on infant and young child feeding
- The media is a key stakeholder in the implementation of the Act through Ethical advertising practices, Information dissemination and advocacy, monitoring marketing practices and reporting on violation.
- Digital marketing is an emerging threat to the gains in regulating BMS

#### Status of Implementation of the Code in Kenya

- By 2020, the national legal instruments were "moderately aligned to the Code".
- The BMS (General) Regulations, 2021 improved the score to "significantly aligned to the Code" as reported in the National implementation of the international code, status report 2022.

Category	Score		
	2020	2022	
Scope (20)	16	16	
Monitoring and enforcement (10)	8	10	
Informational/ educational materials (10)	6	10	
Promotion to general public (20)	20	20	
Promotion in health care facilities (10)	10	10	
Engagement with health workers and systems (15)	9	9	
Labelling (15)	0	7	
Total (out of 100)	69	82	

#### **Thank You**



Division of Nutrition and Dietetics Ministry of Health, Nairobi-Kenya

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Website: <a href="https://www.health.go.ke/">https://www.health.go.ke/</a>

http://www.nutritionhealth.go.ke/

## Breakout Room Assignments Thursday AM + PM

Africa (English)	Room V
French	Auditorium left side / Z1
Arabic	Room X
Asia (English)	Room U
America & Caribbean (English)	D46025
Spanish	M205 or W1
Europe & Central Asia (English)	Auditorium right side / Z4

W1 M205 Argentina Mexico Bolivia Panama Brazil **Paraguay** Chile Peru Spanish Costa Rica Uruguay language Cuba Venezuela breakout Dominican Republic rooms Ecuador El Salvador Guatemala Honduras Nicaragua





Global Congress on Implementation of the Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes June 2023

# Group work

11:15 - 12:30

# Lunch

12:30 - 13:45

# Group work

13:45 - 15:30



