

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL**  
Region V

**REGIONAL NUTRITION COMMITTEE**  
**Resolution No. 1, Series 2020**

**RESOLUTION ENJOINING ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE BICOL REGION TO ORGANIZE INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING (IYCF) SUPPORT GROUPS AND ENSURE FUNCTIONALITY IN ALL BARANGAYS PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 51 and REPUBLIC ACT 10028**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines is committed to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) No. 1, End poverty in all its forms everywhere, and SDG No. 2, End hunger achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, by 2030;

**WHEREAS**, a panel of global experts convened by the World Health Organization has identified breastfeeding as the most cost-effective measure to prevent infant and young child deaths;

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Assembly, which includes the Philippines, has adopted the Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF);

**WHEREAS**, the IYCF Program is implemented nationwide with the Department of Health (DOH) in the lead which aims to improve, protect, and promote infant and young child feeding practices in the Philippines and consequently reduce stunting and mortality among infants and under-five children;

**WHEREAS**, the IYCF Program of the Department of Health has four components following infant and young child feeding practices:

- (a) Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life;
- (b) Appropriate complementary feeding by 6<sup>th</sup> month to 24 months or beyond with continued breastfeeding;
- (c) Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and continued breastfeeding through community support groups and peer counsellors, lactation station in workplaces and mother-baby friendly facilities; and
- (d) Regulation of infant formula milk.

**WHEREAS**, returning or having to work is one of the reasons cited by mothers for stopping breastfeeding or has never breastfed;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition 2017-2022 calls for increased focus of nutrition-specific programs on infants 0-23 months old, which, among others includes breastfeeding promotion to bring back the culture of breastfeeding in the country;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for local government units to create an enabling environment to support breastfeeding mothers and help them maintain the breastfeeding practice and advocate to pregnant women to have an informed decision on the right choice to breastfeeding;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 51 known as the Milk Code of 1986 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations recognize the need to ensure adequate nutrition for infants and protect and promote exclusive breastfeeding;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Republic Act 10028 or the Expanded Breastfeeding Promotion Act of 2009, it “mandates all health facilities and non-health facilities, establishments or institutions to establish human milk banks, lactation stations and grant at least 40 minutes of paid lactation breaks in addition to the regular break times to breastfeed or express breastmilk”;

**WHEREAS**, the National Nutrition Council and DOH have conducted package of trainings to address malnutrition which includes Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) since 2007 onwards which aims to promote exclusive breastfeeding from birth up to 6 months and complementary feeding at 6 months and beyond, and the creation of IYCF Peer Support groups composed of successful breastfeeding mothers having similar background with the mothers to be counseled, can allocate and commit time and respected by the community;

**WHEREAS**, based on data as of July 2020, there are 367 organized and functional breastfeeding support groups in the region, 92% of which are in the province of Sorsogon;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to organize IYCF Support Groups that should be functional and performs as follows:

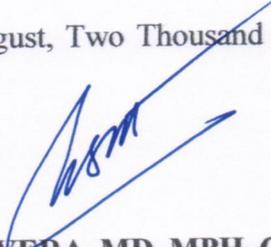
- 1) Counsel mothers on breastfeeding and complementary feeding;
- 2) Conduct home visits;
- 3) Coordinate with health facilities to identify mothers who have given birth and who will sustain breastfeeding after discharge from the hospital and other health facility;
- 4) Report mothers who have sustained exclusive breastfeeding, and who shifted to practice exclusive breastfeeding;
- 5) Refer mothers, infants and young children needing clinical management and treatment;
- 6) Recruit other volunteers;
- 7) Support and involve to IYCF and advocacy activities; and
- 8) Observe enforcement of the Milk Code EO 51;

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved, to enjoin all Local Government Units in Bicol to organize and ensure functionality of IYCF support groups in all barangays; that this Resolution be forwarded to Social Development Committee for endorsement to the Regional Development Committee, for support;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the National Nutrition Council RO V as the Secretariat of the Regional Nutrition Committee (RNC) to furnish the NNC Central Office, all members of the RNC, and all Local Government Units in Region V a copy of this resolution through DILG Regional Office V, Legazpi City.

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, Two Thousand and Twenty, in Legazpi City, Philippines.

Approved:

  
**ERNIE V. VERA, MD, MPH, CHA, CESO III**  
Regional Director, DOH-CHD Bicol and  
Chair, Regional Nutrition Committee

Attested:

  
**ARLENE R. REARIO, RND, MPS, MNSA**  
Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator  
RNC Secretariat