



RNC Resolution No. 05
Series 2015

**ENCOURAGING ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO ORGANIZE
BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUPS AND ENSURE THEIR FUNCTIONALITY TO
STRENGTHEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD
FEEDING (IYCF) PROGRAM**

Whereas, 54 percent of the 10.9 million deaths annually among children under five globally are directly or indirectly caused by malnutrition;

Whereas, two-thirds of these deaths, which are often associated with inappropriate feeding practices occur during the first year of life;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), high coverage of optimal breastfeeding practices could prevent an estimated 13 percent of the 10.9 million yearly deaths of underfives;

Whereas, the 2011 Family Health Survey conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) shows that only nearly half (49.2 %) of mothers in the Cordillera are exclusively breastfeeding their babies, though it is the highest among all regions, the percentage is still low;

Whereas, based on the 8th National Nutrition Survey conducted by the FNRI-DOST in 2013 shows that mean duration of exclusive breastfeeding is 4.4 months vis-à-vis the recommended six completed months;

Whereas, to reverse the disturbing trends in infant and young child feeding practices, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 2002 issued a global strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices;

Whereas, the global strategy was endorsed by the 55th World Health Assembly in May 2002 and by the UNICEF Executive Board in September 2002 respectively;

Whereas, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Practices aims to improve the health and nutritional status of infants and young children through appropriate breastfeeding and complementary feeding and contribute to the reduction of infant and child mortality and morbidity;

Whereas, one of the strategies in promoting IYCF in the community is the Organization of Breastfeeding Support Group as specified in the Philippine IYCF Strategic Plan of Action for 2011-2016;

Whereas, the Breastfeeding Support Group is a group of IYCF peer counselors organized in the community or other settings such as workplaces which provides support either to individual or groups or pregnant women and mothers with children 0-2 years old in the form of individual or group counseling, wet-nursing, child minding and other practical help to enable the adoption of appropriate IYCF practices as facilitated by the Local Health Officers, Nutrition Action Officers, District/City Nutrition Program Coordinators, Barangay Nutrition Scholars and other health and nutrition workers.

NOW THEREFORE, on motion duly seconded, BE IT:

RESOLVED, the RNC encourage all the LGUs to organize Breastfeeding Support Groups and ensure their functionality to strengthen the implementation of the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Program;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that this resolution be submitted to the RDC through the RSDC for their appropriate action;

APPROVED, this 18th day of September 2015 in Baguio City, Philippines.

Certified true and correct:



RITA D. PAPEY
Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator
National Nutrition Council-CAR

Approved by:



DIR. AMELITA M. PANGILINAN, MD, MPH, CESO IV
OIC- Director IV, DOH-CAR and
Chairperson, Regional Nutrition Committee