## How to get decision-makers involved? Expected benefits from the BBF economic perspective

Professor Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, PhD Yale School of Public Health, USA



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http://ghanapoliticsonline.com/breastfeed-babies-long-necessary-first-lady-urges-mothers/

SUN meeting, Kathmandu, Nepal November 6, 2019



## **Breastfeeding Is the Best Source of Nutrition for Infants**



#### Breastfeeding reduces health risks and lowers medical costs

#### **Baby**

Ear and respiratory infections

**Gastrointestinal infections** 

Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)

**Asthma** 

Obesity



#### Mother

High blood pressure

Type 2 diabetes

Breast cancer

Ovarian cancer

WHO and AAP recommend that babies are fed only breast milk for about 6 months and as complementary foods are introduced, continue breastfeeding to at least age 1 year (AAP) or 2 years (WHO).

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP, 2012) Pediatrics, 129(3), e827–e841
- www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/9241562218
- Bartick MC, Schwarz EB, Green BD, et al. Mat Child Nut 2016

## The world loses US\$1 billion EVERY DAY because of lack of investments in improving BF outcomes

Waters et al, 2019; Lancet BF Series, 2016; Bartick et al., Matern Child Nutr, 2017





## Three Areas Where Investments Can Have An Impact



#### **Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative**



## **Breastfeeding Counseling**



## Maternity Protection Policies









### **BBF Vision**



- Empower countries to:
  - Assess their current readiness for scale-up
    - Unbiased multisectoral stakeholders consensus process
  - Identify key areas for improvement
  - Act upon them using an evidence-informed approach
  - Monitor progress of scaling-up breastfeeding protection, promotion and support programmes
  - Assess the cost of implementation
- Knowledge sharing across countries

#### MOHS takes steps to boost breastfeeding rate



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivers the speech at the meeting of Stakeholder Endorsement on Recommendations of Becomin Breastfeeding Friendly in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: MNA

http://www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com/mohs-takes-steps-to-boost-breastfeeding-rate/

## □BBF leading to high level advocacy action – Ghana



- First Lady become a strong political figure for promoting maternal and child health including breastfeeding
  - Opened World Breastfeeding Week
  - Promoting extension of maternity leave
  - Central figure launching MCH initiatives (i.e. Maternal/Child Health Record book)
- Nutrition champion for Ghana Health Services



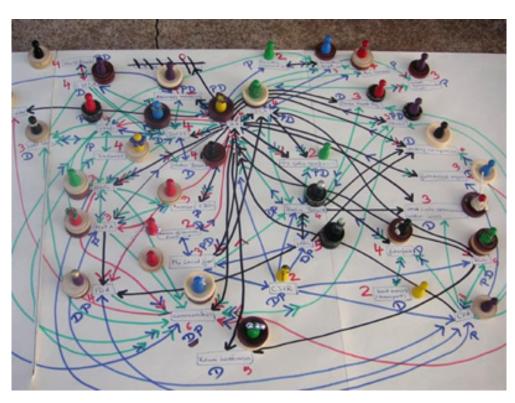
http://ghanapoliticsonline.com/breastfeed-babies-long-necessary-first-lady-urges-mothers/

## **Engaging & Empowering Decision Makers**



BBF Stakeholders & Process
 Mapping

Net-Map (Schiffer 2007)



Need for systematic and unbiased approaches to identify all key stakeholders who should seat around the table of decisions



## **Engaging & Empowering Decision Makers**



#### **ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

WILEY | Maternal & Child Nutrition

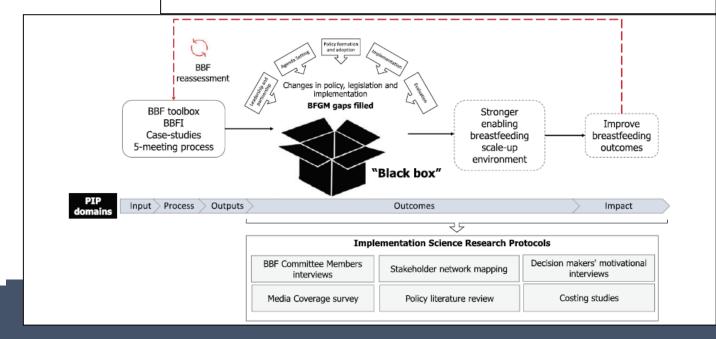
Development and pretesting of "Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly": Empowering governments for global scaling up of breastfeeding programmes *Matern Child Nutr. 2018;e12659.* 

#### MOHS takes steps to boost breastfeeding rate



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivers the speech at the meeting of Stakeholder Endorsement on Recommendations of Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: MNA

How does "Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly" work?
A Programme Impact Pathways Analysis



http://www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com/mohs-takes-steps-to-boost-breastfeeding-rate/

## Translation of policy to practice requires costing studies



Can "Becoming Breastfeeding
Friendly" Impact Breastfeeding
Protection, Promotion, and
Support in Mexico? A Qualitative Study

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#### **ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

WILEY | Maternal & Child Nutrition

Factors influencing the implementation of the Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly initiative in Ghana

Grace Carroll<sup>1</sup> Afua Atuobi-Yeboah<sup>2</sup> Amber Hromi-Fiedler<sup>1</sup> Richmond Aryeetey<sup>2</sup> Cara Safon<sup>1</sup> Rafael Pérez-Escamilla<sup>1</sup>

# Perspective: What Will It Cost to Scale-up Breastfeeding Programs? A Comparison of Current Global Costing Methodologies

*Adv Nutr* 2018;9:572–580

Grace J Carroll, Gabriela S Buccini, and Rafael Pérez-Escamilla

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Costing a Maternity Leave Cash Transfer to Support Breastfeeding Among Informally Employed Mexican Women Food and Nutrition Bulletin
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### Conclusion: BBF engaging and empowering decision makers



- BBF applies systems thinking, implementation science principles
- Cost of inaction well understood and accepted
- Key to develop user friendly tools for countries to figure out how much it will cost to implement key BF policies and programs
  - Maternity benefits (formal & informal sector)
  - > Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative
  - > Breastfeeding counseling at community level









MOHS takes steps to boost breastfeeding rate







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