WHO and UNICEF developed the Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding in 2002 to revitalize world attention to the substantial impact of feeding practices on the growth and development, health, and survival of infants and young children. The present review examines the evidence for the contribution that community-based interventions can make to improve infant and young child feeding, and identifies factors that are important to ensure that interventions are successful and sustainable. The findings show that families and communities are more than simple beneficiaries of interventions; they are also resources to shape the interventions and extend coverage close to where mothers, other caregivers and young children live. It is intended that the experiences presented here will help policy makers, programme planners, and health professionals in the essential and challenging task of translating knowlege into action at all levels: the health system, the community and civil society at large.

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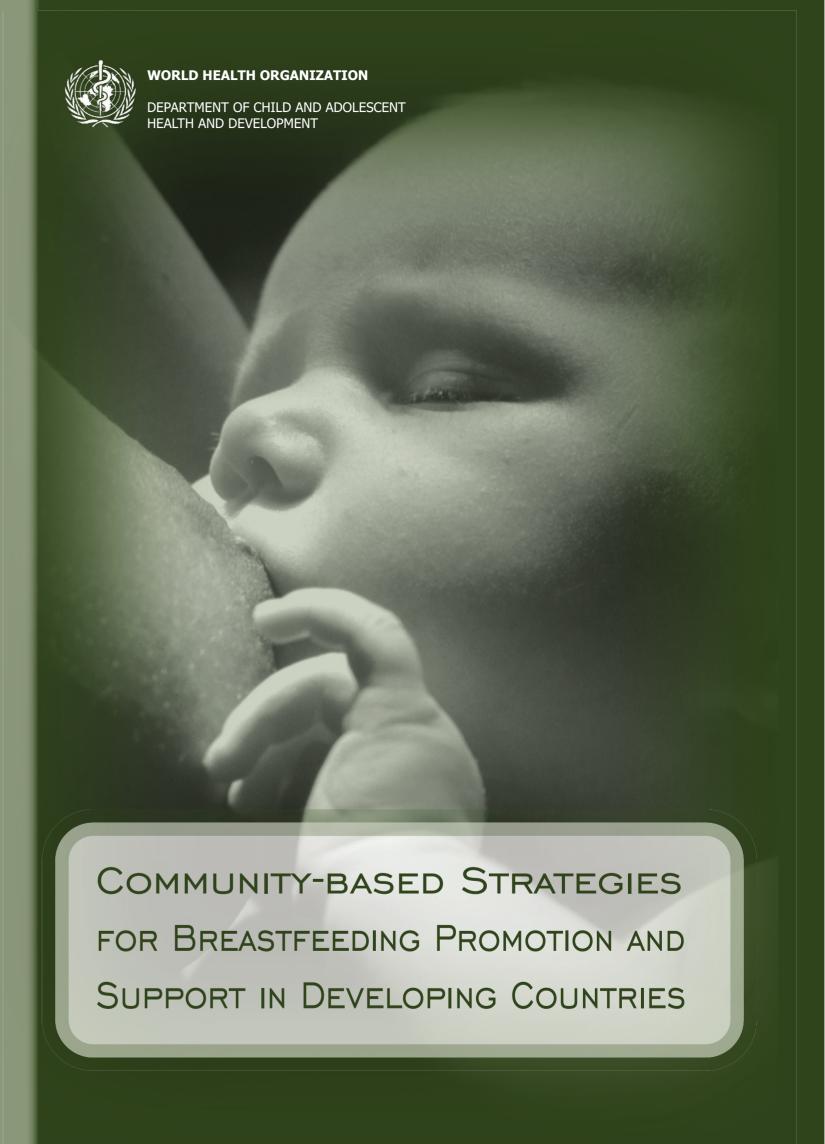
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Selected WHO publications of related interest

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COMMUNITY-BASED STRATEGIES
FOR BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION AND
SUPPORT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Community-based strategies for breastfeeding promotion and support in developing countries.

- 1.Breastfeeding 2.Community networks utilization 3.Consumer participation
- 4. Strategic planning 5. Developing countries.

ISBN 92 4 159121 8 (NLM classification: WS 120)

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Acknowledgements

The primary author of this review was Dr. Ardythe Morrow (Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation and the LINKAGES Project, Academy for Educational Development [AED]). The primary editor was Ms. Luann Martin (LINKAGES Project, AED). Contributions to the writing and/or review of this document were made by a number of AED experts: Dr. Nancy Keith, for behaviour change communication; Dr. Ellen Piwoz and Dr. Jay Ross, for HIV issues; Dr. Nadra Franklin, for evaluation issues; and Dr. Vicky Quinn and Dr. Agnès Guyon for the Madagascar project description.

Valuable assistance in reviewing the paper was provided by Dr. Bernadette Daelmans, Dr. Jose Martines, Dr. Constanza Vallenas, and Dr. Carmen Casanovas in the WHO Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development; Dr. Chessa Lutter (Pan American Health Organization, WHO/AMRO); Dr. Audrey Naylor (Wellstart, International); Dr. Fran Butterfoss (Eastern Virginia Medical School), and Dr Nita Bhandari (All India Institute of Medical Sciences).

Funding for the development of this paper was provided by WHO and by USAID through the LINKAGES Project, under Cooperative Agreement No. HRN-A-00-97-00007-00.

The material presented does not necessarily reflect the official position of either organization.

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