



## **Protecting, Supporting and Promoting Appropriate Breastfeeding in the 21st Century**

Guest Editor:

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### **Message from the Guest Editor**

Current and emerging global evidence shows that strategic interventions in the first 2000 days of life (from conception to age five) play a significant role in child survival, health, development and early life experiences — one of such interventions is appropriate breastfeeding practices.

Optimal breastfeeding ensures the healthy growth and development of children and also increases child survival by preventing the introduction of contaminated prelacteal foods and protecting against diarrheal diseases and respiratory tract infections. Appropriate breastfeeding also has numerous benefits for both the mother and her household, including a lower risk for the mother to experience noncommunicable diseases (e.g., breast and ovarian cancers) and improved household productivity from a reduction in the number of child sick days, respectively.

Understanding the rationale as to why breastfeeding rates in many countries and/or subnational jurisdictions have remained low and identifying opportunities for improvements would be useful to interested stakeholders.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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