



strengthening national MP policies and practices. Yet, what was needed was a revitalisation of the MP Campaign. While much had been achieved in the 21 years since the MFWI in 1993, progress made on this front (Innocenti target #4) was still scant in terms of global coverage and the number of working women actually benefiting from improvements in MP policies and practices. Focus therefore was put on taking stock of success stories and lessons learned over the years; and how various countries like Australia, Brazil, Venezuela, El Salvador, Colombia, Philippines, Myanmar, and Bangladesh had made substantive improvements in MP laws and practices. They had established family-friendly practices and mother/baby-friendly workplaces, while other countries like Costa Rica even extended MP coverage to various parts of the informal sector. Practical steps on how countries overcame diverse challenges at home provided strong case examples for others to follow suit. They demonstrated that supporting working women to breastfeed in any context is possible if there is political will, with the cooperation of multiple agencies and actors.

Two decades of experience working on this issue helped WABA clarify and expand on the essential requirements of TIME * SPACE * SUPPORT to take into account more recent realities, and read as follows:

TIME

1. Six months paid maternity leave post-natally to support exclusive breastfeeding and adequate paid leave prenatally. Where leave is shorter, women need the means to extend their leave period so that they can be with their babies, combining fully paid, unpaid or some other form of leave.
2. Additional paid leave for mothers of premature or other vulnerable infants who may need extra time for special care, and to express and provide life-saving human milk for their babies.
3. One or more paid breastfeeding breaks, or a daily reduction of working hours to breastfeed her child.
4. Flexible working hours to breastfeed or to express breastmilk such as part-time work schedules, longer lunch and other breaks, job sharing or any such alternatives.

SUPPORT

1. Information about national maternity laws and benefits as well as maternity provisions at the workplace or sector-wide, which may be better than national laws and practices.
2. Support from employers, management, superiors and co-workers in terms of positive attitudes towards pregnancy, motherhood and breastfeeding in public.