THE ROLE OF NUCLEAR TECHNIQUES IN HELPING TO ACHIEVE THE GLOBAL BREASTFEEDING TARGET

TARGET:
At least 50% of all infants exclusively breastfed for the first 6 months by 2025
(SET BY WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY IN 2012)

The IAEA supports Member States to assess breastfeeding promotion programmes and to verify the accuracy of reported exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months.

CURRENT SITUATION
Globally only 40% of all infants under 6 months are exclusively breastfed.

Universal breastfeeding could avert up to 823,000 deaths of children under 5 each year.

BREASTFEEDING

BENEFITS TO BABY

- Increases intelligence
- Protects against gastrointestinal and respiratory infections
- Potentially reduces risk of overweight and diabetes
- Reduces all-cause mortality

BENEFITS TO MOTHER

- Improves birth spacing
- Protects against breast cancer
- Potentially protects against ovarian cancer and type 2 diabetes

THE IAEA SUPPORTS THE APPLICATION OF STABLE ISOTOPES

ASSESS breastfeeding practices

QUANTIFY breast milk intake

VERIFY reported exclusive breastfeeding

PROGRESS TOWARD BREASTFEEDING TARGET DEPENDS ON MEASUREMENT METHOD

Exclusive breastfeeding rates are lower when the objective isotope method is used compared to mother’s recall.

The IAEA contributes evidence on breastfeeding practices to monitor the progress of achieving global breastfeeding targets.