

# **NURTURING THE FUTURE**

## **Challenges to Breastfeeding in the 21st century**

**23-27 September 2002, Arusha, Tanzania**



Organised by the **WORLD ALLIANCE FOR BREASTFEEDING ACTION (WABA)**  
in collaboration with  
**COMMONWEALTH REGIONAL HEALTH COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT (CRHCS)**  
and **TANZANIAN FOOD AND NUTRITION CENTRE (TFNC)**  
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**INTERNATIONAL BABY FOOD ACTION NETWORK (IBFAN)**  
**LA LECHE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL (LLLI)**  
**INTERNATIONAL LACTATION CONSULTANT ASSOCIATION (ILCA)**

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## Production of Forum Report

- Edited by LAKSHMI MENON
- Contributions by: KOAY VI VIEN, ROSHA FORMAN and SARAH AMIN
- Compiled by KOAY VI VIEN and LIEW MUN TIP
- Transcribed by ROSHA FORMAN
- Secretarial Assistance: MICHELLE JAMBU and SATNAM KAUR
- Proofreading: LIEW MUN TIP and MICHELLE JAMBU
- Report Planning and Concept: SARAH AMIN and SUSAN SIEW
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Website: www.waba.org.my

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## Forum Coordinators

- Forum Coordinator: Susan Siew
- Programme Coordinators: Ted Greiner and Sarah Amin
- Tanzania Programme Coordinators: Mofota Shomari & Hilda Missano

## Tanzania Organising Committee

- CRCHS: Dr Steven V. Shongwe, Boitshepo Giyose. Mofota Shomari
- Ministry of Health Tanzania: Dr Ali A Mzige, Dr Catherine Sanga
- TFNC: Dr Wilbard Lorri, Hilda Missano
- UNICEF Tanzania: Meera Shekar, Bertha Mlay
- WHO Representative: Dr Wedson Mwambazi
- Thanks also to other members of the Committee

## Forum Planning Committee

- Anwar Fazal, WABA Chairperson
- Michael Latham, Cornell University/WABA Steering Committee
- Nomajoni Ntombela, LINKAGES Zambia/ WABA Steering Committee
- Pauline Kisanga, IBFAN Africa/WABA Regional Focal Point
- Marta Trejos, CEFEMINA/ IBFAN LAC/ WABA Regional Focal Point
- Hilda Missano, Representative of Tanzania Organising Committee
- Mofota Shomari, CRCHS
- Bjorn Ljungqvist, UNICEF Tanzania
- Urban Jonsson, UNICEF ESARO
- Margaret Kyenkya-Isabirye, UNICEF New York
- Jean Pierre Allain, President AIIC/WABA IAC member
- Ted Greiner, IMCH, Uppsala University/WABA Research Task Force Coordinator
- Sarah Amin and Susan Siew, WABA Secretariat

## Forum Secretariat Team

### WABA

- Lakshmi Menon
- Satnam Kaur
- Liew Mun Tip
- Koay Vi Vien
- Rosha Forman
- Michelle Jambu

### CRHCS

- Bibi Giyose
- Mofota Shomari
- Martha Lyatuu
- Doreen Marandu
- Cindy Omondi

### TFNC

- Hilda Missano
- Faith Magambo
- Charles Tumaini
- Luitfrid Nally
- Mary Kibona
- Walter Mgeni

### UNICEF Tanzania

- Bertha Mlay
- Julieth Mwakikoti
- Georgina Mtenga
- Victor Chinyama
- Fadhili Madeni



## About WABA

The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) is a global network of individuals and organisations concerned with the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding based on the Innocenti Declaration, the Ten Links for Nurturing the Future and the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child Feeding. Its core partners are International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), La Leche League International (LLLI), International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), Wellstart International, Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) and LINKAGES. WABA is in consultative status with UNICEF and an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

Tel. (604) 658 4816 Fax: (604) 657 2655. Email: [waba@streamyx.com](mailto:waba@streamyx.com) Website: [www.waba.org.my](http://www.waba.org.my)



## About CRHCS

The Commonwealth Regional Health Community Secretariat (CRHCS) is an inter-governmental organisation established in 1974 to assist East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) comprising 14 member countries to identify and develop capacity to address the region's health needs.

For more information contact: CRHS, 7th Floor Serengeti Wing, Arusha International Conference Centre, PO Box 1009, Arusha, Tanzania

Tel: (255-27) 2504105/6, 2508363, 2508052 Fax: (255-27) 2508292, 2504124

Email: [nutrition@crhcs.or.tz](mailto:nutrition@crhcs.or.tz)

## About TFNC

The Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1973 and launched in 1974 as a parastatal organisation under the Ministry of Health. TFNC provides nutrition education and training, and facilitates dissemination of food and nutrition information to the public through publications and mass media. TFNC is also the national coordinating body for infant and young child nutrition programmes in Tanzania.

For more information contact: TFNC, Plot no.22, Ocean Rd, P.O. Box 977, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Tel: (255-22) 2118137/91 Fax: (255-22) 2116713 Email: [tfnc@muchs.ac.tz](mailto:tfnc@muchs.ac.tz)



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# FOREWORD

The WABA Global Forum II held in Arusha, Tanzania, from 23-27 September 2002 provided yet another unique opportunity for rallying worldwide participation in the movement to protect, promote and support breastfeeding, maternal and child health. The Forum II met calls from the movement to hold another unifying event six years after the first Forum in Bangkok, Thailand. Over 300 people from 70 countries participated in Forum II. Throughout the five days, movement leaders and experts gave inspiring and cutting edge presentations organised into 18 major themes (see Section III). Altogether, our Theme Coordinators ran over 60 workshops on these themes providing opportunities for participants to share their experiences, discuss, debate, clarify issues and formulate strategies for future action.

Included in the formal programme were a variety of theatre and dance performances, and a medley of poems and lullabies performed during two plenary sessions, displaying the power of such popular communications media. Media showcases with video presentations, poster sessions, exhibits and displays as well as sale of publications were organised during the Forum. These additional events generated much interest on breastfeeding, linking our movement with others concerned with the environment, globalisation, and gender issues. The Forum II also provided space for the Tanzanian scientists and breastfeeding experts to explore issues pertinent to their situation. In addition, it provided space for local artists and the arts and crafts community to display and sell their wares, making the entire Forum atmosphere additionally creative and colourful.

The Forum II has become an important milestone in the journey of WABA and its core partners – IBFAN, LLLI, ILCA and Wellstart International. Its programme was conceived of at the first Global Breastfeeding Partners Meeting (GBPM) in Brazil, 2001. The GBPM endorsed the continued validity of the first Forum goals, major themes and programme, and laid out Ten Critical Areas for Action. These ten areas reflect the need to strengthen the implementation of the Innocenti Declaration targets and to build on these to support new initiatives such as humane

birthing practices, better maternity care and greater community and mother support. The final programme was subsequently shaped in 2002 through a rigorous consultative process with the core partners and other key actors in the international breastfeeding community, each taking a lead in their respective areas of interest and expertise. The fundraising for this ambitious global event was undertaken by Sarah Amin and Susan Siew over the course of two years.

This second Global Forum set a very high level of ambition for itself. Several months' efforts by the Programme Coordinators, Ted Greiner and Sarah Amin resulted in a dynamic, comprehensive programme including the much-appreciated set of workshops on each of the 18 themes, many with a high level of professionalism. The logistics for such a complex undertaking also reflected months of careful planning by Susan Siew, with assistance from the local partners, TFNC and Commonwealth Secretariat. A summary of the key issues relating to most of these themes was provided in a dynamic schedule of plenary presentations by many of the leaders of the breastfeeding movement. On the whole, despite funding constraints, this second Global Forum seems to have succeeded even beyond our wild expectations. One particularly important contribution of the Forum was to review and approve the outcomes of a WABA/ UNICEF Colloquium on HIV and Infant Feeding held just before the Forum. The Colloquium was coordinated by Susan Siew who managed the logistics and finances despite the odds. The Colloquium programme was coordinated by Ted Greiner on behalf of WABA and Arjan de Wagt on behalf of UNICEF. This was the first meeting ever to bring together the HIV and breastfeeding "communities." Working together, a precedent-setting report was produced in book form, which is available from WABA for the cost of postage, or can be viewed or downloaded from the website: <http://www.waba.org.my/hivbook/hivbook.htm>.

This Report captures the essence of the events of Forum II. It serves as a useful reminder of the various debates and discussions that took place, and which resulted in important recommendations for future actions. The



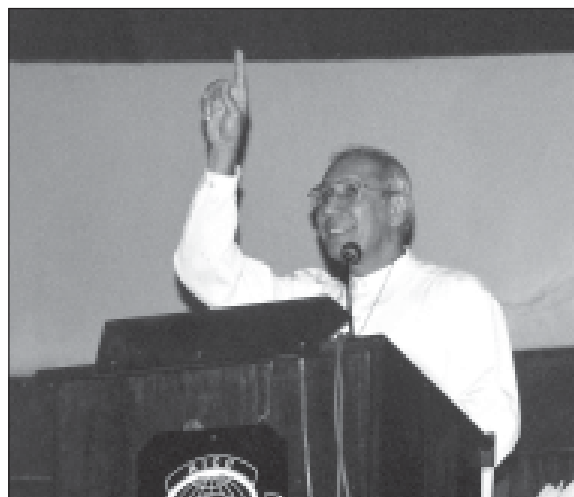
Forum II Report is presented thus:

- Section I: Summary Outcomes by Themes, Recommendations and Plenary Sessions by Day
- Section II: Theme Outcomes and Workshop reports including the Closing Session
- Section III: Other Activities that took place, and
- Section IV: Background Papers.
- Appendix: Press Release, Petitions, Forum Programme and the List of Participants

At the Closing of the Forum, I mentioned that the Second WABA Global Forum had been a watershed for the breastfeeding movement. We have shared information, been inspired and launched initiatives in several critical areas of work. I particularly emphasised the following several outcomes:

- The AIDS pandemic – **the breastfeeding and the HIV action groups** have formed a framework for action.
- The **challenge of globalisation and corporatisation** – among other things, the Forum initiated a petition to Carol Bellamy, the Executive Director of UNICEF to withdraw from the unconscionable partnership with the McDonald's fast food chain – that company is not the kind of role model for food security and good nutrition that should be allowed to exploit the UN “halo.”
- The health professions – **a new initiative to work particularly with doctors and nurses** and encourage such groups as the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine.
- Body Burdens – the poisoning of our bodies by irresponsible corporations is impacting on our health. A first initiative between the **environment and breastfeeding movement** has been established.
- A process for developing a “**World Breastfeeding Charter**” as a popular mobilisation tool was initiated.
- The Forum was a **bazaar of many ideas and linkages** and wonderfully creative people. The movement is looking ahead with renewed energy and optimism, new ideas, new partners and new actions.

The Forum was planned with the assistance and enthusiastic support of a host of groups in the breastfeeding and allied movements, including environment, women's health, human rights and humanitarian assistance groups. We would like to



thank them all, as well as our co-organisers and local hosts, the Commonwealth Regional Health Community Secretariat (CRHCS), UNICEF Tanzania and the Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC). We also want to say a special thank-you to our sponsors: UNICEF Eastern and Southern African Regional Office (ESARO), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), Netherlands, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Finally, all this would not have happened without the active participation of our core partners – IBFAN, LLLI, ILCA, Wellstart International – and all the participants who helped to make the Forum a great success.

We hope that this Report will act as a reminder for all the commitments and pledges you made during the Forum in order to stimulate follow-up action. We encourage you to continue to link and to multiply these outcomes in your own work

Most of all, WABA is happy to have had the opportunity to organise such a significant event to help steer the breastfeeding agenda forward. We invite you to continue joining us each year in utilising World Breastfeeding Week as an ongoing forum to continue the process.

Do keep in touch with the WABA Secretariat. We always look forward to hearing from you.

ANWAR FAZAL  
*Chairperson Emeritus*  
WABA

21 September 2004,  
International Day of Peace

Dedicated to the Breastfeeding Movement (Translation of Masai song)

This song was sung by the Tanzanian children  
at the opening of the WABA Global Forum II  
“Nurturing the Future: Challenges for the 21st Century”  
on 23 September 2002 at Arusha, Tanzania.



### **A Gape Choir Suye**

by Mara Parish ELCT, Tanzania

Chorus:

*All Nations of the World ----- come all  
Let us celebrate together ----- come all  
Mother's milk is best ----aaa  
Let all mothers breastfeed ----aaa  
This is today's message ----aaa*

This international meeting,  
Is about strategies to improve breastfeeding,  
For children,

It shows concern by all of you  
Policy makers, health workers  
From all over the world,  
Hence the reason for the Forum  
To put in place  
A strategy to improve breastfeeding.

And we Tanzanians,  
Together with our leaders,  
Call upon this WABA Forum  
To come up with good strategies  
To improve breastfeeding  
So that infant deaths are reduced.

To employers – whether business, or agriculture,  
Where mothers contribute their labour  
Know that there is need  
For feeding breaks  
As the baby needs to breastfeed.

Our leaders, all participants, and Ministers  
We urge you to listen  
Our children are suffering the world over  
A mother leaves home early morning  
And young infant is left behind  
With porridge and tinned milk.