The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) is a global network of individuals and organisations concerned with the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding worldwide based on the Innocenti Declarations, 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 and Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM). 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).

**On-line virtual WABA Global Breastfeeding Quilt Initiative**

Apart from the physical quilt that will be stitched together in Penang, Malaysia, the WABA Global Breastfeeding Quilt Initiative will also be developed and put together on the website. This means that all those who submit an actual panel, must also send WABA a digital photo of the actual panel. WABA will put the panels on-line on our website to share with viewers all over the world.

On-line visitors can click on the panels to learn more about the craft person. They can also read about the stories behind the creative designs.

For easy access, each entry will be given their own Panel number and Block number for easy tracking. The panel maker’s entry can be viewed online, with the information of the panel maker. Upon receiving your submission, please allow our webmaster two weeks to upload your entry and story.

Be a part of our first digital Global Breastfeeding Quilt. Send in your creative masterpiece and let us together create a tapestry rich in breastfeeding culture and heritage.

For more info, please contact:

**World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action**

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Let’s unite to create a tapestry of breastfeeding action.
**THE GLOBAL BREASTFEEDING QUILT INITIATIVE**

**Introduction**

The WABA Global Breastfeeding Quilt is a poignant and meaningful WABA project that will involve and include the world’s community to celebrate and commemorate the wonderful work and actions of the global network in support of breastfeeding, through the sharing of a creative and visual process of quilt making.

To participate in this project, one is not required to be an artist or sewing expert. All you have to do is choose to create a quilt – either as a personal salutation to breastfeeding, or as an organisation, or better still, bring your friends, family, school, workplace or community and make your quilt together.

Each panel must measure 34 cm x 34 cm (30cm x 30cm design area and 2cm allowance all round). Once it is completed, take a digital picture of it, complete the information form and send both the digital image and actual quilt to us. WABA will then sew together every panel that we receive from all over the world to form The WABA Global Breastfeeding Quilt spread. At the same time, WABA will be making a digital on-line version of the Quilt and list the contributor’s name, country and organization on the website.

You can choose to use paint, scraps, iron-on transfers or sew an embroidery – in the most creative design, theme and story on breastfeeding as you wish. The WABA Global Breastfeeding Quilt will continue to grow as more of the panels are collected, hemmed into blocks and sewn together into a big spread.

The project is a powerful tool to reach out to more communities to be involved in making the Quilt, with the aim of raising awareness on breastfeeding, and be a drive for change. The entire process, from receiving the patch into sewing the blocks and finally incorporating it into a WABA Global Breastfeeding Quilt spread, will culminate in its launch at WABA’s Global Breastfeeding Partners’ Forum (GBPF) scheduled in October 2010 in Penang.

**HOW TO MAKE A PANEL & JOIN THE GLOBAL BREASTFEEDING QUILT INITIATIVE**

1. **Create and design a panel**

Consider the theme of the design, and how to construct your panel in the most creative and non-traditional way to express your theme. Feel free to use whatever material - paint, dye, ink, sequins and beads, hand made scraps - as any symbolic and creative expression of breastfeeding is relevant and significant. Take note that the durability and longevity of the panel and materials used in the design must be considered when creating the design on the panel.

When cutting the fabric for the panel leave an extra 5 cm allowance on all sides of the square fabric for the border without any design. Keep the design INSIDE the border of the square so that it will not be sewn off when the panel is sewn together with other panels. This will make the design visible when the panels are joined into a block and finally into the quilt spread.

2. **Type and size of materials**

The design must be sewn within a 30cm x 30cm square with 2cm allowance all round the panel. A medium-weight, non stretch fabric such as cotton is best, but we recommend and encourage the use of any local/traditional, or even national fabric as long as it is durable for the panel.

The design – that is painted, or any item or combination of items used, must be sewn and preferably not glued, onto the panel and hemmed when completed. The WABA Global Breastfeeding Quilt will be folded and unfolded when displayed around the world, so glue will not last as it deteriorates with time.

Batting the panel is not necessary, but backing is recommended as it keeps the panels clean when laid on the ground and also helps retain the shape of the fabric.

3. **Examples of panel making techniques**

There are many techniques you can use to construct your panel. You can choose to sew, paint, use stencils, iron-on picture or use the collage technique. How to:

1. Sewing technique – you can use different assortment of fabrics to be sewn or do embroidery.
2. Painting technique – you can use textile paint or spray paint, color-fast dye, permanent marker pens or indelible ink pen to paint directly onto the fabric.
3. Stencils can be used to trace your design onto the fabric with pencil. The design is outlined by using the brush to apply textile paint or permanent markers.
4. With the collage, you can add different types of scraps such as beads, buttons or sequins except glass or large and bulky material. Make sure that the materials added to the panel won’t tear the fabric.
5. The technique to add pictures onto the fabric is to photocopy them onto iron-on transfers, and then iron them onto a separate 100% cotton fabric which is then sewn onto the panel.

4. **Fill out Entry Form & send us the panel**

Once the panel is completed, the panel maker must:

1. Take a digital photo of the panel. Complete the Entry Form and send us together with the digital image of the panel by email to info@waba.org.my.
2. Print the completed Entry Form and send the actual panel together with the completed form by registered mail or by courier to the WABA Secretariat in Penang, Malaysia.

The information you provide will help us to stay in touch with the panel maker, and to keep you up to date on the panel as well as follow the development of growth of the WABA Global Breastfeeding Quilt Initiative spread online.

**QUILT**

The WABA Global Breastfeeding Quilt is an on-going initiative. If you want the panel to be part of the launching of event at GBPF, it must arrive at WABA before 25 Sept. 2010.