



## Mimi Maza

I breastfed my four children, however my breastfeeding experience was successful until my fourth child was born because of the help and support that my LLL friends gave me. From that time, I have had a strong desire to help mothers too, as I knew that they would succeed if they have the right information and my support so I became a LLL Leader. During this time, I have been able to serve LLL Guatemala as the Area Coordinator of Leaders, Latin American Regional Administrator of Leaders and served the LLLI Board of Directors for six years. During that time I was appointed to represent LLLI in the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, IBLCE where I served 6 years.

LLLG implemented a child survival project working along with LLLI, where I had the joy to meet Rebecca Magalhaes and work with her and Maryanne Stone-Jimenez, training peer counselors as breastfeeding advocates and mother support groups in peri urban areas of Guatemala City. After working with LLLG for more than 10 years, I worked in the Ministry of Health in the Nutrition Program for almost 7 years, responsible for the BF Component that included the BFHI, the National Commission for BF, the celebration of the WBW and the training of health personnel in the infant feeding component and mother to mother support groups. During the time I worked for the MOH, I organized an assessment of the WHO Code (local law) with UNICEF funds in 2007 and have been very close with the work that IBFAN does inside the National Commission of BF, CONAPLAM.

In 2004 I was privileged to receive the "Women of Peace" prize from the Peace Power Foundation for Latin America.

In 2011, I became an IBCLC and was appointed to be the LLLI Core person inside WABA. This direct involvement with WABA is giving me the opportunity to know more about this organization that I have always admire and work with. The BF work I have done in the different organizations has been stimulated with WABA's initiatives.

I am now working for the United Nations World Food Program in a Joint Program among other UN agencies and I'm responsible to strength the Community Education Strategy that includes training Educators that will go to the communities to train peer counselors in infant feeding to prevent malnutrition, especially chronic malnutrition.

After working with breastfeeding for more than 26 years, served on two different boards, and helping mothers and babies to breastfeed as a LLL volunteer Leader, I have acquired some experience that will enable me to contribute to the work of WABA with its numerous programs and projects, has motivated me to apply for elections to work inside the Steering Committee and continue to promote, support and protect breastfeeding.

