



As a people's movement, WABA has from its inception acted as an open, encompassing and enabling structure. It works on the principle of respecting the independence and autonomy of participating groups and individuals, while fostering strong local, national, regional and international networks and organisations.

WABA plays a multitude of roles and has been aptly described as a hub, incubator, accelerator, multiplier and a catalyst.

Organisations that were part of the inception of WABA and subsequently became Core Partners are:

- International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)
- La Leche League International (LLLI)
- International Lactation Consultants Association (ILCA)
- Wellstart International (Wellstart)
- Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM).



*“ Little did I know when Beth Styer (then WABA Steering Committee member) invited me to join the WABA Mother Support Group Task Force (MSTF) in 1992, and to attend a meeting in Penang, that I would still be a participant of this wonderful organisation almost 25 years later! At the time, I only knew that WABA was working with breastfeeding, but I was not very knowledgeable about the overall organisation. I accepted the invitation and it has been an exciting journey of conferences, meetings, friendships, discussion, learning about WABA, travel, new initiatives, fun, and very good times!*

*Because I have been a member of La Leche League International (LLLI) for 37 years, it might not make sense that I have enjoyed so much participating in another organisation that is working on the same subject. However, I have always felt that WABA is truly a “value added” structure. This idea was presented and discussed at one of the meetings, and I totally agreed then and still do. For some organisations that have similar missions, working as partners is challenging and doesn't always work, but, WABA does succeed in partnering with entities with breastfeeding missions, such as LLLI and ILCA.*

