



World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi)

World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) AFRICA Workshop

Training Workshop held in City Inn Hotel, Mbabane Swaziland 10-12 September 2008



Organized by IBFAN Africa



REPORT OF THE FIRST WBTi AFRICA REGIONAL WORKSHOP, MBABANE, SWAZILAND, 10-12 SEPTEMBER 2008

Proceedings of workshop

Objectives of workshop:

To empower participants to be able to:

- Conduct national assessments of the implementation of the Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding;
- Carry out analysis, identification of gaps, reporting and dissemination of reports;
- Develop national action plans for high level advocacy for improved action for breastfeeding and infant and young child nutrition and maternal nutrition; human rights, gender and sexual and reproductive health rights.

IBFAN Africa¹ World Breastfeeding Trends initiative (WBTi²) workshop was attended by 19 participants from 14 African countries: *Angola, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe*, (see annexure 1 for list of participants). The training took place at the City Inn Hotel, Mbabane Swaziland.

The training began with the introduction of IBFAN Africa Regional Office staff by the Regional Coordinator, Mrs. Pauline Kisanga; and participants' introductions. At this meeting, Mrs. Joyce Chanetsa, who was a participant from Zimbabwe was introduced as the new Regional Coordinator of IBFAN Africa, who will be taking over from Mrs. P. Kisanga from the 1st October 2008.

Before rolling out the agenda, participants listed down their expectations and fears for the workshop which included having a good understanding of tools with acquired skills to integrate into routine monitoring, understanding of how to implement the monitoring tool locally, have a clear understanding of WBTi & how it has worked in the Asian countries, clear steps on how to conduct data collection from secondary data. The major fears were how the tool would compare to the WHO tool and whether the time for the training would be enough. These and other questions were answered during the course of the workshop.

The participants then endorsed the programme and were then taken through a presentation on the Regional Progress and the level of implementation of the Global Strategy in the different countries in Africa, from the data collected from countries during IBFAN Africa 12th Regional Conference, August 2007. Among 20 countries that submitted progress reports, it could be concluded that most of them had IYCF guidelines or national strategies in place and integrated into Primary health care programmes, mainly IMCI, PMTCT, Family Planning and Sexual and reproductive health and Nutrition. However, critical issues that needed to be followed up

¹ The International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) Africa coordinating office was founded in 1981. Over the years IBFAN activities expanded so that there are now two regional offices. The IBFAN Africa office serving the English speaking and Portuguese speaking countries is located in Mbabane, Swaziland and a sub-regional office for the French speaking countries in Burkina Faso. IBFAN Africa and IBFAN FAN coordinate IBFAN concerns and build capacity of national groups in the Africa region.

² **World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi)** is a monitoring and evaluation tool which forms the framework of the IBFAN and WABA initiative -**The GLOBAL BREASTFEEDING INITIATIVE FOR CHILD SURVIVAL (GBICS)** which is an essential component of the **Global Campaign for the Health Millennium Development Goals**. The aim of GBICS is that within the human rights and gender equality and Sexual and reproductive health Rights perspectives, breastfeeding protection, promotion and support, be further strengthened as a basic intervention to reduce child and maternal mortality and improve children's and women's health. GBICS will be based on the coordinated work of the "BREASTFEEDING MOVEMENTS" at all levels, working under the umbrella of IBFAN and WABA. WBTi encourages country actions for implementation of the Global Strategy for Infant and Young Child feeding, documenting the state of programme and status of breastfeeding, motivating advocacy for further action and reporting trends of breastfeeding over time.

include: Code implementation and monitoring; BFHI and BFCI, coordination, information materials and use of research results for policy guidance. The discussion that ensued, after this, highlighted major challenges in implementing the Code. Participants complained on the challenge of sustaining compliance to the Code and in some countries long procedures for the enactment of the national laws. Other challenges included the inadequacy of education and communication materials especially at the community level and the work involved in adopting global manuals to local situations. The importance of pre-testing of IEC materials and of NGO's developing information centres for breastfeeding was emphasized. The **Second Session** was on the Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding and it's monitoring using the WHO monitoring tool, going through the WHO indicators. This was followed by the **Third Session**: "What is WBTI and it's Benefits" and then to the **Fourth Session** on "How to Conduct Assessments" using the 15 indicators. Participants went through all indicators and questionnaires.

Session Five was on further studying the 15 indicators. One facilitator in a plenary session carried the participants through 1-5 indicators, and participants were asked to identify the sources of data and how it should be collected. In the **Sixth Session** participants were asked to break into 4 groups, study the indicators 6-15 and identifying the sources of information, and discussing these in a plenary. This was followed by another group work where participants went further with indicators 11-15-identifying sources of information and how to collect it, writing their answers on flip charts and presenting them in a plenary session. **Session Seven** was on "How to analyze, use information collected to identify gaps and take necessary action-whether advocacy or other intervention.

At the end of the Sessions participants discussed their way forward and came up with schedules and time lines for completing their assessments in all countries as follows:

- I. Identification of IYCF assessment coordinator -30 Sept
- II. Selection of core groups approximately 4 - 5 persons including stakeholder -30 Sept.
- III. Meeting of core group for about 2 hours, 5-6 nationals - 1-28 October
Discussion points
 - a. WBTi
 - b. Indicators
 - c. Data collection assignment and collection
- IV. 2nd meeting of core group after collection of information (draft) - 1-15 November
- V. Meeting of a broader group involving stakeholders - 30 November
- VI. Preparation of country reports. Findings and recommendations - 1-14 November
- VII. Send report to the Regional office and RO to WBTi - 14 Dec
- VIII. Follow up actions - January 2009

With this layout participants felt they will be able to follow it and implement the whole exercise as outlined.

Breastfeeding, Human Rights and Maternity Protection by Elaine Cote

On the 13th participants were lucky to have a whole day of presentations and discussion of Breastfeeding, Human Rights and Maternity Protection. The session empowered participants with knowledge and skills to:

- Improve implementation in region;
- Be able to describe what is meant on the perspective of human rights;
- Describe basic functioning of human rights instruments work;
- Discuss how convention is implemented;
- Identify key elements of a strong maternity law based on the ILO Maternity Convention of 2000.

Participants were taken through the definition, categories of rights, and finally on maternity protection law. However before they were taken through maternity protection law they defined it according to their own understanding which was later compared to the dictionary definition. In a discussion, they were able to identify gaps in their national Maternity Protection Laws, comparing it with the ILO Maternity Convention 2000.

For continuation of communication and guidance an email group of the participants will be developed, this way they will be able to share progress, information about their countries and they can seek for guidance amongst their colleagues.

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**Photo Gallery
Africa Region**



Group participants in Africa Workshop



Group work in Africa workshop



Participants in Africa workshop

ANNEXURE 1

Countries and participants from Africa who took part in the WBTi workshop in African

No.	Name	Designation	Country	Tel/Fax	E-mail
1.	Miguel da Costa	National Committee Breastfeeding / AMEGA	Angola	244 923336215 (O) 244 925779266 (C)	amegaorg@yahoo.com.br migdacosta2002@yahoo.fr
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