

Report on WBTi Regional Training (African Region)

Date: 5-7th March 2025, (Wednesday to Friday)

Time: 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM IST

Trainers:

1. Dr. Arun Gupta, Central Coordinator, BPNI
2. Dr. Nupur Bidla, National Coordinator, BPNI
3. Ms. Reema Dutta, Programme Officer, BPNI

The World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) Regional Training for African Region was organized by the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) and the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), with support from UNICEF and the WHO. The training aimed to strengthen the capacity of participants in doing WBTi assessment in their respective countries in the African Region.

The training commenced with a warm Introduction and Welcome by Dr. Nupur Bidla, National Coordinator at BPNI. She set the stage by emphasizing the importance of WBTi assessment initiative in improving Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Practices outcomes.

Session 1:

Topic: Regional Data: Early, Exclusive, and Complementary Feeding Rates

Resource Person: Ms. Nomajoni Ntombela (IBFAN Coordinator, Africa Region)

The session highlighted WBTi assessment year and score of the African countries with regional trends in breastfeeding practices, providing key insights into early initiation, exclusive breastfeeding rates, and complementary feeding practices.

Session 2:

Topic: The 3 Years WBTi Project – Objectives and Deliverables

Resource Person: Dr. Arun Gupta

Dr. Gupta presented the objectives of the WBTi new project, its timeline, and expected deliverables, emphasizing the project's role in addressing IYCF policy, programmes and practices gaps and achievements in about 50 participating countries in coming 3 years.

Session 3:

Topic: What is WBTi? – An Overview

Resource Person: Dr. Nupur Bidla

Dr. Bidla provided an overview of the WBTi framework, explaining its methodology, purpose, framework and its evolution over years.

Session 4:

Topic: Impact So Far

Resource Person: Ms. Reema Dutta

Ms. Dutta reviewed the progress made under the WBTi initiative, sharing success stories and what WBTi can do.

Session 5 and 6:

Topic: How to Conduct National Assessment? And Guidance on Country Presentations on WBTi

Resource Person: Dr. Nupur Bidla

Participants were guided on conducting national assessment understanding the process and steps, WBTi indicators, subset questionnaire, guidelines, analysis and verification process using the WBTi toolkit for reporting and approval.

Session 7:

Topic: How to Develop Recommendations – Actions to Bridge the Gaps

Resource Person: Dr. Arun Gupta

Dr. Gupta conducted an engaging session on translating findings into actionable recommendations including process of consensus building, raising awareness of the report, specific actions etc.

Session 8:

Topic: Preparing Country Reports and Report Cards

Resource Person: Dr. Nupur Bidla

This session focused on compiling and presenting country-level data, enabling participants to create comprehensive reports and breastfeeding report cards.

Session 9:

Topic: Demonstration of the WBTi Global Web Portal Repository

Resource Person: Ms. Reema Dutta

Ms. Dutta demonstrated the WBTi web portal, guiding participants on accessing WBTi country report and report card, peer-review articles, uploading reports, and leveraging the repository for their work.

Session 10:

Topic: Activity session – country presentation on plan of work

Resource Person: Ms. Nupur Bidla

In this interactive activity session, participant from Eswatini and Tanzania presented and discussed their proposed work plans for WBTi. The session provided an excellent opportunity for peer learning and feedback from the trainer. Rest other countries were advised to submit the activity in coming months.

Session 11:

Topic: Next Steps, Question and Answer Session

Resource Person: Dr. Arun Gupta

In the final session, Dr. Gupta shared his recommendations on the way forward for WBTi in the African region, and participants were given the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions.

Key Takeaway

The training concluded with participant questions, a review of key takeaways, and a roadmap for future activities. On Day 2 and 3, several important queries were raised, including the timeline for assessment from Lourdes Fidalgo from Mozambique, flexibility to revise questions and structure, devising Indicator 1 (Investment) and identifying sources of additional information, as well as clarity regarding Indicator 7, particularly the frequency of attendance and comparison for the African Region and assistance with scoring data. Participants also inquired about the process for publishing the report or submitting a peer-reviewed article. There was an emphasis on the need for a Portuguese translation of the guidebook and tools, and we asked if anyone could volunteer for the task. Lourdes mentioned that she would look for a volunteer. In terms of feedback, Mariam Noorani from Tanzania described it as a wonderful training, while Siniketive Zwane from Eswatini said it was an eye-opening session for her.

Overall, The WBTi Regional Training (African Region) was a success, equipping participants with the WBTi tools and knowledge to strengthen the project in the region. The sessions fostered collaboration, skill-building, and a commitment to achieving better IYCF outcomes in the region.

Glimpses from the Training Session



WBTi
WORLD BREASTFEEDING TRAINING INITIATIVE
How to develop recommendations for actions to bridge the gaps
Day 2: Session 7
Arun Gupta

Example of Report Cards

The slide displays a sample report card with a map of India and various data points related to breastfeeding indicators.

Peer-Review Articles

The slide shows a grid of peer-reviewed articles, including titles and authors, related to the training topic.

A screenshot of a Zoom meeting grid showing multiple participants in a video conference. Visible names include Cynthia Masuku, Esther Nkhulu, Pankra Luoga, and others.

WBTi Country Action Plan Template

Activity/ Deliverable	Month-Year
1. Constituting Core Group (List Member/Potential Members)	March - April 2025
2. First meeting of the Core group	May 2025
3. Allocation of Work for assessment of specific indicators	June – August 2025
4. Second meeting of the core group : presenting findings of Indicators	September 2025
5. Draft Report Findings and consensus building	October - November 2025
6. Sharing the report for comments from the larger group in country (Draft report)	December 2025

A screenshot of a Zoom meeting grid showing multiple participants in a video conference. Visible names include Emily Gama-Mol..., Elroh Rumaanyika, Phionah Kwekula, Loureco Fidalgo, Rita Gupta, Mda Isitigala (ED), and Zandile Kubeka.

Attendance Sheet

S.No	Name	Organization	Country/Region Name	Designation
1.	Siniketiwe Zwane	Eswatini National Nutrition Council	Eswatini	Head of Programs
2.	Nokwazi Dlamini	Eswatini National Nutrition Council	Eswatini	Nutrition Officer
3.	Bongani Mdluli	Eswatini National Nutrition Council	Eswatini	Nutrition
4.	Nhlakanipho Mkhali	Eswatini National Nutrition Council	Eswatini	Monitoring and Evaluation
5.	Khumbuzile Shabangu	Eswatini National Nutrition Council	Eswatini	Officer
6.	Nonhle Maduna	Eswatini National Nutrition Council	Eswatini	Nutrition officer
7.	Tholakele Mhlanga	ministry of health	Eswatini	Nutrition Officer
8.	Thithidi DIAHO	Ministry of Health	Lesotho	Nutritionist
9.	Sylvester Kathumba	Ministry of Health-Department of Nutrition	Malawi	Chief Nutrition Programmes Officer
10.	Susan Kambale	World Health Organisation	Malawi	National Professional Officer
11.	Emily Gama	Ministry of Health	Malawi	Deputy Director of Nursing and Midwifery Services
12.	Grace Chinamale	Ministry of Health	Malawi	Chief Nutrition Programs Officer
13.	Esnart Phiri	UNICEF	Malawi	Nutrition Specialist
14.	Tavisha Gunness	Ministry of Health and Wellness	Mauritius	Breastfeeding Coordinator
15.	Karen Mahomed	Minister off health	Mozambique	Nutritionist
16.	Cristina Chibindji	IBFAN MOZAMBIQUE	Mozambique	Ibfan member
17.	Lourdes Fidalgo	ANSA	Mozambique	Director ANSA
18.	Claudia Fidalgo	MISAU	Mozambique	Téchnical advisor
19.	Stania Mendonça	MISAU	Mozambique	Nutricionista
20.	Luisa Maringue	Ministry of Health	Mozambique	Nutrition
21.	Victor Sitão	Ministry of health	Mozambique	Dr
22.	Alice Nte	University Of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital	Nigeria	BFHI Coordinator
23.	Timiniebieri Kwen	Bayelsa State Hospitals Management Board	Nigeria	Yenagoa Bayelsa State

S.No	Name	Organization	Country/Region Name	Designation
24.	Gift Clement-Wekere	University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital	Nigeria	Paediatrician
25.	Chika Ndiokwelu	University of Calabar	Nigeria	Senior Lecturer MT on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding
26.	Carol Joseph	Rivers State Primary Health Care Management Board	Nigeria	Head, Nutrition Unit
27.	Ummul-Khairi Bobboi	NAFDAC	Nigeria	Deputy Director
28.	Angela Okolo	Federal Medical Centre Asaba Nigeria	Nigeria	Consultant Neonatologist
29.	Elizabeth Disu	LASUTH	Nigeria	Professor
30.	Sithembiso Mnisi	IBFAN Africa	South Africa	Technical Director
31.	Phumudzo Tshiambara	University of Pretoria	South Africa	Academic
32.	Candido Começar	Misau	South Africa	Nutricionista
33.	Tshimi Lynn Moeng	IBFAN	South Africa	Member
34.	Malebina Botsane	IBFAN Africa	South Africa	Member
35.	Margaret Kgodane	University of Pretoria	South Africa	Lecturer
36.	Suzan Mokone	Sefako Makgatho University of Health Science	South Africa	lecturer
37.	Loraine Sepamla	sefako makgatho health sciences university	South Africa	Dietetian Clinical Training Internship Coordinator
38.	Zandile Kubeka	National Department of Health	South Africa	Assistant Director
39.	Nomajoni Ntombela	IBFAN AFRICA	South Africa	Chairperson/Technical Advisor
40.	Hilda Missano	Nutrition Health and Development Centre (NUDEC)	Tanzania	Executive Director
41.	Angela Leonard	Ministry of Health Tanzania	Tanzania	National Coordinator of Newborn and Child Health
42.	Pankras Luoga	Muhimbili University of	Tanzania	Assistant Lecturer

S.No	Name	Organization	Country/Region Name	Designation
		Health and Allied Sciences		
43.	Idda Katigula	JJ Breastfeeding Organization (Tanzania)	Tanzania	Executive Director
44.	Elieth Rumanyika	Ministry of Health	Tanzania	Child Nutrition Specialist
45.	Cynthia Masuka	JJ Breastfeeding Organization	Tanzania	Program Officer- Nutritionist
46.	Neema Joshua Mwapili	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	Tanzania	DIRECTOR FOR NUTRITION SERVICES
47.	Esther Nkuba	Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre	Tanzania	Director
48.	Mariam Noorani	Aga Khan Health Service, Tanzania	Tanzania	IBCLC and head of paediatrics
49.	Esther Nkuba	Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre	Tanzania	Director
50.	John Musisi	IBFAN Uganda	Uganda	CPO
51.	Phionah Kwenala	IBFAN UG	Uganda	Program officer
52.	Namuyaba Hamanyanga	BAZ	Zambia	Treasurer
53.	Miriam Saunyama	Breastfeeding Association of Zambia	Zambia	Secretary
54.	Funny Kondolo	Breastfeeding Association of Zambia and IBFAN Africa	Zambia	Member and Focal Point Person on the Implementation of Maternity Protection Convention no 183 of 2000
55.	Agnes Mwangweo	BREASTFEEDING ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA	Zambia	Lusaka
56.	Moddy Syakalima	Breast feeding Association of Zambia	Zambia	Vice treasurer
57.	Ruth Moyo Muzumala	Breastfeeding Association of Zambia (BAZ)	Zambia	Vice Chairperson
58.	Mwate Kathleen Chintu	Independent	Zambia	Maternal Child Health and Prevention of Mother-to-child transmission of HIV
59.	Dexter Chagwena	Nutri@ctive Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	Nutritionist



WBTi Regional Training (Africa)
Organised by: Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India
 (BPNI) & IBFAN
Supported by: UNICEF & World Health Organization

Tentative Programme

Dates: 5-7 March 2025; **Duration:** 5:45 Hours

	Sessions No.	Duration	Topic	Resource Persons/Experts
Day 1		15 Minutes	Introduction and Welcome	Dr. Nupur Bidla, National Coordinator, BPNI
	Session 1	15 Minutes	Regional data: Early, exclusive and complimentary feeding rates	Nomajoni Ntombela, IBFAN Coordinator, Africa Region
	Session 2	15 Minutes	The 3 years WBTi project, objectives, and deliverables	Dr. Arun Gupta, Central Coordinator, BPNI
	Session 3	30 Minutes	What is WBTi – an overview	Dr. Nupur Bidla
	Session 4	30 Minutes	Impact so far	Ms. Reema Dutta, Programme Officer, BPNI
Day 2	Session 5	30 Minutes	How to conduct national assessment ?	Dr. Nupur Bidla
	Session 6	15 Minutes	Guidance on Country presentations and Question/ Answer Session	Dr. Nupur Bidla
	Session 7	60 Minutes	How to develop recommendations – actions to bridge the gaps	Dr. Arun Gupta
Day 3	Session 8	30 Minutes	Preparing country report and report card	Dr. Nupur Bidla
	Session 9	15 Minutes	Demonstration of the WBTi Global Web Portal-Repository	Ms. Reema Dutta
	Session 10	45 Minutes	Activity session – Country Presentation on Plan of work	All countries
	Session 11	30 Minutes	Next steps	Dr. Arun Gupta
		15 Minutes	Question/ Answer Session	All Countries