

CORE GROUP AND MEMBERS

Men's Working Group

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Men's Initiative Endorsers

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Endorse us!

We would like to invite all men and women who support our initiative to endorse us. Endorsement form for the WABA Men's Initiative is available for download at <http://www.waba.org.my/men>



Photo by C.C. Lal



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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 (LLL), International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), Wellstart International, and Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM). WABA is in consultative status with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

NEW



WABA
Men's
Initiative



Photo by UNICEF

www.waba.org.my/men/

WABA Men's Initiative

Founded in October 2006, the WABA Men's Initiative is a continuing enhancement and development of the idea of involving men, in our effort to protect, promote and support breastfeeding. The initial idea was derived at the WABA Global Forum 2, *Nurturing the Future: Challenges to Breastfeeding in the 21st Century* in September 2002 in Arusha, Tanzania. It led to the formation of the Global Initiative for Father Support (GIFS).

In October 2006, in conjunction with the WABA Gender Training Workshop and Youth Workshop, a meeting of men was convened to try and revitalize the GIFS effort. It was at this meeting that the term "father" was found to be limiting and the group wanted to broaden the scope of work which led to the birth of the WABA Men's Initiative.

The Initiative is coordinated by the Men's Working Group (MWG) comprising of eight men from Sweden, India, Pakistan, Swaziland, Mexico and Argentina.

Vision

A world where breastfeeding is a cultural norm and where men support women and families to feed and optimally care for their infants and young children, thus contributing to a just, gender equal and healthy society.

Mission

To create an enabling environment where men, particularly fathers, participate actively in and share responsibilities with women in optimally caring for their infants and young children, through advocacy, education and capacity building.

Goals

- To increase and enhance involvement of fathers in parenting and supporting breastfeeding
- To increase the participation of men, especially fathers, in childcare, domestic responsibilities, and to raise men's awareness on women's and

children's rights, reproductive health issues and safe sex.

- To support efforts that ensure greater gender equality in all societies in order to bring about an enabling environment for breastfeeding, family health and well-being.



Photo by Marisa Ryan

OBJECTIVES

- To include fathers in ante-natal, delivery & post natal services interventions and parental education;
- To develop country profiles which will provide a global snapshot of men's participation in the feeding and care of infants and young children;
- To disseminate specific knowledge about the advantages of father involvement to all parents;
- To improve linkages with related target groups, particularly men's groups, to promote father support;
- To advocate for legislation in support of maximum participation of men in childcare and parenting;
- To act as a stimulus so that the establishment of Father-Support initiatives are increased globally.

Activities/Programmes

1. Newsletter

MWG collaborates with WABA's Mother Support Task Force (MSTF) in their e-newsletter which carries articles on Mother/Father Support. The e-newsletter is being produced in 4 languages i.e. English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

To subscribe to the MSTF e-newsletter which has sections on father stories and Men's Initiative updates, please email: gims_gifs@yahoo.com

To contribute stories and lessons learnt on Father/Men's support in breastfeeding, please email your articles to WABA at waba@streamyx.com

2. GIFS Seedgrant

The programme aims to establish or strengthen father support groups in breastfeeding protection, promotion and support worldwide.

3. Web-section

Review and update of the Men's Initiative section on the WABA website. We invite submission of articles, stories, research, images, interesting activities, links to men/father websites and list of events relevant to the Men's Initiative. Please submit the materials and information to WABA.

4. Activity Sheet

The MWG is working to produce an Activity Sheet on Father/Men Support. A preliminary discussion paper has been produced. Contact WABA for a copy of the discussion paper.

5. Regional Snapshots

This project aims to produce a tool to collect information and to obtain a better understanding of men and fatherhood situation in different countries (or regions). The snapshot will enable the MWG to strategise this initiative's work more effectively. Initial project starts with a core group of five countries, namely Sweden, Pakistan, Mexico, Cameroon and Mozambique. To join the Regional Snapshot activity, please contact WABA.

6. Recruitment Campaign

On-going recruitment campaign for Men's Initiative endorsements at events and conferences, and from networking opportunities.