





8 MARCH 2022

## HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY







WABA MESSAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022

SUPPORT BREASTFEEDING
WOMEN TODAY FOR A
SUSTAINABLE AND EQUAL
TOMORROW

The climate crisis <u>disproportionately</u> affects women and their children. To achieve <u>gender</u>

equality today for a sustainable tomorrow, we should include breastfeeding on the agenda. Breastfeeding not only provides optimum nutrition, food security and health but also helps to reduce inequalities. It is also a <u>climate-smart decision</u> that plays a role in mitigating the climate crisis.

However, women's <u>breastfeeding experience and success</u> are often affected negatively when they do not receive adequate information and support for breastfeeding from the <u>health system</u>, <u>workplace or their community</u>. Very often healthcare workers are not properly trained in breastfeeding and how to support it. Furthermore, continuity of care and support for breastfeeding both within the different parts of the health system and links to the community are lacking.





This International Women's Day, <u>WABA</u> calls upon governments, health systems, workplaces, communities and civil society to protect, promote and support breastfeeding. This means ensuring that each woman has access to <u>breastfeeding counselling</u> by qualified health personnel, adequate <u>paid maternity/parental leave</u>, <u>workplace</u> and <u>community support</u> to navigate her unique breastfeeding journey. By establishing breastfeeding as the norm, we can all help reduce the negative impacts of the formula milk industry on planetary health and the climate crisis. Let us strive to create a <u>warm chain of support for breastfeeding</u> for all women and their babies.







World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) is a global network of individuals and organisations dedicated to 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. WABA is in consultative status with UNICEF and an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), WABA coordinates the annual World Breastfeeding Week campaign.

www.waba.org.mv









