

# Putting It All Together: Managing the Network

## Supplemental Background Notes

Maternal health advocacy networks face the same management concerns as other types of networks.

### Modifications to Activities

#### ACTIVITY 1

#### Introduction to Managing the Network

- Proceed as instructed in the manual.

#### ACTIVITY 2

#### Resource Inventory

- Proceed as instructed in the manual.

#### ACTIVITY 3

#### Network Organization and Structure

- Proceed as instructed in the manual.

#### ACTIVITY 4

#### Follow-Up Meeting

- Proceed as instructed in the manual.

#### ADDITIONAL HANDOUT

- Maternal Health Handout I.6.1: Organizational Structure for a Maternal Health-focused Advocacy Network

# Organizational Structure for a Maternal Health-focused Advocacy Network

## World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA)

(<http://www.waba.org.br/wwaba.htm>)

### Goals

- Re-establish and maintain a global breastfeeding culture
- Eliminate all obstacles to breastfeeding
- Promote more regional and national-level cooperation
- Advocate for breastfeeding in development, women's, and environmental programs

### Structure

WABA is an umbrella organization that encompasses all working at the international, regional, national, and community levels to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding. Everyone who is committed to a breastfeeding culture can be part of WABA: NGOs, community activists, health care workers, professional associations, university teaching staff, researchers, health officials, and others.

### WABA Secretariat

WABA's work consists of the activities of the Secretariat and its seven Task Forces. The Secretariat coordinates and maintains the flow of information between Task Forces and the wider constituency of WABA. Its small office serves mainly to network and facilitate action in support of World Breastfeeding Week in the first week of August.

### WABA General Assembly

The WABA General Assembly consists of the following:

- **Steering Committee:** The Steering Committee is the principal management and policymaking body of WABA.
- **Regional Focal Points:** The role of the Regional Focal Points is to facilitate information support, translation, and dissemination of materials, advocacy, co-ordination of World Breastfeeding Week and the Glopar. Regional Focal Points serve as WABA's Social Mobilization and Information Task Force. Regional Focal Points are also linked with the UNICEF and WHO regional offices.
- **Task Force Coordinators and Co-Coordinators**
- **Advisory Council**

The WABA General Assembly plays a larger role in policymaking and has the right to vote on Steering Committee members.