

**Symposium 4: *STRENGTHENING CARE AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR BREASTFEEDING AND NUTRITION OF PREMATURE AND LOWBIRTH WEIGHT BABIES***

**Background:**

Globally, about 20 million infants are born with low birth weight (LBW; <2500 g). Of all LBW infants, approximately 95% are born in developing countries. The greatest incidence of LBW occurs in South-Central Asia; the second greatest is in Africa. The two main reasons for LBW are preterm birth (<37 weeks) and intrauterine growth restriction (IUGR), which are risk factors for increased morbidity and mortality in newborn infants.

Maternal nutrition status is one of the most important risk factors for LBW/IUGR. Providing balanced protein energy and multiple micronutrient supplements to pregnant women will reduce incidence of IUGR. Exclusive breastfeeding is protective for a mother and her infant and has been shown to reduce morbidity and mortality in infancy. Kangaroo mother care for preterm infants will reduce severe morbidity and mortality as well. Community-based intervention packages are among the most effective methods of reducing morbidity and mortality in mothers and children. Exclusive breastfeeding should be promoted, and appropriate systems for care and support strengthened at both health facility and community levels.

	<b>Symposium 4:</b> <i>Strengthening Care and Support systems for Breastfeeding and Nutrition of Premature and Low Birth Weight babies</i>		
	<b>Convener/Sponsor:</b> <i>Laerdal Global Health</i>		
<b>11:30</b> - <b>13:00</b>	<b>Moderator:</b> Cansu Akarsu <b>Co-Facilitator:</b> Dr. Lesley Bramford	<b>Objective:</b> Share experiences and lessons learnt on the various care and support systems and/or methods for feeding premature and LBWs	<b>Method of Presentation:</b> Active Dialogue with participants
	<b><u>Panellists/Discussants:</u></b>		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cansu Akarsu, Laerdal Global Health</b> – Introduction to the session [5mins]</li> <li><b>Elisabeth Sterken, IBFAN</b> - Feeding of Premature LBWBs [10mins]</li> <li><b>Deidre Smith/Satsha Jordan, South Africa Breastmilk Reserve</b> - Promoting and Managing Maternal Lactation in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit [15mins]</li> <li><b>Dr. Christy McKinney, PATH</b> - NIFTY Cup they researched for feeding of Premature and Low Birth Weight Babies [15mins]</li> <li><b>Cansu Akarsu, Laerdal Global Health</b> - Exploration of our breastfeeding model Mama Breast; Breastfeeding and growth. Helping Babies Grow [15mins]</li> <li><b>Illeins Bolanes Gonzales</b> - Breastfeeding: Nutrition support and Capacity building for Premature and LBWBs [10mins]</li> </ol> <p>Discussions – All panelists [20mins]</p>		
	<b>Focal Person:</b> Cansu Akarsu, Laerdal Global Health		