I BRICS Workshop on Human Milk Bank
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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ABC - Brazilian Cooperation Agency
AISA/MS - International Health Advisory Division of the Ministry of Health of Brazil
GDF - Federal District Government
HMB - Human Milk Bank

Fiocruz – Oswaldo Cruz Foundation

UN - United Nations
MRE - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MS – Ministry of Health
rBLH - Global Network of Human Milk Banks
rBLH-BR - Brazilian Human Milk Banks Network
SDG - Sustainable Development Goals

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This year, 2019, on holding the pro-tempore presidency of the BRICS (arrangement of emerging countries comprising Brazil, China, Russia, India and South Africa), Brazil coordinated several meetings in order to propose priority themes among these countries.

The Ministry of Health of Brazil in a joint action with the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, committed to discuss, within the BRICS, one of its most successful experiences of horizontal cooperation: the action Human Milk Bank. Thus, during the 120th anniversary of Fiocruz, the 1st BRICS Workshop on Human Milk Bank was held from August 28 to 30, at the Fiocruz Regional Management in Brasilia (Gereb/Fiocruz), Brazil.

The initiative marked the first time that BRICS, through its health sector representatives, discussed the Human Milk Bank action as a public policy strategy and its benefits for improving the health status of newborns and women in breastfeeding process.

In view of the recognition by the United Nations around the positive impact of the Brazilian experience, the Declaration of the First BRICS Meeting on Human Milk Bank was elaborated at the end of the Workshop, which marked the commitment to mobilize efforts for the creation of the BRICS Network of Human Milk Banks.

During the three days of the event, the participants had the opportunity to get to know the Brazilian model of Human Milk Bank through exploratory visits to the facilities of the Human Milk Banks of the Federal District. The program also included lectures about the trajectory of this action in Brazil; operationalization strategies; alignment with global health; practical classes of processing and quality control, based on the technical-scientific precepts developed by the country; as well as a panel with the experience of each of the BRICS on the subject.

We wish you all a great reading.
I BRICS Workshop on Human Milk Bank Programme
August 28-30, 2019

August 28th, Wednesday

08:30h – Reception of the participants and registration

9h – Sessão I: Abertura

Local: Auditório da Gerência Regional de Brasília da Fiocruz (Gereb/Fiocruz-Brasília)
Transmissão ao vivo: www.rblh.fiocruz.br
Solenidade de abertura
10h:15 – Intervalo

10h:30 – Sessão II: Panorama dos Bancos de Leite Humano nos Países que Integram o BRICS

2.1. Painel:
• Representante da Rússia
• Representante da Índia
• Representante da China
• Representante da África do Sul
Coordenação – Brasil

2.2. Apresentação do Documentário – A Cooperação Técnica Internacional em Banco de Leite Humano: do Local ao Global

2.3. Fórum de discussão
13h – Almoço

14h:30 – Sessão III: Visita Exploratória às instalações da Rede de Bancos de Leite Humano do Distrito Federal

Locais:
BLH do Hospital Regional do Paranoá;
BLH do Hospital Regional de Sobradinho;
BLH do Hospital Materno Infantil de Brasília
August 29, Thursday

08:00h – Session IV: Demonstrative Practices for Processing and Quality Control of Human Milk, according to the model of the Global Network of Human Milk Banks
Location: HMB of the Regional Hospital of Taguatinga

12:00h – Lunch

13:30h – Session V: Visit to the HMB of Anchieta Hospital (HMB of a Hospital of the SUS Supplementary Health Network)

16:00h – Session VI: Operational strategy of the Brazilian Human Milk Banks Network

• Modus operandi
• Qualification of Human Resources for the work processes in Human Milk Bank
• Social mobilization in favor of breastfeeding and human milk donation
• Use of ICTs - Information and Communication Technologies at rBLH
• Management
• Quality

Venue: Anchieta Hospital Auditorium

August 30, Friday

08:00h – Session VII: Views on the Brazilian Network of Human Milk Banks and the Global Network of Human Milk Banks
7.1. Presentation of documentaries
7.2. Conference: Global Network of Human Milk Banks in the context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
João Aprigio Guerra de Almeida (Fiocruz/Ministry of Health)

Discussion Forum

10:00h – Session VIII: Closure

8.1. Remarks about the Workshop
• Representative of Russia
• Representative of India
• Representative of China
• Representative of South Africa
• Representative of Brazil

8.2. Constructing the minutes of the first Human Milk Banking - BRICS meeting
The opening ceremony of the I BRICS Workshop on Human Milk Bank was attended by representatives of the health sector from Brazil, Russia, India and China. Representatives of the government, the academy, members of the Military Fire Department of the Federal District and professionals from the Human Milk Bank Network this region were present.

The opening table was composed by the First Lady of the Federal District, Mayara Noronha, by the coordinator of the Brazilian Human Milk Banks Network, João Aprigio Guerra de Almeida, the director of Fiocruz’s Brasília Regional Management, Fabiana Damásio, Secretary of Health od Federal District, Osnei Okumoto, the special advisor to the Ministry of Health for International Affairs, Thaisa Lima, the director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ruy Pereira, and the president of Fiocruz, Nísia Trindade. It should be noted that the first day of the event was broadcast over the internet in real time.
Our intention is to bring this discussion with all the first ladies in the world, we have to encourage breastfeeding. [...] So if we can encourage and embrace the cause, we have to be united in this matter. [...] We will continue to work so that we can put a breastfeeding support room within all the Federal District Government agencies.”

If Brazil has built the largest and most complex BLH network, it is fundamentally due to the investments that have been made over three decades in research and technological development and in the development of management models. Always with the prospect of pursuing a moderate, low cost, efficient technology and above all, that could demonstrate results. [...] Having BRICS with us to share this experience is an honor, a great pleasure.”

The HMB, for many years, together with the Ministry of Health, has been promoting what Brazil acts and thinks about international cooperation in health in an efficient way and which has been clearly focusing on reducing child mortality over the countries all these years. [...] this network grows to other countries in an efficient way, because it takes the Brazilian principles and values, from this important agenda to Brazil, and of equal size to other countries.”

“We are closing this month, golden August, with an event of this magnitude welcoming our foreign partners to follow new possibilities for cooperation. [...] This month was very special for us. We received from the Ministry of Health the certification of our support room for working women who are breastfeeding so that we can, here in Fiocruz, continue with the support of health policies...”
Osnei Okumoto
Secretary of Health of the Federal District

“[...] We are honored to welcome you here so that you can see the work of the Federal District. You will have the opportunity to visit our HMBs and exchange knowledge. [...] We have a law in DF that implies that all hospitals that have neonatal ICUs have an obligation to establish a HMB. Among others, this already allows us to say that DF is self-sufficient in human milk for all children in need.”

Nísia Trindade
President of Fiocruz/MS

“[...] For Fiocruz it is a great joy to have this event, especially as we are moving towards the 120th anniversary of the institution's creation. [...] To think that our countries can cooperate with central elements for life, such as human milk, is very powerful, opportune and symbolic for countries with continental dimensions like ours that face challenges for the preservation of health of our populations. This is the time for us to deepen this debate and move towards a cooperation that has the right to health, the right to life, as a key issue between our countries.”

Ambassador Ruy Pereira
Director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ao término da solenidade os representantes do BRICS foram convidados a participar da inauguração da Sala de Apoio à Mulher Trabalhadora que Amamenta, da Gereb/Fiocruz-Brasília. Essa iniciativa tem o propósito de apoiar a mulher que amamenta no momento em que retorna ao trabalho.
The second activity of the Workshop was the realization of the Panel – Overview on Human Milk Banks in the BRICS countries - in which representatives from Russia, India and China presented the state of the art on breastfeeding and human milk banks in their respective countries. The panel provided insight into how each country deals with the Human Milk Bank theme in their respective public health contexts.

In November 2014, the first Human Milk Bank in Russia was opened, located at the Children’s Health Scientific Center in Moscow. From this Russian initiative, Milana presented a study that was developed to analyze the public opinion about the need to create human milk banks in the country. At the time, the results of the Moscow HMB were presented, from 2014 to 2019: 280 female donors, over 500L of milk collected from donors, 320 sick children received donated milk. In 2017, the second HMB of the country was created in the city of UFA, located at the Republican Children's Clinical Hospital of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia. In 2018, the creation of the 3rd HMB of the country was planned at the Perinatal Center of Chelyabinsk. It was noted that the Russian HMBs constitute the European Human Milk Bank Association (EMBA) structure. Milana highlighted the projection to expand HMBs in maternity and perinatal centers in the country.
The Indian representative noted that the first Asian HMB was opened at the Sion Hospital in Mumbai in 1989, and until 2005 it was the only operating HMB in the country. From 2006 to the present day, there was an expansion in this area to 60 HMBs. However, according to Sila, it is still not enough for India, "where the birth cohort is 24.5 million babies." In 2017, the National Guide for HMB (Lactation Management Centers) in Public Health Institutions was launched to contribute to standardization in terms of quality control, communication and regulation of HMB. Sila Deb has shown that 75% of newborn deaths can be prevented by viable and cost-effective solutions, with breastfeeding as the most powerful intervention. Sila also pointed out that in 2015, a group of health professionals came to Brazil to learn about the Brazilian HMB model.

Sitaraman presented relevant information from the "Jeevan Dhara" BLH, created in 2015, which operates benefiting babies admitted to Mahila Chikitsalaya and J.K. Lone Hospital. According to Sitaraman, the BLH works hard on the issue of breastfeeding counseling. From March 26, 2015 to August 28, 2019, the following results were achieved: Breastfeeding counseling visits: 33,000 breastfeeding counseling visits; 7400 donors; 3900 liters of milk collected; 5,000 benefited babies; 1050 liters of exclusive human milk provided.
According to Hong Jiang, China’s first BLH was deployed in Guangzhou City in 2013, and by November 2018, the country had 27 operating BLHs. For China, the BLH action has brought several benefits, including: survival of premature and low birth weight newborns; decreased neonatal complications, including sepsis and necrotizing enterocolitis; Reduced length of hospitalization: reduced medical costs, increased breastfeeding rates among human milk donors, and treatment for malnutrition, food intolerance, and rehabilitation in children with severe trauma. However, Hong Jiang stated that there are still some difficulties to be overcome, such as moving forward in terms of political sustainability, regulation and standardization of operating procedures.

After the panel, the documentary International Technical Cooperation on Human Milk Bank: From Local to Global, was presented, which addresses the trajectory of Human Milk Banks in Brazil and the repercussion of the results achieved for the Country, as well as in the health context due to the international technical cooperation developed in the sector.
In the afternoon of the 28th, exploratory visits were made to the facilities of the Human Milk Bank Network of the Federal District, guided by Miriam Santos and Graça Cruz (rBLH-DF). The program included the Human Milk Banks of Paranoá Regional Hospital, Sobradinho Regional Hospital and Brasília Maternal Child Hospital. At the opportunity, the participants could meet Human Milk Banks with different spaces, number of customers, but with the same logic of operation. The visits included discussions with the purpose of expanding opportunities for appropriation of the knowledge and practices presented.
During the morning of the second day of activities, the group participated in the routine processing and quality control of human milk, according to the modus operandi practiced by the Human Milk Banks in Brazil. Participants were welcomed by the entire Taguatinga HMB team and then met the Project Firefighter - Breast Friend, a joint initiative of rBLH-DF with the Military Fire Department for home collection.

During the simulation, Miriam Santos explained the process of receiving raw milk. Then all participated in the simulation of processing and quality control of human milk, observing the provisions of the Technical Standards of the Global Network of Human Milk Banks. All participants dressed appropriately and within the processing room saw all the flow - chemical physical quality control, refilling, pasteurization and microbiological quality control. On the occasion, the principles that guide the technical procedures in Brazil and the possibility of their application in the respective contexts of each country were discussed.
In the afternoon of the same day, the participants visited the HMB of Anchieta Hospital, which is part of the Supplementary Health Network of the Unified Health System. The participants saw, in practice, the Brazilian Law of 1993, renewed in 2014, which requires the Hospitals that have neonatal ICU to have or Human Milk Bank or Collection Station in their facilities.
On the occasion, a discussion forum was held on the following topics:

- Modus operandi of the Brazilian Network of Human Milk Banks;
- Human Resources Qualification for work processes in BLH;
- Social mobilization for breastfeeding and human milk donation;
- Use of ICT-Information and Communication Technologies in rBLH;
- Management and Quality.
On the morning of the last day of the Workshop, the session Views on the Brazilian Network of Human Milk Banks and the Global Network of Human Milk Banks was held. It was composed by the exhibition of videos compilation / documentaries from foreign institutions about the experience, Brazilian in BLH.

After, the conference Global Network of Human Milk Banks in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was presented by Dr. João Aprigio Guerra de Almeida - Fiocruz / Ministry of Health, coordinator of rBLH. The conference addressed the role of the Network in the context of Global Health, specifically with regard to the alignment and monitoring of work in favor of the Sustainable Development Goals based on the commitments made in the Brasilia Charter 2015.
On August 30, the first BRICS meeting in the Human Milk Bank was held. At the occasion, the participants made their comments regarding the mobilization of efforts within the scope of the international technical cooperation of each of their respective countries for the creation of the BRICS Network of Human Milk Banks. The perspective is to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and technologies focused on food and nutritional security in neonatal and infant care within the BRICS.

Thus, the document entitled Declaration of the First BRICS Meeting on Human Milk Bank was approved by all.
Declaration of the First BRICS Meeting on Human Milk Bank

We, professionals of the health sector institutions of the BRICS countries, participants of the 1st BRICS Workshop on Human Milk Bank, gathered from August 28 to 30, 2019, in the city of Brasilia, Brazil.

Considering,

The excellence of human milk for the integral development of the infant and young child, as the first and exclusive food in the first six months of the baby’s life, and the importance of its use until two years of age or older, as a vital food for sustainable human development;

Access to human milk and adequate nutrition as the first measure of food security for the individual and that every effort should be made to recognize, promote, protect and support this practice, ensuring the reduction of hunger and malnutrition for the child population;

The acknowledgment of the Human Milk Banks Network by World Health Organization and United Nations Development Programme as one of the initiatives that has contributed the most for human development in the Southern hemisphere, promoting practical solutions that have been reproduced, expanded, and adapted by countries, respecting the precepts that rule horizontal cooperation;

The strategic role of Human Milk Banks in Early Infancy public policies from the standpoint of promotion, protection and support to breastfeeding, within the framework of the interculturality of each country; and

The results achieved by the health systems of the countries that are part of the Human Milk Bank Network;

We commit to,

Mobilize efforts, within the framework of the international technical cooperation of our countries, for the creation of the BRICS Network of Human Milk Banks in order to expand sharing of knowledge and technologies focused on food and nutritional security in neonatal and nursing infant care, with the right to health as its central value.

Brasilia, Brazil, on August 30, 2019.
On behalf of the Russian Federation, on my behalf, allow me to thank your government, Ministry of Health of Brazil, allow me to thank you for this great seminar. We have a lot of information, we have had a lot of experiences and I think we had a good perspective to do the same, maybe even improve a lot in our country, and I think we will have a lot of work to do with a global community, a global network in our country and Brazil, with Asian countries to make a big association in favor of the HMBs. Thank you very much. I had the pleasure of being here and I wish to see you again at a HMB seminar in Moscow, at Russian Federation.
**INDIA**

Sila Deb  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India

“I had this privilege to be a part of this historical moment of all the BRICS countries [...]. We had the opportunity to learn a lot during these three days on the functioning of the HMBs and to interact with these very dedicated personal as we were walking in these HMBs. We find them to be the champions, actually. [...] So this will have a far impact on our programs, because we’ll be taking this learning to our country. In India we’ve started a program, only up two years just in 2017, we had established guidelines, and so we’re new entrance in this program and that’s why it will be a great opportunity what we had here. So I wish that we’ll be in touch in our international cooperation system in BRICS countries, in which we’ll have mutual sharing as well as learn from each other, and this will help us a lot.

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**CHINA**

Hong Jiang  
Fudan University

“I am very happy to have this opportunity to be here in Brazil and I’m honored to learn and share knowledge and experience on the HMB theme. I think Brazil’s government and society have reached the sources of knowledge and experience that we can learn and share for our country. I hope that in the future we will have more and more close collaborations between the BRICS countries and I’m very grateful.”
First Post-Meeting Results

I Workshop BRICS on HMB Video Summary
August 28-30, 2019
Declaration of the IX Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Health

On October 25, 2019, the 9th Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers was held in Curitiba, Brazil. As a result of the meeting, the document entitled Declaration of the IX Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers - which, among other issues, welcomes the Declaration of the 1st BRICS Meeting on Human Milk Bank, which highlights the creation of the BRICS Human Milk Banks to share successful experiences and technologies in the area of Food and Nutrition Security in neonatal and child care.

XI Summit of Heads of State and Government of BRICS

On November 14, 2019, the Heads of State of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa met in Brasilia, Brazil, on the occasion of the 11th BRICS Heads of State and Government Summit. From this meeting, a document called Brasilia Declaration was agreed, in which they welcome the creation of the BRICS Human Milk Bank Network, proposed at the First BRICS Meeting on Human Milk Bank.
Facts in Pictures
Repercussions in the press