

## **Ted Greiner**

When in 1975-1976 I took Michael Latham's introductory and advanced courses in international nutrition at Cornell University, I decided on this as my career direction. It appeared to be a way to make a difference for millions of disadvantaged people in the low-income countries. Because I doubted (and continue to do so) that professionals from rich countries can or should play very active technical roles (other than capacity building), I chose for my master's research an issue where rich countries certainly were the problem: the impact of commercial baby food advertising on infant feeding patterns, conducted in St. Vincent, West Indies.

During the spring of 1977 I lived for a few months in Ghana and my former wife lived in Cote d'Ivoire, as we did a study for FAO on the economic value of breastfeeding in west Africa. It was the most detailed of such studies at the time. Published in 1979 by FAO in English and French, they told me a few years later that it was their 'best seller'. (It was of course sent for free to anyone who requested it).

In 1978-81, with a Rockefeller Foundation grant, I planned, managed and organised a three-part evaluation of a 3-year breastfeeding promotion project in Yemen. This was the topic of my PhD dissertation. In the following decades, the average duration of breastfeeding there doubled in both rural and urban areas. From 1983 to 1985, I returned to Yemen, employed by the ministry of health to help set up its first nutrition unit.

Since then I have worked as a consultant for UN agencies, the World Bank, the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action, World Vision, Save the Children, and others, dealing with a large number of governments and their agencies and with civil society organisations. Much of my work has been concerned with capacity building on policy, programme and research approaches in low-income countries, mostly dealing with maternal and child nutrition at community level, and often specifically with infant feeding or food-based approaches to combat micronutrient deficiencies.

From 1985-2004, I was nutrition advisor to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), based at Uppsala University's International Maternal and Child Health unit (IMCH). I assisted in planning, follow up and evaluation of their large nutrition portfolio in Asia and Africa, and their support to international breastfeeding non-governmental organisations. I multi-year Sida-funded capacity building programmes for Tanzania and Zimbabwe government nutrition units until 2000.

I became Associate Professor of International Child Health at Uppsala University Medical School in 2001. My students' research work focused on public health nutrition issues related to infant feeding, micronutrient malnutrition, and obesity. Most students came from low-income countries and did their research in their home countries. I ran the Swedish side of a research exchange program with the University of the Western Cape, South Africa.

From 2004-2008 I was senior nutritionist at the Program for Appropriate Technologies in Health (PATH), and served as director of their Ultra Rice Project (focusing on a low-cost method of conventional fortification of rice in China, India, Brazil and Colombia) and in research and advocacy efforts on HIV and infant feeding, largely in Rwanda, Cote d'Ivoire, and Kenya.

From 2008-2015 I was Professor of Nutrition at Hanyang University in Seoul, South Korea, the highest ranked food and nutrition department in the country, where I taught a wide range of nutrition courses and worked on a number of public health nutrition research studies.

From 1987-2010, I was probably the longest-serving participant in the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition, attending 23 official international meetings during that period. Among other things, I was Chair of the Bilateral Constituency from 1990-95 and Chair of the NGO/Civil Society Constituency from 2007-2010 when their engagement with non-UN constituencies ended.

I have been an Associate Editor of the journal Public Health Nutrition since 2012, handling about one manuscript every 10 days. I have been doing peer reviews at about that same level for much longer than that and in 2016 was listed among the top 10% of peer reviewers in the agricultural and biological sciences. Currently I am Editor-in-Chief of WPHNA's journal World Nutrition.

In an unjust world, most of the resources available for combating poverty and malnutrition reside among the poor themselves. However, expecting impoverished populations and communities to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, while they are being held down by health and nutritional problems that sap their energy and inhibit their children from learning, just adds insult to injury. Human rights and economic justice must remain the long term goals, but improving nutritional status globally need not wait until they are achieved.