



**International Baby Food Action Network - IBFAN**  
*Red internacional de grupos pro alimentación infantil*  
*Réseau international des groupes d'action pour*  
*l'alimentation infantile*

**Geneva Infant Feeding Association - GIFA**

**1998 Recipient of the Right Livelihood Award**



**Statement by IBFAN, 136<sup>th</sup> EB,  
Special session on EBOLA**

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The global network IBFAN presents this statement jointly with Public Services International and Health Innovation in Practice.

We all recognise the urgency of Ebola, but this was a disaster just waiting to happen. We all know the causes: harmful structural adjustment policies, cruel wealth disparity on the rise and the lack of political engagement to support health systems in countries.

WHO is now expected to deliver solutions fast.

Ebola has been waiting for Research and Development for 40 years. Now that it's a global crisis, corporations are springing into action. At Last.

Instead of allowing the Ebola crisis to further undermine its role, WHO must reassert itself as the one global leader in health, and must take all measures to prevent commercial exploitation of public health again.

A few questions:

1. What is the capacity of WHO to ensure a good public health deal with Big Pharma?
2. Can and will the WHO supervise clinical trials and demand appropriate regulation of the vaccines?
3. What will be the conditions for access to the needed vaccines, in terms of price control, and
4. What intellectual property management will be set in place, given the threat the virus is posing ?

It is good that the UNMEER partnership includes Civil Society at the outset. But where are national health workers and their representatives in the countries concerned? These are critical players in rebuilding West Africa's health systems, together with the populations they serve. This health workforce, diminished and discouraged, needs to be the protagonist of the future. They deserve our attention to their working and employment conditions, health and safety.

Ebola shows that the era of verticalization of health programmes and the PPPs associated with it, is not what the world needs.

Public Health is more complex than just diseases.

Thank you

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