



“The scope of midwives varies worldwide and is often adapted to the context of women.”

Franka Cadée

President International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)

Biography

Franka Cadée is a midwife and expert on global maternal health with over 30 years' experience in strategy and policy development, advocacy, leadership and project management. She is known to many for her PhD research work on twinning between organisations of midwives. Franka worked as a practising midwife in an independent group practise in The Netherlands for 25 years and is well-versed in all aspects of midwifery care, of course including breastfeeding.

With her anthropological and midwifery background, Franka has lived and worked across a range of differently resourced countries and is well aware of the realities of midwifery practice in various cultural contexts. She is a strong proponent of gender equity and a human rights based approach to midwifery care.

The mother – midwife partnership

A strong women - midwife partnership supports successful breastfeeding, this fact is underpinned by a wide range of evidence. For this reason it can appear strange for a midwife to be asked what her role in supporting breastfeeding is. After all, what is her role not?

There is much confusion and misunderstanding globally about what a midwife and midwifery is. The scope of midwives varies worldwide and is often adapted to the context of women. For example, a European midwife may need to understand how to support a mother to latch on her baby, whereas in South Sudan the focus of the midwife may be how to support the mother to feed herself, latching on the baby is only rarely an issue. One thing most midwives have in common is that they are trained according to the ICM Essential Competencies for Midwifery

Practise, competency specifically refers to promoting and supporting breastfeeding.

In this presentation the audience will be taken on a journey with the midwife to experience the mother - midwife partnership in different contexts in relation to successful breastfeeding, adapted to the mothers and baby's individual needs.

