

## Anna Verster

May 14, 1947 - June 18, 2021



Much to our sadness, we learned that last week our former colleague Anna Verster (1947-2021) passed away. Anna was a passionate senior advisor for the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. Anna was founding mother of Smarter Futures and has worked closely together with IF in public-private-civil partnerships to improve health in Africa through food fortification. Under Anna's leadership, we have come far in making the enrichment of wheat and maize flour a reality in many countries.

Friends and colleagues of Anna will remember her for being a strong and knowledgeable leader in the field of flour fortification and nutrition. She worked as Director of Health Promotion for the World Health Organization – EMR Office in Cairo covering North Africa and the Middle East countries until her retirement from WHO. She was responsible for the introduction of fortification of salt, wheat flour and vegetable all in the countries of the region. Following her retirement, she worked for GAIN before founding Smarter Futures with IF and FFI. Determined but always gracious, she was known as 'Mama Lishe', Swahili for Mother Fortification, and over her career she has improved the health and lives of over 300 million people in Africa and the Middle East.

Before Anna passed away, she received a special IF Award of Excellence on behalf of IF and the partners of Smarter Futures. A scholarship memorial fund in her name has been created to honor Anna's legacy and stimulate young academics to make fortification with folic acid a reality in countries worldwide.

In lieu of flowers, anyone who so desires may send a contribution to the 'Anna Verster Scholarship' at the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.

Please make sure the donation is done under the name '**Anna Verster Scholarship**' on the following bank account:

International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

Anna Verster Scholarship

IBAN: BE43 4097 0695 1101

BIC: KREDBEBB

