

BFHI Congress 24-26 October 2016

**Draft Updated Operational
Guidance – Topic 2**

**Setting national health
standards**

Randa Sa'adeh, on behalf of the External Review Group



Key elements of implementing BFHI nationwide

- **Topic 1:**
 - Implementation in health facilities
- **Topic 2:**
 - Policies and standards of care
 - Capacity strengthening
- **Topic 3:**
 - External assessments
 - Incentives and penalties
 - Scaling up to national implementation
- **Topic 4:**
 - National leadership and coordination
 - National monitoring

Key elements of implementing BFHI nationwide

1. Ensure oversight of BFHI implementation in all maternity facilities in the country
2. Incorporate protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding in maternity facilities into national policy documents, professional standards of care.
3. Ensure that all health professionals and managers engaged in maternal and newborn care have adequate capacity to implement the national BFHI standards and management procedures.
4. Develop external assessment systems
5. Develop and implement incentives for compliance and/or sanctions for non-compliance with the national standards.
6. Execute strategies to scale up application of the BFHI standards to all maternity facilities.
7. Develop and maintain a monitoring system on the implementation of the programme.
8. Ensure the ongoing funding of the initiative.

Policies and standards of care

- Protection, promotion and support for breastfeeding in maternity facilities to be **integrated** in all relevant policy and planning documents e.g.
 - National Nutrition Policy
 - Plan of Action for Breastfeeding
 - Child Survival Strategy
 - National development strategy
 - others...



World Health
Organization

unicef



Policies and standards of care

- Policy implementation would facilitate and ensure inclusion in national budgets

Policies and standards of care

- Clinical practices should be written into the standards of care for professional bodies
 - Ob/gyn, midwifery, paediatrics, neonatology, nursing, dietetics
- Management procedures to be reflected in relevant guidance documents
- Monitoring systems to check adherence to standards

Capacity strengthening

- Health professionals need to have **adequate knowledge and skills** to implement the BFHI practices
 - Shared responsibility between individual facilities and national system
 - Both pre-service and in-service training are needed

Capacity strengthening

- Pre-service training of health workers
 - Include breastfeeding
 - Develop national curricula
 - Clinical standards
 - Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes
 - Both theoretical and practical
- Teaching staff need training as well

Capacity strengthening

- Continuing education and in-service training also important
 - Many existing health workers did not receive training
 - Need refreshers
 - Need to keep up with latest science
- Electronic courses can play a role in combination with face-to-face interaction and direct observation
- Competency-based assessment is critical

Questions for discussion

1. What can be done to make sure the BFHI standards become national standards?
2. What are the barriers to including BFHI steps into pre-service training?
3. Who should be responsible for delivery of in-service training?
4. What is missing from this guidance?

Thank you!



© UNICEF/UNI109442/Pirozzi