

BFHI Congress 24-26 October 2016

**Draft Updated Operational
Guidance – Topic 4**

**National Leadership and
Coordination**

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National leadership and coordination

- National coordination body responsible for breastfeeding in general and the protection, promotion and support for breastfeeding, specifically in maternity facilities.
 - Where possible, multisectoral
 - Functions can be added to existing governmental department or existing professional organization or NGO
 - If outside government, should have government oversight.
- Clearly identified focal person

National leadership and coordination

- National coordination body has overall responsibility of all 8 key functions discussed yesterday and today

National leadership and coordination

Key tasks to facilitate scope of work:

- Establish/update national BFHI guidance
- Establish national standards
- Conduct a needs assessment
- Identify opportunities to integrate BFHI related activities into other programmes, interventions and initiatives
- Develop a scale up strategy and action plan aimed at national coverage, with an accompanying budget.

National monitoring

- Countries need to monitor both activities and outcomes
 - National
 - Sub-national
- Indicators will depend on national action plan and will vary across countries

National monitoring

- Key process indicators:
 - #/% of provinces with regulations on BFHI standards (if regulation is decentralized)
 - #/% of newly graduated health professionals who received training on the updated BFHI standards
 - #/% of practicing health professionals who received in-service training

National monitoring

- Key process indicators:
 - Number of assessors trained and accessible for conducting external assessments
 - #/% of maternity facilities having completed an external assessment in the past 5 years
 - #/% of maternity facilities that “passed” external assessment or met a specific level of compliance with BFHI standards

National monitoring

- Key outcome indicators:
 - Rates of early initiation of breastfeeding
 - Rates of exclusive breastfeeding through hospital discharge

National monitoring

- Online reporting system for facility-level indicators
 - Reporting up to sub-national or national level

Financing

- Government budget should be primary resource
 - Multi-year commitments
 - Sustainable
 - Matched with strategies and activities
- External donors, foundations, NGOs should be used only for specific interventions on temporary basis
- Cannot have conflicts of interest

Financing

- Maternity facilities could pay for assessments
 - Fees need to be low enough to not create a barrier to participation

Questions for discussion

1. How can national committee overseeing BFHI remain active over multiple years?
2. How can national monitoring systems remain simple enough to be feasible but still provide necessary information for programme management?
3. What are necessary steps to secure long-term government commitment to budget?
4. What is missing from this guidance?

Thank you!



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