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Subject: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring

Posted by [DataDENT](#) on Fri, 01 Mar 2019 18:49:31 GMT

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Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) implementation guidance updated in 2018 identifies eight indicators for national monitoring of adherence to the BFHI Ten Steps. We propose several simple additions and a small question modification to collect all eight BFHI monitoring indicators.

1. Antenatal counselling

Definition: The percentage of mothers of who received antenatal counselling on breastfeeding.

2. Early skin-to-skin contact

Definition: The percentage of mothers who had skin-to-skin contact with their baby immediately or within 5 minutes after birth that lasted 1 hour or more.

(This indicator is currently in the DHS, but the length of time is not included.)

3. Early initiation of breastfeeding

Definition: The percentage of mothers who put their infant to the breast within 1 hour after birth.

4. Support with breastfeeding

Definition: The percentage of mothers who received support with learning to breastfeed after delivery.

(This indicator is currently in the DHS.)

5. Exclusive breastfeeding in first 3 days

Definition: The percentage of mothers reporting that their infants received only breast milk (either from their own mother or from a human milk bank) in the first 3 days after birth.

(This indicator is currently in the DHS.)

6. Rooming-in

Definition: The percentage of mothers whose babies stayed with them since birth, without separation lasting for more than 1 hour.

7. Referral to community support

Definition: The percentage of mothers who report that they were informed where they can access breastfeeding support in their community.

8. Overall compliance with BFHI standards

Definition: The percentage of mothers answering affirmatively on at least 6 of the above 7 practices.

Attached to this post is a completed submission form with full justification for the recommendation.

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This recommendation originated in the September 2018 Technical Consultation on Measuring Nutrition in Population-Based Household Surveys and Associated Facility Assessments a 2-day working meeting convened by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and United States Agency for

International Development in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, and coordinated by Data for Decisions to Expand Nutrition Transformation (DataDENT). The consultation included more than 60 technical experts, survey program representatives from DHS, MICS, LSMS and SMART, country data stakeholders, and donors from the nutrition measurement community.

This recommendation was authored by Laurence Grummer-Strawn (WHO) and reviewed by Maaïke Arts (UNICEF), Chika Hayashi (UNICEF), Vrinda Mehra (UNICEF), Melinda Munos (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH)), Purnima Menon (Institute for Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)), Sunny Kim (IFPRI), Kate McCarthy (Population Council), Chessa Lutter (RTI), and Monica Kothari (PATH).

This recommendation is endorsed by the WHO-UNICEF Technical Expert Advisory Group on Nutrition Monitoring (TEAM). Out of the 10 sets of recommendations endorsed by TEAM, this recommendation was prioritized as Tier 2 of 3 (high priority data need).

This recommendation is also endorsed by Countdown to 2030, Alive & Thrive, the nutrition team at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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## File Attachments

1) [2. BFHI\\_25 Feb.docx](#), downloaded 366 times

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Subject: Re: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring  
Posted by [Marie Ruel](#) on Thu, 07 Mar 2019 22:02:14 GMT

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I support this set of questions

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Subject: Re: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring  
Posted by [SUN Movement MEAL Team](#) on Thu, 14 Mar 2019 01:43:58 GMT

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The SUN MEAL Results Framework includes an indicator tracking the percent of births occurring in facilities designated as "baby-friendly." We believe the proposed overall compliance indicator proposed here will be helpful for SUN member countries and the SUN Movement globally in capturing coverage of the practices recommended by the Ten Steps.

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Subject: Re: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring  
Posted by [Mauro Brero](#) on Thu, 14 Mar 2019 08:52:12 GMT

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UNICEF Tanzania Nutrition team recommends maintaining all the 8 indicators. Information

generated will be used for evidence-based planning and programming.

However, for indicator 7 we recommend that the definition should specify that the breastfeeding support should be from Community Health Workers.

UNICEF Tanzania Nutrition Team.

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Subject: Re: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring  
Posted by [jruelbergeron](#) on Thu, 14 Mar 2019 19:35:40 GMT

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The Global Financing Facility (GFF) Secretariat endorses the recommendations made in this document (DataDENT).

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Subject: Re: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring  
Posted by [dnyeha](#) on Fri, 15 Mar 2019 10:46:31 GMT

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I endorse this recommendation

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Subject: Re: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring  
Posted by [Nsia](#) on Fri, 15 Mar 2019 10:53:13 GMT

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From Tanzania, I endorse these questions

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Subject: Re: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring  
Posted by [Paula Kawiche](#) on Fri, 15 Mar 2019 11:03:41 GMT

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I endorse these questions

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Subject: Re: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring  
Posted by [aperry](#) on Fri, 15 Mar 2019 14:28:14 GMT

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In light of the importance of these actions for improving nutrition and child survival the DFID Nutrition Policy team endorses this proposal

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Subject: Re: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring

Posted by [PATH](#) on Fri, 15 Mar 2019 19:08:33 GMT

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Thanks to DataDENT for compiling these indicators. Please consider some of the following:

Indicator #6 We definitely support this rooming-in question can also be a good cross-check question for quality assurance of the answers on early initiation of breastfeeding. Particularly relevant for women who undergo cesarean section

Indicators #4 and #5, suggest to specifically focus on support for mothers to express and store their milk as well as transport of milk to the baby (if in another ward/location) including safe storage and feeding. Additionally, improve indicators tracking feeding of vulnerable neonates including type of feeds (what type of human milk - mother's, shared, donor), support provided to mother, infrastructure for expression/transport/storage/feeding of mother's own milk. We would recommend this content to be added to the SPA questionnaire if there is limited space in the household questionnaire.

Indicator #7 we agree with feedback mentioned above in this thread. If DHS decides to add this question, consider clarifying which health workers e.g. community health workers as the team from UNICEF Tanzania suggested. The "who" in the community is providing support to mothers is relevant.

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Subject: Re: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring

Posted by [1000 Days](#) on Fri, 15 Mar 2019 19:25:40 GMT

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1,000 Days is the leading non-profit organization working in the U.S. and around the world to improve nutrition and ensure women and children have the healthiest first 1,000 days.

We support the recommendation. Evidence shows that implementing the 10 steps improves early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding and total duration. Better indicators to assess how well facilities are following the 10 steps will help improve advocacy efforts in support of BFHI and better support women to get a strong start to breastfeeding.

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Subject: Re: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring

Posted by [Erin Milner](#) on Fri, 15 Mar 2019 21:45:54 GMT

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USAID supports this recommendation.

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Subject: Re: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring

Posted by [Judy Canahuati](#) on Sat, 16 Mar 2019 03:32:39 GMT

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La Leche League International supports this recommendation

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Subject: Re: Support for Breastfeeding at Health Facilities - BFHI Monitoring  
Posted by [Olutayo](#) on Sat, 16 Mar 2019 03:52:39 GMT

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This is indeed an important indicator that would allow the assessment of not just coverage of breastfeeding services, but the performance of the health system in delivering crucial nutrition and health information. I completely support the inclusion of the indicator and the associated questions.

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