

providing specific breastfeeding training. The National Authority (as described above) is essential for oversight or quality and ethical considerations.

Step 4:

The National Authority:

- a) ensures that the BFHI Coordinating Group fulfils its responsibility to provide, directly or indirectly through BFHI Designating Committees, the initial or ongoing assessments of facilities,**
- b) helps plan training and curriculum revision,**
- c) ensures that the national health information system includes a record of feeding status on all contacts with children under 2 years of age, and**
- d) develops and implements a monitoring and evaluation plan.**

Note: if the BFHI program is ongoing, it may not be necessary to carry out all parts of this step, as there may be an existing record of current status, a roster of trainers and assessors, and a training plan ongoing, with curriculum revisions being enacted. However, the BFHI may not as yet include health information system updates to ensure that feeding status of all children is recorded.

- *4A. Ensuring that the BFHI Coordinating Group fulfils its responsibility to provide, directly or indirectly through BDCs, the initial or ongoing assessments of facilities*

Once the National Authority has developed the BCG, initial assessments of current status of the BFHs should be the next activity. No matter which model of BCG is instituted, initial assessments should be carried out by specially trained local or external assessors. Following the assessment or review of current status, establishing if there is a roster of individuals with expertise to serve as 1) local assessors, 2) trainers for each level of training, 3) curriculum specialists, and 4) health information system specialists, plans may be developed to engage these individuals in these tasks. If there is not a sufficient number of individuals with each of these skill areas, consider holding further trainings or sending individuals to regional or global training courses.

Current regional and global training courses can be accessed at:

http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_events.html or at <http://www.who.int> or on the Nutrition Quarterly, last section, found in the right hand column of: http://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_bigpicture.html.

The National Authority has the authority to modify or change the BCG as needed to maintain the function of ongoing assessment and designation.

- *4B. Helps plan training and curriculum revision*

Once the needs and the rosters are available, the needed curriculum revisions and trainings should be planned. Based on the assessed needs, a plan should be developed for carrying out the 20-hour course in every facility as well as for periodically conducting curricula updates. In addition, special training should be ensured for those health workers who will serve as the referral expert lactation consultants. The trainings should be carried out by individuals with appropriate training and skills. It is reasonable to develop a phased plan, so that those trained in one facility may support trainings in a near-by site. It is important that there be on-site ongoing training by supervisors, as well. Therefore, each BFH facility must have on staff individuals with significantly more training, such as a Certified Lactation Consultant or other certified specialists on this issue.