



**Breastfeeding
Promotion Network of India**
(Registered Under Societies Registration Act
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BPNI/2021/051

July 13, 2021

**Dr. Sila Deb
Additional Commissioner (CH & I/C - Nutrition)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India**

Sub: National Technical Support Unit for the MAA programme.

Dear Dr. Deb,

We are pleased to share with you that BPNI in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW),

Government of India is establishing a National Technical Support Unit (NTSU) at BPNI for supporting planning, implementation and review of Ten Steps to successful breastfeeding for the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) and MAA programme. The key objective is to provide technical services/support to health facilities to practice breastfeeding friendly policies.

The initiative requires establishment of an Expert Advisory Group (EAG). The Joint Secretary (RCH), MoHFW, Government of India and the Central Coordinator, BPNI will jointly Co-chair the EAG.

Keeping your expertise on the subject in view, we invite you to be a member of the EAG.

Enclosed is the concept note of the National Technical Support Unit for your perusal. An early positive reply from you with a brief CV would be very helpful.

Terms of reference of the EAG:

The EAG will meet every 6 months and have following functions:

- Approve/Update assessment standards/tools and criteria
- Approve/update criteria for authorising external assessors
- Approve the report of the National Technical Support Unit for the accreditation/grading of Baby Friendly Hospital as per guidelines
- Review and update the tools at least every 5 years
- Establish accountability mechanisms and redress mechanisms for any complaints
- Provide policy inputs for the work of National Technical Support Unit
- Approve the fee/charges for management and certification from time to time

With thanks and regards,

Yours Sincerely,

**Dr. Arun Gupta MD (Ped) FIAP
Central Coordinator, BPNI**