

Tool 9: Consider the Health System, Culture, and Environment

Refer to completed Tools 1–3 to provide context for the training program.

Consider how regional and sub-regional differences in the health system may change the teaching of *Helping Babies Breathe*. Many of the Group discussion questions associated

with the exercises deal with the health system, environment, and culture. Facilitators should prepare to guide discussion on topics by becoming familiar with any national/regional/local guidelines and standards for practice in the areas below. Note the considerations for HBB in the right column. Use the blank spaces to add other issues.

Regional differences in the health system	Considerations for Helping Babies Breathe
Type of ventilation device in use	
Type of suction device in use (bulb, tube and reservoir, gauze wipe)	
Method for cord clamping/tying, cutting and supplies used (clamp, ties, scissors, blade)	
System and functionality of the system for obtaining, maintaining, and replacing equipment (disposable and re-usable)	
Contents of the delivery kit/birthing kit	
Use of handwashing or handrub	
Helper(s) available to a birth attendant, their possible roles, and the preparation they need from a birth attendant	
Communication system among health care facilities and providers (radio, cell phone, internet)	
Emergency transport system	
Criteria for referral to higher-level health facility	
Special considerations to prevent infection (HIV, malaria, TB; personal protection guidelines for birth attendants)	
Management of meconium-stained amniotic fluid	
How mother and infant are safely identified (e.g., ID bands)	
Where the baby who does not breathe after stimulation will be placed for ventilation	
Where a baby who needs ventilation for longer than several minutes will receive care	
What conditions can be cared for where the participants work	
Reasons for transfer of a baby where the participants work	
When ventilation might be stopped for a baby who continues to have a slow heart rate or does not breathe	
Strength of supervision system for training/how support for continued learning will take place	
Financial support for initial training and continued learning (district planning and budgeting process)	
Other?	

Regional differences in environment and culture	Considerations for Helping Babies Breathe
Ways to maintain warmth in the delivery setting	
Ways to have adequate light in the delivery setting	
Availability of clean water or preparation of clean water; availability of soap and sanitizers	
When the umbilical cord will be clamped and tied or cut if the baby needs ventilation	
Device used to record time (timer, clock, watch, cell phone)	
Women's preferences for delivery setting	
What makes the delivery setting comfortable for the pregnant woman/new mother	
Minority and marginalized populations	
Acceptability of skin-to-skin care of baby immediately after birth	
Traditional methods of umbilical cord care (useful/harmful/neither)	
Methods of stimulating breathing (useful/harmful/neither)	
Attitudes and beliefs about breastfeeding immediately after birth	
Beliefs about babies who do not breathe, illness, and death	
Local terms for babies who do not breathe at birth	
Local terms for difficulty breathing or not breathing well	
Other?	