

Annex 10. Infant and young child feeding in emergencies

Criteria for appropriate emergency preparedness policies and programmatic measures at the national level

The country has ensured that:

1. A policy has been endorsed or developed to address:
 - Protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding and adequate complementary feeding in emergencies.
 - Procurement, management, distribution, targeting and use of breast-milk substitutes, commercial infant foods and drinks and infant feeding equipment in emergencies in compliance with the *International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes* (26) and subsequent WHA resolutions.

Essential items to address in a national policy are included in:

- *Infant and young child feeding in emergencies: operational guidance for emergency relief staff and programme managers*. Interagency Working Group on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, November 2001 (47).
- *Infant feeding in emergencies: policy, strategy and practice*. Report of the Ad Hoc Group on Infant Feeding in Emergencies, May 1999 (48).
- *Infant feeding in emergencies: module 1 for emergency relief staff*. Core Group on Infant Feeding in Emergencies, November 2001 (49).

All documents are available at web site <http://www.ennonline.net>.

2. A person or team responsible for national response and coordination with the United Nations, donors, the military and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) on issues related to infant and young child feeding in emergencies has been appointed. Responsibilities will include:
 - Development of a national contingency plan.
 - Representation of the national government during an emergency response in the following coordination activities: policy development; intersectoral coordination; development of an action plan that identifies agency responsibilities and mechanisms for accountability; dissemination of the policy and action plan to operational and non-operational agencies, including donors.
 - Involvement of affected communities in the planning process.
3. A national contingency plan to undertake activities to facilitate exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding and to minimize the risk of artificial feeding has been developed and resources identified for implementation during an emergency. The plan includes the following requirements in an emergency:
 - Assessment and ongoing monitoring activities will include demographic data disaggregated by age, and data on infant and young child feeding practices and support to determine priorities for action and response.

- Conditions will be created to support exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding (including general conditions and supportive care for all mothers and caregivers, basic aid and skilled help for mothers/caregivers experiencing problems with feeding).
 - Guidelines that comply with the *International Code of Marketing on Breast-milk Substitutes* and subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions will be provided on the appropriate procurement, management, distribution, targeting and use of breast-milk substitutes and other milks, bottles and teats; adherence to these guidelines will be monitored and enforced.
 - Current contact information on national infant feeding expert groups that can be consulted in an emergency situation will be available.
4. Appropriate material on infant and young child feeding in emergencies has been integrated into existing pre-service and in-service training for emergency management and relevant health care personnel. Materials include:
- Policies and guidelines relevant to infant and young child feeding in emergencies.
 - Appropriate knowledge and skills to support caregivers in feeding infants and young children in the special circumstances of emergencies.

Note: Basic information on infant and young child feeding in emergencies should be provided to all who may be involved in humanitarian assistance work, including policy-makers and decision-makers who will act in an emergency, agency staff (headquarters, regional, desk and field staff) and national breastfeeding specialists.

Useful training materials include:

- Core Group on Infant Feeding in Emergencies. *Infant feeding in emergencies. Module 1 for emergency relief staff: manual for orientation, reading and reference.* Draft, November 2001. Available at web site: www.ennonline.net or from fiona@ennonline.net (49).
- Core Group on Infant Feeding in Emergencies. *Infant feeding in emergencies. Module 2 for health and nutrition workers in emergency situations: manual for practice, instruction and reference.* Draft 2003. Available at web site: www.ennonline.net or from fiona@ennonline.net (50).
- WHO, UNHCR, IFRC, WFP. *The management of nutrition in major emergencies. Annex 6: Guiding principles for feeding infants and young children in emergencies.* Geneva, World Health Organization, 2000 (51). (*Note:* WHO/NHD will publish in the near future *Guiding principles for feeding infants and young children during emergencies*. The summary of this document is currently available in Annex 6 cited above.)