Infant Feeding in Emergencies (IFE) Core Group

The IFE Core Group is an expert advocacy and resource group on infant and young child feeding in emergencies. It functions as an interagency collaboration with full and associate members.

The Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) is the coordinating agency and its website is a ‘home’ for the resources produced by the IFE Core Group.

The IFE Core Group has produced a number of resources and outputs, listed in full below.

Over the years, the IFE Core Group has worked with many agencies, individual experts and directly with field teams and welcomes collaboration.

IFE Core Group members

The IFE Core Group goal is to strengthen the protection, promotion and support of safe and appropriate infant and young child feeding in emergencies. Emergency preparedness, the quality and timeliness of emergency response, and recovery are key considerations and focus areas in the work of the group.

Membership comprises named individuals with expertise in policy and programming in and/or relevant to infant and young child feeding in emergencies. They may be independent or associated with an agency.

Current full members of the IFE Core Group (individuals located within agencies) are:

- WFP
- UNICEF
- ENN
- International Medical Corps
- World Vision
- Concern Worldwide
- IBFAN
- Save the Children
- UNHCR
- IOCC
- ACF

Associate member:

Fondation Terre des hommes

Individual members:

Ali Maclaine and Karleen Gribble
IFE Core Group areas of activity

The IFE Core Group’s work to date has centred on development of policy guidance and capacity building tools, capturing and learning from what happens in emergency response with regard to infant and young child feeding and promoting policy and practice change in the context of preparedness and response.

The IFE Core Group strategic areas of activity are:

1. Advocacy on infant and young child feeding in emergencies within and external to agencies, across sectors and from policy level to field practice
2. Capturing experiences and extracting lessons from emergency response and reflecting these in policy guidance updates and resource development
3. Supporting proactive and reactive strong, technically sound and consistent communication in general media and statements
4. Identifying policy, guidance and research gaps and highlighting these to policy makers/researchers and relevant organisations and agencies
5. ‘Stop gapping’ policy and guidance where there are outstanding and critical gaps in guidance from normative agencies
6. Dissemination of key resources
7. Peer to peer support for members to enable putting operational guidance into practice
8. Participation in global initiatives and forums around improving emergency response, such as the Global Nutrition Cluster, The Sphere Project, and the technical forum, en-net and various trainings

The IFE Core Group does not directly implement programmes.

IFE Core Group resources and outputs


Integration of IYCF support into CMAM (2009)

Talking about IYCF and child age: a briefing


Complementary feeding in emergencies. A review of training resources and needs. October, 2009

Media guide on IFE. English, French, German, Spanish, Arabic.

Follow up report of regional workshop on IFE. 2009

Model joint statement on IFE

Key messages on IFE - for mothers and caregivers. English and French

Protecting infants in emergencies: the role of the public. IFE Core Group.

World Breastfeeding Week, 2009. ‘Breastfeeding, a vital emergency response: are you ready?’

IFE Core Group Strategy Meeting Report, November, 2010

Please see our resources section for more IYCF-E resources.

Feedback and support

In order to develop and update the policy guidance and training materials, your feedback is vital. Any experiences of using the materials in training, gaps in the materials, or issues around infant feeding in emergencies that you wish to share with us, are welcome.

IFE Core Group Funding

Each member identifies their own funds to support their individual engagement in the IFE Core Group. At a minimum, participation will require advocacy, lesson sharing and indentifying gaps.

Additional funds, either sourced through individual agencies or secured as a collective, are identified to undertake specific activities. Additional capacity to undertake activities may be available within member agencies or may need to be expanded, e.g. attaching a consultant to an agency to undertake work.

Contact the IFE Core Group

IFE Core Group