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Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IFE) Orientation and Training Day

Wednesday 11th July 2007

Bangladesh

Outline of Orientation and Training Day

Morning (9.30 – 13.00)

Essential orientation for everyone involved in emergencies

9.00 – 9.30 Registration with tea and coffee

9.30 – 09.40 Introductions

9.40 – 10.00 IFE – Why it matters

Emergencies can happen anywhere, from Mozambique, to Pakistan to Lebanon, in cultures where breastfeeding is the norm, to countries where babies may be artificially fed. What are the key issues regarding IFE? Why does it matter and how can you make a difference.

10.00 – 11.00 The Operational Guidance – putting it into practice (Part 1)

The Operational Guidance for Emergency Relief Staff and Policy-Makers on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies provides concise, practical guidance on how to protect and support appropriate infant and young child feeding in emergencies. It is supported by an increasing number of United Nations (UN) and donor agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). This session will examine what it means in practice for field workers, agencies, donors, and the media, from general aid responses to technical interventions, and include the protection and support of both breastfed and non-breastfed infants in emergencies.

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee

11.30 – 12.00 The Operational Guidance – putting it into practice (Part 2)

The International Code for Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent relevant World Health Assembly Resolutions (the Code) are embedded in the Operational Guidance, and has formed the basis for developing best practice for handling BMS in emergencies. Part II of the session will highlight the relevant articles of the Code for emergencies, share experiences of Code violations in recent emergencies and look at how you can support Code implementation within your work.

12.00 – 13.00 IFE Early Assessment and Response

This session will illustrate why infant and young child feeding in early needs assessment is needed, using examples of early actions or inactions that can protect or undermine safe infant and young child feeding practices. Some early needs assessment tools will be reviewed, with the analysis they need to inform response, including triggers for more comprehensive IFE assessment.

Afternoon (14.00 – 17.30)

Protection and support of IFE – practical skills

14.00 – 15.00 Making breastfeeding work in emergencies

This first half of the session will cover essential technical information on how breastfeeding works and specific actions of support, including stress 'busting', maternal diet, rebuilding milk supply, hand expression and cup feeding. The second half of the session will focus particularly on managing:

- Women who give birth in emergencies and supporting breastfed babies under 2 months.
- Malnourished infants under 6 months admitted for inpatient care.
- Managing malnourished infants under 6 months in outpatient/community settings.

15.00 – 15.30 Meeting AFASS criteria in emergencies

AFASS (acceptable, feasible, affordable, sustainable and safe) criteria have been developed in the context of replacement feeding and HIV/AIDs, however these criteria are applicable to the risk assessment of any artificial feeding in an emergency context. This session will explore what AFASS means in practice in emergencies, including how to prepare infant formula accurately and safely at a household and community level.

15.30 – 16.00 Tea

16.00 – 17.15 Putting guidance into practice – deciding what help is needed

This session will touch on support on two levels – at a community level (e.g. designing interventions and programmes to support breastfed and non-breastfed infants) and at an individual level (e.g. mother and infant counselling). This session will be based on case study work using scenarios and participants experience.

17.15 – 17.30 Action Sharing Forum and Feedback

All those participating will be invited to nominate at least one action they will take, to positively influence on IFE within their own work sphere (for example, an emergency pool coordinator committing to brief their agency emergency response staff on the Operational Guidance). These will be followed up by the IFE Core Group post-course. All participants will be invited to feedback on the course to help plan future sessions.

IFE materials and resources, including the Operational Guidance on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, are available at <http://www.enonline.net> or from the ENN, 32 Leopold Street, Oxford, OX4 1HF, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1865 324996/249745, fax: +44 (0)1865 324997, email: ife@enonline.net