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Infant Feeding in Emergencies Core Group 2022 Annual Meeting

24th-27th October 2022, Virtual Meeting

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Acronyms

BMS – Breastmilk substitutes

CF – Complementary feeding

CFE – Complementary feeding in emergencies

ENN – Emergency Nutrition Network

GNC Technical Alliance – Global Nutrition Cluster Technical Alliance

GTWG – Global Thematic Working Group

IYCF-E OG – Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies Operational Guidance

IFE CG SC – IFE Core Group Steering Committee

IYCF – Infant and young child feeding

IYCF-E – Infant and young child feeding in emergencies

WHA – World Health Assembly

WHO – World Health Organization

Acknowledgments

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Meeting overview

The IFE Core Group (IFE CG) 2022 Annual Meeting was hosted by ENN and held online with remote participation over three days (October 24th, 25th, and 27th, 2022). The meeting was facilitated by the IFE Core Group Steering Committee (IFE CG SC) members. The meeting agenda can be found in Appendix 1. The meeting aimed to gather IFE CG members to discuss progress in IFE CG activities, reflect on experiences during the year, and plan for the coming year. The meeting objectives were to:

- Review IFE CG progress during 2022
- Identify priority areas and actions for the 2023 work plan to be delivered by the collective based on the IFE Core Group Strategy and Action Plan

The main outputs of the meeting were:

1. The generation of key priority areas that served as the basis for the 2023 IFE Core Group workplan
2. The generation of a meeting report with key follow-up actions

IFE CG members attended the meeting. The meeting was conducted online with remote participation for approximately one and a half days, spread over three days. Morning and afternoon sessions with similar agendas were held each day to accommodate members in different time zones. A total of 36 IFE CG members attended the meeting across the three days. See Appendix 2 for a full list of participants. Topics covered on the first day included a synopsis of key moments in infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E) for 2022, an update on the IFE CG annual work plan, and a discussion of gaps, challenges, enablers and priorities in IYCF-E. On the second day, participants broke up into working groups to discuss activities under each output of the IFE CG work plan. The day concluded with a plenary discussion on priorities and activities under each output. On the final day, the working groups presented the outcomes of their discussions. A plenary discussion on ways of working as well as priority activities was also held. Brief IFE CG member updates took place between the sessions over the three days (see Appendix 3). This report provides an overview of the meeting's proceedings, including key priority areas and actions that will serve as the basis for a 2023 work plan. Presentations and materials from the meeting can be found [here](#)..

Day 1

Facilitators: Jodine Chase and Diane Holland

In this session, the facilitators opened the meeting by welcoming participants and introducing the meeting's format, objectives, and agenda. They thanked the donors for their support of the IFE CG. Nigel Tricks, ENN's new CEO, introduced himself to the IFE CG members and extended a welcome to all from ENN.

Session 1: IYCF-E Ten Years of Progress report overview

Facilitator: Diane Holland

This session provided an overview of the [IYCF-E Ten Years of Progress report](#) developed by Save the Children on behalf of the IFE CG. This report aims to:

- Review the progress of member states in fulfilling their IYCF-E commitments under World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolution 63.23
- Highlight the experience of Member States and the humanitarian and development community in this journey
- Galvanise Member States and the humanitarian and development community to deliver on their global IYCF-E commitments

The review of the report helped set the scene for the discussions to follow.

Session 2: Update on IFE CG annual work plan

Facilitator: Jodine Chase

In this session, the facilitator reviewed the activities achieved in 2022 based on the IFE CG Strategy and Action Plan. The session included an update on each of the activities and progress made and provided an opportunity to reflect on priorities and progress. Below are details on products completed in 2022 under each output:

Output A: Gaps, challenges and issues identified; experiences and lessons learned documented and brought to the IFE CG and other stakeholders for action and support

There were three activities under Output A for 2022. Progress against these activities is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Progress on activities under Output A

Update on activity 1: Track issues and challenges related to active emergencies and bring to the Community of Practice for action and support
The activity to create a roadmap for identifying issues and challenges related to IYCF-E has been paused, with discussions ongoing on how best to carry this activity over to the 2023 work plan.
Update on activity 2: Identify gaps in knowledge and practice; potential areas of research and identify ways of addressing gaps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IYCF-E Repository was launched in 2022. The repository provides an overview of what peer-reviewed journal articles currently state on infant and young child feeding

(IYCF) in an emergency context and acts as a system to track new research related to IYCF-E. For more information, see page 9.

- A research ‘stocktake’ was completed by Kenya Addison, which reviewed the progress made on IYCF-E research since the work published in 2016 by Prudhon et al. The stocktake found that:
 - IYCF-E research should be focused on the effectiveness and implementation of different complementary feeding (CF) interventions and how to safely distribute breastmilk substitutes without compromising breastfeeding.
 - Following this, research should focus on the effectiveness of re-lactation interventions, providing psychological support for caregivers, and integrating IYCF-E into other sectors.
 - Regardless of whether it is operational or academic, evidence should be consolidated and made accessible among the IYCF-E community.

Update on activity 3: Document evidence, experiences, and lessons learned including uptake of IYCF-E OG and other technical support

- The [IYCF-E Ten Years of Progress report](#) developed by Save the Children has been completed but the activity to develop a communications plan for this work is unfunded.
- Another project that has been on pause has been work to map IYCF-E OG dissemination. The IFE CG currently track dissemination in a dashboard hosted by the Global Nutrition Cluster Technical Alliance (GNC Technical Alliance).

Output B: Resource materials to support feeding and care of children in humanitarian settings developed and provided in appropriate and accessible formats

There were four activities under Output B for 2022. Progress against these activities is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Progress on activities under Output B

Update on activity 1: Develop and disseminate written guidance

- The IFE CG have completed infographic 5: [Infant feeding during infectious disease outbreaks: A guide for policy makers](#) and infographic 6: [Infant feeding during infectious disease outbreaks: A guide for programmers](#)
- The IFE CG Ukraine Programmatic and Communications and Advocacy Working Groups supported the 2022 Ukraine response. Several products were produced including:
 - [Guidance note on IYCF in the first three days after a nuclear accident](#), with work ongoing for guidance in the context of a biological or chemical attack
 - [Joint Statement](#) on protecting maternal and child nutrition in the Ukraine conflict and refugee crisis
 - [Ukraine summary of lessons learned and essential documents on IYCF-E](#)
 - Translation of infographics and key guidance documents
 - System for breastmilk substitutes (BMS) donation monitoring and reporting
 - [Guidance for organisations supporting the feeding of children aged 6 months to 2 years in the context of the Ukraine crisis](#)

- Three webinars have been conducted/co-hosted by the IFE CG under the activity to organise a series of internal and external webinars that respond to gaps and challenges:
 - Webinar on "[Strategies for IYCF in Climate-Related Emergencies](#)"
 - [The Global Breastfeeding Collective World Breastfeeding Week Webinar](#)
 - Webinar on "[Providing Breastfeeding Counselling During Emergencies: How Can We Do That?](#)"
- The IFE CG supported in delivering the [Nutrition for Growth Official Side Event: Infant Feeding in Emergencies - Learning from other countries' experiences](#)
- Case studies on [complementary feeding in emergencies \(CFE\) programming in Nigeria](#) and [CFE programming in Sudan](#) were completed and presented at USAID's "CFE Programming and Resources" webinar. CFE series in Field Exchange 68 will be published in November.
- Maintaining the availability of an up-to-date IYCF-E resources and material database (the [IYCF-E Hub](#)) is an ongoing activity.

Activities that will be carried over to 2023:

- Draft template of good practice operational guidance that can then be set to develop national guidelines.
- Develop a glossary to standardise core terminology such as breastfeeding/lactation, IYCF/MIYCN, and more inclusive language.
- Update the newly released IYCF Counselling: An Integrated Course with additional modules that could be used in emergency contexts (led by UNICEF).
- Develop CFE guidance for country implementation based on the CFE case studies.
- Identify opportunities to integrate MAMI Care Pathway into OG-related tools and training materials.
- Develop an e-learning course on IYCF and infectious diseases (led by Save the Children)

Update on activity 2: Identify opportunities to input into third party processes and provide support as needed

Ongoing activity to review tools/guidance produced by IFE CG members and support in updating IYCF indicators and assessment tools as appropriate.

Update on activity 3: Provide technical support through en-net and other platforms

Members have been engaging on en-net and answering questions posted on the IYCF forum area.

Update on activity 4: Respond to technical needs as identified and shared through GNC Technical Alliance and following the established protocol

The IFE CG regularly engage and responds to GNC Technical Alliance as the Global Thematic Working Group (GTWG) on IYCF-E.

Output C: Advocacy and communication strategies developed and implemented

There were three activities under Output C for 2022. Progress against these activities is summarised in Table 3.









Table 3: Progress on activities under Output C

Update on activity 1: Engage with global platforms related to nutrition in emergencies (GNC, NetCode, GBC, FSC, etc.)
This is an ongoing activity. The IFE CG has participated in quarterly NetCode meetings, Fatmata Fatima Sesay attends the Global Breastfeeding Collectives monthly meetings on behalf of the IFE CG.
Update on activity 2: Represent the IFE CG in the WHA, World Breastfeeding Conferences and other identified opportunities
There have been several opportunities for representation presentations. The IFE CG also delivered an official side event for the upcoming Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit. A calendar of events and opportunities in 2023 for communications and advocacy relevant to the IFE CG has been developed.
Update on activity 3: Develop advocacy and communication strategies and undertake advocacy and communication activities related to the feeding and care of children in humanitarian contexts
Work has been undertaken to finalise an internal version of the communications strategy. All advocacy and communications work will be done in tandem with the ENN's own communication work.

Output D: Networked IFE Core Group 'community of practice' is active and further enhanced

There were eight activities under Output D for 2022. Progress against these activities is summarised in Table 4. For more information on Output D see page 19.

Table 4: Progress on activities under Output D

	Keep IFE CG membership data base up-to-date and respond to new membership
	Map the group's current composition, identify gaps, and strategize
	Implement a plan for increasing engagement with local/national
	Conduct regular monthly meetings
	Conduct Annual meetings
	Update information on the ENN website
	Conduct regular meetings with GNC-TA and participate in other fora (CIF-WG, etc.)
	Facilitate peer-to-peer support via online communication and regular meetings

Session 3: Gaps, challenges, enablers and priorities in IYCF-E

Facilitators: Jodine Chase, Mija Ververs, Eilise Brennan, Brooke Bauer, Angeline Grant

In this session, the facilitators presented on the various channels monitored by the IFE CG as part of the ad hoc mechanism used to identify gaps, challenges, enablers, and priorities in IYCF-E. Participants were asked to help identify emerging themes from the presentation and collate them using Jamboard. The channels listed below are our various methods/systems through which we communicate to our membership and disseminate information as part of the IFE CG; this includes the IYCF-E Repository, Field Exchange, En-net, Grey literature and GNC Technical Alliance.

Channel 1: IYCF-E Repository

An overview of the IYCF-E Repository was presented to members. The IYCF-E Repository is compiled for the IFE CG by the Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University and the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The IYCF-E Repository was created in response to the 2022 work plan objective to build a system to track new research and findings. The repository provides the reader with a summary (written by students) of what is published with updates on a quarterly basis. It covers articles published since 1st January 2022 and all publications provide emerging evidence related to IYCF in emergency settings such as natural disasters, conflicts, and displacement, including refugee settings. There is an ongoing question regarding funding and how the IFE CG want to sustain the repository into the future.

Channel 2: Field Exchange

The gaps, challenges, enablers, and priorities in IYCF-E were extracted from Field Exchange articles. Three relevant articles were published in 2022. IFE CG currently does not have a formal mechanism to bring these articles into IFE CG conversations. Key challenges identified include:

- Building resilience and emergency response preparedness
- The presence of infant formula donations and the absence of properly managed formula feeding programmes

Channel 3: En-net

Questions posed in the IYCF thematic area of ENN's online technical forum, en-net, were reviewed to identify needs and challenges.

- 28 posts (25 questions) have been posted in the IYCF thematic area since January 2022, with IFE CG members very engaged on the platform.
- Question with the highest number of views (2133): "Can fresh milk be introduced when the child is below 1 year?"
- Questions where there was no answer/generated a lot of discussions: Novavax safety when breastfeeding; How to define successful relactation when using relactation as an

outcome indicator; What informs the operational guidance stipulation that BMS should not be donated; What is good counselling for CF; How long to you boil water for infant formula use and sterilisation of bottles; How as an IYCF counsellor to refuse request for infant formula from ineligible caregivers.

- On en-net post on relactation - there were also lots of questions on this during the recent breastfeeding counselling in emergencies webinar, re-affirming the urgent need for guidance on this.

Channel 4: Grey Literature

The group raised questions about what mechanisms we need to capture grey literature and how important it is to track and synthesise grey literature. Examples of grey literature the group discussed were news coverage, blog posts, and toolkits.

Channel 5: GNC Technical Alliance

Requests for IYCF-E support received by the GNC Technical Alliance were analysed to identify needs and challenges. In 2022, there were 50 requests on IYCF-E, with IYCF-E remaining a key area of support. A large number of requests came from Ethiopia, Ukraine, Somalia, and Myanmar. Most requests came from cluster and sector agencies.

Key challenges and needs identified through requests made to the GNC Technical Alliance:

- Regional and national operational guidance development
- IYCF-E capacity assessment
- BMS guidance, including monitoring and reporting
- Non-breastfed infant guidance and training
- IYCF-E Technical Working Group development
- Emergency response priority actions
- Breastfeeding counselling and capacity building
- Gender and gender-based violence risk mitigation and IYCF-E

Looking ahead, the GNC Technical Alliance will have a greater focus on gender, anti-racism, and localisation.

Activity: Identifying gaps and needs

In this activity, IFE CG members were asked to write on Jamboard what challenges, gaps, needs and enablers they see for the IFE CG in 2023. Several key themes emerged from members' answers (see Table 5).

Table 5: Challenges, gaps & needs identified by IFE CG members

CFE	BMS and non-breastfed infants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A key challenge identified by members was not being able to engage well with other sectors related to CFE. ○ Members noted that guidance on CFE counselling was a need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNICEF has been the provider of first resort for 12 months now. Members had questions about how this is working. What are the mechanics? ○ Members asked whether there is a need to update the information that

	we have about BMS donations and the Code?
Wetnursing and lactation guidance	Membership diversity and localisation
Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members asked whether there could be a role for the IFE CG in the research space and whether the group should be involved in submitting journal articles. 	Other key themes identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lack of technical support to many IYCF-E working groups and their chairs to identify and address key issues. More capacity building and support needed. ○ Digital and health outreach – adaptations during the pandemic. How to move forward with adaptations? ○ How to embed/mainstream IYCF-E into the humanitarian response. ○ How can we get the messages/recommendations from the Ten Years of Progress report out to other sectors? ○ What role should IFE CG have in the development of documents (e.g., technical or operational guidance)? Is there should there be a prioritisation process? ○ How does the IFE CG monitor impact/resources and how impactful is dissemination to date?

Session 4: Wrap up and closing of the day

Facilitator: Diane Holland

Key closing remarks included:

- The IFE CG has developed many outputs that respond to identified needs
- Emphasis and topics for work are influenced by the landscape of emergencies
- Channels for identifying needs and challenges are dynamic
- Moving forward, how will the IFE CG prioritise among the priorities?

Day 2

Session 1: IFE CG outputs: Working group sessions & Session 2: Plenary discussion on priorities and activities

Facilitators: Jodine Chase, Deborah Wilson, Diane Holland, Fatmata Sesay

In Session 1, the facilitator introduced the working group activities to follow. The objective of the working groups was to identify priority activities for 2023 to deliver under the IFE CG work plan and to present these in the plenary discussion on Day 3. Participants were asked to review suggested activities from the 2021-2023 action plan and discuss which activities to keep, modify, or suggest new ones. Considerations included priority/urgency, alignment with IFE Core Group strategy, feasibility, resources needed, and available capacity. For all activities members were asked to consider implications for communications around these activities. In Session 2, each working group presented a five-minute reflection on the working session. After the presentations, the facilitators closed the session by summarising the agenda, thanking groups for their work, and explaining the process for presenting the working group outputs in detail on Day 3.

Day 3

Facilitators: Jodine Chase, Diane Holland

In this session, the facilitators welcomed participants and reviewed the day's agenda, which focused on presenting the results of the working group activities from Day 2 and discussing IFE CG ways of working.

Session 1: Feedback from members on activities for 2023 under each output

The objective for this session was to reach a consensus with both AM and PM groups on work plan activities. Below is a summary of discussions around each output.

Output A: Gaps, challenges and issues identified; experiences and lessons learned documented and brought to the IFE CG and other stakeholders for action and support

1. Track issues and challenges related to active emergencies and bring to the Community of Practice for action and support

Activate and maintain the protocol/roadmap for tracking issues and challenges related to IYCF-E and report on them.

Key discussion points:

- Members agreed that it's important to maintain channels.
- Outstanding questions:
 - How to effectively engage local actors in identifying needs?
 - How to synthesise information into a useful format and translate identified needs into action?
 - How to maintain accountability?

- Whether the IFE CG has the right information from the right channels currently?
- Members agreed that there is a need for increased transparency on how the IFE CG prioritises work and similarly a need for more clarity on the GNC Technical Alliance escalation systems.

Suggestion action/recommendations:
● Create a one-pager that outlines the channels the IFE CG connects to, how information is collated, and how the group triages the observations.
● Map out what agencies are doing and how the group can ensure they are in the right conversations externally moving forward.

2. Identify gaps in knowledge and practice; potential areas of research and identify ways of addressing gaps

Research priorities in IYCF-E: Conduct a "stock taking" on IYCF-E research

AND

Review of literature: Build a system to track new research / findings related to IYCF-E from both peer reviewed literature and grey literature. Develop repository that can be sustained to track issues and challenges related to IYCF-E.

Key discussion points:

- Activities have been completed.
- Outstanding questions identified:
 - Does the research that exists answer identified gaps?
 - Is new research needed?
 - How to translate research into practice?
 - What is the role of the IFE CG—to identify gaps, advocate for research, is there a larger role?
 - How to sustain the IYCF-E repository?
 - What is the next step now that the 'stock taking' and repository are in place? Is there a need to update the 2016 research prioritisation exercise?

3. Document evidence, experiences and lessons learned including uptake of IYCF-E OG and other technical support

Develop a report on implementation of IYCF-E policies and plans by countries and governments AND develop a communications plan and derivative products for report to support advocacy efforts

Key discussion points:

- Members discussed that now the Ten Years of Progress report is complete, in 2023 actors to target and dissemination channels need to be further identified.
- Discussions around the need to use the report in a way that goes beyond dissemination. For example, could reflection on how agencies are adopting the report recommendations be a membership requirement?

Suggestion action/recommendations:

- Map the recommendations in the report against the IFE work plan, and outline in a one-pager how the IFE CG will take the report forward.
- Identify actors to target and dissemination channels.

Maintain mapping of IYCF-E OG dissemination on IFE CG website**Key discussion points:**

- There were discussions on the importance of increasing governments' and agencies' uptake and accountability for IYCF-E within the broader IYCF/maternal infant young child health and nutrition framework.

Suggestion action/recommendations:

- Need for continued documentation and intensification of the collation of experiences and lessons learned on specific outstanding issues, e.g., relactation, cholera and breastfeeding, CFE.

Output B: Resource materials to support feeding and care of children in humanitarian settings developed and provided in appropriate and accessible formats***1. Develop and disseminate written guidance*****Facilitate and encourage translation of the IYCF-E OG and other materials by a variety of means****Key discussion points:**

- Discussions around why agencies aren't doing translations themselves and the need for the IFE CG to develop a translation strategy/plan.
- Discussion on the WHO Nutrition Policy Review that will be sourcing nutrition guidance policy documents.

Suggestion action/recommendations:

- Develop a translation strategy/plan and framework that identifies different translation options and processes.
- Review of WHO Nutrition policy documents, identify what is included and which policies are IYCF-E related (potentially conducted by an MSc student).
- Create a list of potential research projects for MSc students.
- Continued documentation of in-country learnings to ensure guidance produced is responsive to the needs of frontline workers.

Develop new material that help operationalise the IYCF-E OG**Key discussion points:*****Continue developing infographics***

- Infographics have been well received and should continue to be developed. Discussions were had around when developing new guidance, whether infographics would automatically become a part of that process.

Develop new guidance or update existing guidance based on current gaps identified: FAQs, wet nursing and re-lactation in emergencies

- Wetnursing and relactation guidance was identified as a priority for 2023.
- Members discussed how new guidance on CF may require additional resources e.g., focus on support for continued breastfeeding through CF period (infographic).
- Questions were raised about how the IFE CG can be more strategic in receiving and taking up feedback on outputs produced.
- Moving forward, members suggested that all materials that the IFE CG develops include consideration of how the IFE CG wants to track uptake and use.

Develop a draft template of good practice operational guidance that can then be set to develop national guidelines

- This activity was identified as a high priority for 2023. Members discussed the need to build off work already done at national level.

Develop glossary to standardise core terminology such as breastfeeding/lactation; IYCF/MIYCN, more inclusive language

- Members discussed the importance of being clear and conscious of how we speak within and outside our agencies with terminology that makes sense and is appropriate and relevant to the context.
- WHO is currently conducting work in this area, members mentioned waiting for the work to be completed before moving forward with the glossary. ENN can help facilitate conversation within the IFE CG in 2023 on what this activity should look like/include.
- How to correctly translate terms was another topic raised.

Suggestion action/recommendations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All future materials developed by the IFE CG must include consideration of how the IFE CG wants to track uptake and use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENN to facilitate IFE CG with the development of the glossary.

Develop and update training materials based on the IYCF-E OG

Key discussion points:

- Members discussed how to make the IYCF-E OG a standard part of responses. There is a need to follow up on uptake and document learnings on how the OG has been adopted into national guidance to share learnings and advocate for further adoption.

Update the newly released IYCF Counselling: An Integrated Course with additional modules that could be used in emergency contexts

- This activity is led by UNICEF and is ongoing.

Identify opportunities to integrate MAMI Care Pathway into OG-related tools and training materials

- Further identifying/mapping links with MAMI was identified as a need in 2023.

Develop an e-learning course on IYCF and infectious diseases

- This activity is led by Save the Children and is ongoing.

Suggestion action/recommendations:

- Follow up on uptake and document learnings on how the OG has been adopted into national guidance to share learnings and advocate for further adoption.
- Further identifying/mapping links with MAMI was identified as a need in 2023.

Maintain the availability of an up-to-date IYCF-E resources and materials database**Key discussion points:**

- Members discussed the need for a one-stop shop for all IYCF-E resources – better integration is needed of the IYCF-E Hub, IFE CG website and GNC resource library. Members also highlighted the need to think about branding and ownership of documents.

Suggestion action/recommendations:

- Integrate the IYCF-E Hub, IFE CG website and GNC resource library so all IYCF-E resources can easily be found in the one place.

Organise a series of internal and external webinars that respond to gaps and challenges**Key discussion points:**

- Identified as an ongoing activity for 2023 work plan.

Conduct case studies on CFE AND develop CFE guidance for country implementation based on the CFE case studies AND Field Exchange publications on CFE**Key discussion points:**

- CFE was identified as a priority area for 2023. There are many different pieces of work under different agencies and need to think about coordinating among members.
- Members highlighted that funding is available under Advancing Nutrition to develop guidance/brief on moments through the programme cycle (assessment, situation analysis, programming scope etc.) for considerations of CFE.

Suggestion action/recommendations:

- Prioritise supporting policy advocacy on CFE in 2023, including linking with other sectors.
- Establish a learning agenda around use of the CFE guidance/programmatic brief.
- Establish a CFE practitioner platform.

2. Identify opportunities to input into third party processes and provide support as needed

Discussions were had around the need to document how heavy a lift this has been on the IFE CG membership to gauge how well its currently being done. Whether this could be done as a part of members' orientation was also raised.

Review tools/guidance produced by IFE CG members AND support updating of IYCF indicators and assessment tools as appropriate and encourage quality assessments integrating IYCF indicators where possible

Key discussion points:

- This is an ongoing activity.

Members to provide support on en-net and other online platforms**Key discussion points:**

- Members raised questions about whether the IFE CG is being proactive (rather than reactive) in finding opportunities for IFE CG members to contribute to.

Suggestion action/recommendations:

- Refresh internal and external communication on IFE CG and how members/agencies can access technical review.

3. Respond to technical needs as identified and shared through GNC-TA and following the established protocol**Regularly engage and respond to the GNC Technical Alliance as the Global Thematic Working Group on IYCF-E****Key discussion points:**

- This was identified as an important function to continue.
- Members discussed whether there are potential modifications that need to be made in light of the Ukraine response – this is contingent upon the lesson learning exercise.
- Members discussed if there is something to be learned in terms of what is working in the GNC Technical Alliance that means that the technical question needs are being addressed without escalation.
- Members asked "is there any support needed to the GNC Technical Alliance to help 'advertise' the technical support that can be accessed for IFE?"

Suggestion action/recommendations:

- Continue regularly engaging with GNC-Technical Alliance as the Global Thematic Working Group on IYCF-E
- Facilitate IFE CG members access and understanding of the GNC Technical Alliance escalation protocol and whether the IFE CG can build on this for IFE CG standard operating procedure on rapid development of urgently needed interim guidance.

Output C: Advocacy and communication strategies developed and implemented

To note, all groups were asked to consider advocacy and communications when discussing Outputs A and B, and so discussions around Output C are incorporated above under those outputs.

Session 2: Output D: Plenary discussion on our ways of working

Facilitator: Jodine Chase

The facilitator opened this session with a review of who the IFE CG is as defined in the IFE CG Strategy and reviewed activities included in Output D. The objective for this session was to discuss the IFE CG ways of working, what's working, what's not and how to move forward in 2023.

Activity 1: How do you experience the IFE CG as a member?

In this activity, IFE CG members were asked to write on Jamboard in their opinion what about the IFE CG current ways of working works for them, what doesn't work, and suggestions for 2023.

What works:

- Connecting with colleagues that respect and listen to one another and are passionate about IYCF-E
- Good collaboration and sharing of experience
- Interactive monthly meetings
- Follow-up emails from the facilitator (when needed) to flag issues and key points from the monthly meetings
- Working groups that move along work plan priorities
- Online annual meeting with split time zone.
- Having the space to acknowledge and celebrate IYCF-E work
- Field experience and lesson learned webinars

What doesn't work:

- Monthly meeting time conflicts with the Global Breastfeeding Collective meetings.
- Challenge around how to balance information sharing with discussion in monthly meetings, which includes opportunities to discuss tricky technical issues, emerging needs, and how to move forward priority actions.
- The need to have more prompt access to meeting recordings and resources
- The need to have more colleagues and organisations that work in emergencies and are based outside Europe in the membership and in monthly meetings.
- One person expressed concerns that an annual meeting in two different time zones creates disconnect and scheduling difficulties.
- Members raised the issue that it's hard to know what's happening at any given time within the IFE CG - ambitious agenda and lots of workstreams.

Suggestion action/recommendations:
• Meeting minutes/recordings to be sent out immediately after all meetings.
• Monthly meetings to be held in two time zones each month.
• Create a platform/clearly defined space to discuss more technical issues.
• Facilitate discussion on emerging and controversial issues that may not be linked to a work plan activity

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set times in monthly meetings for strategic conversations and round table discussions & identify who and how to move along priority items.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an announcement board with thematic updates or member updates on rotation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift to agile project-based ways of working for monthly meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to try and bring at least one person from the field to participate in monthly meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share more information about country initiatives, with documents and tools for learning and replication when applicable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold the next annual meeting in-person to help facilitate sensitive conversations & shorten the meeting to 2 days.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise IFE CG's engagement in research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase cross-fertilisation with other GTWGs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share more information provided on the IFE CG ways of working, for example, who is on IFE CG SC and how the SC operates

Activity 2: What's one incremental change in 2023 that we need to make, to power up the IFE CG to be effective with our guidance?

In this activity, IFE CG members were posed the question, "what's one incremental change in 2023 that we need to make, to power up the IFE CG to be effective with our guidance?". Members were given one minute to reflect on this question on their own, they were then brought into pairs to discuss their thoughts. After two minutes, pairs were merged into fours for further discussion and consolidation of ideas. The groups of four then shared their consolidated ideas during a plenary session.

Key discussion points:

How to make the IFE CG more operational?

- The need for a document outlining how the IFE CG translates identified needs into action. This is necessary for transparency, a timely response, and to ensure we engage with the right stakeholders at the right time. A consideration for this is how to maintain quality control and sign off quickly.
- What learning can we bring in from development contexts and chronic emergencies
- How to better connect and communicate with other sectors? Expand the IFE CG reach and message beyond the nutrition sector, with the health sector identified as a particularly important sector to engage with

Suggestion action/recommendations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a document outlining how the IFE CG translates identified needs into action.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the needs are driven by localised voices and involving the end users in product development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to make the IFE CG more representative of the people working in emergencies and how to be more inclusive of non-English speakers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve disseminate outputs, support uptake, and monitor use more effectively
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase focus more on communications and advocacy (not just guidance development)

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve connection and communication with other sectors? |
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Activity 3: Is there anything you have heard from the plenary discussion that makes you want to change your answer?

In this activity, each member was given the opportunity to reflect on the answer provided in the plenary discussion in activity two.

Key discussion points:

- Members agreed with what had been shared in the plenary discussion.
- Member agreed that now the challenges have been identified, there is a need to identify immediate and longer-term actions that can be taken to address these points.
- The GNC Technical Alliance has done a lot of work on decolonisation, anti-racism and localisation, which could be a good starting point.
- Can the GNC Technical Alliance be leveraged to connect to those responding in emergencies? GNC annual meeting could be a good opportunity to hear from practitioners.

Suggestion action/recommendations:
- Identify immediate and longer-term actions that can be taken to address the challenges discussed.
- Establish a smaller working group to carve out next steps.

Session 3: Plenary discussion on priority activities

Below are the points discussed during the final plenary discussion on work plan activities and IFE CG ways of working.

Key discussion points:

- Core themes are getting work out to people when they need it and how they need it.
- Ultimately, The IFE CG wants IYCF-E programmes and responses to have a positive impact on lives of caregivers and children. There is a need to listen to those doing that and to let these voice shape work plan activities.
- There was a strong sense that the annual meeting was just the start of the conversation and that the IFE CG need to keep creating space for listening and reflecting on how they can amplify the effectiveness and scope and scale of IYCF-E programming by adapting how the IFE CG works internally and externally to be "fit for purpose" for the next decade.

Session 4: Wrap up and meeting close

Facilitator: Jodine Chase

In this session, the facilitators closed the meeting by thanking the participants for their contributions and speaking to the future efforts of the IFE CG.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Meeting agenda

DETAILED AGENDA DAY 1

Mon Oct 24	10am – 1 pm UK Time	3 pm – 6 pm UK Time
10am 3 pm	Welcome, Registration & overview of meeting objectives & agenda	(10 min)
10:10 3:10	ENN Welcome	(10 min)
10:20 3:20	IYCF-E Ten Years of Progress Report Overview	(20 min)
10:40 3:40	Update on Annual Work Plan	(50 min)
11:30 4:30	Break	(15 Min)
11:45 4:45	Gaps, Challenges, Enablers and Priorities In IYCF-E	(50 min)
12:35 5:35	IFE Core Group Member Updates	(10 Min)
12:45 5:45	Wrap Up and Closing of the Day	(15 Min)
1:00 6:00	END	

DETAILED AGENDA DAY 2

Tues Oct 25	10am – 1 pm UK Time	3 pm – 6 pm UK Time
10am 3 pm	Welcome, Registration and Recap of Day	(10 min)
10:10 3:10	IFE Core Group Member Updates	(10 min)
10:20 3:20	IFE Core Group Outputs division to breakout rooms	(15 min)
10:35 3:35	Breakout Rooms – 2022 Planning <i>(includes 10 min break)</i>	(105min)
12:20 5:20	IFE Core Group Member Updates	(10 min)
12:30 5:30	Plenary Discussion: priorities and activities Wrap up and closing of the day	(30 min)
1:00 6:00	END	

DETAILED AGENDA DAY 3

Thurs Oct 27	10am – 1 pm UK Time	3 pm – 6 pm UK Time
10am 3 pm	Welcome, Registration and Recap of Day 2	(10 min)
10:10 3:10	IFE Core Group Member Updates	(10 min)
10:20 3:20	Working Group Presentations (15 min ea)	(60 min)
11:20 4:20	Break	(10 min)
11:30 4:20	Plenary Discussion: Our Ways of Working	(60 min)
12:30 5:30	Plenary Discussion: priorities and activities Wrap up and closing of the day	(30 min)
1:00 6:00	END	

Appendix 2: Meeting attendees

Name	Organisation	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Karleen Gribble	Independent	AM	AM	AM
Kirrily de Polnay	World Health Organization	AM	AM	AM
Bindi Borg	Independent	AM	AM	AM
Getinet Amenu	World Vision International	AM	AM	
Alexandra Rutishauser	Action Against Hunger	AM	AM	
Hiroko Hongo	Independent	AM	AM	AM
Leah Richardson	Emergency Nutrition Network	AM		AM
Alessandro Iellamo	FHI 360	AM	PM	PM
Brooke Bauer	Global Nutrition Cluster Technical Alliance	AM	AM	
Jodine Chase	ENN (IFE Core Group Facilitator)	AM/PM	AM/PM	AM/PM
Angeline Grant	Global Nutrition Cluster Technical Alliance	AM		PM
Jennifer Nielsen	Helen Keller	AM		
Deborah Joy Wilson	World Food Programme	AM	AM	AM
Diane Holland	Save the Children	AM/PM	AM/PM	AM/PM
Mija Ververs	Johns Hopkins, Centre of Disease Control	AM/PM	PM	PM
Casie Tesfai	International Rescue Committee	AM		
Colleen Emary	World Vision International	PM		
Linda Shaker Berbari	UNICEF	PM	PM	PM
Holly Ruffhead	Emergency Nutrition Network	AM/PM		
Sajia Mehjabeen	Concern Worldwide	PM	PM	AM
Montse Escruela	MSF Spain	PM	PM	
Eric Anderson	USAID/BHA	PM	PM	PM
Fatmata Fatima Sesay	UNICEF	PM	PM	PM
Kathleen Myer	USAID/BHA	PM		
Grainne Moloney	UNICEF	PM		
Michelle Pensa Branco	SafelyFed Canada	PM	PM	PM
Asha Khosravi	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	PM	PM	PM
Julie Tanaka	Samaritan's Purse	PM	PM	PM
Judy Canahuati	USAID/BHA	PM	PM	PM
Jen Burns	USAID Advancing Nutrition/Hellen Keller International	PM	PM	PM
Alison Donnelly	Independent	PM		PM

Isabelle Modigell	Independent	PM	AM	AM
Erin Boyd	USAID/BHA	PM	PM	PM
Eilise Brennan	Emergency Nutrition Network	AM/PM	AM/PM	AM/PM
Laura Delfino	Emergency Nutrition Network	AM/PM	AM/PM	AM/PM
Rosaleen Cunningham	Emergency Nutrition Network		AM	AM/PM
Laetitia Clouin	Action Against Hunger		PM	AM
Suzanne Brinkman	International Medical Corps		PM	PM
Terry Theuri	UNHCR			PM
Brigitte Tonon	Action Against Hunger France			PM

*Several colleagues from the Emergency Nutrition Network joined to support the administration of the meeting.

Appendix 3: Member updates

Isabelle Modigell (independent)

- Conducting a lesson learned exercise on the early IYCF-E response in Ukraine on behalf of ENN. ENN produces learning products as a part of their knowledge management role in the GNC Technical Alliance.
- Ukraine is a unique context: European context, well developed national networks, high volume of in-kind donations, a need for BMS support, risk of nuclear emergency, no existing emergency structures.
- Goal: Document lessons learned around the preparation for, establishment and early implementation of IYCF-E programming as part of the emergency response to the Ukraine Crisis, highlighting key technical reflections that may be applicable for future, similar responses.
- Specific objectives:
 - Describe the initial IYCF-E response, including key successes, compromises, and gaps.
 - Identify facilitating factors and barriers to meeting identified IYCF-E needs at the start of the response (e.g., contextual, cultural, programmatic etc.)
 - Capture key lessons learnt for public health/nutrition in emergency practitioners that might be helpful to inform future, similar responses.
- Scope: Early response; looking at perspectives of those on the ground; this work will complement after-action review; technical focus rather than operational. Focus first on Ukraine and look at neighbouring countries if time.
- IFE CG engagement: Advise methodology including the scope of work and priority topics; input into focus group discussions (global perspective); to share lesser-known resources and suggest key informants

UNICEF

- **UNICEF/WHO report on how the marketing of formula** milk influences our decisions on infant feeding is complete.
- **National Implementation of the International Code: Status Report 2020** is complete.

- Working on the **case studies for the management of the non-breastfed** infant in emergency settings in Sudan, Lebanon, Myanmar, Ukraine, Haiti, and Iran.
- **World Breastfeeding Week activities:** UNICEF, WHO and the Collective in collaboration with the IFE CG amplified the theme of Stepping Up for Breastfeeding while aligning with the strategic priority of the Ten Steps and launched the 10 Years of Progress report.
- **Wet nursing guidance:** Onboarding is close to finalisation, and we will reach out to members who have shown interest in being a part of this task group as soon as the lead consultant is onboard.
- **FEX special section on CFE:** Documenting country programming on responding to the needs of young children in emergency and fragile contexts and building on the Action Framework for improving diets of young children during the CF period (21 pieces to be featured online).
- **Update of the IYCF package:** UNICEF is supporting of the IYCF counselling package to include elements related to disability, early childhood development, nutritious foods, and emergencies.
- **CF Bowl and Spoon initiative:** Currently being implemented in five countries: Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Burundi, and Malawi. It is jointly implemented with the World Food Programme in the State of Palestine, Sudan, and Syria. The application of the bowl and spoon to emergency contexts is also being tested in several areas.
- **Commercially produced complementary food brief** is ongoing. It will outline a decision-making process/decision tree and build on the food system-strengthening actions.
- **Small-quantity lipid-based nutrient supplements:** Working collaboratively with an informal working group (UC-Davis) on understanding the role of small-quantity lipid-based nutrient supplements and ways to scale up as part of the prevention agenda
- **Technical support** on IFE provided to several country offices.
- Contributed to **webinars** on IFE and CFE.
- Technical support to countries to introduce new legislation or strengthen existing BMS legislation Implementation guidance for **human donor milk banking** (with WHO) in 2023.
- A landscape analysis for **infants at risk of growth and development**, including barriers, enablers, current actions and potential entry points for integrating interventions into existing programmes (in 2023)
- Continued leverage on the **Collective for BF** advocacy in 2023.
- Support the establishment of a **platform on children's diets**, including in fragile and emergency contexts (in 2023).
- Support the documentation of **learning related to CF** in fragile and emergency contexts (case studies and field articles) in 2023.
- Build evidence related to the use of commercially produced complementary food, SQ-LNS, and food system strengthening actions to improve young children's diets in fragile settings (in 2023).

Hellen Keller International

- Through the USAID Advancing Nutrition Project:
 - Completed a CF gap analysis - report forthcoming
 - Established a CF tool repository - (on IYCF-E Hub)

- Carried out case studies on CFE programming in Yemen and Myanmar- reports forthcoming.
- Wrote a FEX article on the CFE case studies as part of ENN CFE series
- Held a webinar in September 2022 for 350 attendees across 70 countries in collaboration with UNICEF and IFE CG on all this work
- Will continue to contribute to a CFE decision-making tool
- Discussing possible satellite session on CFE learning at IMNCH conference in May 2023

Save the Children:

1. IYCF-E Curriculum

Revision to format:

- Alignment to GNC Nutrition in Emergency Competency Framework
- Shift to the operationalisation of IYCF-E (more focused on how to)
- Highlighting programme experience
- Increased flexibility to support remote training and allow greater contextualisation
- Simplified session plans
- Prioritisation of sharing publicly

Revision to content:

- Inclusion of latest guidance, best practice, resources
- Mainstreaming of gender, disability inclusion and adolescents
- New modules: Communications, supportive spaces, integration, preventing and managing harmful donations
- New tools: Training preparations checklist; capacity self-assessment; modularisation guidance
- Translated and piloted in French and Spanish

2. IYCF-E Toolkit relaunched, upgraded and reorganised to make it more user-friendly.

3. Ten Years of Progress Report

4. MAMI - MAMI meal package being developed. MAMI training package for frontline health workers being piloted and revised. Still to be developed a facilitators guide.

IFBAN

- IFBAN highlighted the ongoing emergency in Pakistan.
- Supported in the dissemination of the guidance note on IYCF in the first three days after a nuclear accident.
- In Berlin Health Forum, there are growing concerns around corporations framing health as a choice and safe guidance for RUTF.

FHI360

1. Thought leadership and advocacy:

- Thought leadership pieces are being developed for Ukraine.
- Qualitative assessment looking at IYCF for refugees and IDPs in Poland and Ukraine is ongoing.

- Literature Review ongoing on investing in community infrastructures to protect and promote nutrition and IFE during emergencies
 - Have a partnership with ACF UK on the IYCF-E methodology guidance (on behalf of the nutrition information systems GTWG and the IFE CG)
- 2. Localisation**
- Report coming soon on Afghanistan ALLEN experience, which focuses on improving maternal, infant, and young child nutrition quality and coverage during emergencies with local organisations and through existing systems.
- 3. Capacity and knowledge sharing**
- Completed sensitisation and training of FHI360 staff on the IFE-OG
 - Inclusion of IFE in all FHI360 proposals
 - Information dissemination and resource sharing with FHI 360 global teams and staff
 - Ongoing engagement with FHI360 forums and partners on IFE
- 4. Programming**
- Documenting innovations like a) male involvement on IFE in Nigeria (a 3-year assessment conducted for publication).
 - Investment in women-to-women support (Yemen, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique).
 - IFE integration in mobile clinics in Mozambique with linkages with women's support groups.
 - Investing in building IFE programmes in priority responses.
- 5. Coordination (member of the following)**
- IFE
 - Nutrition information systems GTWG
 - GTWG Integration

ACF

Bangladesh:

- ACF has closed its MAMI program. However, a capitalisation report has been developed, which will be used to scale up this approach in other locations in Bangladesh or in other countries.
- ACF is currently conducting two IYCF surveys, referring to the 2021 IYCF indicators (1 survey in Rohingya refugee camps and 1 in the host community in Cox Bazar), which will be available at the end of 2022.
- ACF has conducted research on the baby-friendly spaces, called HEARD project, with the John Hopkins University and local partners; the aim was to assess the impact of baby-friendly spaces on the well-being of mothers and children.

Pakistan:

As a part of the flood response, training on IFE has been done with local actors, and implementation of IFE programming is ongoing.

Afghanistan:

Tried to implement MAMI project; however, the approach has not been endorsed by MOH but will continue to lobby for it.

Ukraine:

Active member of the IYCF-E Technical Working Group created with the support of GNC Technical Alliance and integration of IYCF into health activities currently rolling out.

Yemen:

ACF Canada and France SMART initiative includes remote and in-country support on maternal nutrition and IYCF-E. Technical Support to the United Nations, non-governmental organisations, government partners and local implementers on nutrition assessments and analysis.

Libya:

Supporting the implementation of a national SMART survey and sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health with integrated IYCF across eight health facilities.

Nutrition in Emergencies training was held, which included a day on IYCF-E with the dissemination of the IFE-OG in Laos, Malaysia, Vanuatu and Fiji.

There has been the inclusion of infants below six months in SMART surveys to evaluate their nutritional status and, at a broader scale, create a dataset to perform further statistical analysis on infants below six months (with sufficient sampling size by cumulating multiple surveys).

In all ACF France missions:

- Integration of family mid-upper arm circumference in all nutrition programs
- Integration of health and nutrition services
- Implementation of various programs related to mother/mother support groups, CFE, growth monitoring programme, and social and behaviour change communications with a focus on children below two years and their caretakers

At ACF France headquarters level:

- Technical working group created in mid-2022 at ACF headquarters France to focus on the management of infants below six months
- Member of the MAMI GTWG
- Training developed for sexual and reproductive health, including the management of newborns (English and French versions available)

Plans and priorities for 2023 or the upcoming period

- Additional dissemination of the IFE-OG
- Focus on MAMI

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