

# PREVENTING AND MANAGING INAPPROPRIATE DONATIONS

## BREASTMILK SUBSTITUTES AND OTHER PROHIBITED PRODUCTS

A guide for emergency relief staff, donors, and governments

### During emergencies:

**Do not solicit, donate, accept, or distribute donations of breastmilk substitutes (BMS) and other products\***



#### \*Prohibited donations

Donations and uncontrolled distributions of the following products put infants at risk:

- **Breastmilk substitutes**, including infant formula, follow-on formula and growing-up milk.
- **Other milk products**, e.g. dried or liquid cow's milk, soya milk, evaporated or condensed milk, fermented milk or yoghurt.
- **Baby teas, juices and waters** marketed as suitable for infants under six months.
- **Bottles, teats, breast pumps.**
- **Any commercial complementary food** marketed for use for infants under six months.

#### What's the risk?

Donated products are often:

- In violation of the WHO Code.
- Unsafe (expired, the wrong type, unreliable quality etc.).
- Excessive in quantity.
- Labelled in the wrong language.
- Not supplied in a reliable manner.
- Not possible to hygienically use in an emergency context.
- Used by breastfeeding mothers, disrupting their milk supply.
- Lacking the instructions, supplies and support that caregivers of formula dependent infants need to feed safely.



Donations and uncontrolled distributions directly decrease breastfeeding, increase formula feeding, malnutrition, illness and death.

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### Prevent donations

Do you know your role?



**Never call for donations** of these products.



**Be aware** of relevant policies.



**Report** any calls for, offers of or actual donations (including online media) to the designated authority.

#### Government, health and nutrition cluster coordinators and partners

- Endorse and disseminate a **policy** clearly stating that donations will not be accepted.
- Ensure **Violation/Donation Alert and Monitoring System** is in place.
- Repeatedly **sensitise key actors**, including other sectors and potential donors, on the dangers of donations and blanket distributions.
- Systematically **share information**, including reports of violations, for action (e.g. enforcement) at a national level and global level (e.g. NetCode).
- Establish a **Donation Prevention and Management Taskforce**.
- Develop and widely disseminate a **joint statement** to key stakeholders, including media, communications, logistics, donors and partner agencies.



#### Food security sector

- Ensure rations include **safe and appropriate complementary foods**.
- Ensure food aid is compliant with the **WHO Code** and that prohibited products are never part of a blanket distribution.



#### Customs

- Put in place customs and importation **control measures** to implement government policy.
- Keep **clear records** and communicate regularly on confiscated relief items (source, type, quantity).



#### Donors

- Fund **lifesaving services** and supplies e.g. nutritious food for mothers, skilled breastfeeding support and appropriately managed artificial feeding support services.



#### Child protection and social welfare sector

- **Never include** BMS in standard family kits.
- **Coordinate** with the nutrition sector to secure appropriate infant feeding support for separated and orphaned children.



#### Army, logistics and camp management

- **Adopt policy** on donations and distributions.
- **Reject requests** for procurement, storage, transportation and distribution of restricted products without official approval.



#### Media

- **Do not call for donations** of these products.
- Disseminate information that encourages **helpful aid** and discourages harmful aid.



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### Detect and manage unprevented donations

Donations can arrive early in an emergency. Preparedness is critical: it saves money, time and lives.



#### 1. Detect and report

- Activate a **Violation/Donation Alert System** (e.g. online reporting form).
- Sensitise all stakeholders on why and how to report donations, uncontrolled distributions and other Code violations.
- Rapidly share incoming alerts with the IYCF-E Coordination Authority/ Donation Prevention and Management Taskforce.



#### 2. Intercept, transport and securely store

- Activate the Taskforce to handle incoming alerts.
- Assign a designated agency (ideally the Ministry of Health) to rapidly intercept prohibited products.
- Implement security measures to ensure stored products are not stolen or re-used.

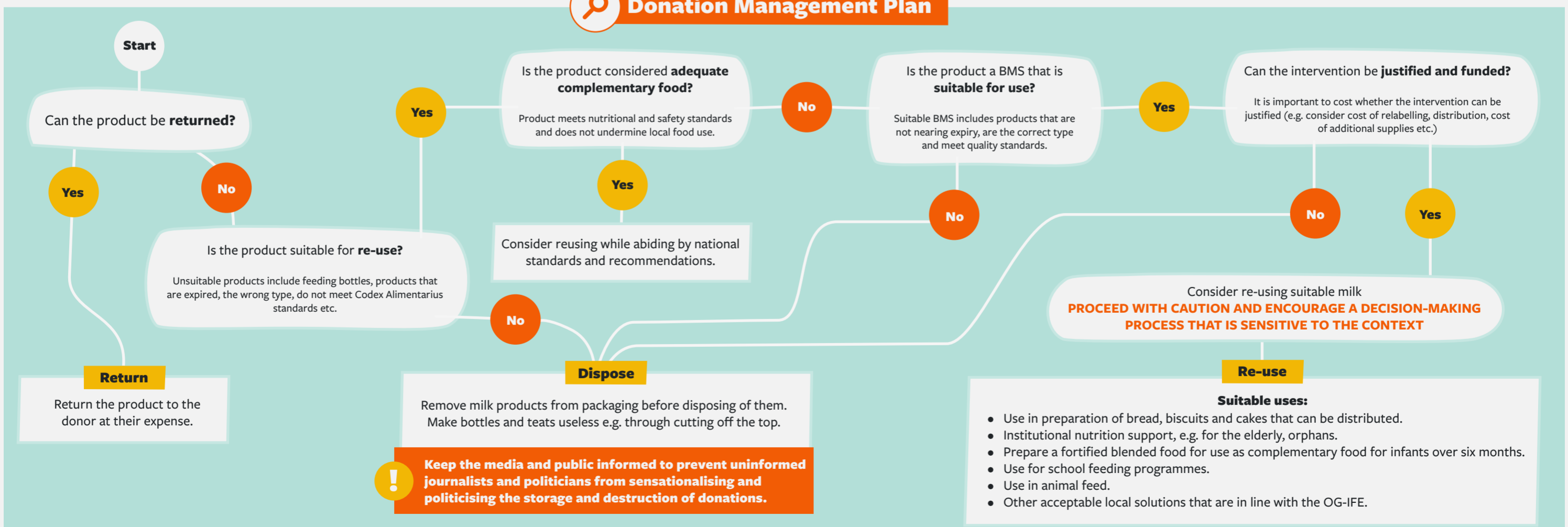


#### 3. Sort and handle

- Establish a **Donation Management Plan** to guide decision-making on what to do with intercepted products.
- Secure resources to implement the plan, including funding, expertise, HR (including sorting and handling teams), storage facilities, transportation and equipment (e.g. for lifting/destruction).
- Handle donations according to the Donation Management Plan.



#### Donation Management Plan



Part of the **Infant Feeding in Emergencies Core Group** infographic series. Find out more at [www.enonline.net/ife](http://www.enonline.net/ife)

