

IYCF-E Basics for Emergency Managers

How can EMs implement Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies practices into their Emergency Response Protocols?



Key Concepts in IYCF-E

- Infants are at highest risk of disease.
- Formula-fed infants are especially vulnerable.
- Breastfeeding is a survival mechanism, but can't be forced.
- Match type of support to type of feeding.
- Use experts as a resource!

What Do Families with Infants and Young Children Need?

- Family centered congregate spaces with privacy and safety.
- Support & supplies relevant for their method of feeding.
- Clean water.
- Family-friendly food options
- Sanitation areas to clean feeding supplies.

When Encountering Families

- Ensure families are comfortable and feel safe.
- Rapidly assess families' needs.
- Respect families' choices.
- Keep families together.
- Provide practical assistance and/or referrals as needed.



Safe Handling of Infant Feeding Donations

- Check expiry dates regularly
- Discard expired/damaged items.
- Store at room temperature, out of direct sunlight.
- Inspect and sanitize used items.
- Prioritize ready to feed formulas for formula dependent families.

Train Volunteers in IYCF-E

- Regularly include scenarios & injects with families with kids under 3 in tabletops/drills.
- Provide Just-in-Time trainings to all volunteers.
- Know when to refer to local experts.



SAFE Infant Feeding Team

Support and Advocacy for Feeding in Emergencies

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Contact us for a needs assessment!

