

Operational Guidance on infant and young child
feeding in emergencies –
Putting it into practice in the UK context



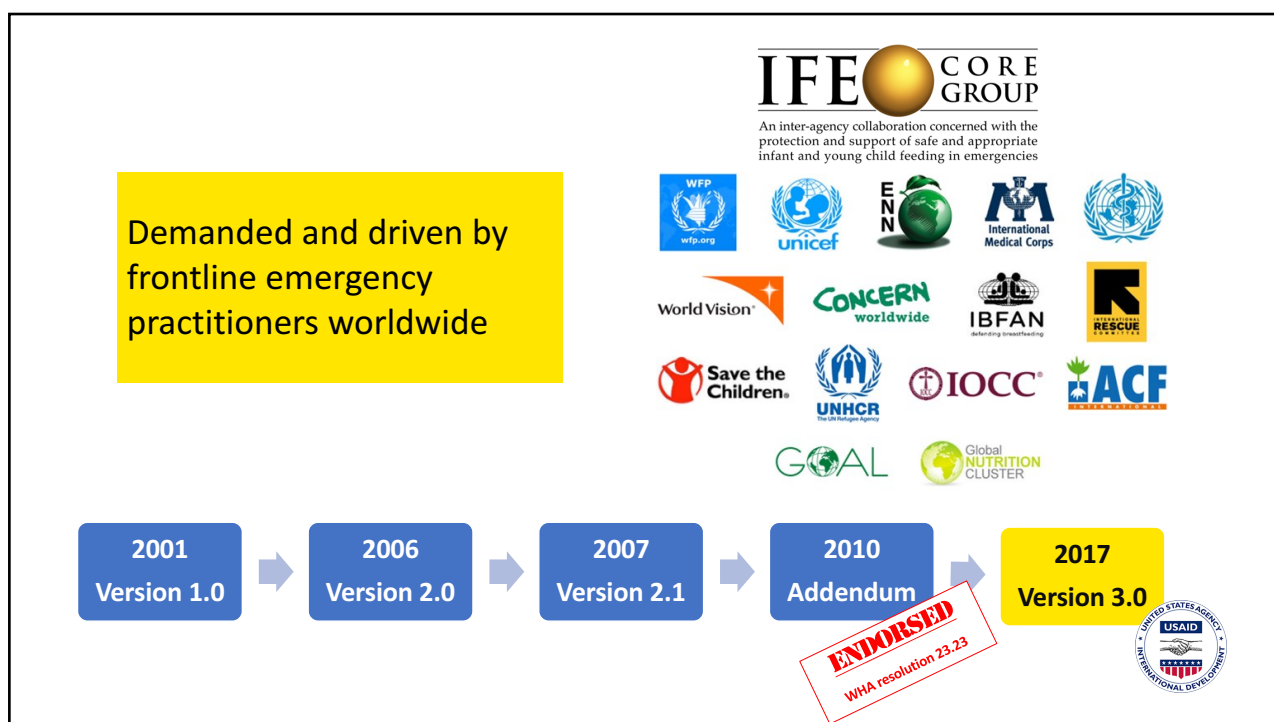
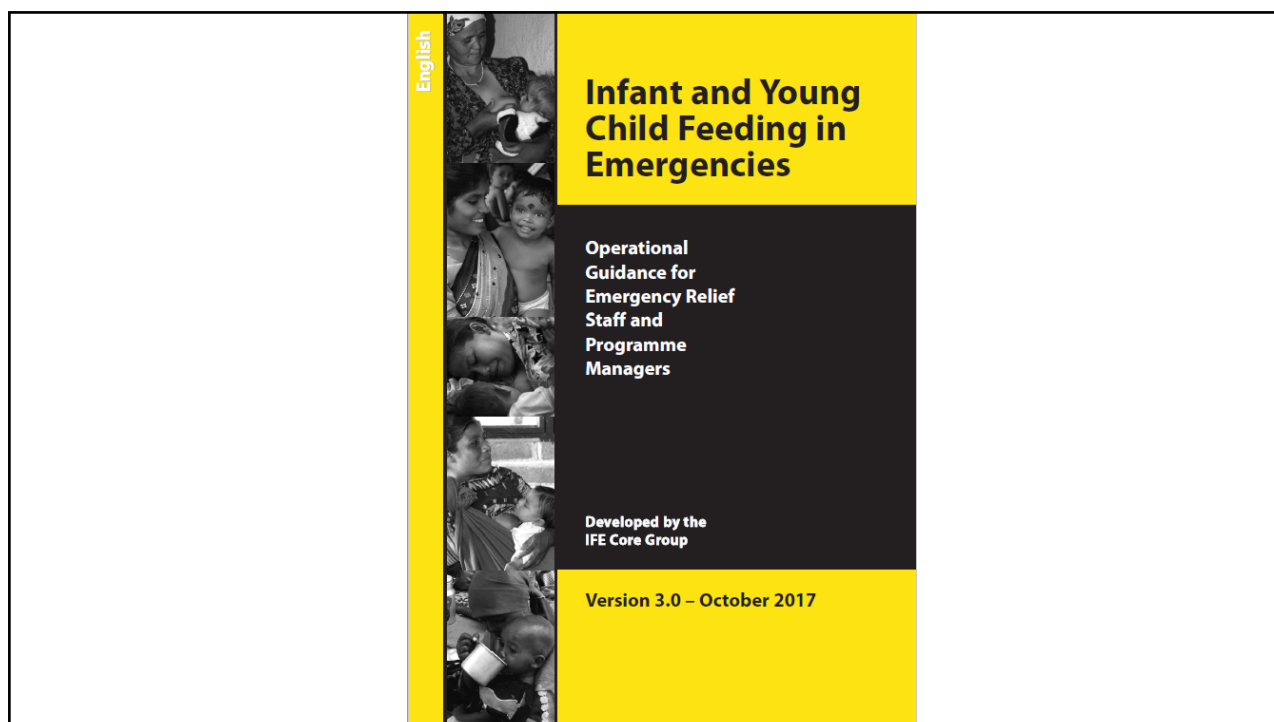
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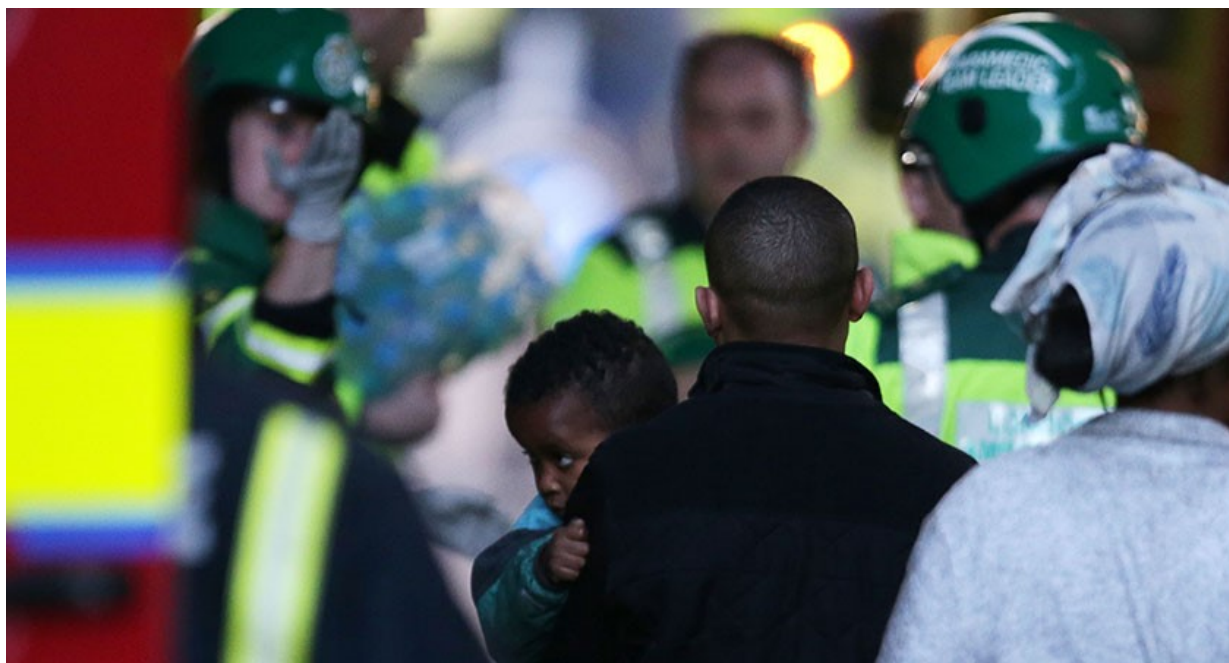
**ARE
GROUND
TROOPS
THE
ANSWER?**

Balkans war



The Operational Guidance on IFE

Aim	To provide concise, practical guidance on how to ensure appropriate infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IFE)
Scope	Applies to emergency preparedness, response and recovery worldwide to minimise risks and maximise child nutrition, health and development
Target Groups	Infants and young children aged 0-23 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW)
Intended for	Policy-makers, decision-makers and programmers working in emergency preparedness, response and recovery across sectors and disciplines. Government, medical staff, charities/NGOs, donors, volunteer groups, private/business, media.





Protect, promote and support optimal IYCF with integrated multi-sector interventions

In every emergency, it is necessary to assess and act to protect and support the nutrition needs and care of **both breastfed and non-breastfed** infants and young children. It is important to consider prevalent practices, the infectious disease environment, cultural sensitivities and expressed needs and concerns of mothers/caregivers when determining interventions.

Immediate action to protect recommended infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices and minimise risks is necessary in the early stages of an emergency, with **targeted support to higher risk infants and children**

Source: Ops G on IFE, 2017

- Tailored to needs, situation & risks
- Know profile of children affected
 - What to do, what not to do
- Act quickly, identify highest risk

Implications for government



Coordinate Operations

3.1 Government is the lead coordination authority on IFE.

3.2 Ensure there is capacity to coordinate IFE within coordination mechanisms in an emergency response.

3.3 The IFE coordination authority must directly coordinate the IFE response or ensure adequate coordination mechanisms and capacity are in place.

UK principles of effective response and recovery

- Decisions at lowest appropriate level, coordination at highest necessary level
- Local agencies building blocks of response and recovery from an emergency **at any scale**

Implications for government - policy



- **Up-to-date emergency policies** which address all aspects of IYCF
 - Standalone or integrated policy
 - Adapt as necessary to situation
 - Sub-national preparedness plans, policies and procedures
 - Share with and sensitise/train potential responders
- **Protective policy environment:**
 - Enforce **the Code**
 - Enact legislation and adopt policies in line with the *WHA Resolution: Guidance on Ending the **Inappropriate Promotion of Foods for Infants and Young Children*** (69th WHA A69/7 Add.1. 2016)
 - Develop national legally binding policies regarding **private sector engagement** in emergency response

Emergency preparedness

...is critical to a timely, efficient and appropriate IFE response

UK principles of effective response and recovery: Organisations & individuals prepared, clear about roles and responsibilities

What can you do? Emergency Preparedness Actions

POLICY Develop local preparedness plans on IFE	TRAINING & CAPACITY Prepare orientation material for use in early emergency response Map & engage relevant local capacity, e.g. IBCLC, La Leche League, peer supporters	COORDINATION Identify who will coordinate IFE and develop terms of reference
ASSESS AND MONITOR Prepare key questions to include in screening assessment by non-specialist frontline responders	MULTI-SECTOR INTERVENTIONS Establish rapid screening and referral pathways between frontline emergency responders and infant and young child feeding support	FEEDING SUPPLIES Estimate likely needs, and identify supply chain for complementary foods, infant formula and feeding equipment



- Don't assume babies bottle fed
- Formula fed obvious and commodities
- **Breastfeeding mothers need skilled support**
- Skilled breastfeeding support in UK – harness, adapt, e.g. stressed, low contact time, little privacy
- Pro-actively use communication channels for information & guidance, e.g. News Coordination Centre, social media, press
- Maintain 10 Steps BFHI in all birth settings

Minimise the risks of artificial feeding



A mother kisses her 3-month-old baby as she feeds her while they wait to be evacuated by members of the Louisiana Army National Guard. Max Bechere/AP

- **Find them & quality support**
- **No donations, no indiscriminate distributions** of infant formula
- **Coordinated package of care** – supplies, equipment, water & sanitation
- **Plan**
 - Scenarios that pose risks to artificial feeding, e.g. contaminated water, electricity cut-off, no sterilisation, nuclear accident
 - Pre-position BMS kits
 - Types of products
 - Sterilisation & cleaning – reception/rest centres

Safe, appropriate, nutritionally adequate complementary foods and associated support for children **aged 6 months to 2 years**

Do not rely on donations to meet need.

Plan

- Protected food preparation and eating areas for children – reception centres
- Plan for local food supply chain to activate
- Culturally acceptable, Code compliant
- Ready to eat foods
- Brief guidance – volunteers, media & public



Food donations on tables at the Westway Sports Centre, close to Grenfell Tower (Jack Hardy/PA)

Mother Baby Areas in Survivor Reception Centres



Baby Friendly Space run by Save the Children in Croatia

- Safe, supportive, welcoming spaces
- Counselling and advice
- Privacy to breastfeed
- A warm and hygienic place to change nappies and clothes
- Opportunity to connect with other mothers
- Referrals



The Guardian, 2010



Pakistan floods: Reza Khan finally gets his milk after readers respond.

www.theguardian.com/world/2010/sep/07/pakistan-floods-reza-khan-appeal

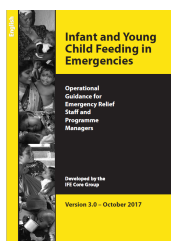
Unicef fears impact of stories about Reza in flood-hit Pakistan

www.theguardian.com/world/2010/sep/22/unicef-bottle-feeding-fears-pakistan

Prepare, prepare, prepare...



Venezuela, after the flood



Appropriate and timely support of infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IFE) saves lives, protects child nutrition, health and development and benefits mothers.

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