**Breastfeeding Support Kit**

The Operational Guidance on IYCF-E states that ‘Interventions to support nonbreastfed infants should always include a component to protect breastfed infants’ (6.3.1)

It is important to ensure that provision of BMS and additional supporting resources do not undermine breastfeeding. This may happen if supplies are only given to those who are not breastfeeding as it may encourage breastfeeding mothers to give up breastfeeding in order to obtain these items.

In order to support breastfeeding, breastfeeding mothers should receive goods/money of equal or greater value than the infant formula and additional supporting resources. This can be done through:

* Provision of cash to breastfeeding mothers
* Provision of vouchers to breastfeeding mothers

Note: If Food Security and Livelihoods programming are providing cash and/or vouchers the targeting criteria can easily be amended to include breastfeeding mothers. The decision on whether cash or vouchers are used will depend largely on the programme being set up. The benefit of cash is that it may act as a greater incentive as the mothers can spend the money on items that they perceive as necessary, while vouchers may be less attractive but may be useful for education purposes and may be easier to set up if a voucher system for provision of BMS is being used.

* Provision of goods, which following consultation with the potential beneficiaries have been determined as important for breastfeeding mothers. For example in the Syria response clothes for mothers was prioritised by the beneficiaries.
* Provision of a ‘breastfeeding support kit’ – there is no agreement as to what this kit should contain and so should be developed with breastfeeding mothers to ensure that it both fills a need and encourages mothers to breastfeed. A suggested breastfeeding kit (based on a new-born kit) it set out below.

**New Born Kit:**

* Baby blanket, 300 gsm, 75 x 50 cm
* Baby swaddler
* Baby vests, cotton
* Bath towels, child, cotton 340 gsm, 30 x 50cm
* Hat, wool, extra small
* Safety pins, small size, nickel free, for nappies
* Shampoo baby, hypoallergenic, PH factor 5.5, bottle of 500ml
* Soap, baby, 100g bar, hypoallergenic
* Socks, cotton, extra small
* Towels, 100% cotton, 60x80 cm, 300 gsm
* Washable baby diapers, 100% cotton, 30x15 cm (non-disposable)
* Zinc Oxide, cream, 100ml tube (Nappy rash cream)
* 7.1% Chlorhexidine digluconate gel/liquid

**Potential additional items:**

* Small plastic pot with lid (to hold expressed breastmilk)
* Small medicine cup (to cup feed the expressed breastmilk)
* Sling to hold the baby
* Plastic Box
* Nail clipper
* T-shirt (for mother) – can have breastfeeding support messages on it.
* Baby comb
* Diaper (if used in the community)
* Baby bath
* Mosquito net

**Under no circumstances should it contain:**

* Infant formula or any other type of milk,
* Baby bottles or teats, baby cups with spouts
* Commercial baby food (As a rule, relatively expensive commercial baby foods have no place in emergency relief. Local foods of similar nutritional value usually outweigh the cost and the risk of undermining traditional complementary feeding practices by using commercial baby foods)
* Gifts or donations from infant formula manufacturers, especially if containing logos

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