



# **Infant Feeding in Emergencies Core Group 2021 Annual Meeting Report**

**15/16/18 November 2021, Virtual meeting**

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## Acronyms

<b>ACF</b>	Action Contre la Faim	<b>MAMI</b>	Management of small and nutritionally at risk infants under six months and their mothers
<b>BHA</b>	Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs (USAID)	<b>MIYCN</b>	Maternal, infant and young child nutrition
<b>BMS</b>	Breastmilk substitute(s)	<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>CDC</b>	US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	<b>N4G</b>	Nutrition for Growth
<b>CFE</b>	Complementary feeding in emergencies	<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisation
<b>Code, the</b>	International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes	<b>NiE</b>	Nutrition in emergencies
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo	<b>NIS</b>	Nutrition Information System
<b>ENN</b>	Emergency Nutrition Network	<b>OG-IFE</b>	Operational Guidance on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies
<b>FAQ</b>	Frequently asked questions	<b>TOR</b>	Terms of reference
<b>GNC</b>	Global Nutrition Cluster	<b>TWG</b>	Technical working group
<b>IFE</b>	Infant feeding in emergencies	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>IFE-CG</b>	IFE Core Group	<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>IFE-CG SC</b>	IFE Core Group Steering Committee	<b>WASH</b>	Water, sanitation and hygiene
<b>IYCF</b>	Infant and young child feeding	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>IYCF-E</b>	Infant and young child feeding in emergencies	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>KAP</b>	Knowledge, attitudes and practice		
<b>LSHTM</b>	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine		

# Meeting Overview

The **IFE Core Group 2021 Annual Meeting** was held online with remote participation over three days (November 15th, 16th, and 18th, 2021), hosted by the Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN). The meeting was facilitated by the IFE Core Group Steering Committee (IFE-CG SC) members. The meeting agenda can be found in **Annex 1**.

## Objectives and outputs of the meeting

The IFE Core Group (IFE-CG) online meeting aimed to collect IFE-CG members together 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 2021.
- Identify priority areas and actions for the 2022 workplan 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 will serve as the basis for the 2022 workplan
2. The generation of a **meeting report** with key follow-up actions

## Attendees and meeting format

The meeting was attended by IFE-CG members with guests identified as relevant to the session<sup>1</sup>. 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 37 participants attended the meeting across the three days. See **Annex 3** for a full list of participants along with group photos.

Topics covered on the first day included a synopsis of key moments in infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E) for the year 2021, an update on the **IFE Core Group Annual Workplan**, 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 Action Plan for 2021-23. 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 and the meeting closed with a plenary discussion on priority activities. Brief IFE-CG member updates took place between the sessions over the three days. See **Annex 2** for a summary of the member updates. This report provides an overview of the meeting's proceedings, including key priority areas and actions that will serve as the basis for a 2022 workplan for the coming year. Presentations and materials from the meeting can be found **here**.

<sup>1</sup> Several members of ENN's technical staff also attended.



# Day 1

## Welcome, introductions, and overview of meeting

### **Facilitators: Nicki Connell (AM), Sarah O'Flynn (PM)**

In this session, the facilitators opened the meeting by welcoming participants and introducing the format, objectives, and agenda for the meeting. They thanked the donors, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and Irish Aid, for their support of the IFE-CG. Participants were asked to introduce themselves and give their thoughts and expectations for the meeting.

## **Session 1** Setting the scene: moments in IYCF-E for the year 2021

### **Facilitators: Karleen Gribble (AM), Linda Shaker Berbari (PM)**

This session set the scene with a video compiled by Karleen Gribble of the various emergencies that occurred in 2021 and their impact on IYCF. These emergencies included: the Yemen and Tigray conflicts; the refugee crises in Venezuela, Afghanistan, Greece, and Bangladesh; floods in Indonesia, Timor Leste and Tamil Nadu; typhoon Vamco in the Philippines and Vietnam; the earthquake in Haiti; the military coup in Myanmar; the conflict and famine in South Sudan; and the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants noted that the political coup in Sudan and drought and food insecurity in Madagascar could be included as well. The video served as a powerful reminder of why the IFE-CG exists and the importance of continuing to support IYCF in emergencies globally. The increased negative impact of the private sector this year was also highlighted in terms of its role in promoting the use of breast milk substitutes (BMS).

## **Session 2** Update on IFE Core Group Annual Workplan




### **Facilitators: Karleen Gribble, Linda Shaker Berbari, Nicki Connell, Yara Sfeir, Natalie Sessions (AM); Linda Shaker Berbari, Sarah O'Flynn, Fatmata Sesay (PM)**

In this session, the facilitators reviewed the activities achieved in 2021 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.

### **Update on 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 2021. Progress against these activities is summarised in **Table 1**.

**Table 1** Progress on activities under Output A

PROGRESS UPDATE	ACTIVITIES UNDER OUTPUT A
	1. Establish a protocol for tracking, monitoring and reporting on issues and challenges related to IYCF-E
	2. Develop a report on implementation of IYCF-E policies and plans by countries and governments
	3. Develop a report on the dissemination of the Operational Guidance on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (OG-IFE)

3 green arrows = activity complete, 2 green arrows = activity nearly complete, 1 green arrow = activity partially complete

### Update on Activity 1: Establish a protocol for tracking, monitoring and reporting on issues and challenges related to IYCF-E

The working group under this activity has created a suggested roadmap for identifying issues and challenges related to IYCF-E that includes channels, frequencies, and methods. The group also identified who will be responsible for collecting this information. The roadmap is not yet active and remains a work in progress. It was however used for the preparation of the session on gaps and challenges in this meeting.

### Update on Activity 2: Develop a report on implementation of IYCF-E policies and plans by countries and governments

The implementation report was initiated two years ago before being interrupted by the pandemic; work on the report has now been reinitiated with support from Save the Children. Sub-Committee A2 was activated to work on the report with representation from UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP), Action Contre la Faim (ACF), GOAL, an independent member, IFE-CG and Save the Children. A consultant, Diane Holland, was recruited to lead on the report. The reported objectives are now confirmed:

- Review and document the progress that governments have made in adopting and implementing the Operational Guidance on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (OG-IFE) including in policy, programmes, action plans and funding allocations.
- Identify and present examples of how governments and organisations have translated the operational guidance into practice.
- Make recommendations for governments on increased support for IYCF-E.

### Update on Activity 3: Develop a report on the dissemination of the OG-IFE

The working group for this activity elected to create a dashboard to visualise the dissemination of the IYCF-E Operational Guidance rather than a written report. A **draft dashboard** has been developed and reviewed. Work is nearing completion for this activity.

### Update on additional contributions to activities under Output A:












An exercise was carried out around the response to the emergency in Haiti; this involved a conversation with the Help Desk at the GNC Technical Alliance on the use of creating a compilation of lessons learned from the response. Lessons were compiled by the IFE-CG and shared with the Haiti team.

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

There were eleven activities under Output B for 2021. Progress against these activities is summarised in **Table 2**.



**Table 2** Progress on activities under Output B (Part A)

PROGRESS UPDATE	ACTIVITIES UNDER OUTPUT B
	1. Translate Version 3 of the OG-IFE into needed languages
	2. Develop new material that helps operationalise the OG-IFE (six infographics)
	3. Maintain the availability of an up-to-date IYCF-E resources and material database
	4. Organise a series of internal and external webinars that respond to gaps and challenges
	5. Develop needed guidance materials on IYCF-E (case studies on complementary feeding in emergencies (CFE))
	6. Develop needed guidance materials on IYCF-E (Operational Guidance: Breastfeeding Counselling in Emergencies)
	7. Review tools/guidance produced by IFE-CG members
	8. Contribute to the update of IYCF-E indicators from the Nutrition in Emergencies (NiE) Registry
	9. Members to provide support on en-net and other online platforms
	10. Contribute to defining a process for receiving requests for technical support with GNC Technical Alliance
	11. Regularly engage and respond to GNC Technical Alliance as the Global Thematic Working Group on IYCF-E

3 green arrows = activity complete, 2 green arrows = activity nearly complete, 1 green arrow = activity partially complete

### Update on Activity 1: Translate Version 3 of the OG-IFE to needed languages

The aim for this year was to complete all translations that were in process. The Portuguese version was finalised. There is still a need for translations in other languages so this will remain an activity in the workplan.

### Update on Activity 2: Develop new material that help operationalise the OG-IFE (six infographics)

Four **infographics** have been developed on the following topics: early initiation of breastfeeding; preventing and managing inappropriate BMS donations; infectious disease outbreaks – guides for policymakers and programmers. Two additional infographics are in development on planning and managing artificial feeding in emergencies, and supporting infants dependent on BMS during emergencies. Translations are available in French and Japanese.

### Update on Activity 3: Maintain the availability of an up-to-date IYCF-E resources and material database

With support from Save the Children, the **IYCF-E Hub** was launched; it provides a repository of IYCF-E resources. The IFE-CG and Save the Children will continue to explore how the hub can be further integrated with the IFE-CG.

### Update on Activity 4: Organise a series of internal and external webinars that respond to gaps and challenges

Three **webinars** were delivered this year focusing on:

1. The IYCF-E Framework
2. Preventing and managing inappropriate BMS donations
3. WHO/UNICEF IYCF indicators – challenges and opportunities in humanitarian contexts

### Update on Activity 5: Develop needed guidance materials on IYCF-E case studies on CFE

The objective of this activity was to document, through a case study approach, two CFE programmes in emergency contexts, using guidance from the UNICEF programming guidance as a tool for documenting the case studies. The key output is two case studies documenting CFE interventions in two countries (Sudan and Nigeria). A peer review group has been established

for this work. The document review has been conducted along with a review of programming guidance. Key informant interviews are nearly complete (14 in total) and data collection for the online survey is ongoing until November 29th.

### Update on Activity 6: Develop needed guidance materials on IYCF-E (Operational Guidance: Breastfeeding Counselling in Emergencies)

The **Operational Guidance on Breastfeeding Counselling in Emergencies** was initiated in 2020 and completed in 2021. This operational guidance complements the implementation guidance from the WHO and UNICEF.

### Update on Activity 7: Review tools/guidance produced by IFE-CG members

Various tools were produced by IFE-CG members this year and reviewed by the IFE-CG such as the IYCF-E Capacity Development Tool and the IYCF-E curriculum.

### Update on Activity 8: Contribute to the update of IYCF-E indicators from the NiE Registry

The need for an update of IYCF-E indicators was identified by the IFE-CG and the Nutrition Information System (NIS) working group. A mapping was conducted with the NIS working group to identify what indicators agencies use in IYCF assessments. The results of the mapping were shared during the webinar related to WHO/UNICEF IYCF indicators.

### Update on Activity 9: Members to provide support on en-net and other online platforms

There is group of members within the IFE-CG who volunteered to respond to questions as moderators on en-net.

### Update on Activity 10: Contribute to defining a process for receiving requests for technical support with GNC Technical Alliance

This activity was led by the GNC Technical Alliance and has been completed.

### Update on Activity 11: Regularly engage and respond to GNC Technical Alliance as the Global Thematic Working Group on IYCF-E

This is an ongoing activity. This year the IFE-CG was engaged in two activities as the Global Thematic Working Group on IYCF-E including the mapping with the NIS working group and the Haiti response.

### Update on additional contributions to activities under Output B:

A frequently asked questions (**FAQ**) was developed on COVID-19 vaccines and breastfeeding and was reviewed and endorsed by the WHO. This document will be updated as new vaccines are developed.

## Update on Output C: Advocacy and communication strategies developed and implemented

There were four activities under Output C for 2021. Progress against these activities is summarised in **Table 3**.

**Table 3** Activities under Output C

PROGRESS UPDATE	ACTIVITIES UNDER OUTPUT C
	1. Map existing global platforms to engage with (Food Security Cluster, Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) Cluster, etc.)
	2. Develop a calendar of events/opportunities
	3. Represent IFE-CG in selected opportunities (World Breastfeeding Conference, World Health Assembly, NetCode etc.)
	4. Develop, implement and monitor a communication strategy that supports the advocacy strategy

3 green arrows = activity complete, 2 green arrows = activity nearly complete, 1 green arrow = activity partially complete



### Update on Activity 1: Map existing global platforms to engage with (Food Security Cluster, WASH Cluster, etc.)

This activity was included within the communications strategy (see update under Activity 4 below).

### Update on Activity 2: Develop a calendar of events/opportunities

A calendar of events and opportunities for communications and advocacy relevant to the IFE-CG was developed. However, the committee for the communication strategy concluded that the calendar needed to be more integrated into the communications strategy and so this activity was put on hold until the strategy is finalised (see update under Activity 4 below).

### Update on Activity 3: Represent the IFE-CG in selected opportunities (World Breastfeeding Conference, World Health Assembly, NetCode etc.)








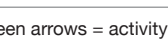
There have been several opportunities for representation including the GNC webinar on infections and infant feeding practices, presentations to NetCode and Coregroup, and an event entitled 'Feeding our Children for the Future' with Western Sydney University. The IFE-CG will also deliver an official side-event for the upcoming Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit.

### Update on Activity 4: Develop, implement and monitor a communication strategy that supports the advocacy strategy

Work on the communication strategy has been initiated but is not complete; this includes drafting key messages around the IFE-CG. **A Twitter account for the IFE-CG** was initiated to help deliver messaging.

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

There were eight activities under Output D for 2021. Progress against these activities is summarised in **Table 4**.

<b>Table 4</b> Activities under Output D	
<b>PROGRESS UPDATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES UNDER OUTPUT D</b>
	1. Keep IFE-CG membership data base up-to-date and respond to new membership
	2. Map the group's current composition, identify gaps, and strategise
	3. Implement a plan for increasing engagement with local/national actors
	4. Conduct regular monthly meetings
	5. Conduct annual meetings
	6. Update information on the ENN website
	7. Conduct regular meetings with GNC Technical Alliance and participate in other fora
	8. Facilitate peer-to-peer support via online communication and regular meetings

3 green arrows = activity complete, 2 green arrows = activity nearly complete, 1 green arrow = activity partially complete

### Update on Activity 1: Keep IFE-CG membership data base up-to-date and respond to new membership

This activity is ongoing and falls within the responsibilities of the IFE-CG Steering Committee.

### **Update on Activity 2: Map the group's current composition, identify gaps and strategise**

This activity has been initiated where a mapping of the IFE Core Group composition was done. However, more is needed in terms of strategising for increasing engagement (see related update on Activity 3 below).

### **Update on Activity 3: Implement a plan for increasing engagement with local/national actors**

There have been some efforts to move this activity forward, but not yet in a strategic manner. Rather, members took advantage of opportunities to engage with local and national actors. There is a need to clarify how the IFE-CG will move ahead with increasing engagement at the local and national levels taking into account the group's composition. Offering multiple time zone options for this annual meeting was an effort to increase participation from different regions.

### **Update on Activity 4: Conduct regular monthly meetings**

Monthly meetings were conducted in 2021.

### **Update on Activity 5: Conduct annual meetings**

An annual meeting was held and is detailed in this report.

### **Update on Activity 6: Update information on the ENN website**

This activity has been completed. The IFE-CG page has been revised and will be updated further when ENN's website is updated in the coming months.

### **Update on Activity 7: Conduct regular meetings with GNC Technical Alliance and participate in other fora (COVID-19 and Infant Feeding Working Group (CIF WG))**

Monthly meetings were held with the GNC Technical Alliance at the facilitation level. IFE Core Group facilitator participated in NetCode meetings.

### **Update on Activity 8: Facilitate peer-to-peer support via online communication and regular meetings**

Ad-hoc meetings were held to facilitate peer-to-peer support. A more strategic approach may need to be adopted in future.

## **Clarifying questions on the annual workplan**

Meeting participants were given an opportunity to ask clarifying questions on the annual workplan. The discussion is detailed below.

**Question:** It seems that advocacy and communications is the area with the fewest people engaged and there is a lack of expertise within the IFE-CG. Is there a possibility of engaging with advocacy and communications experts to move this area forward?

**Response:** A communications and advocacy consultant has led on the IFE-CG communications strategy, but there is a need to muster internal support for communications from member organisations to maintain momentum. IFE-CG members require guidance to communicate effectively and to close the gap between members' capacity and the need to disseminate IFE-CG outputs. The communications working group had previously noted the need for communications training for IFE-CG members.

One area that requires improved communications is around failures to adhere to the Code, particularly in the context of COVID-19. The IFE-CG needs to be reaching media outlets that disseminate stories about humanitarian crises to sensitise them to the impacts of inappropriate BMS donations in emergencies. Given the current increased awareness of this issue in popular media, it would be advantageous for the IFE-CG to capitalise on this opportunity in communications.

Future communications efforts should also aim to reach decision-makers with the consequences of inappropriate policy and practice. We tend to communicate to the health sector who do not make high-level decisions. The communications strategy needs to be simplified and made into a practical document in order to reach different audiences.

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

### Facilitators: Linda Shaker Berbari, Brooke Bauer, Yara Sfeir, Natalie Sessions (AM and PM)

In this session, the facilitators presented gaps, challenges, enablers, and priorities in IYCF-E identified via the different channels described in the roadmap that was created as part of Output A (Activity 1). Participants were asked to help identify emerging themes from the presentation and collate them using Jamboard.

### Channel 1. IYCF-E Technical Working Group (country level)

Three calls were held with IYCF-E national technical working groups (TWGs) in February, April, and September with an average of 35 participants per meeting. These calls aim to provide space for exchange between the GNC TA, IFE-CG, and IYCF-E TWGs at country level.

#### Key challenges and needs identified via this channel:

1. **Struggling to establish BMS donation monitoring systems** – require assistance to set up or improve existing systems.
2. Countries finding it difficult to roll out in-country **capacity building on IYCF-E** for frontline and field personnel.
3. Global guidance is needed on the updated **WHO/UNICEF IYCF-E indicators**. IFE-CG delivered a webinar on this topic and invited members of the TWGs.
4. There is a need for indicators to assess **quality of IYCF counselling**.
5. Capacity assessment tools (IYCF-E checklist and UNICEF IYCF-E capacity assessment) were useful but there is a need for additional guidance on how to adopt these.
6. Many challenges in **addressing/managing BMS donations**.

### Channel 2. Field Exchange

The gaps, challenges, enablers, and priorities in IYCF-E were extracted from Field Exchange articles. Five relevant articles<sup>2</sup> were published in 2021.

#### Key challenges and needs identified via this channel:

- Use of programmatic adaptation tools and guidance in the context of COVID-19.
- Challenges with securing funding for IYCF-E programmes including budget reallocations for COVID-19 programmatic adaptations.
- Challenges with dealing with BMS donations in the context of economic crisis and COVID-19.

### 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.

#### Key challenges and needs identified via this channel:

- IFE-CG members have been highly engaged in responding to en-net questions related to IYCF-E.
- 32 questions have been posted in the IYCF thematic area on en-net since the beginning of 2021.
- Some common themes include violations of the Code, fathers' involvement, mobile technology, programming resources, animal milk usage, infant flour fortification, and COVID-19.
- Question with the highest number of views (1221): 'Calculating amount of ingredients needed to formulate a complementary food product'.

<sup>2</sup> 1) **Infant and young child feeding in emergencies: Programming adaptation in the context of COVID-19 in Lebanon**

2) **Adapting infant and young child feeding interventions in the context of COVID-19 in Somalia**

3) **Use of educational videos to improve maternal breastfeeding knowledge and practices in Ethiopia**

4) **A risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) response to support maternal, infant and young child nutrition in the context of COVID-19 in Rwanda**

5) **Sustainability evaluation of a national infant and young child feeding programme in Bangladesh and Vietnam**



## Channel 4. GNC Technical Alliance

Requests for IYCF-E support received by the GNC TA were analysed to identify needs and challenges. The IFE-CG received 124 requests via this mechanism with IYCF-E and NIS being the most requested areas. Most requests came from East and Southern Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and West and Central Africa. Most requests came from UN agencies, followed by international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local NGOs.

### Key challenges and needs identified via GNC Technical Alliance requests:

- Programming for non-breastfed infants: protocols, ready-to-use infant formula calculations, procurement, constraints
- IYCF-E TWG: set up, reactivating, ToRs, tools to assess capacity
- COVID-19: latest updates, breastfeeding, and vaccinating pregnant and lactating women
- Regional and national operational guidance development
- Individuation and organisational capacity assessment
- BMS guidance including monitoring and reporting
- Non-breastfed infant guidance and training
- IYCF-E TWG development
- Emergency response/priority actions
- Breastfeeding counselling capacity building

## Channel 5. Questions from IFE-CG webinars

Questions were collated from the IFE-CG webinars under key themes to identify needs and challenges.

### Questions from IFE-CG webinars:

- **Harmonisation:** How do you harmonise IYCF and IYCF-E in refugee settings?
- **BMS monitoring and reporting:** What is the best way to report?
- **Re-lactation:** How can we involve fathers and other family members?
- **Assessment:** What is the most appropriate IYCF assessment during the pandemic?
- **Counselling:** How effective is remote counselling?

## Channel 6. Other platforms (GNC satellite event & IFE-CG members)

Participants in the GNC satellite event held in June, which comprised IFE-CG members and a wider audience, were asked to identify key challenges encountered in IYCF-E as part of three activities. The findings of these activities are presented here.

### Activity 1: Word cloud on challenges in IYCF-E (Figure 1)

- Complementary feeding
- Capacity
- Funding



## Channel 8. Peer-reviewed literature review

A preliminary review of peer-reviewed literature review was conducted to identify relevant articles on IYCF-E. Some key results are presented below:

- A total of 52 articles on IYCF-E identified
- Countries: Australia, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, OTP, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Turkey/Syrian refugees, Uganda, USA and Yemen
- 17 articles: Global/regional/reviews
- Highlights from articles included in the review:
  - Governments, humanitarian organisations, and donors should ensure that IYCF-E preparedness and programmes are adequately **resourced**
  - Emergency responders should be appropriately **trained** including through infant feeding experience debriefing
  - Health and emergency organisations should provide **maternity protections** enabling employees to breastfeed as recommended (Gribble and Palmquist)
  - Lack of IFE preparedness and response capacity in middle- and high-income countries
  - Need for governments and aid organisations to **adapt guidelines** and **establish policies and programs** to support infant feeding in emergencies (Hwang et al.)
  - Promote support materials **translated into other languages** for care actions in nursing and in the clinical management of breastfeeding, as well as to improve the bond between refugee women and local health services
  - Essential that health professionals are **sensitive and aligned** with educational health work, mediating safe, up-to-date information respecting different cultures, ideologies and traditions (Guerra et al.)

## Discussion on gaps, challenges, priorities, and enablers in IYCF-E

The facilitators opened the discussion with a brief review of the IFE-CG Strategy and Action Plan as a reminder of what the IFE-CG has set out to achieve. This guided a discussion on gaps, challenges, priorities, and enablers in IYCF-E focused on critical issues not yet discussed and future opportunities and priorities.

- Participants highlighted gaps around complementary feeding in emergencies (CFE) (e.g. what can be done, tools available, what existing programmes entail). Efforts are being made to fill these gaps including a review of the UNICEF complementary feeding guidance with an emergency lens, CFE case studies in progress by USAID and ENN, and a mapping of existing resources and tools. This is a theme that requires further work to advance programmatic approaches for CFE in the future.
- Participants raised the issue of interrupting local food systems with complementary food products in emergencies, while also providing necessary food aid, and how to find an appropriate balance in these situations. Corporate influence on food products was also raised.
- A participant noted that this process of identifying needs was useful because it helps ensure that the work of the IFE-CG is grounded in needs emerging at field level during emergencies.

## Session 4 Wrap up and closing of Day 1

### Facilitators: Nicki Connell (AM), Sarah O'Flynn (PM)

In this session, the facilitators closed the day by asking participants to complete the feedback survey, recapped the day's agenda, and thanked everyone for their contributions throughout the day.



# Day 2

## Welcome, registration, and recap of Day 1

### **Facilitators: Linda Shaker Berbari (AM), Fatmata Sesay (PM)**

In this session, facilitators welcomed participants to the second day of the annual meeting, recapped the first day, and reviewed the day's agenda. The agenda for Day 2 included member updates, a review of themes on gaps, challenges, and enablers from Day 1, a working group session and a plenary discussion.

## **Session 1** IFE Core Group outputs: working groups sessions

### **Facilitator: Linda Shaker Berbari (AM/PM)**

In this session, the facilitators introduced the working group activities to follow. The objective of the working groups was to identify priority activities for 2022 to deliver under the IFE-CG workplan and to present these in the plenary discussion on Day 3.

The suggested process for the working groups was as follows:

- Review suggested activities from 2021-2023 workplan (pasted on Jamboard)
- Review themes/priorities/gaps from the Jamboard and slides
- Discuss suggested activities and decide whether to keep, modify, or suggest new ones
- PM session: review AM session and complete process

Some considerations while making decisions on activities included:

- Priority/urgency
- Alignment with IFE-CG strategy
- Feasibility
- Resources needed/capacity available based on 2021 experience

After reviewing the process, considerations and activities included in the IFE-CG workplan 2021-23, the working groups went into Zoom breakout rooms for the session. There were four working groups – one for each output from the IFE-CG workplan.

## **Session 2** Plenary discussion on priorities and activities

### **Facilitators: Linda Shaker Berbari (AM), Fatmata Sesay (PM)**

In this session, each working group presented a five-minute reflection on the working session. Some activities under Output D relate to communications and thus were raised as a discussion point with the Output C working group (e.g. increasing engagement with local/national actors and to increase localisation and national engagements). The issue of strengthening local networks and engaging with IYCF-E activities in countries where the IYCF-E is not typically focussed was raised (e.g. the Afghan refugee situation in the UK).

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

## Welcome, registration, and recap of Day 2

### **Facilitators: Nicki Connell (AM), Linda Shaker Berbari (PM)**

In this session, the facilitators welcomed participants and reminded them to register their attendance. They then reviewed the day's agenda, which focused on presenting the results of the working group activities from Day 2.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**The facilitators announced the IFE-CG official side-event held on December 4th in advance of the Nutrition for Growth Summit. The event targeted donor governments in high-income countries and focused on the importance of preparedness and policies for IYCF-E.**

## **Session 1** Working group presentations

### **Facilitator: Nicki Connell (AM),**

The facilitators opened this session with a review of the four outputs included in the IFE-CG Strategy and encouraged participants to consider the extent to which activities are relevant to the IFE-CG needs and priorities, feasible given the existing capacity, and the degree of urgency.

The objective for this session was to reach consensus with both AM and PM groups, finalise the workplan for 2022, and update the broader workplan through to 2023. Below is a summary of discussions around each output.

### **Output A: Gaps, challenge, issues and enablers identified; experiences and lessons learned documented and brought to the IFE Core Group and other stakeholders for action and support**

Updated sub-activities under Output A can be found in **Table 5**, followed by discussion points

#### **Discussion points on Output A:**

- It has not yet been established who will conduct the research outlined in Output A but it was suggested that the IFE-CG approach Master's students to do this work.
- Bindi Borg volunteered to monitor published literature, but no one was identified to monitor grey literature.
- One of the systematic reviews being conducted as part of the update of WHO guidelines on the management of child wasting is around the effectiveness of breastfeeding interventions. Kirrily has been pushing for this to encompass emergency contexts. In the update process, the WHO has been tracking research gaps and questions to create leverage for follow up.
- With regards to activity A.1.2, there is a need to clarify where it belongs and who will be responsible for monitoring and documenting information from the various channels. One option would be to have Master's students at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine conduct the literature reviews. The IFE-CG could also work on establishing long-term partnerships with other universities; creating standard TORs for this work would be a first step towards this. McQuarry University is another potential long-term partner.

- Accessing data held by implementing organisations would be highly valuable as this information often goes unpublished. There is a need for more evidence on the impact of IYCF-E interventions. ENN does this through calls for content for Field Exchange and encouraging authors to submit to peer-reviewed journals, but more could be done.
- The feasibility of accomplishing all these activities next year needs to be considered and resourced where appropriate.

**Table 5** Updated sub-activities under Output A

SUB-ACTIVITIES UNDER OUTPUT A	STATUS UPDATE	
<b>A.1.1.</b> Establish protocol for tracking, monitoring, and reporting on issues and challenges.	Completed in 2021 so can be removed.	
<b>A.1.2.</b> ORIGINAL: Regularly track issues and challenges based on established protocol and document / report on them	Limited progress in 2021. Revision suggested.	
<b>A.1.2.</b> REVISED: Activate and maintain protocol to track issues and challenges based on established protocol and document/report on them		
<b>A.2.1.</b> ORIGINAL: Design an inclusive method to identify research questions that need answers based on review of Prudhon 2016  REVISED: <b>A.2.1.A.</b> Conduct a "stock taking" including (1) What's been done: lit review and interviews (to address publication bias) to identify what progress has been made against CHNRI (Prudhon 2016). (2) What are the research results? (3) Have tools been developed? (4) What's been the uptake? (5) What are the priority questions now? Funding? <b>A.2.1.B</b> Disseminate information about research gaps to organisations and individuals undertaking research as a lot of data on IYCF-E is being collected and held by organisations delivering IYCF-E. Does the IFE-CG support organisations collecting data to publish it to fill gaps? <b>A.2.1.C</b> Build a system to track new research/findings (something like: thinner version of JHU COVID-19 repository) (Key questions: Is there a need? Who is the audience (IFE-CG or beyond)? What are the key questions/topics? Resource needs: Search engine review (weekly) & writers. How to disseminate? Question of grey literature?	Not undertaken in 2021. Revision suggested. Activity broken into three stages.	
<b>A.3.1.</b> Develop a report on implementation of IYCF-E policies and plans by governments		Report to be published in July 2022 so remove activity.
<b>A.3.1.B</b> Develop communications plan and derivative products for A.3.1 report to support advocacy efforts		This activity is linked with Output C.
<b>A.3.2.</b> ORIGINAL: Develop a report on the dissemination of the IFE-OG	The dashboard is operational so revision suggested.	
<b>A.3.2</b> REVISED: Maintain mapping of IFE-OG dissemination on IFE-CG website		

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

Updated sub-activities under Output B can be found in **Table 6** followed by discussion points.

### Discussion points on Output B:

- With regards to B1.1: There is a need to clarify the extent to which the IFE-CG should be responsible for pursuing additional translations of the IFE-OG. A trigger point could be defined for completing additional translations in response to an emergency at which point UNICEF could provide support for translation at country level. This would be facilitated by creating a ready-made translation package and the IFE-CG could then quality check translations.
- Regarding the suggestion under B1.2. to develop a draft template of good practice operational guidance, much of the support the GNC Technical Alliance provides is related to creating national or regional guidance on IYCF-E. Countries ask for examples of what guidance should look like so it would be helpful to have a template for countries to work from.
- Regarding B1.3: Discussions around updating training materials included integrating the MAMI Care Pathway and nurturing care for development into OG-related tools and adding emergency-specific modules to the IYCF counselling course.
- Regarding B.1.6: The creation of a glossary of key terms may belong under Output C as this is related to communications. The suggestion regarding additional needs assessment tools refers to the need to harmonise and leverage existing tools.



- USAID Advancing Nutrition discussed opportunities for them to further support the IFE-CG such as supporting with the development of the IYCF counselling course.
- Strengthening links between the IFE-CG and the MAMI Global Network would be valuable; this could be done by having the MAMI Global Network Coordinator join monthly IFE-CG meetings and the IFE-CG Facilitator join MAMI Global Network meetings to provide updates and having members who participate in both IFE-CG and MAMI Global Network steering committees support linkages.

**Table 6** Updated sub-activities under Output B

SUB-ACTIVITIES UNDER OUTPUT B	STATUS UPDATE
<p><b>B.1.1. ORIGINAL:</b> Translate Version 3 of the OG-IFE to needed language</p> <p><b>B1.1. REVISED:</b> Facilitate and encourage the translation of the OG-IFE and other materials by a variety of means.</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a ready-made package to facilitate translations.</li> <li>• Add a note where IFE-CG documents are published saying that the IFE-CG welcomes others to translate materials.</li> </ul>	Revised.
<p><b>B.1.2.</b> Develop new material that helps to operationalise the OG-IFE (infographics and other tools)</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue developing the infographics (two finalised, two under development and two more identified) then suggest outreach to users and partners to identify a further two to four that are needed.</li> <li>• Develop new guidance or update existing guidance based on the current gaps identified: artificial feeding in emergency context, wet nursing and re-lactation in emergencies and context specific support for CFE etc.</li> <li>• Develop a draft template of good practice operational guidance that can then be set to develop national guidelines – consider translation into French, Spanish and Arabic given those countries are mostly likely in need.</li> </ul>	Keep/continue activity. See suggestions.
<p><b>B.1.3.</b> Develop and update training materials based on the OG-IFE</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the newly released <b>IYCF Counselling: an integrated course</b> with additional modules that could be used in emergency contexts (note possibility for support from USAID Advancing Nutrition/Save the Children here).</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to integrate the management of small and nutritionally at risk infants (MAMI) Care Pathway into OG-related tools and training materials.</li> </ul>	Keep/continue activity. See suggestions.
<p><b>B.1.4.</b> Maintain the availability of an up-to-date IYCF-E resources and material database (IYCF-E Hub)</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure link with USAID Advancing Nutrition complementary feeding repository tool and UNICEF IYCF global database.</li> </ul>	Keep/continue activity. See suggestions.
<p><b>B.1.5.</b> Organise a series of internal and external webinars that respond to gaps and challenges</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim for three to four key topics max.</li> <li>• Deliver the webinar earlier in the year/across quarters rather than end of year.</li> </ul>	Keep/continue activity. See suggestions.
<p><b>B.1.6.</b> Develop needed guidance materials on IYCF-E</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to B.1.2 above.</li> <li>• Develop glossary to standardise core terminology such as breastfeeding/lactation; IYCF/maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN), more inclusive language.</li> <li>• Additional needs assessment tools may be worth considering.</li> </ul>	Keep/continue activity. See suggestions.
<p><b>B.2.1.</b> Review tools/guidance produced by IFE-CG members</p>	Keep/continue activity.
<p><b>B.2.2.</b> Contribute to the update of IYCF-E Indicators from the NiE Registry</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support reviews/updating of IYCF indicators and assessment tools as appropriate and encourage quality assessments integrating IYCF indicators where possible.</li> </ul>	Keep/continue activity. See suggestions.
<p><b>B.3.1.</b> Members to provide support on en-net and other online platforms</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify what the online platforms are.</li> <li>• Review website analytics to understand where users come from and their needs to help to target knowledge management and product development.</li> </ul>	Keep/continue activity. See suggestions.
<p><b>B.4.1.</b> Contribute to defining a process for receiving requests for technical support</p>	Remove activity – process now defined.
<p><b>B.4.2.</b> Regularly engage and respond to the GNC Technical Alliance as the Global Thematic Working Group on IYCF-E</p>	Keep/continue activity.

## Output C: Advocacy and communication strategies developed and implemented

Updated sub-activities under Output C can be found in **Table 7** followed by discussion points.

<b>Table 7</b> Updated sub-activities under Output C	
<b>SUB-ACTIVITIES UNDER OUTPUT C</b>	<b>STATUS UPDATE</b>
Map existing global platforms to engage with	Remove. Combined into C.2.1.
Develop a calendar of events/opportunities	Remove. Combined into C.2.1.
Represent IFE-CG in selected opportunities (WBC, WHA, etc.)	Remove. Combined into C.2.1.
<b>C.3.2.</b> ORIGINAL: Develop, implement and monitor a communication strategy that supports the advocacy strategy REVISED: <b>C. 1.1.</b> Finalise and endorse a communications strategy (in all its components)	Revised.
<b>Suggestions/considerations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audiences:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a need to define the audiences for communications at all levels (global, regional, national)</li> <li>- Stronger advocacy towards the food industry</li> <li>- Opportunity to strengthen national networks in own backyard</li> <li>- Preparedness</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Communications products:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Routine newsletter with a round-up on research and grey literature on IFE topics</li> <li>- Contextualise products/tools to countries</li> <li>- Person-centred design process</li> <li>- Brief on importance of the integration of IYCF-E activities into a workplan/mission/programme</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>C.2.1.</b> Develop a costed/resourced workplan to implement the communications strategy.	Add, new activity.
<b>C.2.2.</b> Incorporate a comms tool within the workplan for workstreams to do their own comms work	Add, new activity.
<b>C.3.4.1.</b> Define IFE-CG advocacy priority topic/purpose based on priority issues, as identified through the Output group	Add, new activity.
<b>Suggestions/considerations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy on the Code and preventing and managing donations is specifically needed</li> </ul>	
ORIGINAL: <b>C.3.1.</b> Develop, implement and monitor a targeted advocacy strategy REVISED: <b>C.5.1.</b> Develop an approach to strategically support the advocacy of key issues (as identified above) – who will we target, how, through what fora.	Revised.
<b>C.6.1.</b> Elaborate a system for responding to ad hoc national and global advocacy needs.	Add, new activity.

### Discussion points on Output C:

- There is a need to strengthen the visibility of the IFE-CG as a global network and point of global reference and source of credible evidence.
- The advocacy and communication strategies are linked, with communication supporting the advocacy strategy. In the absence of a complete advocacy strategy, the suggestion is to identify key advocacy issues and focus on how to advocate for these.
- To support communications across the other outputs, a comms tool would provide guidance on how to communicate effectively (e.g., how to promote a webinar or material produced under Output B).
- The communication strategy is nearly complete and it will be prioritised in the 2022 workplan.
- Advocacy and communication around skilled breastfeeding counselling should be prioritised because people need to know the alternative to offering BMS in case of lactation problems (thus breaking the Code).
- Group A discussed the IYCF-E global report aimed at documenting the uptake of the OG-IFE that is in development and how to launch this widely so that people working at country or cluster level can use it as an advocacy tool with governments. The proposed comms tool could be developed for this purpose and then adapted to fit with other projects with support from the Output C sub-committee.
- There is a need to clarify if the communication strategy should include specific activities (e.g., developing an infographic) or whether it is the 'how to' to carry out these activities.
- It remains to be clarified who will carry out the communications activities for each report/material/initiative. This needs to be resourced and IFE-CG members may need an orientation/training on the comms tool so that they can carry out comms activities independently. This needs attention from the IFE-CG SC to ensure that communications activities are built into budgets and planned in advance.

## Output D: Networked IFE-CG community of practice is active and further enhanced

Updated sub-activities under Output D can be found in **Table 8** followed by discussion points.

<b>Table 8</b> Output D: Networked IFE-CG community of practice is active and further enhanced	
<b>SUB-ACTIVITIES UNDER OUTPUT D</b>	<b>STATUS UPDATE</b>
<b>D.1.1.</b> Keep IFE-CG membership data base up-to-date and respond to new membership	Revised.
<b>D.1.2.</b> Map the group's current composition, identify gaps and strategise <b>Suggestions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognised gap in national membership, mapping needed to shed more light.</li> <li>Higher visibility in regional fora (e.g., East Africa through listservs/conferences)</li> <li>Explore national chapter idea (focus on one to two countries to start?)</li> </ul>	Keep. See suggestions.
<b>ORIGINAL: D.1.3.</b> Increase engagement with local/national/increase localisation and national engagements. <b>REVISED: D.1.3.</b> Increase engagement with local/national organisations/increase national engagement (mentoring and relevant resource sharing with young professionals etc.) <b>Suggestions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate south-to-south consultations on IFE to facilitate lessons learned (e.g., mentoring, midwives-to-midwives for example)</li> <li>Journal club summarising key articles and operational work from lower-middle-income countries in particular (quarterly/biannually?) to highlight key challenges/lessons learned and discuss.</li> <li>Mapping of others' efforts on this (e.g., CORE group) to see what IFE-CG can institutionalise</li> </ul>	Revised. See suggestions.
<b>D.1.4.</b> Conduct regular monthly meetings	Keep/continue activity.
<b>D.1.5.</b> Conduct annual meeting	Keep/continue activity.
<b>D.1.6.</b> Update information on the ENN website and en-net for new membership	Keep/continue activity.
<b>D.2.1.</b> Conduct regular meetings with the GNC Technical Alliance and participate in other fora (CIF-WG, etc.)	Keep/continue activity.
<b>ORIGINAL: D.3.1.</b> Facilitate peer-to-peer support via online communication and regular meetings <b>REVISED: D.3.1.</b> Facilitate member support via online communications and regular meetings <b>Suggestions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly newsletter with programmatic/research implications highlighted. Easier to share with others. Combine with MAMI Global Network newsletter?</li> </ul>	Revised wording. See suggestions.

### Discussion points on Output D:

- Increased focus on multi-agency Netcode work at regional level so that countries have resources to draw on.
- Consider better engagement with own countries where relevant and how best to connect and inform (e.g., IYCF support for Afghan refugees in the UK).
- Regarding D.1.2, it may be worth exploring a regional/national chapter system for the IFE-CG supported by regional/national focal points with a clear TOR supporting the global strategy and mentorship/skill building programme. The MAMI Global Network and NIS working group are using this approach and could provide insights. Regional chapters may be more practical than national chapters due to the low number of members in each country. However, the roles of the IFE-CG and the GNC Technical Alliance the country level needs to be further defined. Linking in with country level IYCF TWGs within the cluster to ensure IYCF-E representation will be an important step. For now, offering AM and PM sessions for the current monthly meetings may naturally create regional groups by time zone.
- Regarding D.3.1: One risk with a newsletter is that it may not be seen amidst a high burden of emails. A forum on en-net was suggested as a more interactive approach. However, the current en-net format does not make discussions easily accessible. Adding a section to the GNC newsletter may be a good way to ensure IFE-CG content is reaching people.
- There appears to be a need for an interactive online platform for IFE-CG members to communicate with each other – the precise platform remains to be clarified. Having a repository to share research may also be useful for member support. Quarterly member updates could also be compiled in Jamboard or a similar platform. It would be helpful to have input from the communications working group on how the IFE-CG can better communicate internally.



## Session 2 Plenary discussion on priority activities

Below are the points discussed during the final plenary discussion on workplan activities:

- Few people took part in the working group for Output D and so efforts will be needed to ensure that these activities are not neglected in the workplan. There may be a need to establish a sub-committee for this output as it is currently under the IFE-CG SC.
- There is a need to consider whether the workplan is addressing the gaps identified as part of the GNC satellite event (see **Figure 1**), namely capacity, funding and the area of CFE. Funding may need to be further considered as part of the advocacy plan in Output C. CFE may also need further attention in 2022 beyond the case studies. These themes should be included in the next draft of the workplan.
- IYCF-E is not adequately on the agenda for decision-makers on funding. The IFE-CG needs to work on making these linkages so that people outside the field understand the importance of IYCF-E.

## Session 3 Wrap up and meeting close

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.



## Annex 1 Meeting agenda

# IFE Core Group Annual Online Meeting 2021 November 15, 16 & 18, 2021

### Objectives and outputs of the meeting

The IFE Core Group online meetings regroup IFE Core Group members to discuss progress in IFE Core Group activities, reflect on experiences during the year and plan for the coming year.

The main objectives of this meeting are to:

- Review IFE Core Group progress for 2021
- Identify the priority areas and actions for the 2022 workplan to be delivered by the collective
  - based on the IFE Core Group Strategy and workplan.

The main outputs of the meeting are 1) the generation of **key priority areas** that would serve as the basis for an action plan, and 2) the generation of a meeting report with key follow-up actions.

### Attendees and meeting format

The meeting will be attended by IFE Core Group members with guests identified as relevant to the session. The meeting will be conducted online with remote participation for approximately one and a half days spread over three days. Two timings are suggested for each day for which members can choose the most convenient; **AM sessions accommodating the Eastern hemisphere and PM sessions accommodating the Western hemisphere**. The meeting will be facilitated by the IFE Core Group Steering Committee members.

### Readings and preparation

In preparation for the meeting, kindly:

→ familiarize yourself with the following documents:

- **IFE Core Group Strategy 2020-2025**
- **IFE Core Group annual workplan**
- **IFE Core Group Annual Meeting Report 2020**

Timing				
UK time	Day 1 Monday November 15	Day 2 Tuesday November 16	OFF Wednesday November 17	Day 3 Thursday November 18
9:00 AM – 12:00 noon	AM SESSION	AM SESSION		AM SESSION
12:00 noon – 2:00 PM				
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	PM SESSION*	PM SESSION*		PM SESSION*

\*Same agenda as AM session

# Agenda

AM session (CET)	PM session (CET)		Day 1 - November 15, 2021
10:00 AM - 10:10 AM	10:00 AM - 10:10 AM	10 mins	<b>Welcome, registration and overview of meeting objectives and agenda</b>
10:10 AM - 10:20 AM	3:10 PM - 3:20 PM	10 mins	<i>IFE Core Group members updates! Link to Gallery</i>
10:20 AM - 10:40 AM	3:20 PM - 3:40 PM	20 mins	<b>Setting the scene - moments in IYCF-E for the year 2021</b>
10:40 AM - 11:00 AM	3:40 PM - 4:00 PM	10 mins	<i>IFE Core Group members updates! Link to Gallery</i>
11:00 AM - 11:40 AM	4:00 PM - 4:40 PM	40 mins	<b>Update on the IFE Core Group Annual Workplan</b> Review of the activities achieved in 2021 based on the 2021 workplan. The session will provide an update on each of the activities and progress made giving an opportunity to reflect on priorities and progress.
11:40 AM - 11:50 AM	4:40 PM - 4:50 PM	10 mins	<i>Break</i>
11:50 AM - 12:00 noon	4:50 PM - 5:00 PM	10 mins	<i>IFE Core Group members updates! Link to Gallery</i>
12:00 noon - 12:45 noon	5:00 PM - 5:45 PM	45 mins	<b>Gaps, challenges, enablers and priorities in IYCF-E</b> Discussion around the gaps, challenges, enablers based on compilation from 2021
12:45 noon - 1:00 PM	5:45 PM - 6:00 PM	15 mins	<b>Wrap up and closing of the day</b>
AM session (CET)	PM session (CET)		Day 2 - November 16, 2021
10:00 AM - 10:10 AM	3:00 PM - 3:10 PM	10 mins	<b>Welcome, registration and recap of day 1</b>
10:10 AM - 10:20 AM	3:10 PM - 3:20 PM	10 mins	<i>IFE Core Group members updates! Link to Gallery</i>
10:20 AM - 10:35 AM	3:20 PM - 3:35 PM	15 mins	<b>IFE Core Group outputs – division to breakout rooms/working groups</b> Main questions to answer in working groups
10:35 AM - 12:20 noon	3:35 PM - 5:20 PM	105 mins (1 hr 45 mins including 10 mins break)	<b>Working groups/breakout rooms:</b> <b>Room 1</b> → Discussion of activities under <b>Output 1 Gaps, challenge, issues, enablers identified; experiences and lessons learned documented and brought to the IFE Core Group and other stakeholders for action and support</b> <b>Room 2</b> → Discussion of activities under <b>Output 2 Resource materials to support feeding and care of children in humanitarian settings developed and provided in appropriate and accessible formats</b> <b>Room 3</b> → Discussion of activities under <b>Output 3 Advocacy and communication strategies developed and implemented</b> <b>Room 4</b> → Discussion of activities under <b>Output 4 Networked IFE Core Group ‘community of practice’ is active and further enhanced</b>
12:20 noon - 12:30 noon	5:20 PM - 5:30 PM	10 mins	<i>IFE Core Group members updates! Link to Gallery</i>
12:30 noon - 1:00 PM	5:30 PM - 6:00 PM	30 mins	<b>Plenary discussion on priorities and activities</b> <b>Pending discussion related to working groups</b> <b>Wrap up and closing of the day</b>
AM session (CET)	PM session (CET)		Day 3 - November 18, 2021
10:00 AM - 10:10 AM	3:00 PM - 3:10 PM	10 mins	<b>Welcome, registration and recap of day 2</b>
10:10 AM - 10:20 AM	3:10 PM - 3:20 PM	10 mins	<i>IFE Core Group members updates! Link to Gallery</i>
10:20 AM - 11:20 AM	3:20 PM - 4:20 PM	60 mins	<b>Working group presentations</b> <b>Group 1</b> → Priority activities under <b>Output 1 Gaps, challenges and issues identified; experiences and lessons learned documented and brought to the IFE Core Group and other stakeholders for action and support</b> <b>Group 2</b> → Priority activities under <b>Output 2 Resource materials to support feeding and care of children in humanitarian settings developed and provided in appropriate and accessible formats</b>
11:20 AM - 11:30 AM	4:20 PM - 4:30 PM	10 mins	<i>Break</i>
11:30 AM - 11:40 AM	4:30 PM - 4:40 PM	10 mins	<i>IFE Core Group members updates! Link to Gallery</i>
11:40 AM - 12:40 noon	4:40 PM - 5:40 PM	60 mins	Working group presentations <b>Group 3</b> → Priority activities under <b>Output 3 Advocacy and communication strategies developed and implemented</b> <b>Group 4</b> → Priority activities under <b>Output 4 Networked IFE Core Group ‘community of practice’ is active and further enhanced</b>
12:40 noon - 1:00 PM	5:40 PM - 6:00 PM		<b>Plenary discussion on priority activities</b> <b>Wrap up and closing of the day</b>

## Annex 2 Member updates

Member updates were given during the meeting throughout the sessions. Presentations can be found [here](#).

### IFE Core Group member update

#### Presenter: Fatmata Sesay (UNICEF)

- Updated and finalised guidance on the procurement and use of BMS; this guidance confirms that UNICEF can act as a provider of last resort for BMS.
- Provided technical support to country offices on BMS procurement requests.
- The Code@40 event took place in May 2021 to mark the 40th anniversary of the the Code. This event had over 1,200 participants and included statements from UNICEF and WHO on the importance of this milestone.
- Released several skilled breastfeeding counselling resources in collaboration with WHO and other partners, most importantly the guidance on the implementation of skilled breastfeeding counselling.
- World Breastfeeding Week:
  - Key advocacy event organised in collaboration with IFE-CG and WHO – webinar to release resources on skilled breastfeeding counselling.
  - UNICEF/WHO joint statement on the importance of making commitments at the N4G Summit and the UN Food Systems Summit.
  - Updated the advocacy toolkit on breastfeeding.
  - Released communications and social media materials – COVID-19 focus on UNICEF's specific resources.
- Held N4G side-events on various topic areas including a profile of countries that have made strong efforts to promote, protect and support breastfeeding.
- Released FAQs on breastfeeding and COVID-19 in collaboration with the IFE-CG.
- Worked closely with the MAMI Global Network as part of the steering committee to draft the network's strategy. Integrated the MAMI Care Pathway into new guidance on the prevention and early detection of wasting in infants under six months as well as guidance on the integration of early detection of child wasting into routine primary health care.

### IFE Core Group member update

#### Presenter: Kirrily de Polnay (WHO)

- The WHO is updating the guidelines of the management of child wasting with an increased focus on infants compared with previous versions. A risk stratification exercise will focus on identifying the characteristics of infants who are most at risk of adverse outcomes. This will help to focus on the highest-risk infants in emergency settings. They will also examine evidence on the effectiveness of different breastfeeding interventions and when/what BMS should be recommended for use.
- Developing the EmCARE app that includes components on newborn care, the integrated management of childhood illness and managing malnourished children. The app is designed to guide healthcare workers in the care of infants and children.
- There have been internal Food and Nutrition Security Workshops with regional, country, nutrition and emergency departments. These cover a range of topics and Kirrily has pushed for IFE to be on the agenda.
- An IYCF counselling course from WHO/UNICEF has been developed and reviewed from an emergency perspective.
- Much work is happening around global advocacy for the Code implementation.
- The WHO has contributed to the FAQs on COVID-19 vaccines and breastfeeding.
- Counselling guidance with some emergency content.



## IFE Core Group member update

### Presenter: Jen Burns (Helen Keller International)

- Ongoing collaboration with IFE-CG and UNICEF through the USAID Advancing Nutrition Project.
- Gap analysis reports on complementary feeding tools across both humanitarian and development programming to be shared in early 2022.
- Plans to develop a tool to support CFE programming; filling one of the gaps identified in the gap analysis.
- Plans to build a living repository of complementary feeding tools on the IYCF-E Hub. Please share tools that you think others can benefit from.
- Plans to conduct case studies on three USAID BHA funded contexts documenting CFE programming; will release a report. Plans to present on this work through a webinar, conferences and publications.

## IFE Core Group member update

### Presenter: Natsayi Nembaware (ADRA)

ADRA has been operating IYCF-E activities in the following countries:

#### Venezuela:

- Providing nutrition education materials and IYCF counselling from trained nutritionists at food and WASH kit distribution sites.
- Household level promotion and reinforcement of key IYCF behaviours provided through community volunteers and field officers through home family visits and through WhatsApp coaching groups.

#### Yemen:

- Actively participating/coordinating with the Yemen IYCF TWG.
- Establishing IYCF corners and providing IYCF consultations in 48 static health facilities and five mobile health units alongside other nutrition, health and WASH activities.
- Providing nutrition behavior (IYCF) awareness sessions at food distribution sites.
- Training community health volunteers on key feeding behaviours and other nutrition counselling topics to deliver at home visits.
- Supporting mothers' peer groups regarding IYCF topics.
- Providing cooking demonstrations (both theoretical and practical components) to mothers of children under five years of age to increase awareness and capability of preparing age-appropriate and nutritionally balanced meals to young children.
- Piloting the MAMI approach through select health facilities.

## IFE Core Group member update

### Presenter: Yara Sfeir (GNC Technical Alliance/UNICEF NY)

- Merged IYCF-E checklist and IYCF-E capacity mapping and assessment from UNICEF and Save the Children into a single tool to simplify use at country-level. The merged tool will be made available.

## IFE Core Group member update

### Presenter: Mija Ververs (Bloomberg School of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

- Initiated and directed the repositories '**COVID-19, Maternal, and Child Health, Nutrition – what does the science tell us?**' and '**COVID-19, Breastfeeding, Infant Feeding, and Breast Milk**' – these repositories provide an overview of what peer-reviewed journal articles currently state on these topics with regular updates.
- Presented the latest scientific data on maternal and child health, nutrition and COVID-19 during the monthly IFE-CG meetings (until May 2021).
- Co-organised and presented at a webinar hosted by the US government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan and the COVID-19 Infant Feeding Research Interest Group (16 Sept 2021) on lessons learned regarding infant feeding in HIV, Ebola and COVID-19, including potential actions that could leverage that learning for future readiness and impact.
- Provided technical support in infant feeding during the influx of Afghan evacuees who arrived in the USA in 2021 and are/were hosted at bases managed by the US government.
- Finalised various studies on infant feeding-related topics and published or co-authored the following papers:
  - **Barriers and challenges of infant feeding in disasters in middle- and high-income countries**
  - **Associations between caesarean births and breastfeeding in the Middle East: a scoping review**
  - **A public health approach for deciding policy on infant feeding and mother-infant contact in the context of COVID-19**
- Conducting ongoing research: Cost analysis and comparison between exclusive breastfeeding and BMS use in humanitarian settings. Expected 2022.

## IFE Core Group member update

### Presenter: Julie Tanaka (Samaritan's Purse)

- Developed a tool in Excel for measuring the updated IYCF indicators, with a description of the indicators, an example questionnaire and a tabulation spreadsheet.
- Supported IYCF social and behavior change programming for field teams in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Iraq, Philippines, Yemen, Niger, Sudan, North East Syria, Cambodia and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through care groups and mother-to-mother support groups.
- Developed internal communication tools to sensitise other sectors to IYCF-E programming, including materials on breastfeeding during COVID-19.
- Supported IYCF knowledge, attitudes and practice studies in South Sudan, Cambodia and Sudan.
- Supported offices on World Breastfeeding Week events in South Sudan and DRC.

## IFE Core Group member update

### Presenter: Erin Boyd (USAID)

- Continues to support the GNC Technical Support Team, previously the Technical Rapid Response Team. This includes the support of an IYCF-E advisor.
- Provide ongoing support to the GNC Technical Alliance for coordination.
- Provide support for MAMI via Save the Children.
- To note, USAID's emergency guidelines make it mandatory for partners to include the MIYCN-E sub-sector. This encompasses over 100 projects spread over 30 countries.
- Provides ongoing support for maternal nutrition, notably work on lipid-based nutrient supplementation with the WFP and UNICEF.
- Involved in Japan donor advocacy work.
- Reviewing IYCF-E training curriculum.
- Updated the USAID nutrition icon from food items to a woman and baby icon.

## IFE Core Group member update

### Presenter: Kirk Dearden (IMA World Health – MOMENTUM project)

- The IMA World Health/MOMENTUM project is implementing an adaptation of the MAMI Care Pathway (version 3) in South Sudan and will also carry out activities in one Francophone West African country. Accomplishments thus far include the following:
  - Developed detailed timeline of activities and local budget for Care Pathway tools adaptation.
  - Developed/finalised TORs for an international consultant. Hired a consultant (Hedwig Deconinck).
  - Holding weekly meetings with the South Sudan team and an international consultant to prepare for needs assessment, protocol development and the creation of a training package based on others' work elsewhere (especially Save the Children's).
  - Developed TOR for in-country MAMI/nutrition expert. Now advertising.
  - South Sudan team met with health facilities staff, national child health focal person, head of nutrition, etc. Additional interviews are ongoing.
  - Identified in-country implementing partner in addition to government (World Vision).
  - Planning trips to South Sudan for Hedwig.

## IFE Core Group member update

### Presenter: Hatty Barthorp (GOAL)

#### MAMI:

- Continued to support the ongoing randomised trial on MAMI in Ethiopia as an implementing partner (LSHTM, ENN, Jimma University, GOAL): **Stronger evidence towards future scale up** (2019-2023/4).
- Continued engagement within the MAMI Global Network to share and generate evidence to support effective MAMI.
- Continued implementing MAMI in Gambella refugee camps, Ethiopia. Working on analysis of first 24 months of digital data and publications expected early 2022.

#### MUAC tape:

- Published a technical article regarding measurement discrepancies titled **“Mid-upper arm circumference tapes and measurement discrepancies: Time to standardize product specifications”** (Global Health Science & Practice, Vol. 9, No.3, Sept 2021).

#### IYCF-E:

- Conducted rapid nutrition assessments for the behavioural determinants of maternal malnutrition in efforts to integrate maternal nutrition alongside IYCF to more holistically address the first 275 + 180 days of life.
- Supported MIYCF promotion through capacity-building of health facility staff and women and men peer support groups during acute and/or protracted emergencies in Ouallam, Niger/North Darfur, Sudan/Ethiopia (multiple).
- Shared and promoted across country offices with nutrition programmes the updated MIYCF counselling cards in the context of COVID-19.
- Incorporating updated 2021 MIYCF indicators into all nutrition programmes and monitoring systems.
- Exploring different ways to elicit behaviour change beyond 'messaging'.

## IFE Core Group member update

### Presenter: Sajia Mehjabeen (Concern Worldwide)

Promoting IYCF-E in acute and protracted emergencies through collaboration with IFE-CG and country IYCF working group.

- Continue to support IYCF promotion in the context of COVID-19 through adapting counselling and peer support group approach.
- Active member of IYCF working group and supported development of IYCF-E national guidance in South Sudan, Somalia and Sudan, including guidance on conducting support groups.
- Piloting fathers' group in a protracted crisis to address gender dimensions in IYCF-related practices.
- Developed internal qualitative tools to assess gender dimensions affecting IYCF practices.
- Implementing MAMI in Gambella, Ethiopia and Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh.
- Incorporating early childhood development activities in the refugee camps.
- Rolling out IYCF basic training for all essential staff.
- Started to roll out new WHO indicators in protracted crisis, developed digital data collection tools and analysis plan.

## IFE Core Group member update

### Presenter: Karleen Gribble (Independent)

Karleen has been working with colleagues from Alive and Thrive Southeast Asia on an analysis of COVID-19 clinical guidance on maternal and newborn care from 101 countries (soon to be submitted for publication).

She has just published a paper looking at what contributes or not to the following of the OG-IFE regarding infant formula distribution and the issue of maternal choice to formula feed in emergencies.

She has also given many conference presentations and provided feedback on many documents.

## IFE Core Group member update

### Presenters: Isabelle Modigell & Sarah O'Flynn (Save the Children)

#### Capacity building:

- Major update of the IYCF-E Training Curriculum (with thanks to IFE-CG members for their review)
- Partner capacity mapping and trainings in Myanmar, Cox's Bazaar, Syria and Sudan

#### Technical support:

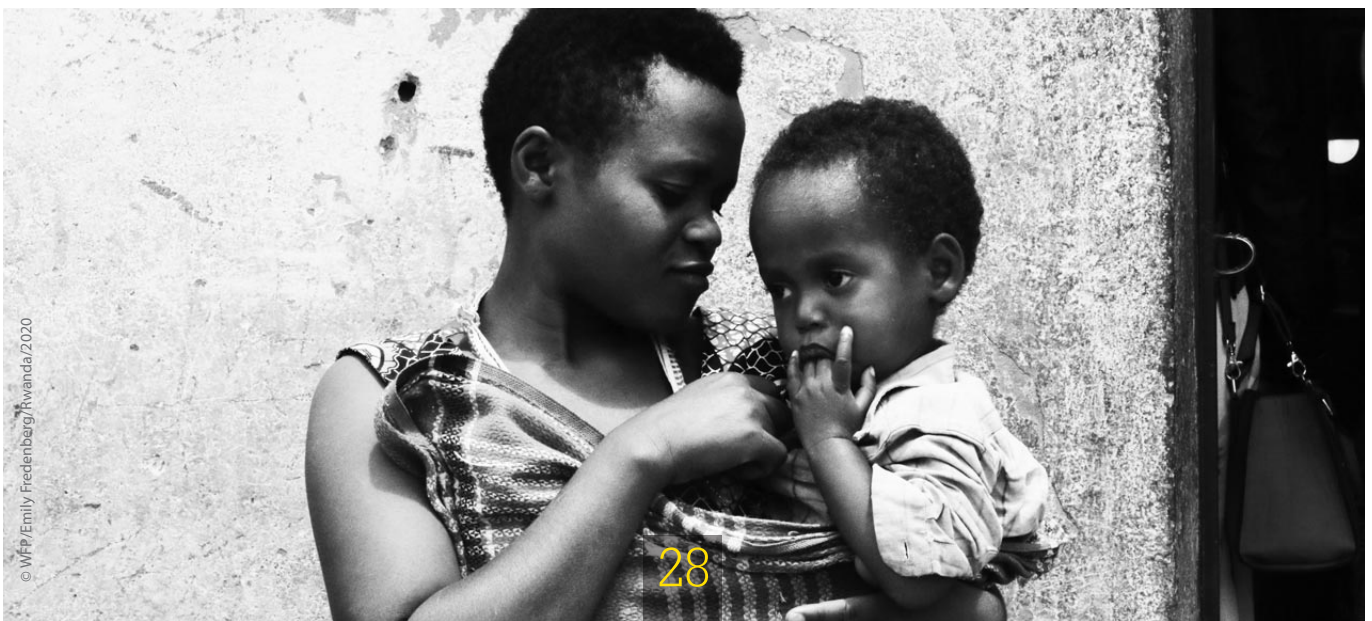
- Global/regional support for the development of national operational guidance on IYCF-E (Ethiopia, Myanmar)
- Technical support and quality assurance for the GNC Technical Alliance Support Team IYCF-E Deployments (Sudan, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Honduras, Myanmar, OPT, Nicaragua); Technical support for delivery for MAMI through GNC Technical Alliance (UNICEF Afghanistan, IRC Global, GOAL Ethiopia, ADRA Yemen) (BHA Global Award)

#### Resource development:

- With IFE-CG, designed and launched IYCF-E Hub
- Finalised set of IYCF-E and COVID-19 tools including guidelines and videos
- Partnering with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to roll out the IYCF Framework in Chad and Niger and finalising the "How to" Guide for the roll out
- IFE-CG infographic translation (Arabic, French, Spanish)
- Updated the IYCF-E Capacity Assessment Tool (merged with the GNC IYCF-E Checklist) with the GNC and UNICEF ESARO
- Contribution to IFE-CG/NIS Global Thematic Working Group "Mapping of current practices related to IYCF assessment methodologies in humanitarian and fragile environments"

#### Service delivery and coordination:

- Continued service provision with COVID-19 adaptations: remote counselling (Peru), conference calls with lead mothers using the Care Group approach (Myanmar)
- Multi-sector support for non-breastfed infants in all camps (Cox's Bazaar)
- Integration of IYCF-E into IMAM services (East and Southern Africa, Cox's Bazaar)
- Chairing of IYCF-E TWGs (e.g., Myanmar, Cox's Bazaar)
- Thousands of caregivers counselled on IYCF





## IFE Core Group member update

### Presenter: Jodine Chase (SafelyFed Canada)

#### Changing policy & practice

##### *International:*

- Involvement with IFE-CG members/support for initiatives: N4G, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Save the Children/videos, participation in MAMI communications and advocacy working group

##### *National:*

- Consultation with Service Canada: New Parent Project: Redesigning new parent processes
- Canada Baby-Friendly guidance changes – assessing the status of IYCF-E activities
- Advocacy: paediatric hospital intake malnutrition assessment tool (funded by Abbott, advocated to remove industry influence)
- WHO Code Consultation with Baby-Friendly Newfoundland

#### Supporting frontline workers

- Presentations/dissemination: Various pandemic 101 presentations
- Athabasca Tribal Council presentation, Nova Scotia Health Authority
- Tyendinaga First Nation

#### Helping Canadian families

- Activity - gathering info on formula shipment during Iqaluit water crisis  
+ Initial discussions with senate office for national policy change
- Ongoing work on Fort McMurray/Red Cross project until its closure

## IFE Core Group member update

### Presenter: Cecile Bizouerne (Action Against Hunger, AAH)

- Integration of IYCF/IFE into health and nutrition programmes, proposing holistic approach for pregnant and lactating women and their children with the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sector.
- In the context of COVID-19, continued activities for IYCF promotion with counselling at health facility (including in inpatient care for severe acute malnutrition children with medical complications) and community level, support group (father groups, mother-to-mother support groups or care groups) (inc. Uganda, Somalia, Tanzania, South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Haiti, DRC, Central African Republic, Bangladesh) and Baby-Friendly Space in emergency/camps setting (inc. Ethiopia).
- At global level: Part of the GNC Technical Alliance Technical Support Team, hosting the Social Behaviour Change Advisor providing technical support to nutrition and health actors (e.g., nutrition clusters, governments, UN, NGOs, local organisations) working in NiE.
- BMS: Active actor reporting on BMS donations (e.g., Afghanistan) and participation in BMS taskforce at national level (inc. South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia). In Kenya, AAH contributed to the BMS Act (General) Regulations 2021.
- MAMI: Already implemented since the beginning of 2020 in the refugee camps in Bangladesh; active participation in the MAMI Global Network.
- Active member of MIYCF/IYCF-E working groups at national level in most supported countries (inc. Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Haiti, CAR, Afghanistan).
- Main challenges are 1) Limited funding is a recurrent issue in several countries which affects the sustainability and scale of programming; 2) High turnover of staff, need for constant/regular IYCF-E training; 3) Need for the implementation of a strong social behavior communication change component; 4) Harmonisation of indicators and activities; 5) MAMI: no buy-in by the new authorities in Afghanistan; need harmonisation between all nutrition and health actors and incorporation into community-based management of acute malnutrition protocol in the Rohingya camps; 6) Limited access/government restriction leading to limited scale of IYCF/IYCF-E intervention (Myanmar, Afghanistan).
- Main priorities include supporting the government in the development and implementation of national policies (BMS code, MIYCF, IYCF-E, Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative. Support cascade training following implementation of training for trainers led by Ministry of Health/UNICEF.

## Annex 3 Participant lists & group photos

### Participant list for Days 1, 2, and 3

#	Name	Organisation (if applicable)	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
1	Alexandra Rutishauser-Perera	Action Against Hunger	✓PM	✓AM	✓AM
2	Armelle Sacher	Action Against Hunger	✓PM		
3	Bindi Borg	Independent	✓AM	✓AM	✓AM
4	Brigitte Tonon	ACF - France	✓PM	✓PM	✓PM
5	Brooke Bauer	GNC Technical Alliance/Independent	✓AM	✓PM	✓AM
6	Colleen Emary	World Vision	✓PM		
7	Deborah Joy Wilson	WFP, HQ/Rome	✓AM	✓AM	
8	Emily Hirata	ADRA	✓PM	✓PM	✓PM
9	Erin Boyd	USAID/BHA	✓PM		✓PM
10	Fatmata Fatima Sesay	UNICEF	✓PM	✓PM	
11	Getinet Amenu	WVI		✓AM	
12	Grainne Moloney	UNICEF	✓PM		
13	Gwénola Desplats	ENN			✓PM
14	Hatty Barthorp	GOAL	✓PM	✓AM	
15	Hiroko Hongo	Independent	✓PM		
16	Isabelle Modigell	Save the Children/Independent	✓PM	✓PM	✓PM
17	Jen Burns	HKI/USAID Advancing Nutrition Project	✓AM	✓PM	✓PM
18	Jennifer Nielsen	Helen Keller	✓PM		
19	Jodine Chase	Safely Fed Canada	✓PM	✓PM	✓PM
20	Judy Canahuati	USAID/BHA	✓PM		✓PM
21	Julie Tanaka	Samaritan's Purse	✓PM	✓PM	✓PM
22	Karleen Gribble	Independent	✓AM		✓AM
23	Kelsey Grey	ENN	✓PM	✓PM	✓PM
24	Kirk Dearden	Corus International and MOMENTUM project	✓PM	✓PM	✓PM
25	Kirrily de Polnay	WHO	✓AM		✓AM
26	Linda Shaker Berbari	ENN/Independent	✓AM/PM	✓AM/PM	✓AM/PM
27	Marlene Hebie	GOAL	✓PM	✓AM	
28	Maryse Arendt	IBFAN	✓PM		
29	Mija Ververs	Johns Hopkins University and CDC	✓PM	✓PM	✓PM
30	Miski Abdi	Save the Children UK	✓PM		
31	Natalie Sessions	GNC Technical Alliance/ENN	✓AM		
32	Natsayi Nembaware	ADRA International	✓PM		
33	Nicki Connell	ENN	✓AM/PM	✓AM/PM	✓AM/PM
34	Patti Rundall	IBFAN	✓AM		
35	Sajia Mehjabeen	Concern Worldwide	✓AM	✓AM	✓AM
36	Sarah O'Flynn	Save the Children	✓PM	✓PM	✓PM
37	Suzanne Brinkmann	IMC	✓PM		
38	Yara Sfeir	GNC Technical Alliance/UNICEF NY	✓AM		✓AM

# Group photos



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