

IYCF Framework Roll Out Focal Point Terms of Reference

Background

Infants and young children (0-23 months) are the most vulnerable to illness, malnutrition and death, especially during emergencies. During crises, rates of child mortality can soar up to 70 times higher than average, even among previously healthy populations, with the youngest being the most vulnerable. The Lancet demonstrated that optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding could reduce child mortality in children under five more than any other preventative measure - by up to 26%; however translating this knowledge into practice has been challenging, especially during emergencies.

In response, UNHCR has partnered with Save the Children to create *The Infant and Young Child Feeding in Refugee Settings: A Multi-Sector Framework for Action*, known by many simply as the “IYCF Framework”¹. The IYCF Framework is a resource to assist with integrating and mainstreaming international policies, standards and guidance on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) across sectors in refugee contexts.

The purpose of the Framework is to provide recommendations and guidance to create an ‘infant and young child friendly’ environment. The Framework encourages the protection and support of PLW, infants and young children and their care providers through multi-sectoral integration of IYCF-sensitive activities

The following TOR describes the various actions and responsibilities of focal points accountable for the roll out of the IYCF Framework. Recognizing that UNHCR operations differ among countries, it is suggested that the various activities be discussed internally and assigned to those most appropriate for the task. In some contexts, the following activities will all be carried out by one individual; in others they will be divided among focal points at the national and sub-national levels or they may be associated with a roll out task team. Please amend this list, adding or removing activities, based on your context. This list serves as a starting point for discussions and is informed by the various steps of the Roll-out Guide.

Summary

The IYCF Framework Focal Point is responsible for leading the roll out of the IYCF Framework as described in the Framework as well as outlined in the Roll-out Guide. The

¹ UNHCR/Save the Children. *Infant and Young Child Feeding in Refugee Settings: A Multi-Sector Framework for Action*. <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/publications/operations/5c0643d74/infant-young-child-feeding-refugee-situations-multi-sectoral-framework.html> May 2018

Focal Point is accountable for coordinating roll out activities across stakeholders to drive forward the Objectives and Actions of the IYCF Framework. The Focal Point will oversee all aspects of the Framework roll out; leading on action planning, implementation and monitoring and stakeholder engagement.

Specific Activities and Accountabilities

- Plan, implement and monitor the roll out of the IYCF Framework, informed by the Roll-out Guide with a focus on maintaining momentum, transparency and continually enhancing partnerships
- Identify and mobilize resources needed for the roll out of the IYCF Framework, including personnel support and funding;
- Establish and coordinate a core team to support the IYCF Framework (as needed and relevant); clarify expectations of team members in the initial roll out plan
- Identify and mentor IYCF Champions, maintaining ongoing dialogue and information sharing to continuously strengthen buy-in
- Lead the context analysis to map needs and resources relevant to PLW and children 0-23 months
- Establish and maintain relationships with critical stakeholders within UNHCR, government counterparts and partners to ensure awareness of IYCF and the IYCF Framework at all stages of the roll out;
- Attend coordination mechanisms and establish strong communications channels to discuss the IYCF Framework at national and sub-national levels to ensure the needs of PLW and children 0-23 months are included in the greater humanitarian strategy of the response.
- Engage with community members to inform the design of programming and monitoring of implementation
- Organize orientations and trainings on IYCF for relevant staff and volunteers from all sectors
- Coordinate IYCF-sensitive activities; Activate or establish relevant coordination mechanisms for IYCF specific and sensitive programming;
- Lead monitoring of the IYCF Framework based on Framework Monitoring Tool; Design monitoring mechanism, including frequency of measurement and reporting; Follow up on actions and those champions accountable for implementation and monitoring various actions in the Action Plan
- Document progress against the IYCF Framework, including successes and areas for improvement to establish institutional memory related to the Framework roll out.



Step 1: Prepare

Outline initial plan and map needs and resources