

Nutrition Cluster
Terms of Reference
INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING in Emergency (IYCF-E)
Technical Working Group
Nepal (2019)

1. Background:

Nepal positions at the top 20th list of the most multi-hazard prone countries in the world. The country is ranked 4th, 11th and 30th in terms of climate change, earthquake and flood risk respectively. (UNDP/ BCPR, 2004). Disasters often have significant impact on social, economic, cultural and environmental systems. Thus, there is an urgent need to redress the proactive policies related to natural disasters, with emphasis on preparedness, rescue, relief management, and rehabilitation.

To address these, Government of Nepal has well-established humanitarian mechanism and cluster system where sectoral ministries take the lead in their respective sectors of expertise. Among the 11 clusters, Nutrition Cluster is one of the National Cluster. Nepal Nutrition Cluster is led by Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) and co-led by UNICEF Nepal and other national and international humanitarian organizations contribute as the cluster members as per their mandate and expertise.

In consideration of the above context the Nutrition Cluster has been supporting the coordination of nutrition actors within the humanitarian community to ensure appropriate and efficient response to humanitarian crisis by providing lifesaving nutrition support to populations in need in accordance with national and global standards and it is within this operational framework that the IYCF technical working group has been established to contribute to a reduction in young child malnutrition by providing technical support in implementation of IYCF programs in Nepal.

2. Purpose:

Nepal being prone to natural calamities and disasters, despite of having the National IYCF policy and guideline in place, there is also a need for a Technical Working Group (TWG) in nutrition cluster aimed for emergency preparedness, to respond immediately and to begin work in recovery during emergency to minimize infant and young child morbidity and/or mortality risks associated with feeding practices and to maximize child nutrition, health and development.

The establishment of the IYCF technical working group will:

- complement the Government's efforts to initiate **IYCF-E** response,
- take actions and plan outlining gaps, activities, timeline and resources,
- mobilize the needed funding through the provision of technical support in strengthening the delivery of the IYCF-E response.

3. Activities:

The IYCF TWG in the Nutrition Cluster will be responsible for the following tasks:

1. Advocate and ensure the inclusion of IYCF-E indicators/tools in multi sector rapid assessments with adequately disaggregated data in collaboration with other TWGs.
2. Support nutrition clusters to map stakeholders' interventions, assess response capacity (such as HR, commodities, technical knowledge/skills) and develop an IYCF-E strategy as required.
3. Assess capacity building needs across partners and develop a plan for meeting these. These may include Training of Trainers (TOTs), frontline worker training for direct implementation or orientation sessions for stakeholders across all sectors, orientation on the BMS Act, etc.
4. Develop relevant IYCF-E policies, guidelines and IYCF-E response based on the Operational Guidance for Infant Feeding in Emergencies as needed with review and update of national and global recommendations and evidence.
5. Ensure adequate coordination with all the stakeholders at national and sub-national levels for IYCF-E to be in place through establishing, leading or providing substantial support to the IYCF-E technical working group and identify gaps in the allocation of respective resources.
6. Draft, facilitate and ensure wide dissemination of a joint statement on IYCF-E, the Operational Guidance on IYCF in emergency and other relevant standards, tools and guidelines, and ensure all humanitarian actors are aware of minimum standards and best practices to adhere to.
7. In coordination with national and subnational DRCC, provide activate guidance on the prevention and appropriate handling of donations of BMS, milk products, bottles and teats, and food provided to under 2 years including through advising on preventive actions, setting up monitoring and reporting systems for *Code* violations and BMS distributions, providing guidance on appropriate use or disposal of confiscated BMS and informing advocacy for adherence to global standards for appropriate infant feeding in emergencies.
8. Establish and/or strengthen mechanisms and services to ensure that children who cannot be breastfed receive timely and appropriate support in line with the national guidance.
9. Prioritize the most vulnerable: orphans or unaccompanied infants, the non-breastfed child, new-born, infants affected by HIV and AIDS. Assess the needs of infants and young children and pregnant and lactating women to be taken into account across the humanitarian response.

10. Work with SBCC team and/or the press / media to develop and disseminate relevant IYCF-E messages and identify key behaviors to focus on during the emergency response.
11. Develop/ review or strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems and tools for compliance and used across the IYCF-E response to ensure quality and consistency using indicators agreed upon by the Nutrition Cluster members.
12. Assess, monitor and strengthen quality of IYCF-E activities, including through supervision of IYCF-E activities such as breastfeeding assessments, IYCF counseling, re-lactation support, BMS programming and BCC.
13. Document and share technical updates on IYCF and its issues, challenges, lessons learned and modalities that worked within the TWGs, nutrition cluster and with relevant stakeholders as per necessity.

4. Working Modalities

- IYCF Technical Working Group to meet monthly and additional as per need. Timing and location will be communicated by the IYCF TWG (focal person)
- Decision making will be through a general consensus. In any outstanding issue/point, the Chair will facilitate discussion and then decisions will be taken by the TWG on the base of mutual agreement of all stakeholders.
- Production of minutes and circulation will be done by the assigned focal person and assisted by the TWG members.
- Activation during response phase, deactivation during normal situation, provision of passing on of chairmanship on general consensus.
- Exchange of information between IMAM, Assessment, Micronutrient, Information Management TWG and other cluster members as per necessity.

5. Current Representation of the IYCF Technical Working Group

Organizations	
Chair	Hellen Keller International
Members	SUAAHARA II
	NTAG
	World Vision
	Aasaman
	UNICEF
	SABAL
	Save The Children International