



WEBINAR: *Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF-E) Assessment Guide: Measuring progress to improve practice*

Background:

In 2021, the IFE Core Group and the Global Nutrition Information System Technical Working Group agreed to review the current practices when conducting IYCF-E Assessments and to make needed recommendations on consensus-driven evidence for field implementation. The Global Nutrition Cluster supported Save the Children and ACF SMART Team Canada in conducting a mapping exercise focusing on the members of the nutrition clusters, sectors, and coordination mechanisms to identify the methodologies used when conducting IYCF-E assessments. This report summarizes the findings of the exercise undertaken between February and March 2021.

The mapping exercise helped identify nutrition sector partners' methodologies and approaches to conduct IYCF-E assessments. Overall, there are many variations in how IYCF-E assessments are performed, including methods, sampling, and questions used. It is not clear what guides the users in selecting the appropriate approach. The results show that around 15 methodologies are used to conduct IYCF-E assessments, with the KAP survey, SMART, and qualitative evaluations being preferred. The countries participating highlighted the need to define a portfolio of methodologies that could be used as preferred methodologies for subnational/local type IYCF-E assessments (standalone/integrated) for humanitarian and fragile contexts.

Based on the mapping exercise results, the members of the IFE Core Group and the NIS Working Group agreed that it was time to prioritize the development of guidelines on how to select the most appropriate IYCF-E methodology and indicators and adapt them to various contexts when conducting IYCF-E assessments (stand-alone or integrated).

Five components identified in the mapping exercise will shape the scope of this new guide:

1. Utilization of available secondary data analysis to understand the pre-crisis situation.
2. Plan and implement rapid assessments (qualitative) through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to capture the crisis's effect on women and their infant feeding practices.
3. Planning and implementation of relevant surveys and assessments.
4. Use of routine data, especially for programme indicators for practitioners.
5. Analysis and interpretation of data.

In addition, anecdotal evidence and conversations with partners also identified the need to guide the sampling strategy, including sampling methods and sample size calculations, and critical considerations to streamline the thought process based on contextual factors for a given humanitarian and fragile context.

In 2023, with support from FHI 360 and funding from the Global Nutrition Cluster, AAH led the development of a draft module to conduct a quantitative IYCF-E Assessment. Between 2023 and 2024, FHI 360, with the support of AAH and funding from BHA, led the development of the remaining four modules and the pretesting of the newly developed IYCF-E Assessment Guide. The development of the modules and tools was supported and guided by a pool of specialists from the IFE Core Group and the NIS Technical Working Group and aided by field testing in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sudan, Nigeria, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Mozambique.

After a series of technical consultations and discussions with country teams and global experts, the IYCF-E Assessment Guide has been finalized and is ready to be widely disseminated. A webinar is being organized to highlight the importance of IYCF-E Assessments in improving the quality and effectiveness of IYCF-E programmes on the ground and share experiences from country colleagues on how the new guide can help improve IYCF-E programming.

Webinar Objectives:

1. Launch the newly developed IYCF-E Assessment Guide modules and tools and sensitize the audience to assess and measure IYCF-E practices and programmes to inform programming.
 - a. Share information on how to use the newly developed IYCF-E Assessment Guide
 - b. Strengthen extended dissemination across global, regional, and national channels.
2. Raise awareness of the importance of using appropriate methods and tools to help assess and measure IYCF-E and improve programming and support.
 - a. Why, when assessments are appropriate.
3. Sharing of experiences from country experts and colleagues.

Target Participant (s):

1. In-country participants – primarily working on health and nutrition emergency programmes, assessments, monitoring and learning, and other relevant sectors that may benefit from the discussion (e.g., Protection, FSL, others).
2. International and national humanitarian actors working with women and children.
3. Programmers and policymakers.

Date: December 4, from 1 pm to 2.30 pm UK time.

Duration: 90 minutes

Platform: Global Nutrition Cluster

Methods:

1. Presentation on the situation about the IYCF-E-Assessment (mapping exercise) (10 minutes)
2. Presentation: launching the decision tool and some relevant companion tools (20 minutes)
3. Interactive Menti Board: *“Understanding the participants’ plans, support for dissemination, and use?”* (5 minutes)
4. Panel with country experiences (experience session (30 minutes) (Panel: country-level practitioners and country advisers) *“Assessments support quality IYCF-E programming...”*
5. Question and Answers (10 minutes)

Proposed Programme:

Time	Description	Facilitator
1-1:05	Introduction - Objectives - Facilitators - Programme	IFE Core Group Coordinator
1:05-1:15	A brief presentation -E Assessment Mapping	AAH-UK
1:15-1:35	Main presentation (with presentation of some of the tools)	FHI 360 & CDC
1:35-1:40	Questions/Answers on the tool	SCI
1:40-1:45	Use and dissemination of the IYCF-E Guide (Menti)	SCI
1:45-2:25	Panel with Questions and Answers from the participants panellists: AAH, Afghanistan FHI 360 Nigeria SMART Initiative Asia	ENN, FHI 360, & the IFE CG
2:25-2:30	Closing - Thank you - How to ask GNC support Webinar evaluation	NIS Working Group Coordinator