

Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergency (IYCFE) Technical Working Group Terms of Reference (TOR) March 2024

I. BACKGROUND

In Bangladesh, the Rohingya humanitarian crisis in 2017 has led to a big humanitarian response by both the international and national agencies involved in humanitarian assistance. As of 1st October 2017, more than 809,000 Rohingyas are estimated to be sheltering in Bangladesh, having fled violence and persecution in Myanmar. Violence which began on 25th August has triggered a massive and swift refugee/FDMN influx across the border - an estimated 509,000 people have arrived in the space of a month. These Refugees/FDMNs have joined some 300,000 people who were already in Bangladesh following earlier waves of displacement. The Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar is highly vulnerable, many having experienced severe trauma, and are now living in extremely difficult conditions. As of 31st January 2024, over 975,350 Rohingya refugees/FDMNs are registered in Bangladesh residing in thirty-three extremely congested camps formally designated by the Government of Bangladesh in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas of the Cox's Bazar District.

Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) status varied at both optimal and sub-optimal levels across all camps. According to the Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) Report, Cox's Bazar Refugee Camps, Bangladesh, 2023; Timely initiation of breastfeeding was 93.3%, Exclusive breastfeeding under 6 months was 69.9%, bottle feeding among children aged 0-23 months was 4.8%. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) was 15.1%, Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) was 13.1%, Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) was 2.0% (Acute malnutrition by WHZ) among 6-59 months aged children. Severe stunting was 41.2%, Anaemia was 38.2% and most common burden being stunting and anaemia combinedly was 12%. Only 16.5% of children 6-23 months consumed a minimum acceptable diet.

While breastfeeding practices has improved, overall nutrition situation and several infant and young feeding in Emergency (IYCF-E) indicators are sub-optimal despite the efforts to scale up the IYCF-E services in all the camps. IYCF-E component covers the 6 to 23 months children and their caregivers whereas under 6 months infants are managed through Community Management of At-risk Mother and Infant under six-month (C-MAMI) protocol.

Early childhood care and development (ECCD) is an integral component of preventive nutrition services covering under 5 years of children. The component focusing safe and comfortable space for children accompanying pregnant and lactating woman who attend the counselling and group session in IYCF-E corner.

Cox's Bazar Nutrition Sector has created a technical Working group to ensure technical consistency, effective coordination, and harmonization of efforts among implementing partners.

Considering the support objective similarity and maintaining continuation of optimal feeding practices (breastfeeding and initiation of complementary feeding) for physical and mental growth, all the three components are considered under this technical working group.

This Terms of References serves as guidance to all members this group working in IYCF-E, C-MAMI and ECCD in the Rohingya response under Nutrition sector.

II. OBJECTIVES

To provide operational and technical guidance to the nutrition partners implementing standard IYCF-E, C-MAMI and ECCD program.

III. ACTIVITIES

To implement and improve the services quality of IYCF, C-MAMI and ECCD programme by all the NS partners, the following activities will be maintained -

1. Provide technical assistance to all Nutrition Sector partners.
2. Update and review training program based on operational and technical guidelines including other recommended materials for the preventive nutrition programs.
3. Advise the Strategic Advisory Group on issues related to the implementation and compliance on the agreed technical standards and guidelines regarding mentioned technical areas.
4. Program performance monitoring and reporting, review, and harmonized use of tools in collaboration in NSCU.
5. Identify, discuss and support addressing gaps and challenges along with the needs of relevant assessment and survey and coordinate with relevant NS TWGs.
6. Present agenda in the Nutrition sector and follow up technical and policy issues raised within the national nutrition cluster forum and other relevant technical platforms.
7. Review and ensure implementing partners are following relevant National policies and strategies and monitoring compliance of Breast milk substitute (BMS) code.
8. Engaged the development/review of Nutrition emergency preparedness and response plan incorporating needs.
9. Identify areas for collaboration among NS partners and other relevant sectors/actors e.g. Health, WASH, FSL, Protection, Education, MHPSS, Gender & Inclusion etc. to address cross cutting issues affecting the outcome of preventive nutrition program.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

The IYCF-E TWG at the Cox's Bazar level shall be chaired by Save the Children International (SCI) and co-chaired by Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK).

Group Members:

- Agencies implementing Preventive Nutrition Programs (IYCF-E, C-MAMI and ECCD)
- UN Agencies.
- Other relevant partners recognized by NS implementing related activities.

Each organization will nominate a permanent focal person (and one alternate) to ensure consistency in representation and facilitate communication. Group members will agree to regularly attend technical group meetings, endorse the IYCF-E technical working group ToR and work plan, and abide by the ToR and fully implement the work plan.

Group Observers:

Stakeholders not directly engaged in the delivery of IYCF-E, C-MAMI and ECCD programming are welcome to attend sub-group meetings, but they will have an observer status within the group.

V. MEETING FREQUENCY AND MINUTES

Meetings will be held once a month on 3rd Monday of every month at 10:30 AM-01:00 PM and ad-hoc will be called by the IYCF-E TWG chair/Advisor when required. Meetings will be held at the NS Office or in another place agreed as agreed by the group. Should there be changes on the schedule and venue, members shall be informed accordingly in advance. Each meeting shall be led by the IYCF-E TWG Chair/Advisor, in his/her absence, by the Co-Chair. The Co-chair will take down minutes of the meeting. In the absence of Chair, Co-chair will lead the meeting and will nominate any group member to take the minutes of the meeting. The draft minutes will be circulated to members for review within three working days and will be asked for feedback within next five working days. The final minutes shall be shared within the following three working days. The minutes action points will be reviewed at each subsequent meeting.

VI. REPORTING

The IYCF-E TWG shall give an update on the actions taken and other related information at every Nutrition Sector meeting and/or in other appropriate forum. Minutes and key documents should be translated (as necessary) as soon as possible and made available in hard copies at all meetings posted online at humanitarianresponse.info

VII. WORKPLAN

Develop a specific IYCF-E TWG workplan in line with current NS strategy and JRP covering the whole year.