

Overview of Role

Position Title: Community Mother Breastfeeding Supporters (in an evacuation centre)

Supervisor's Position Title: Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies Head

Line Management Responsibility: Volunteers

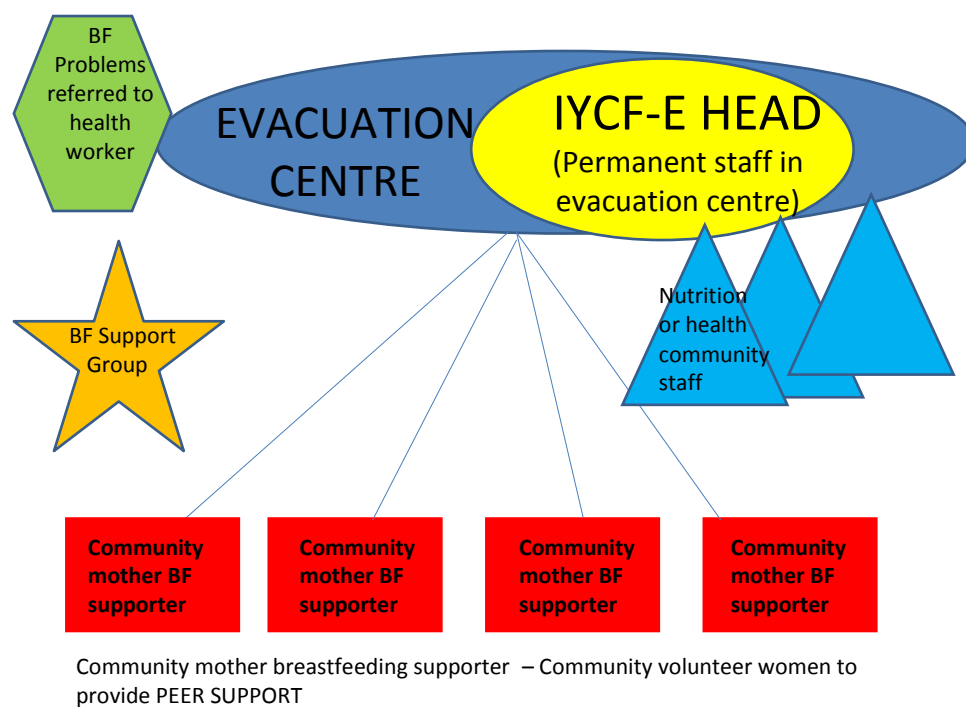
Department: Nutrition

Place of Work:

Contract duration:

Child Protection Level:

Primary Purpose:



Roles and Responsibilities

MAIN AIMS IN THE EMERGENCY due to the high risks for the young and non-breastfed during emergencies:

- To ensure that exclusively breastfed mothers continue to do so
- To ensure that mixed feeding mothers of infants <6 months start exclusively breastfeed
- To ensure that new born infants exclusively breastfeed from birth
- To protect and support non-breastfed infants and minimise risks of artificial feeding
- To ensure continued breastfeeding after 6 months at high level together with safe and appropriate complementary foods

Aim of Community Mother Breastfeeding Supporter

Their main role will be to support mothers with infants <6m to exclusively breastfeed in the evacuation centres (see additional roles below) and to continue breastfeeding thereafter

Who are they?

These are respected members of the affected community who live in the evacuation centre with their community.

Number Needed:

There may be 2-5 Community Mother Breastfeeding Supporters at each evacuation centre depending on size and need. In a large evacuation centre where there are different communities there should be one for each community. Or there could be one for each section of the evacuation centre.

How are they selected and trained?

- They are selected by the community in discussions with the IYCF-E Head. It is important that they are respected by the community (e.g. Women's Leaders)
- They are likely to be mothers but may be grandmothers or even men.
- They must be willing to learn and to get rid of any wrong breastfeeding practices or beliefs that they might have
- They can be trained 'on the job' learning by working alongside the IYCF-E Head and any BF Support Group but if time allows then more formal training would be beneficial (the flipchart can be used for training of Community Mother Breastfeeding Supporters as well as education and counselling sessions).

ROLE of Community Mother Breastfeeding Supporter:

- Supporting breastfeeding mothers <6 months to exclusively breastfeed AND mothers >6 months to continue to breastfeed – providing anything from encouragement, massage, asking the family to help with the mother's chores, just listening to the mother, being a regular visitor, providing hands-on breastfeeding assistance and so on.
- They provide mothers from their own community in the evacuation centre with continual support every day and during the night
- Provide shy and/or depressed mothers with support and encouragement
- Look after the Breastfeeding corner/area (where there is one)
- Aid the IYCF-E Head and visiting Breastfeeding Support Groups as required. Community Mother Breastfeeding Supporters are an essential part of the team and should be regarded this way and their ideas and suggestions taken on board.
- Help with (or once trained can undertake) education sessions and counselling sessions
- When they leave the evacuation centres these Community Mother Breastfeeding Supporters should be encouraged (and provided with any necessary resources) to continue their breastfeeding work in their community – creating their own Breastfeeding Support Group or linking with others.