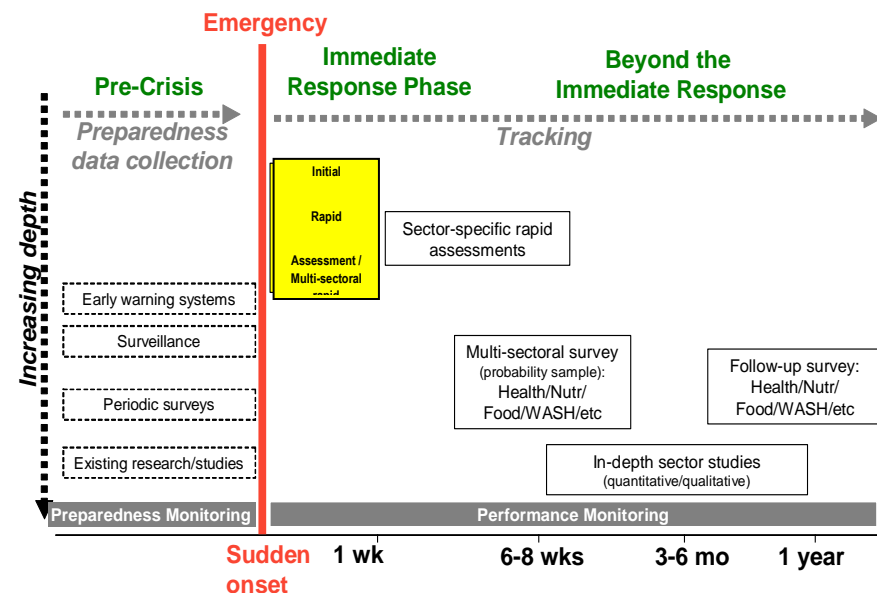




Overview of Assessing The Need

There is not an easy way to determine the need for an IYCF-E intervention. When conducting assessments or surveys it is understandable that there is a desire to get a full picture of the situation, however, the truth is that during an emergency the 'picture' is forever changing and if you were to conduct a large enough assessment to get an overview, by the time the assessment and analysis was done the picture will already have changed. Essentially through undertaking different assessments and surveys (using triangulation and different methodologies) over time you are getting different pieces of the whole rapidly changing picture (like pieces in a jigsaw). Being clear on the goal of the assessment, the time you have available and asking yourself what you will realistically be able to do with that information should help to determine which are critical pieces of information you need and what are just nice to know (realizing that the situation will change and more detailed assessments/surveys may be needed later).

Below (and the corresponding assessment tools) are split into sequential sections, however, depending on the situation they may be used at different times. The earlier that standard IYCF indicators and methodologies can be used the better in order to be able to compare information. The below graph demonstrates the different stages of an emergency and which assessments are most relevant when, although this is flexible to a certain extent.



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An overview of assessment and monitoring process at a population level, from initial rapid assessment to statistically representative surveys

Key Information Needed	Key Questions	Resources
<p>(Within 72 hours – before assessment and rapid response)</p> <p>Gather and analyze secondary data to assess the likely impact of the emergency in country</p> <p>To understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situation of population before the emergency Change in situation and what responses might be required <p>On:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infant and Child Morbidity/mortality rates Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices Food security, health, and WASH situation Prevalence of acute malnutrition (both moderate and severe) 	<p>What are the pre-crisis IYCF practices in the emergency affected areas? In particular key information needed includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclusive breastfeeding rates in 0-<6 month old infants in the population pre-emergency Pre-crisis rates of initiation of breastfeeding in new born infants Proportion of infants or groups of infants that were not breastfed pre-emergency Proportion of infants who are mixed fed (breastfeeding combined with other fluids or foods, including breastmilk substitutes) Common complementary feeding practices Continued breastfeeding at 1 year and 2 years of age. <p><i>(Check methods, use of standard indicators and age assessment used in any reports – make sure standard international protocols used)</i></p> <p>Other key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What resources are available to support IYCF-E programming, e.g availability of skilled breastfeeding counsellors locally or nationally who could be mobilised to support breastfeeding e.g. International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) groups, Leche League Groups, International Lactation Consultant Association networks? Availability of local appropriate (energy and nutrient dense) foods for complementary feeding of children 6-24 months of age? What is the legislative status of the Code? Are there any existing national IYCF and/or IYCF-E policies or action plans? What proportion of children less than 6 months has acute malnutrition? (This is a reflection of sub-optimal IYCF practices.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Demographic and Health Survey for your country will give you a baseline data at national level and usually at regional level. This can be found at DHS online. Some countries may have conducted recent national Multiple Indicator Cluster (MICS) surveys. Get these surveys from UNICEF or MoH. Find out if there has been any other nutrition surveys conducted by MoH, UNICEF, or other agencies in or near your target areas, and get the results. (Other sources include ALNAP reports, previous FLASH or CAPs, DevInfo) Find out if there have been any IYCF Knowledge, Attitudes & Practice (KAP) surveys conducted in your target area or nationally, and get the results. Find out if there have been any health, food security, or WASH surveys, and get the results. Note: 'Proportion of infants or groups of infants that were not breastfed pre-emergency' is not a standard IYCF indicator, so it may not be available from reports. It is possible to estimate if area graphs have been used to illustrate IYCF practices see References, I. Determining the Need, C. Standard IYCF Survey Tools and Indicators for a description of the graphs.
Key Information Needed	Key Questions	Resources
	Other:	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the prevalence of acute malnutrition (SAM and MAM) nationally and in your target area(s)? What is the normal infant morbidity and mortality rate? What are the main underlying factors for malnutrition (e.g., access to health care, WASH infrastructure, health & hygiene practices, food security, etc.) 	
Gather information on current coordination and gaps in coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the gaps? In services or geographically? How do other actors perceive how the population nutrition status, in particular related to IYCF-E, has been affected? Determine assessment plans and existing programming plans – who is doing what where, collect maps, contact numbers etc Are existing facilities able to cope? Do they have sufficient staff, training, supplies, and facilities? What are plans / options for coordinated purchase, targeting and monitoring of BMS? Plans for prevention of malnutrition through provision of complementary food? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Nutrition Cluster (or relevant sector coordination mechanism) in the country is the best option for finding out what others are doing and where the gaps are. Determine feasible partnerships with other agencies. UNICEF is the likely lead for IYCF-E (see Operational Guidance on IYCF-E). Check that they are actively coordinating the response. If not advocate for them to do so and/or determine if another agency is best positioned to lead or co-lead. Is there a government policy on IYCF-E that sets out roles in terms of procurement of BMS? The designated IYCF-E coordination body should assess government capacity to provides BMS or determine how BMS provision will be coordinated. UNHCR and UNICEF will only procure BMS after approval from their respective HQs – determine if approval has been given. (2010 Addendum to Operational Guidance on IYCF-E v3.0, 2017) WFP may provide general rations, food for blanket feeding, supplementary feeding, etc. Determine the suitability of the foods for complementary feeding and plans. The One Response website will outline who is doing what in current emergency situations and give you information about the clusters. Contact other food and nutrition actors globally and locally (other NGOs / UN, local government, coordinating bodies, donors). Network with other sectors to get a sense of the scope of the necessary response and where nutrition/IYCF-E might fit Determine if current capacity is sufficient to manage the current or anticipated caseload. If not, what is the gap?

Key Information Needed	Key Questions	Resources
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<p>Conduct an initial rapid assessment (concurrent to an early response)</p> <p>Any emergency nutrition intervention should be provided on the basis of assessed needs - while emergency preparedness plan scenarios may guide what programmes could be implemented, proper assessment is required!</p> <p>The assessment will give a better idea of the extent of the problem to determine whether intervention is needed and at what scale.</p> <p>Initial or early rapid assessment on IYCF-E combines multisectoral information and specific IYCF information to</p>	<p>Note: The current MIRA does not contain adequate IYCF-E questions in order to determine an appropriate response. Some key IYCF-E questions to include in a rapid assessment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Has infant formula (dried or ready to use) or other milk products (e.g., dried whole, semi-skimmed or skimmed milk powder, ready to use milk) and/or baby bottles/teats been distributed since the emergency started? If yes, by whom? ▪ Estimate what percentage of infants 0-<6months old and 6-<12months old are not breastfed? Compare with pre-emergency assessment. ▪ Has the community/health staff/parents/caregivers identified any problems in feeding children <2 years since the crisis started? (possibly breakdown further e.g. 0-<6m, 6m-<2yrs) If yes, what problems have been reported? ▪ Since the emergency, what foods are most commonly fed to children 6-24 months of age? ▪ What are the priorities expressed by parents and caregivers regarding infant and young child feeding? <p>Key multi-sectoral information that is relevant to IYCF-E includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Population profile, e.g. estimated number of children under 2 years, any orphans, any unaccompanied young children ▪ Water, sanitation and hygiene conditions ▪ Household shelter ▪ Access to food suitable for preparing meals for young children ▪ Access to and availability of different food types in markets, including infant formula ▪ Prevalence of acute malnutrition in children under two years ▪ Reports of acute malnutrition in infants under six months of age ▪ Key information to access from the <i>health sector</i> includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Birth rate and how/where newborns are born/managed ▪ Measles vaccination coverage in U5s ▪ Community and facility based health care services ▪ Incidence of diarrhea, acute respiratory tract infections in infants and children ▪ Any outbreaks of malaria, measles, cholera 	<p>Refer to the assessment tools section in the toolkit</p> <p>Note: depending on the level of detail required (including time and resources available) the examples of assessment tools in the other sections can be modified for use.</p>
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enable a rapid analysis of the situation with regard to IYCF-E. It involves collating and analysing secondary data, background information and primary data. Specific IYCF-E information should always be gathered in initial rapid assessment in an emergency.		
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Key Information Needed	Key Questions	Resources
<p><u>Assessment teams should include at least one person who has received basic orientation on IYCF-E. Data should be analysed by those with expertise on IYCF(-E) to determine next steps, and results shared through the co-ordinating body.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low birth weight rates <p>ALERT</p> <p><i>Early IYCF-E assessment information is especially looking for factors that indicate that infants and young children are at increased and significant risk, and that warrant further investigation.</i></p> <p><i>Here are some of the warning signs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>General distribution of infant formula and milk products, and/or bottles and teats</i> <i>Mothers reporting difficulties in breastfeeding or stopping breastfeeding due to the crisis situation.</i> <i>Reports of infants under 6 months who are not breastfed</i> <i>Reports of increased diarrhoea in infants under 12 months</i> <i>Poor availability of food for complementary feeding in the markets/food aid provided.</i> <i>Mothers reporting difficulties feeding their children.</i> <p>As much as possible the triangulation principle should be applied – all information needs to be cross-checked and a variety of sources used e.g. key informants, group discussion, individual questionnaires, observation.</p>	

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<p>If needed follow up with a detailed 'sector specific assessment' to inform programming decisions</p> <p><i>Note: A rapid assessment will give you an idea of the scale of the problem and help you estimate caseload; however, it is not an exact measure of need</i></p>		
<p>Conduct a more detailed IYCF-E specific assessment</p> <p>If identified in the initial rapid assessment a more detailed assessment may be undertaken. This may be a 'standalone' IYCF-E assessment or incorporated into other assessments, e.g. nutrition</p>	<p>The assessment depends on: the goal of the assessment; what time there is available; the homogeneity of the target group; the layout of the emergency population (e.g. camp, over large area), etc.</p> <p>The <u>Operational Guidance on IYCF-E</u> gives general overview on key information that may be needed in a specific IYCF-E assessment (it is a key resource).</p> <p>The triangulation principle should be applied – all information needs to be cross-checked and a variety of sources used e.g. key informants, group discussion, individual questionnaires, observation.</p>	<p>Refer to examples in the tools section of the toolkit and the Needs Assessment collection in the IYCFE Hub for more references: https://iycfehub.org/</p>

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surveys, reproductive health.		
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Key Information Needed	Key Questions	Resources
<p>It is important that <u>standard indicators and methods of data collection</u> and <u>careful determination of child age</u> are used when collecting data on infant and young child feeding practices. This enables comparison between assessments. Expertise will also be needed to guide on sampling, methodology, data analysis and to inform development of any necessary interventions.</p>		<p>sampling frame and the results of the survey enabled statistical analysis of the IYCF-E response – see article) here.</p> <p>Also see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Section 4 Operational Guidance on IYCF-E ▪ FAO Child Age guide (2008) → Needs Assessment Tools Section/IYCFE toolkit ▪ IFE Core Group age guide → Needs Assessment Key Section/IYCFE toolkit <p>(Note: The IYCF-E part of the Save the Children MIRA assessment tool as a way to collate the data from the different sources into one format)</p> <p>Note: depending on the level of detail required (including time and resources available) the examples of assessment tools in the other sections can be modified for use.</p>

Next Step:

A standard IYCF survey should be undertaken in order to compare IYCF practices. However, depending on the situation, additional questions are likely to be needed.

Refer to:

- WHO. Indicators for assessing infant and young child feeding practices [here](#)
- CARE. Infant and Young Child Feeding. Collecting and Using Data: A Step-by-Step Guide.
- UNHCR Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) Guidelines For Refugee Populations. Module 3. Infant and Young Child Feeding. A practical step-by-step guide. Version 1.3 (March 2012)

Also:

- **Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Surveys (KAP)** can provide important information. They are usually undertaken as the situation settles.

Other tools:

Bottle Feeding Survey – to establish the number of infants using a feeding bottle and the reasons why. Tool may be used at different stages of the emergency response.

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