PREVENTING AND MANAGI

BREASTMILK SUBSTITUTES AND OTHER PROHIBITED PRODUCTS

A guide for emergency relief staff, donors, and governments

During emergencies:

Do not solicit, donate, accept, or distribute donations of breastmilk substitutes (BMS) and other products*



*Prohibited donations

Donations and uncontrolled distributions of the following products put infants at risk:

- Breastmilk substitutes, including infant formula, follow-on formula and growing-up milk.
- Other milk products, e.g. dried or liquid cow's milk, soya milk, evaporated or condensed milk, fermented milk or yoghurt.
- Baby teas, juices and waters marketed as suitable for infants under six months.
- Bottles, teats, breast pumps.
- Any commercial complementary food marketed for use for infants under six months.

What's the risk?

Donated products are often:

- In violation of the WHO Code.
- Unsafe (expired, the wrong type, unreliable quality etc.).
- Excessive in quantity.
- Labelled in the wrong language.
- Not supplied in a reliable manner.
- Not possible to hygienically use in an emergency context.
- Used by breastfeeding mothers, disrupting their milk supply.
- Lacking the instructions, supplies and support that caregivers of formula dependent infants need to feed safely.





Donations and uncontrolled distributions directly decrease breastfeeding, increase formula feeding, malnutrition, illness and death



Prevent donations

Do you know your role?



Never call for donations of these products.



• Repeatedly sensitise key actors, including other sectors and potential donors, on the dangers of donations and blanket distributions.

Systematically share information, including reports of violations, for action (e.g. enforcement) at a national level and global level (e.g. NetCode).

• Develop and widely disseminate a joint statement to key stakeholders, including media, communications, logistics, donors and partner agencies.

Be aware of relevant policies.



Report any calls for, offers of or actual donations (including online media) to the designated authority.







Food security sector

distribution.



Customs

• Put in place customs and importation

control measures to implement



the **WHO Code** and that prohibited

products are never part of a blanket

government policy. • Keep **clear records** and communicate regularly on confiscated relief items (source, type, quantity).





Ensure Violation/Donation Alert and Monitoring System is in place.

• Establish a Donation Prevention and Management Taskforce.

Government, health and nutrition cluster coordinators and partners

• Endorse and disseminate a **policy** clearly stating that donations will not be accepted.

Child protection and social welfare sector



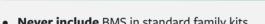


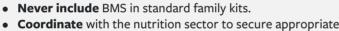
• **Do not** call for donations of these products.

Disseminate information that encourages

helpful aid and discourages harmful aid.

• Fund **lifesaving services** and supplies e.g. nutritious food for mothers, skilled breastfeeding support and appropriately managed artificial feeding support services.





infant feeding support for separated and orphaned children.

• Adopt policy on donations and distributions.

 Reject requests for procurement, storage. transportation and distribution of restricted products without official approval.



Detect and manage unprevented donations

Donations can arrive early in an emergency. Preparedness is critical: it saves money, time and lives.









1. Detect and report

- Activate a Violation/Donation Alert System (e.g. online reporting form). • Sensitise all stakeholders on why and how to report donations, uncontrolled distributions and other Code violations.
- Rapidly share incoming alerts with the IYCF-E Coordination Authority/ Donation Prevention and Management Taskforce.

2. Intercept, transport and securely store

- Activate the Taskforce to handle incoming alerts.
- · Assign a designated agency (ideally the Ministry of Health) to rapidly intercept prohibited products.
- Implement security measures to ensure stored products are not stolen or re-used.

3. Sort and handle

- Establish a **Donation Management Plan** to guide decision-making on what to do with intercepted products.
- Secure resources to implement the plan, including funding, expertise, HR (including sorting and handling teams), storage facilities, transportation and equipment (e.g. for lifting/destruction).
- Handle donations according to the Donation Management Plan.



Donation Management Plan

Is the product considered adequate complementary food?

> Product meets nutritional and safety standards and does not undermine local food use.



Is the product a BMS that is suitable for use?

Suitable BMS includes products that are not nearing expiry, are the correct type and meet quality standards.

Can the intervention be **justified and funded?** It is important to cost whether the intervention can be justified (e.g. consider cost of relabelling, distribution, cost of additional supplies etc.)







Is the product suitable for re-use?

Unsuitable products include feeding bottles, products that are expired, the wrong type, do not meet Codex Alimentarius standards etc.

Consider reusing while abiding by national standards and recommendations.

> Consider re-using suitable milk PROCEED WITH CAUTION AND ENCOURAGE A DECISION-MAKING PROCESS THAT IS SENSITIVE TO THE CONTEXT

Return

Return the product to the donor at their expense.

Start

Can the product be returned?

Dispose

Remove milk products from packaging before disposing of them. Make bottles and teats useless e.g. through cutting off the top.



Keep the media and public informed to prevent uninformed journalists and politicians from sensationalising and politicising the storage and destruction of donations.

Suitable uses:

Re-use

- Use in preparation of bread, biscuits and cakes that can be distributed.
- Institutional nutrition support, e.g. for the elderly, orphans. • Prepare a fortified blended food for use as complementary food for infants over six months.
- Use for school feeding programmes. Use in animal feed.
- Other acceptable local solutions that are in line with the OG-IFE.



Part of the Infant Feeding in Emergencies Core Group infographic series. Find out more at www.ennonline.net/ife