

## **Pledge for Action**

### **Steps to improving Infant Feeding in Emergencies**

*102 participants from 16 countries and special territories met in Bali, Indonesia from 10-13 March 2008. We agree on the following:*

The protection, promotion and support of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies is inadequate. Inappropriate use of breastmilk substitutes in emergencies, often received as unsolicited donations, endangers the lives of infants and young children. Creation of a protective environment and provision of skilled support to breastfeeding women and caregivers of infants and young children is a life-saving intervention in all emergencies. Equally, non-breastfed infants require appropriate care and follow up to reduce the significant risks they are exposed to through artificial feeding.

As participants and individuals committed to safeguarding public health and well-being, we pledge to implement the Operational Guidance on Infant Feeding in Emergencies to our full capacity. In particular we pledge to:

1. Ensure Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IFE) is integrated into national policies on emergencies and Infant and Young Child Feeding/nutrition.
2. Develop a policy on donations, including a designated agency responsible for managing unsolicited donations.
3. Act to strengthen implementation of the International Code.
4. Identify ways to strengthen coordination for IFE.
5. Build capacity to support breastfeeding mothers through breastfeeding counselling by health and community workers, and other measures.
6. Improve capacity and systems to improve complementary feeding.
7. Improve capacity to provide support for non-breastfed infants and minimize the risks of artificial feeding.
8. Educate and advise donors on how best to support IFE, including by not donating breastmilk substitutes.
9. Engage the media to improve how IFE is presented to the public.
10. Document and share experiences on the impact of our country's emergency response and interventions on IFE.
11. Include infant and young child feeding in emergency assessments.

*Agreed on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in Bali, Indonesia.*