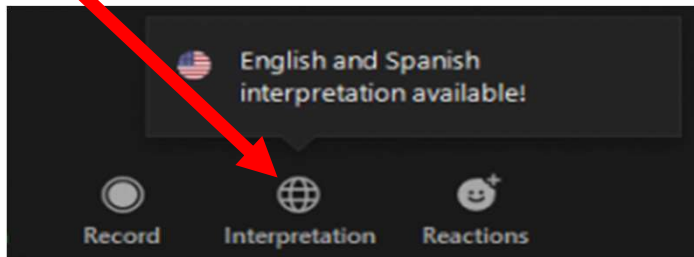


A Learning and Sharing Café: WHO/UNICEF IYCF Indicators: challenges and opportunities in humanitarian contexts

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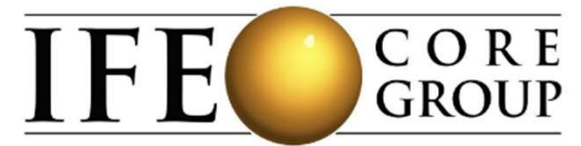
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يمكن الاستفادة من الترجمة الفورية عن طريق النقر فوق
رمز الكرة الأرضية أسفل الشاشة.



SMART



A Learning and Sharing Café: WHO/UNICEF IYCF Indicators: challenges and opportunities in humanitarian contexts

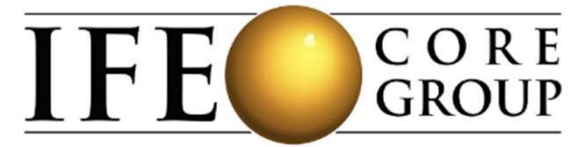
24 November 2021

2-3.30PM CET





Members of the IFE Core Group Webinar Working Group



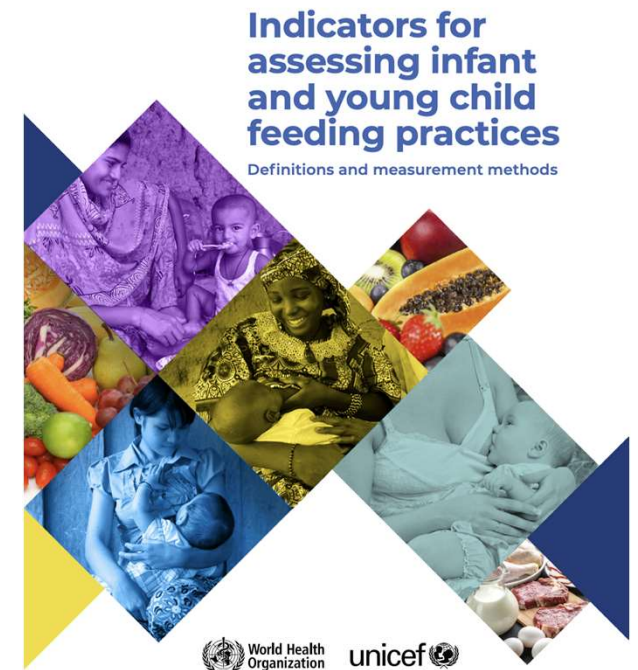
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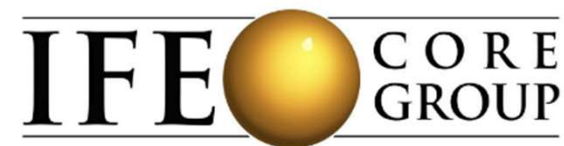
Objectives - Sharing and Learning!

- Disseminate the findings and recommendations of the IYCF-E assessment mapping exercise
- Raise awareness on the updated WHO/UNICEF IYCF indicators
- Discuss opportunities, challenges and best practices for using the IYCF indicators in emergency contexts





SMART



Joint initiative of:

- Infant Feeding in Emergencies Core Group
- Nutrition Information System Global Thematic Working Group (NIS-WG)
- With support from UNICEF, WHO and CDC



Webinar Agenda

- Introduction
- IYCF-E assessment mapping presentation
- Panel discussion
- Q&A
- Closing



Today's Facilitators and Presenters



Linda Shaker Berbari
IFE Core Group Facilitator /
Consultant
Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN)



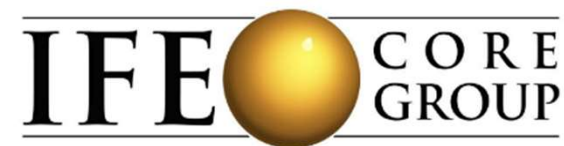
Hassan Ali Ahmed
Associate Director of Nutrition
Global Lead for SMART Initiative
Action Against Hunger Canada



Jana Daher
SMART Project Manager Research,
Innovation and Technology
Action Against Hunger Canada




Fatmata Fatima Sesay
Nutrition Specialist,
Infant Feeding
UNICEF HQ




Alessandro Iellamo
Senior Emergency Adviser
FHI360



Deborah Joy Wilson
Maternal, Infant and Young
Child Nutrition Specialist
WFP HQ



Mapping of current
practices related to IYCF
assessment methodologies
in
humanitarian and fragile
environments
Date: February -March 2021



Objective of the mapping exercise

The overall objective :

- To map the current IYCF assessment methodologies practices in humanitarian and fragile environments.

Specific objectives of the mapping exercise were:

- To identify IYCF assessment methodologies, tools, dissemination mode, barriers /bottlenecks, and indicators used.
- To understand the “representativeness” of the IYCF assessments being conducted (i.e. sampling)
- To process, analyze and document collected information with recommendations to the Global Nutrition Information System Working Group (GNISWG) and the Infant Feeding in Emergencies Core (IFE CG) Group.

Methodology

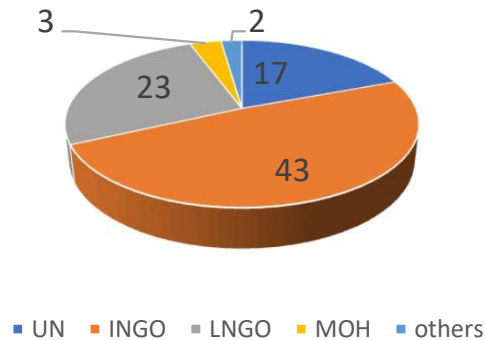
- An Excel sheet with the questions was developed in order to be filled up by the target respondents
- The final draft of the excel sheet was shared for review with the Global Nutrition Information System Working Group (GNISWG) and Infant Feeding in Emergencies Core (IFE CG) Group,
- The reviewed and updated excel sheet (mapping tool) was uploaded in survey monkey.
- The final tool was shared globally
- The information was processed progressively on a rolling basis.

Target participants of the mapping exercise

- Nutrition Clusters and sectors
 - Nutrition assessment working groups and their members
 - IYCF Technical working groups and their members
- Members of the IFE Core Group
- Members of the Global Nutrition Cluster

Q2. The names of the countries where IYCF-E assessment is conducted. Participants from 26 countries responded

country name	Participants gave consent
Afghanistan	2
Algeria	1
Argentine	2
Burkina Faso	1
Central Africa Republic	7
Colombia	1
Congo DRC	3
Ethiopia	3
Greece	2
Guatemala	1
Iraq	1
Kenya	1
Mauritania	1
Mozambique	3
Myanmar (Burma)	4
Nicaragua	2
Nigeria	4
palestine	2
Peru	1
Philiines	2
Senegal	1
Somalia	17
South Sudan	1
Sudan	7
Syria	5
Yemen	13
responded	88
skipped	58

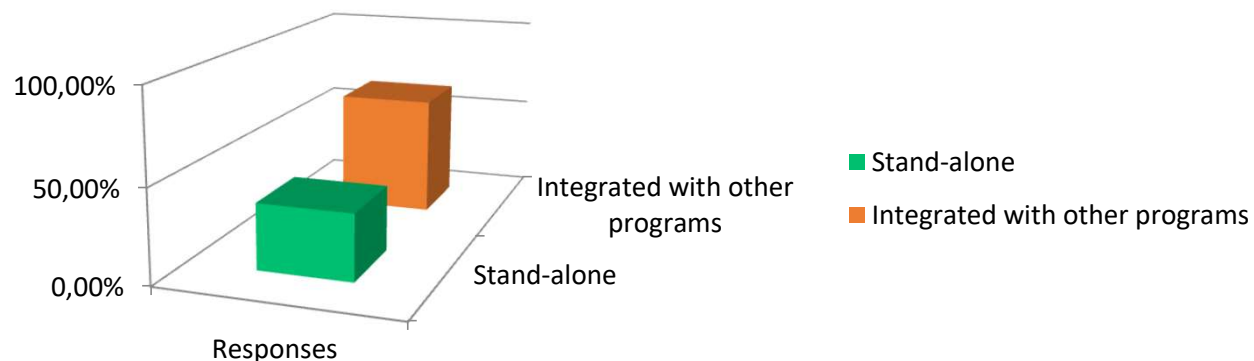


Agency	number	%
UN	17	19%
INGO	43	49%
LNGO	23	26%
MOH	3	3%
others	2	2%
Total	88	100%

Q3. Agency Implemented IYCF assessment 88 responded, 58 skipped

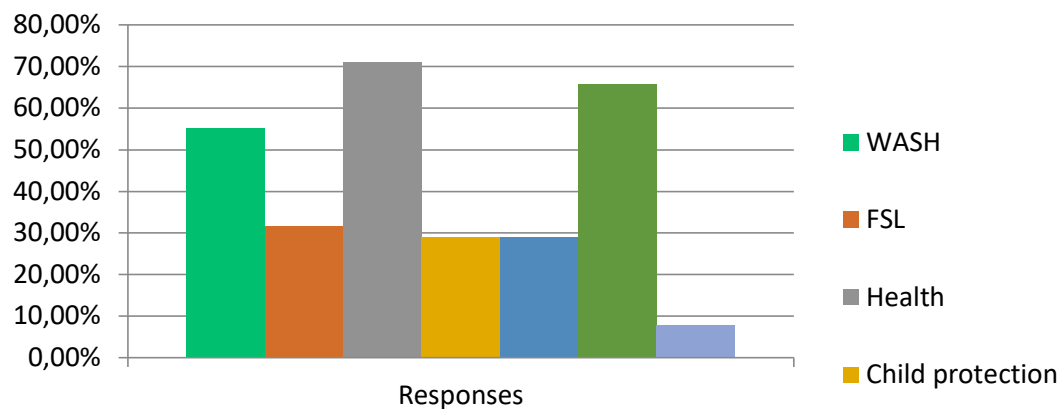
Q10. Was the assessment a stand-alone assessment or integrated with other programs (such as SMART, Food Security, Multi-sectoral)? (select one)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Stand-alone	35.53%	27
Integrated with other programs	64.47%	49
	Answered	76
	Skipped	70



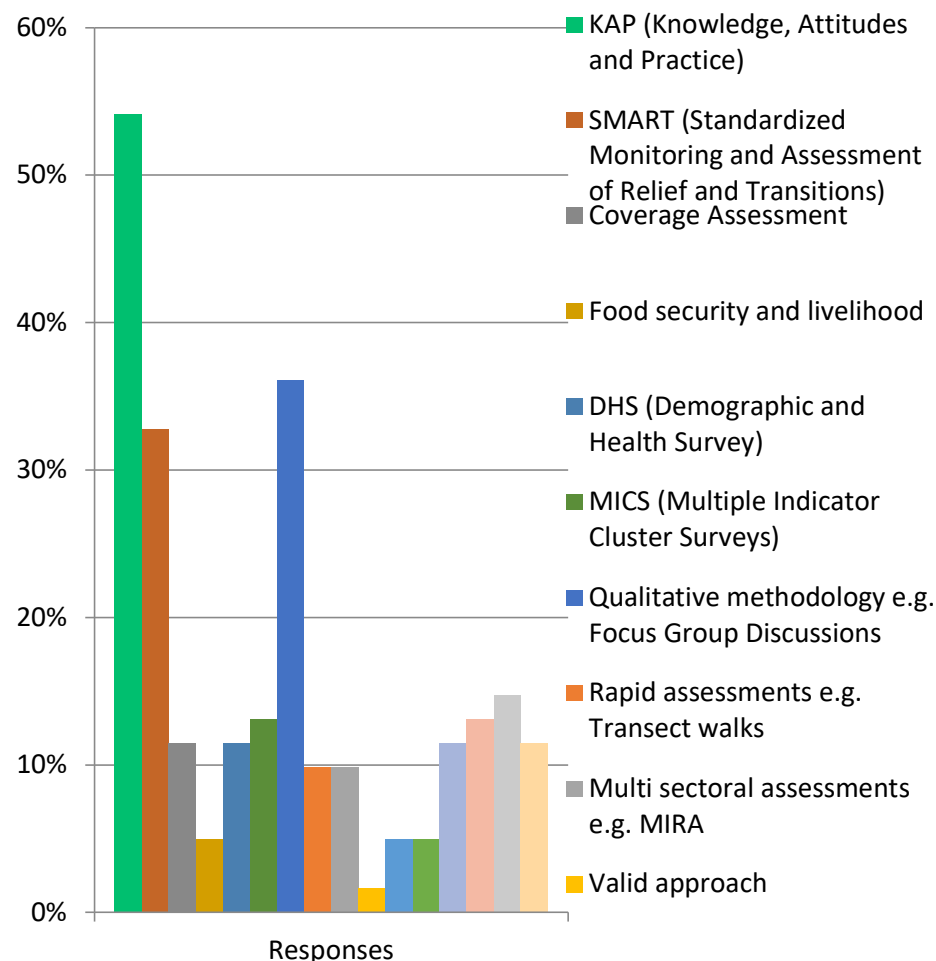
Q11. If Integrated, with which program/sector (select all that apply)?

Answer Choices	Responses	
WASH	55.26%	21
FSL	31.58%	12
Health	71.05%	27
Child protection	28.95%	11
Education	28.95%	11
Integrated nutrition assessment	65.79%	25
Other (please specify)	7.89%	3
	Answered	38
	Skipped	108



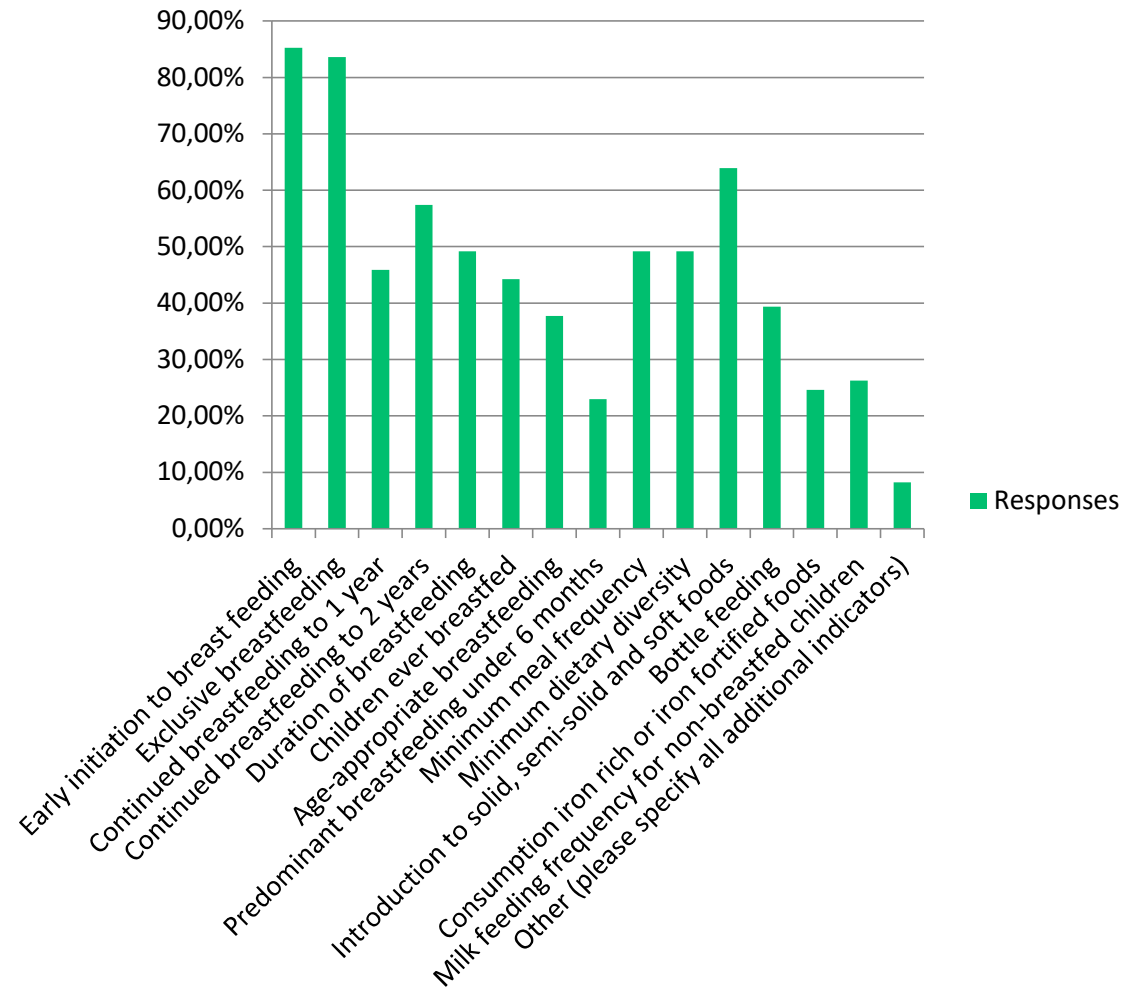
Q14. What methodology did you use? (select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice)	54.10%	33
SMART (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions)	32.79%	20
Coverage Assessment	11.48%	7
Food security and livelihood	4.92%	3
DHS (Demographic and Health Survey)	11.48%	7
MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys)	13.11%	8
Qualitative methodology e.g. Focus Group Discussions	36.07%	22
Rapid assessments e.g. Transect walks	9.84%	6
Multi sectoral assessments e.g. MIRA	9.84%	6
Valid approach	1.64%	1
Service mapping	4.92%	3
SENS (Standardized expanded nutrition survey)	4.92%	3
Barrier Analysis	11.48%	7
Nutrition causal analysis	13.11%	8
Integrated survey e.g. Food security and nutrition assessments	14.75%	9
Other (please specify)	11.48%	7
	Answered	61
	Skipped	85



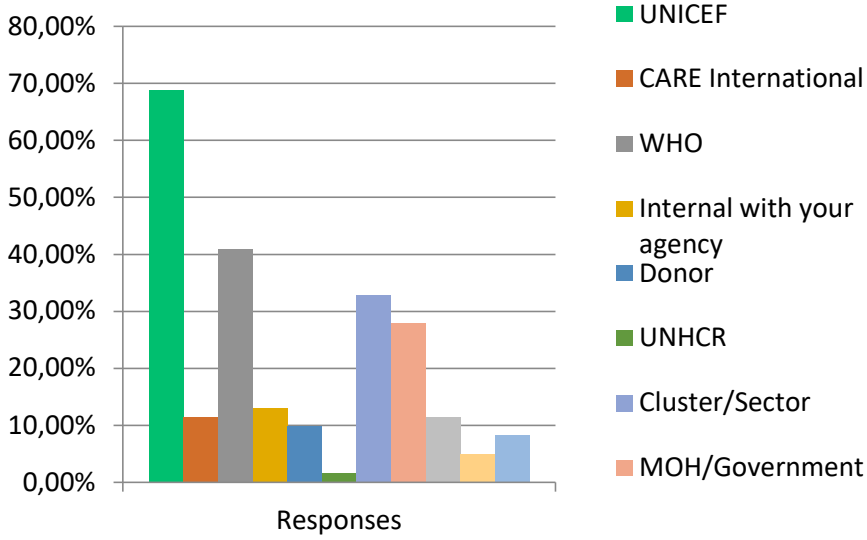
Q15. What IYCF-E indicators did you include in your survey? (select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Early initiation to breast feeding	85.25%	52
Exclusive breastfeeding	83.61%	51
Continued breastfeeding to 1 year	45.90%	28
Continued breastfeeding to 2 years	57.38%	35
Duration of breastfeeding	49.18%	30
Children ever breastfed	44.26%	27
Age-appropriate breastfeeding	37.70%	23
Predominant breastfeeding under 6 months	22.95%	14
Minimum meal frequency	49.18%	30
Minimum dietary diversity	49.18%	30
Introduction to solid, semi-solid and soft foods	63.93%	39
Bottle feeding	39.34%	24
Consumption iron rich or iron fortified foods	24.59%	15
Milk feeding frequency for non-breastfed children	26.23%	16
Other (please specify all additional indicators)	8.20%	5
Green: Core Indicators	Answered	61
Yellow: Optional Indicators	Skipped	85



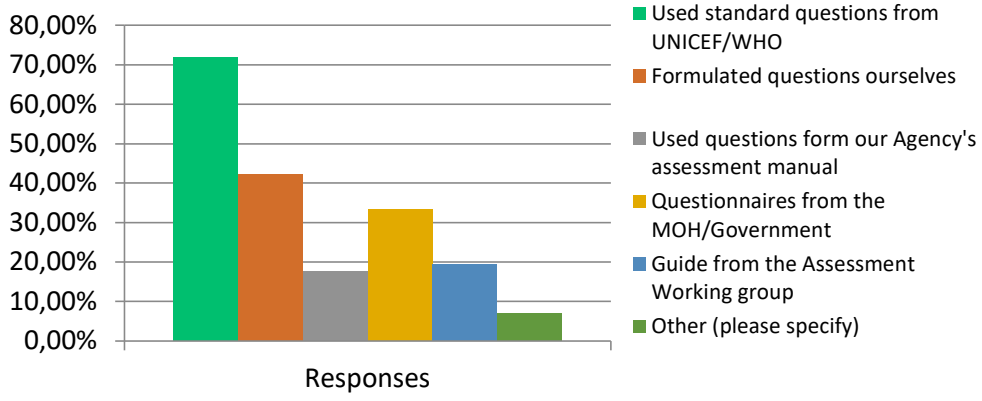
Q16. What was the source/reference for the indicators you used? (select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
UNICEF	68.85%	42
CARE International	11.48%	7
WHO	40.98%	25
Internal with your agency	13.11%	8
Donor	9.84%	6
UNHCR	1.64%	1
Cluster/Sector	32.79%	20
MOH/Government	27.87%	17
NIWG/ IYCF-E working group	11.48%	7
GNC Indicator Registry	4.92%	3
Other (please specify any other sources)	8.20%	5
	Answered	61
	Skipped	85



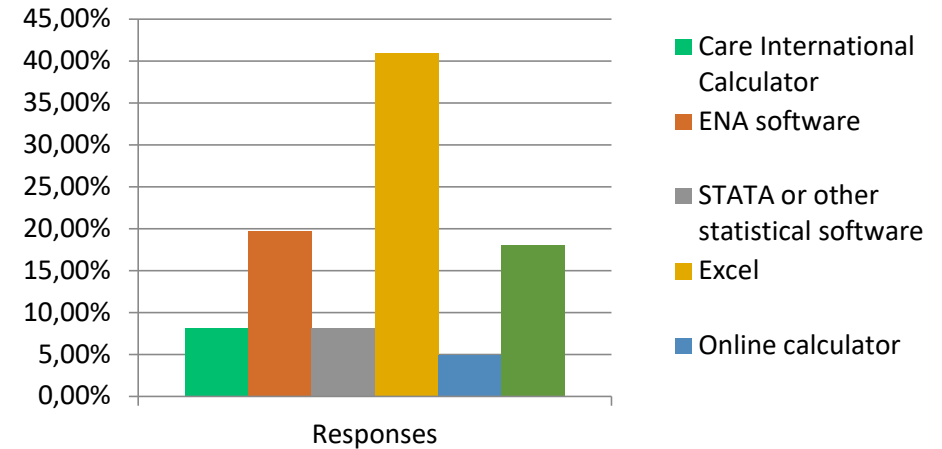
Q23. How did you develop your assessment questions? (select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Used standard questions from UNICEF/WHO	71.93%	41
Formulated questions ourselves	42.11%	24
Used questions form our Agency's assessment manual	17.54%	10
Questionnaires from the MOH/Government	33.33%	19
Guide from the Assessment Working group	19.30%	11
Other (please specify)	7.02%	4
	Answered	57
	Skipped	89



Q17. What tool was used for sample size calculation? (select one)

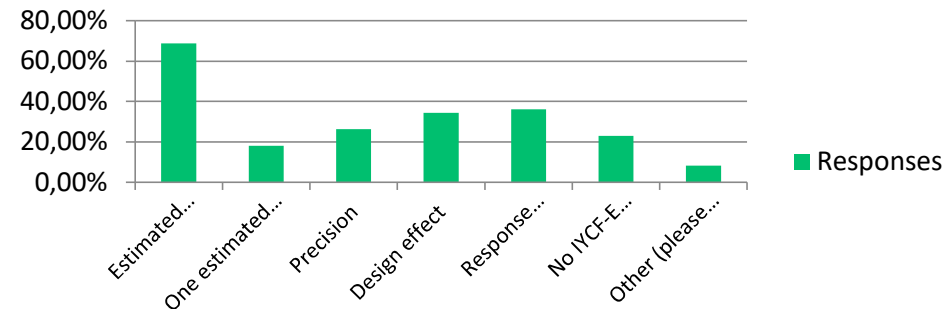
Answer Choices	Responses	
Care International Calculator	8.20%	5
ENA software	19.67%	12
STATA or other statistical software	8.20%	5
Excel	40.98%	25
Online calculator	4.92%	3
Other (please specify any additional tools)	18.03%	11
	Answered	61
	Skipped	85



Q18. What parameters were included in the sample size calculation?

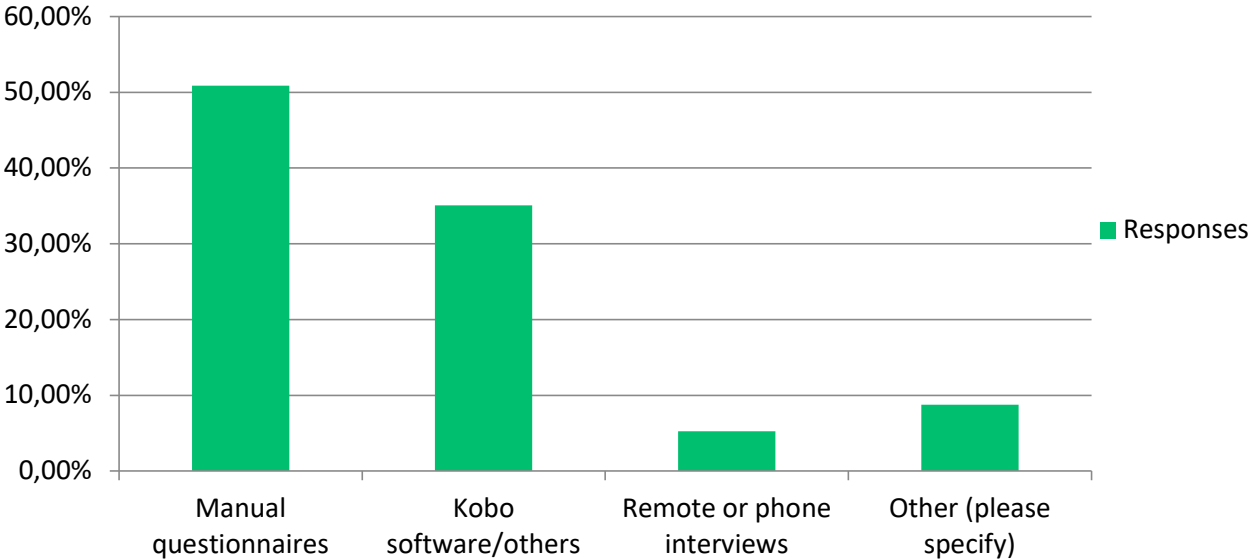
Answer Choices	Responses	
Estimated prevalence for each indicator	68.85%	42
One estimated prevalence for all indicators	18.03%	11
Precision	26.23%	16
Design effect	34.43%	21
Response rate/Non-response rate	36.07%	22
No IYCF-E parameter considered, but parameters from other indicators (e.g. GAM)	22.95%	14
Other (please specify)	8.20%	5
	Answered	61
	Skipped	85

What parameters were included in the sample size calculation? (select all that apply)



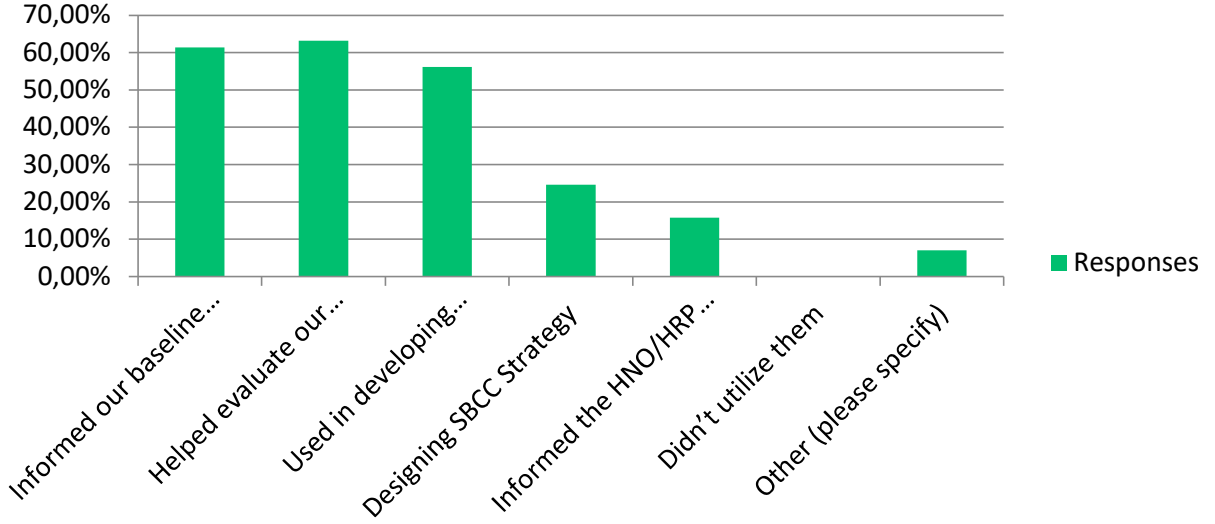
Q22. What tool did you use for data collection? (select one)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Manual questionnaires	50.88%	29
Kobo software/others	35.09%	20
Remote or phone interviews	5.26%	3
Other (please specify)	8.77%	5
	Answered	57
	Skipped	89



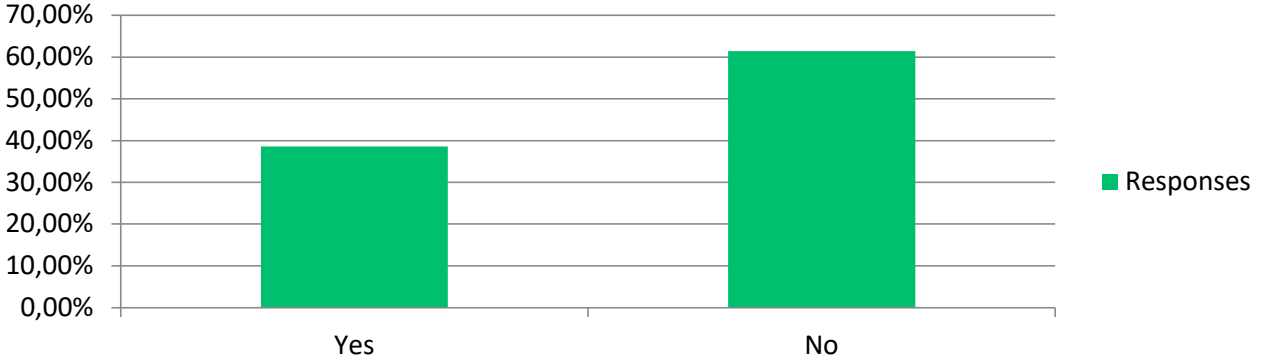
Q28. How did you utilize the results? (select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Informed our baseline situation	61.40%	35
Helped evaluate our project	63.16%	36
Used in developing proposals	56.14%	32
Designing SBCC Strategy	24.56%	14
Informed the HNO/HRP development	15.79%	9
Didn't utilize them	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	7.02%	4
	Answered	57
	Skipped	89



Q29. Did you use any thresholds to interpret your results? (select one)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	38.60%	22
No	61.40%	35
	Answered	57
	Skipped	89





Challenges

1. The lack of globally recognized thresholds for IYCF indicators
 2. No harmonized sampling methodology for IYCF –E assessments.
 3. No standard methodology of IYCF-E assessment such SMART, SQUEAC, etc. that can be followed easily.
 4. The inclusion of IYCF in integrated assessments continues to be a challenge in terms of representativeness of data.
 5. Population movement, increased insecurity and the on-going COVID-19 pandemic are limiting implementation of assessments in the field.
-

Recommendations

1. Methodology and sample size calculation

- It would be important for WHO/UNICEF and other global stakeholders to review and recommend a limited number of methodologies that could be used for subnational/local type IYCF-E assessments (standalone/integrated) as preferred methodologies for emergencies and humanitarian contexts.
- For the SMART Team to consider facilitating integration of standardized IYCF modules in the new SMART+ software that could be used when IYCF-E assessments are conducted independently and or as part of the SMART surveys.

2. Thresholds

- IYCF and IYCF-E thresholds are generally not available. The Humanitarian Needs Analysis Tool developed by the GNC provided the opportunity to recommend consensus driven thresholds.
- It is highly recommended to review the progress and experience in the utilization of those thresholds and recommend their interim use when conducting IYCF-E assessments.

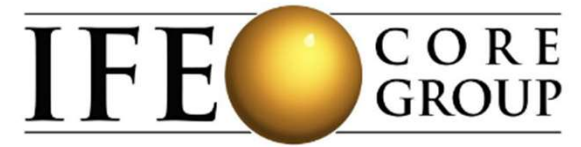
Thanks to the following:

1. ACF Canada SMART Team
2. Save the Children
3. GNC TA NIS working group
4. The IFE Core Group
5. all the colleagues that responded to the survey

Learning and Sharing Café

Panel Discussion

Panel Members



Laurence M. Grummer-Strawn

Head of the Food and Nutrition Actions in
Health Systems Unit,
World Health Organisation



Vrinda Mehra

Statistics Specialist, Division of Data,
Analytics, Planning and Monitoring
UNICEF



Dr Oleg Bilukha

Associate Director for Science
Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention



Question #1

Prioritisation of indicators

We agree the new indicators are important to assess in order to provide appropriate and effective IYCF programming. We understand the rationale for each of the indicators, and guidance for calculating the indicators is understandable. However, especially given there are no longer core and optional indicators, **it is difficult to know how to prioritize indicators** especially when scarce resources, donor requirements, or multi-sectoral projects don't allow for use of all the indicators. In emergency (or other) responses, nutrition may be a small component of a larger response. However, IYCF surveys may be more intensive and require more resources than other sectors.

Therefore,

- > Which indicators would be a priority to integrate in for example SMART surveys?
- > How can we integrate the new indicators into multi-sector surveys?
- > What would be priority indicators for different contexts including conflict settings?
- > Which indicators would be a priority to integrate if it is not feasible to integrate all?

Question #2

SMART survey specific question

Are there ongoing efforts by the SMART Initiative or by other groups (WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR others) to pilot rapid assessment methodologies of the new indicators, that could be accepted by the international community?

If yes, can you tell us what is the timeline?
If no, would this be something to consider?

Question #3

Sampling and narrow age range

Because of the narrow age ranges required for the denominators of some indicators (ex. caregivers of children 0-5 months), the sample size needed for statistically significant results for the survey becomes quite unwieldy.

Such a large sample will tie up scarce resources including personnel, that would otherwise be put toward essential services. Donors require baseline and end line prevalence even in short term emergency projects but are typically unwilling to fund such intensive surveys. Already this challenge existed with the previous indicators.

--> How can we balance meeting needs and measuring needs?

--> Could purposive sampling be considered (as suggested in the part 2, survey design A.1) - the breakdowns suggested for even narrower age ranges will have low meaning (e.g.: 2 to 3 months)

Question #4

Adaptation of lists of food

The lists of typical foods and beverages/liquids consumed by IYCF needs to be adapted to each context. This may require harmonization between actors conducting such type of surveys in a given country to allow robust comparison. IYCF Working group may help in some countries, however, visual tools may also be required for field data collection (to ensure the good understanding of each food item by the responders).

- > Are there plans to develop job aids for the indicator guidance?
e.g. to guide field enumerators?
- > Do you think this is something useful?

Question #5

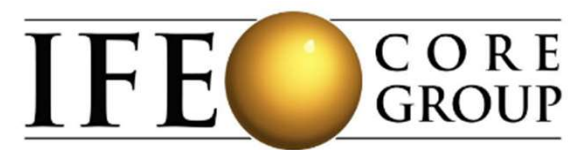
Sphere Standards and Thresholds

The sphere standards for the treatment of acute malnutrition provide for thresholds for malnutrition indicators, however, no thresholds are provided for IYCF.

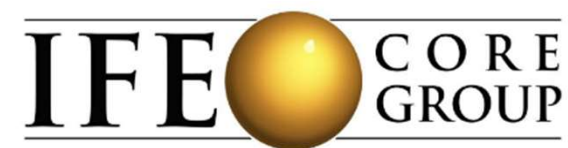
- > Are there thresholds that you would recommend to use in an emergency context?
- > What indicators would the thresholds refer too?

Closing question

Are there additional actions, efforts that UNICEF, WHO, CDC and the NIS TWG is planning to support to help in the adaptation of these indicators in emergency and fragile contexts?



Q&A



**Next steps and
closing!**

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it will take less than 5 minutes
(it will pop up when you close the webinar)

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2	I want to hire a consultant directly	GNC Technical Alliance Consultant Rosters
3	I want quick technical advice	GNC HelpDesk
4	I want peer support	www.en-net.org

Visit: <https://ta.nutritioncluster.net/> and click "Request Support"