

# Challenges & Support Needed for Breastfeeding during SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES & EMERGENCIES

## Some of the special circumstances that interfere with breastfeeding:

- baby is delivered preterm
- baby is small for gestational age
- infant's mother is diabetic (IDM)
- baby is at risk of hypoglycemia
- mother is ill or receiving medication with which breastfeeding is contraindicated
- emergency or crisis that results in a mother being unable to breastfeed
- babies are separated from their mothers for whatever reason



To ESTABLISH and MAINTAIN breastfeeding under special circumstances, parents need additional assistance and support in infant feeding.

The order of preference should be expressed breastmilk from the infant's mother, breastmilk from a healthy wet nurse or a human-milk bank, or a breastmilk substitute such as infant formula fed with a cup.

## How to improve support during special circumstances:



- Establish human milk banks to provide donor milk when needed.
- Practice Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) to breastfeed babies born prematurely or with low birth weight.
- Encourage relactation & wet-nursing where appropriate.

## How to improve support during emergencies:

- Orient and train relevant staff on the essentials of infant & young child feeding (IYCF) support counselling, Infant Feeding in Emergencies (IFE) & the Code.
- Develop a contact list of available people skilled in breastfeeding counselling & support & translation.
- Prepare plans for IYCF support & breastfeeding & artificial feeding, & identification & management of vulnerable children.
- Develop plans for prevention & management of donations of breastmilk substitutes, other milk products & feeding equipment in an emergency.

