



Photography by Melanie Aldridge

Mothers and Babies need...

- Warm support
- Appropriate information



Courtesy of F.B. Monika

## Information About Breastfeeding During Emergencies

Multilingual versions of LLL leaflet "Do women experiencing stress 'lose' their breast milk?"

<https://www.lll.org/breastfeeding-during-emergencies>

Chinese La Leche League information on breastfeeding in emergencies

[紧急情况下的母乳喂养](#)

Japanese La Leche League information on breastfeeding in emergencies

[災害時の母乳育児支援](#)

[災害時の母乳育児相談～よく聞かれる質問\(FAQ\)](#)

Multilingual La Leche League breastfeeding information

<https://www.lll.org/multilingual-information>

Multilingual brochure on pregnancy, birth, infant & young child feeding by Magdalena Whoolery

[中文 - Chinese](#) 《母乳喂养是紧急应对》孕期-产后-婴幼儿喂养的小册子

[English](#) "Breastfeeding is Emergency Preparedness"

[日本語 - Japanese](#) 「災害に備えて：授乳期のママのための情報」

Multilingual comic based on the IFE's Operational Guidelines on Infant Feeding in Emergencies

<https://www.enonline.net/comicbasedontheogife>

Multi-lingual flyer Feeding Support - Transit Guidelines developed by the Facebook group "Infant Feeding Support for Refugee Children"

<https://www.enonline.net/guidelinesicycfeedingsupporttransit>

Other multilingual La Leche League (LLL) and non-LLL resources for infant feeding in emergencies

<https://www.lll.org/breastfeeding-info/infant-feeding-emergencies-multilingual>

Please feel free to print copies and share widely.

## ◆ Myths: Stress & breastfeeding in emergencies ◆

**Do women experiencing stress  
'lose' their breast milk?**



Courtesy of Radhika Rao

It is easy to become worried when you hear such words.  
What happens to your ability to produce breast milk  
when you are under strong stress?



La Leche League  
Asia & Middle East

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**Do women experiencing stress 'lose' their breastmilk?**



**What can I do to build up my breastmilk supply again?**



**Though the milk flow may 'temporarily' stop, it is designed to flow again.**

- Stress **does not** affect the hormone Prolactin which makes breastmilk
- Stress has a short-term effect on Oxytocin the other important hormone for breastfeeding

The World Health Organization explains this as a positive mechanism that stops milk flowing at difficult moments – for example when an early human mother was fleeing with her baby from a wild animal – it is helpful that the milk does not start flowing while running but once mother and baby are safe and sheltered the milk flow starts again when the baby goes to the breast.



**Frequent breastfeeding and lots of contact with your baby make the milk flow again.**

- The milk is still all there inside the breasts, ready for the baby
- Ready to be made in response to the baby sucking
- The let-down reflex, which starts the milk flowing, has temporarily stopped

Everyone is highly likely to be stressed during and after an emergency and disaster situation. Breastfeeding is an amazingly adaptive activity designed to win despite everything. All a breastfeeding mother has to do is put the baby to the breast frequently and have lots of contact with the baby and soon the milk flow will start again.

**Being comforted and receiving support helps mothers.  
Breastfeeding can be soothing and will help promote healing and calmness for babies and mothers.**