

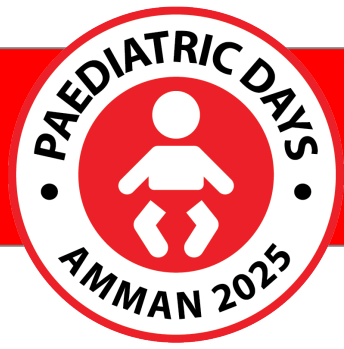
Mother-Newborn Dyad in the NICU

A Case Study from Gaza

Presented by: Dr Reem Al Soufi

Director of Gaza Infant Nutrition Alliance (GINA)





GINA – Breastfeeding Saves Lives

- A volunteer-based alliance
- UK-based with global membership
- Multi-disciplinary & multi-lingual
- Operating in 3 NICUs in Gaza





Impact in Numbers

231+



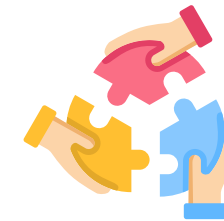
Trained Local staff

50+



Global volunteers

120



Capacity-building sessions for partners and MoH teams

3000+



Mothers in our peer-to-peer support group



19000+

Face-to-Face Sessions



600+

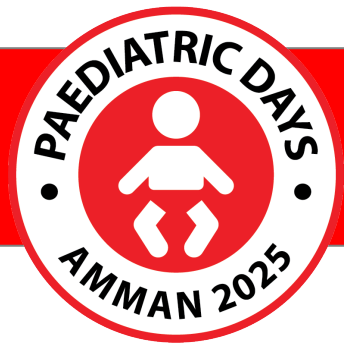
Virtual Sessions



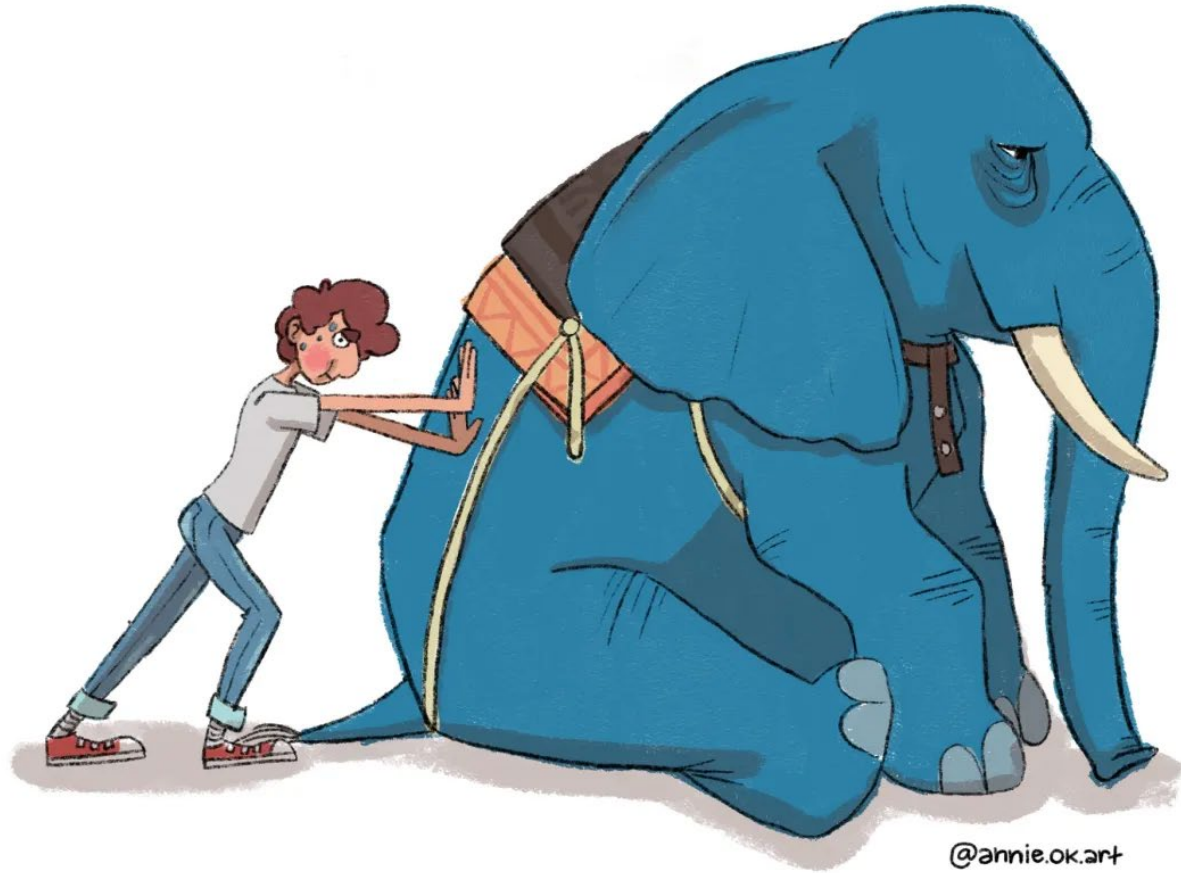


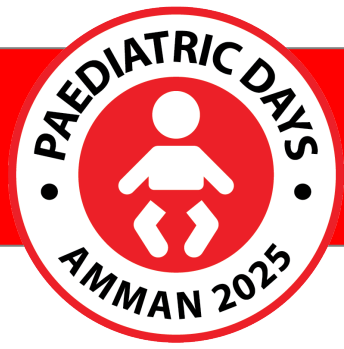
The scene in the NICU





Change at the Time of Crisis





The Minds (Adapted and agile training)





The Minds (Data & Science)

IYCF is life-saving

Exclusive breastfeeding to 6 months of age combined with continued breastfeeding to one year are the most effective means of preventing under-five deaths.

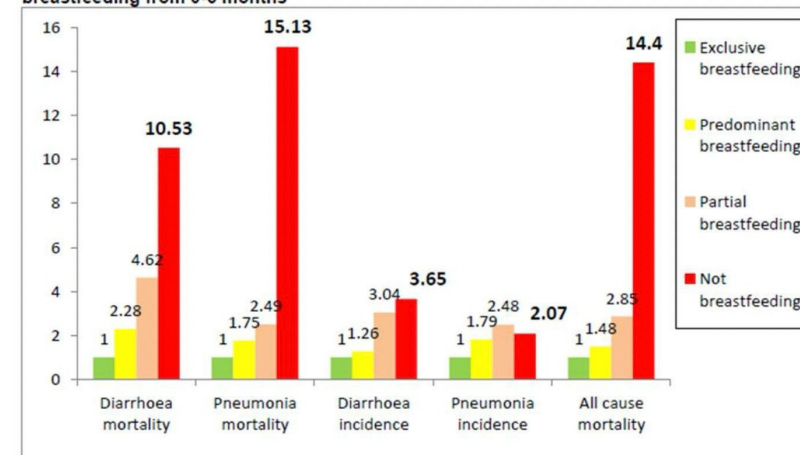
Preventative interventions	Proportion of under 5 deaths prevented
Exclusive and continued breastfeeding until 1 year of age	13%
Insecticide treated materials	7%
Appropriate complementary feeding	6%
Zinc	5%
Clean delivery	4%
Hib vaccine	4%
Water, sanitation, hygiene	3%
Antenatal steroids	3%
Newborn temperature management	2%
Vitamin A	2%

Source: Jones et al 2003 in Lancet

Relative risk of not breastfeeding compared to exclusive breastfeeding from 0–5 months

The graph below shows that the highest risks of morbidity and mortality are among infants who are not breastfed. For example, the risk of pneumonia-related mortality among infants (0–5 months) is approximately 15 times that of infants who were exclusively breastfed.

Figure 2: Relative risk of not breastfeeding for infections and mortality compared to exclusive breastfeeding from 0-5 months



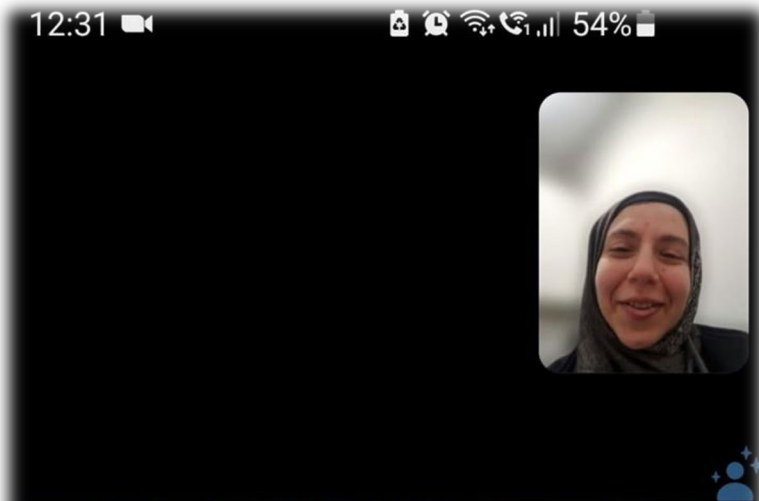
Source: Lancet 2008 [3].

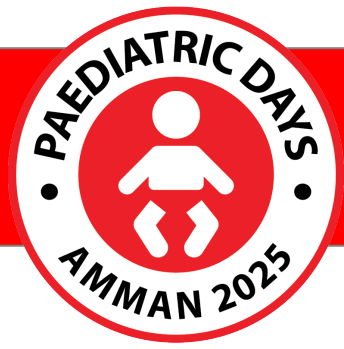
It is important to note that even partial breastfeeding is more protective in comparison to never breastfeeding. The risk of pneumonia-related mortality decreases sixfold in comparison to the risk associated with never breastfeeding (relative risk of 2.5 vs. 15.1, respectively).





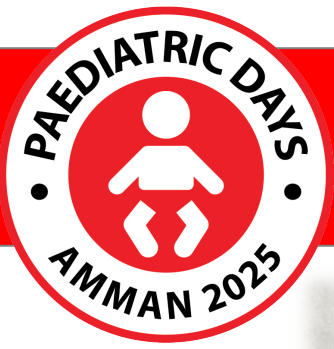
The Hearts (the culture)





The Hearts of Parents





The Path (Hospital policies and set-up)

GINA NICU Data Form

1. Hospital Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hospital Name- Department- Date Today- New Case or Follow-up Case	3. Feeding Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mixed or Exclus?- cc required?- S2S done?- NPO or NGT?- EBM Given?- phone call?
2. Mother's Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mother's Name- ID Number- Address- Primi or Multipara- MH Problem?- Phone Number- MUAC- Date of Birth- Other baby < 2 years?- CS or NVD?	4. Baby's Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Baby's Name- Birth Weight- ID Number- S2S Done?- Malnutrition?- Date of Birth- Current Weight- PT or FT, GA- Diagnosis- Baby MUAC

GINA Data Form

1. Hospital Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hospital Name- Department- Date Today- New Case or Follow-up Case	3. Feeding Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mixed or Exclus?- BF in 24h- Urine Output- Oral or NPO?- FM in 24h- Need Referral?
2. Mother's Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mother's Name- ID Number- Address- Primi or Multipara- MH Problem?- Phone Number- MUAC- Date of Birth- Other baby < 2 years?- Pregnant?	4. Baby's Information: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Baby's Name- Birth Weight- ID Number- S2S Done?- Malnutrition?- Date of Birth- Current Weight- PT or FT- Diagnosis- Baby MUAC

STATE OF PALESTINE
Ministry Of Health

التاريخ: 2025/2/11م

دولة فلسطين
وزارة الصحة

السيدة / د. أميرة سالم قديح
مسؤولة فريق جينا

تقييم الرضاعة الطبيعية

نعرض عليكم السيدة / [REDACTED] ولديها طفل عمره
سبع شهور ونحتاج الى فحص الحالة وتقييمها من قبل فريق
جينا داخل عيادة الرضاعة الطبيعية للتأكد من ادرارها
وحاجتها الى الحليب الصناعي .

مدير مستشفى الاطفال والولادة
د. أحمد عيد الخالق الفرا
أستشاري جينا
ممرض جينا





From humble beginnings

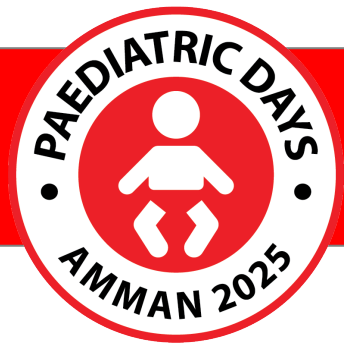


August 12, 2024 6:22 PM

**This is me today, doing
breastfeeding awareness on the
ground because we have no space.**

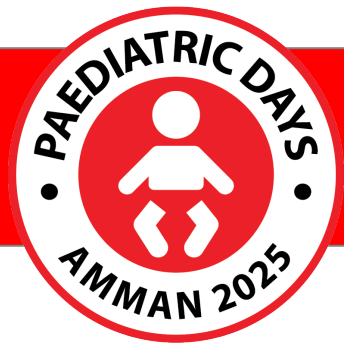
Nothing can stop us 🙌👁️



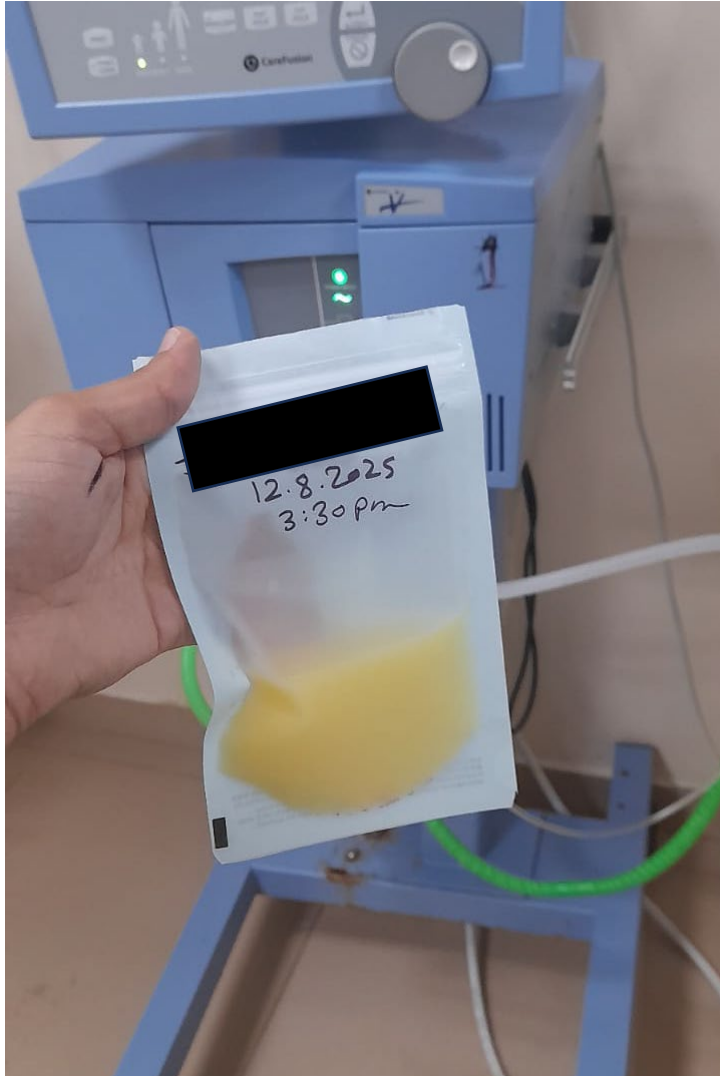


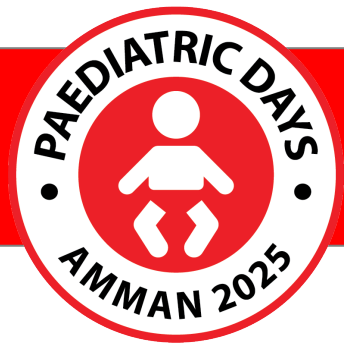
NICU Fridge full of breast milk





Buccal colostrum in NICU (even if NPO)

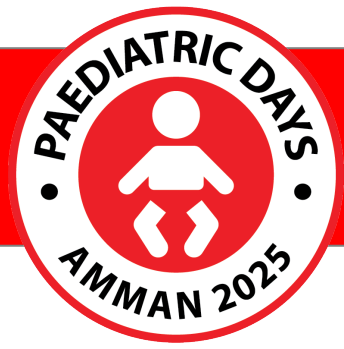




BM and S2S are being prescribed 😊

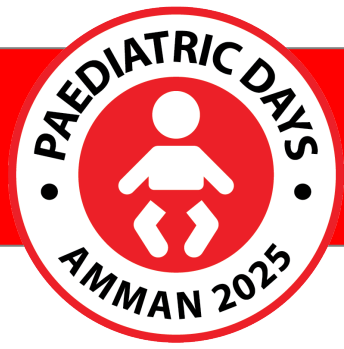
Vital Signs		Others	Output	Input	
Respiratory rate					
Blood pressure					
Temperature					
O ₂ saturation					
Activity					
Colour					
Feeding					
Chest PT					
skin to skin					
Urine					
Stool	D	B			
NG tube	D	B			
Total					
Type	Quantity				
Ryle	30cc	F	8	9	10
Dio	120cc				
eaglu	6cc				
Nacl	2				
KCl	2				
Input-Output Balance					
Route					





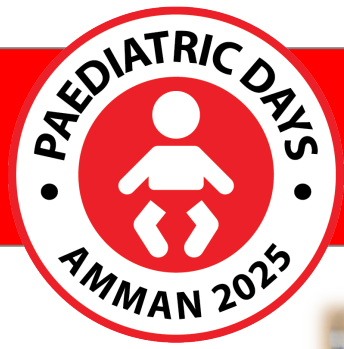
Skin-to-skin in NICU





Cleft lip and palate infants





The Future lays in their hands

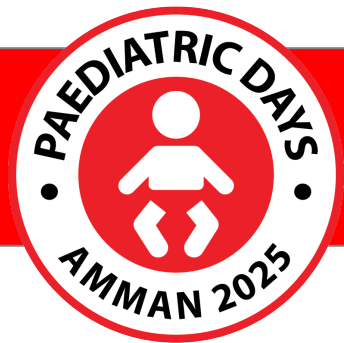


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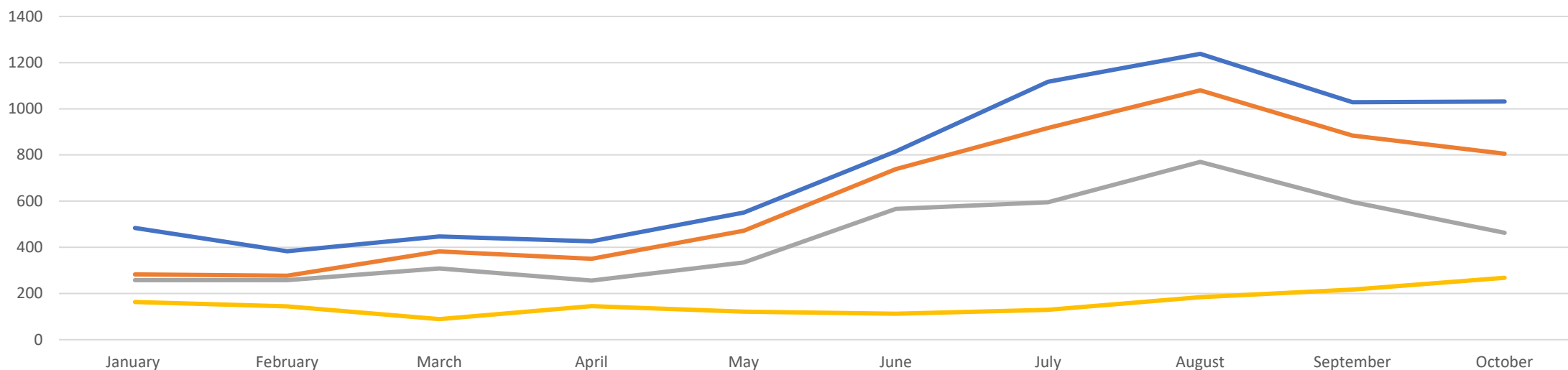
Nothing can stop us 🤝👁️





Impact in Numbers

NICU/SCBU/Isolation



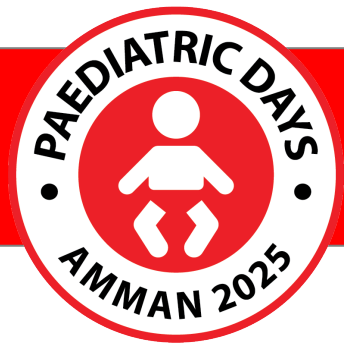
— NICU/SCBU/isolation

— mothers who received breastfeeding counselling

— receiving breast milk or colostrum

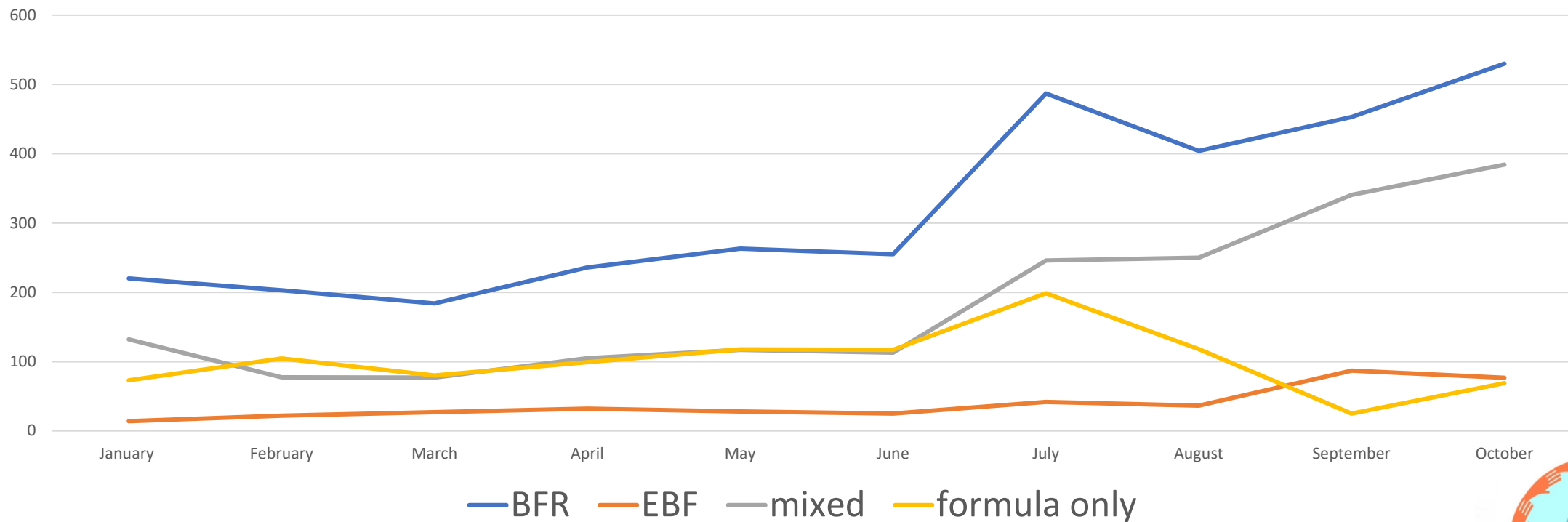
— NPO

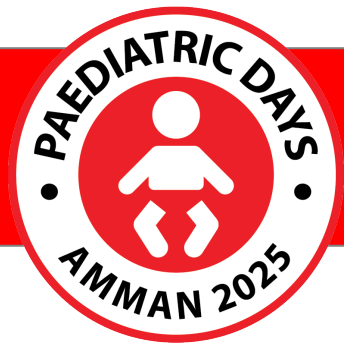




Impact in Numbers

BFR

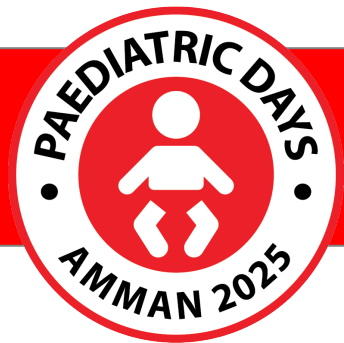




NICU/SCBU/Isolation

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sep	October
Total Number of cases	484	383	447	426	550	815	1117	1238	1028	1031
mothers who received breastfeeding counselling	283	277	382	350	472	739	917	1080	884	805
receiving breast milk or colostrum	258	258	309	256	334	566	595	770	596	463
NPO	163	144	89	145	121	112	129	184	217	268

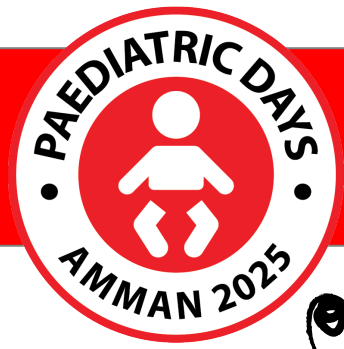




BFR

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
BFR	220	203	184	236	263	255	487	404	453	530
Percentage of exclusive BF	6.36%	10.80%	14.70%	13.60%	10.60%	9.80%	8.60%	9%	19.20%	14.50%
Percentage of mixed	60%	38.11%	41.80%	44.50%	44.50%	44.30%	50.50%	61.90%	75.20%	72.50%
percentage of exclusive formula feeding	33.18%	51.50%	43.50%	42%	44.70%	45.90%	40.80%	29.20%	5.50%	13%





Mothers' words..



"I have malnutrition, but skin-to-skin at night changed my milk — so much blessing, even when everything else is scarce."



"I thought I'd lose my milk after the bombing... but your voice made me believe again."



"When my baby became fussy after meningitis, I thought I'd lose my milk. But Omama's voice calmed me. She said, 'He's still your baby, and your milk is still his medicine.' That moment gave me back hope."



**"Israa, Hanan, and Wissal — I love them with all my heart
Their kindness, their calm voices, their gentle hands.
In the hardest time of my life, they gave me peace."**

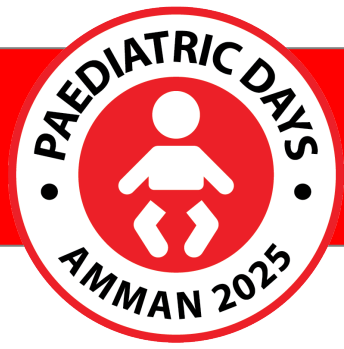


"When I open the WhatsApp group, I feel like I escape the war."



"Before GINA, I helped collect donations for formula. Now I teach other mothers to trust their milk."

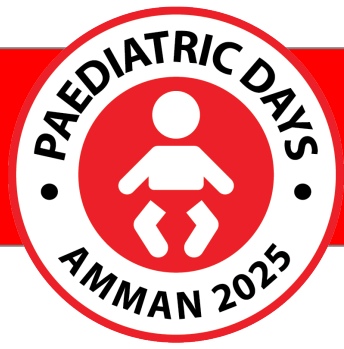




A refuge from the war..

**“Sometimes, while I
breastfeed, I forget it’s
war outside.”**



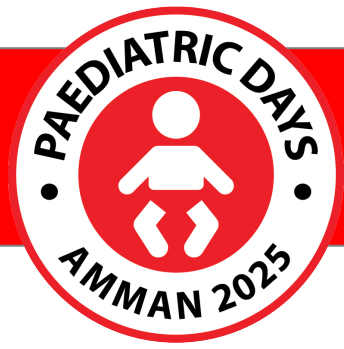


So, how to operationalise?

The Recipe:

- The Team
- The Parents
- The Space
- The Partners
- Hope and Perseverance





Thank you

