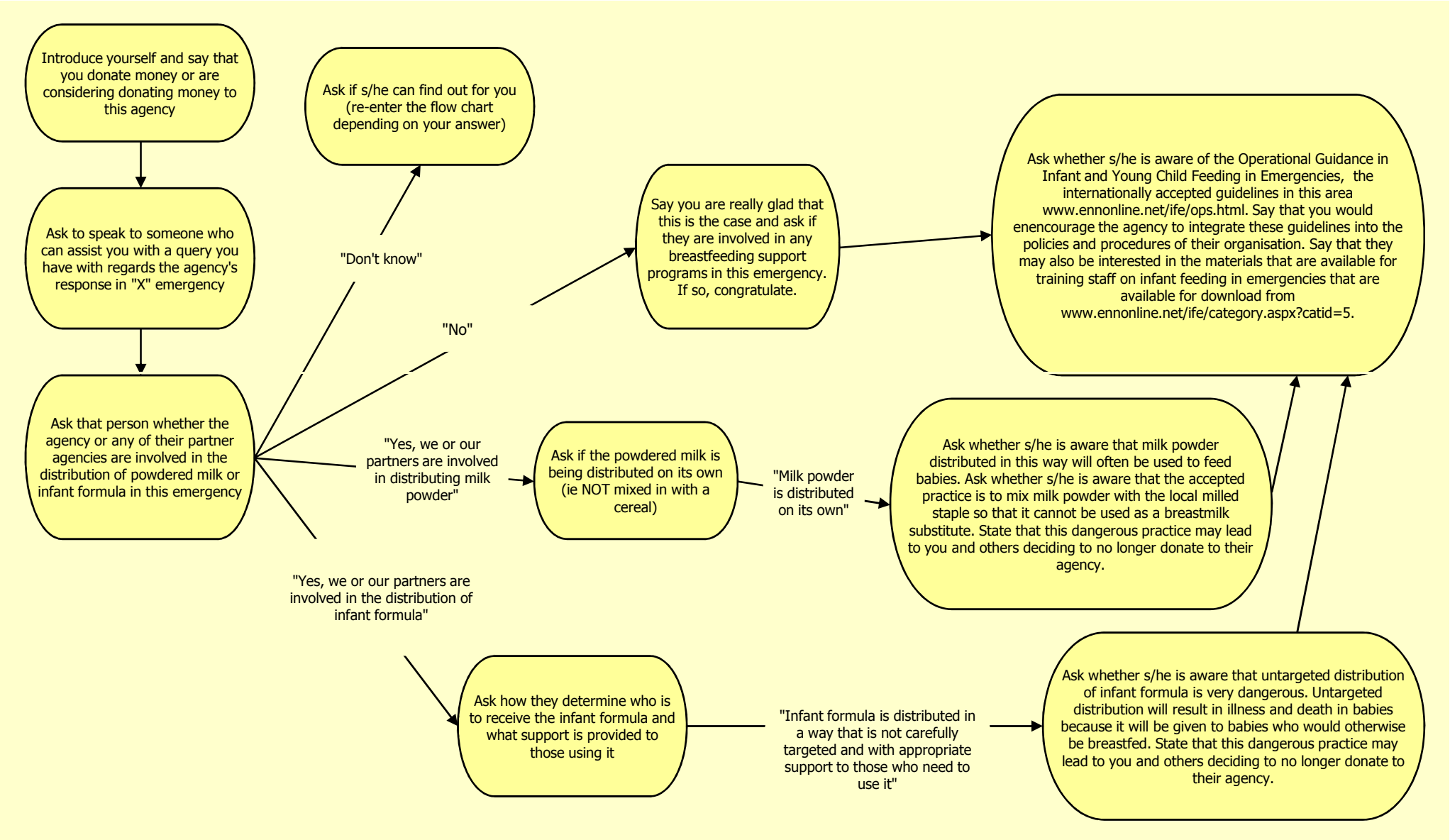
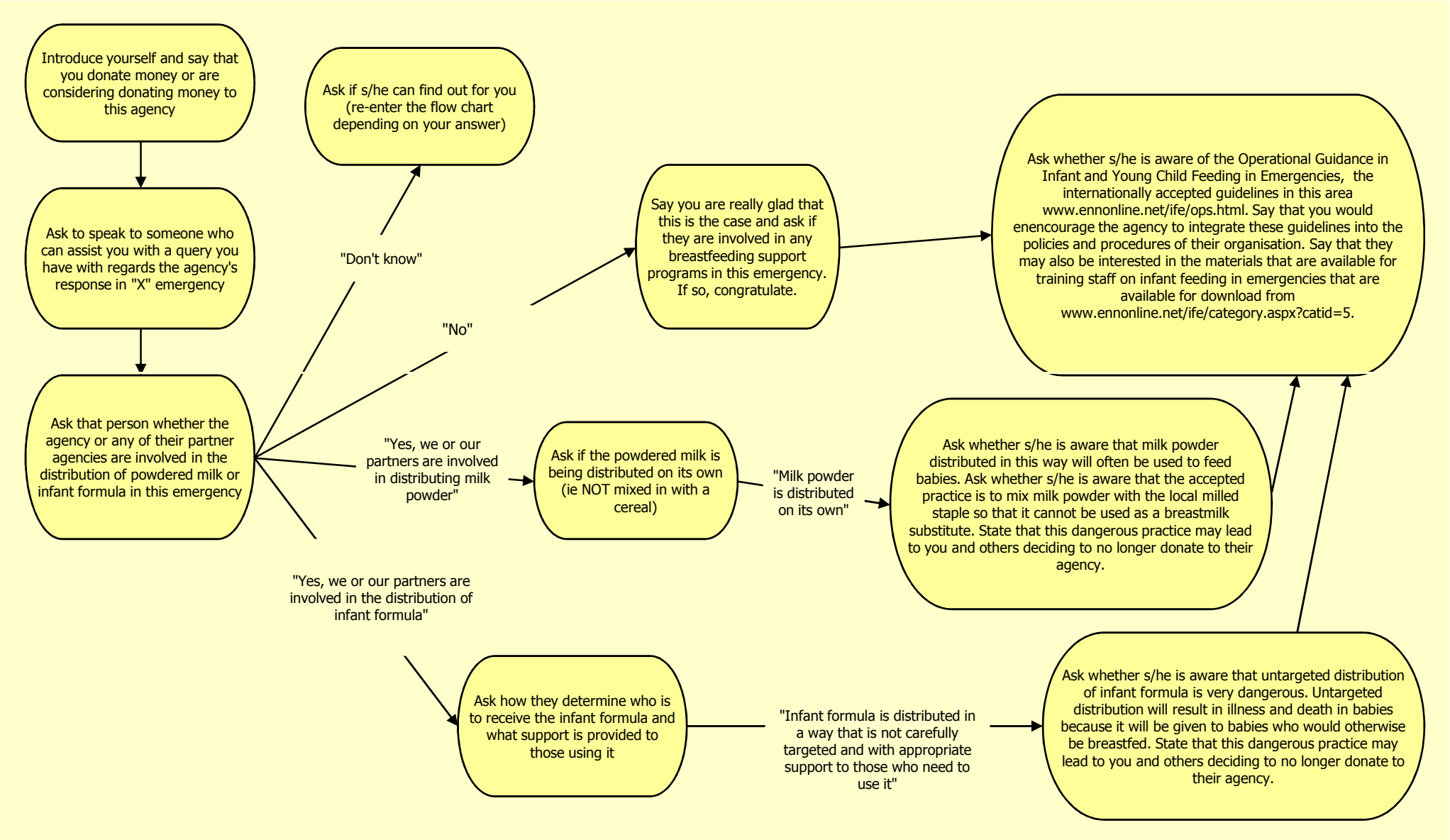

Introduce yourself and say that you donate money or are considering donating money to this agency
Ask to speak to someone who can assist you with a query you have with regards the agency's response in "X" emergency
Ask that person whether the agency or any of their partner agencies are involved in the distribution of powdered milk or infant formula in this emergency
"Don't know"
Ask if s/he can find out for you (re-enter the flow chart depending on your answer)
"No"
Say you are really glad that this is the case and ask if they are involved in any breastfeeding support programs in this emergency. If so, congratulate.
Ask whether s/he is aware of the Operational Guidance in Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies, the internationally accepted guidelines in this area www.ennonline.net/ife/ops.html. Say that you would enencourage the agency to integrate these guidelines into the policies and procedures of their organisation. Say that they may also be interested in the materials that are available for training staff on infant feeding in emergencies that are available for download from www.ennonline.net/ife/category.aspx?catid=5.
"Yes, we or our partners are involved in distributing milk powder"
Ask if the powdered milk is being distributed on its own (ie NOT mixed in with a cereal)
"Milk powder is distributed on its own"
Ask whether s/he is aware that milk powder distributed in this way will often be used to feed babies. Ask whether s/he is aware that the accepted practice is to mix milk powder with the local milled staple so that it cannot be used as a breastmilk substitute. State that this dangerous practice may lead to you and others deciding to no longer donate to their agency.
"Yes, we or our partners are involved in the distribution of infant formula"
Ask how they determine who is to receive the infant formula and what support is provided to those using it
"Infant formula is distributed in a way that is not carefully targeted and with appropriate support to those who need to use it"
Ask whether s/he is aware that untargeted distribution of infant formula is very dangerous. Untargeted distribution will result in illness and death in babies because it will be given to babies who would otherwise be breastfed. State that this dangerous practice may lead to you and others deciding to no longer donate to their agency.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