



Mothers and Babies need...

- Warm support
- Appropriate information

Breastfeeding helpline during emergencies

[hisai\\_support@lljapan.org](mailto:hisai_support@lljapan.org)

Send us an email including the following:

- 1) Name
- 2) City of residence
- 3) Message
- 4) Preference for how to receive help, whether by telephone or email



Information about

Breastfeeding during Emergencies

(Available in several languages)

<http://www.llli.org/resources.html>



Please feel free to print copies and share widely.

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◆Myths: Stress & breastfeeding in emergencies◆

Do women  
experiencing stress  
'lose' their breast milk?



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?



母乳で育てたいお母さんを応援する  
NPO法人ラ・レーチェ・リーグ日本  
La Leche League Japan



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



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

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

The World Health Organization explain 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.



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



**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 through 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.**