

## Transmission

- Unwashed hands (after defecating or using a toilet)
- Food or water contaminated by stools from a sick person
- Contaminated fruits and vegetables
- Close physical contact with a sick person

## Symptoms

- Diarrhoea containing blood.
- Fever, abdominal cramps.
- Dehydration.

## Prevention

- Promote safe clean drinking water (including a clean covered water container in the household)
- Use appropriate sanitation facilities (sound, clean latrines)
- Promote handwashing with soap (especially after using the toilet or cleaning a baby)
- Promote good food hygiene (thoroughly cooked food, covered food, clean utensils, etc.)
- Encourage exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life
- Social mobilization and behaviour change communication

## Vulnerable people

- Children under five years old
- Children who are malnourished
- People, especially children, with weakened immune systems (for example, as a result of HIV infection)
- People living in areas with poor water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services
- Elderly people

## If an epidemic occurs

- Initiate community-based surveillance
- Detect cases and refer them to health facilities
- Provide oral rehydration (ORS)
- Promote good food hygiene (thoroughly cooked food, covered food, clean utensils, etc.)
- Encourage breastfeeding, including when the baby or child is sick
- Promote safe, clean water (including a clean, covered water container in the household)
- Promote use of appropriate sanitation facilities (sound, clean latrines)
- Promote handwashing with soap (especially after using the toilet or cleaning a baby)
- Increase social mobilization and behaviour change communication

- Promote recommended health practices

# Community-based assessment - questions

Make a map of the community and mark the information you gather on the map. Record other details.

- When did people start to fall sick with diarrhoea?
- How many people have fallen sick with bloody diarrhoea? Where?
- How many people have died from bloody diarrhoea? Where? When?
- How many people live in the affected community or area?
- How many children under five years of age live in the affected area?
- Who and where are the vulnerable people?
- Are children in the affected community generally well nourished?
- Do people always have enough food?
- How common is breastfeeding?
- Where do people obtain their drinking water? Is the source safe?
- Do people know how to treat water? How do they do it?
- What sanitation facilities (including communal latrines) are available? Do people use them?
- What handwashing facilities are available? Do they have soap?
- Where are the local health facilities and services? (Include traditional and community carers.)
- What are the community's habits, practices and beliefs about caring for and feeding sick people? When babies and infants are sick, do women continue to breastfeed them?
- Is a social mobilization or health promotion programme in place?
- What are the community's habits, practices and beliefs about hygiene, sanitation and water?
- Which sources or channels of information do people use most?
- Are rumours or is misinformation about bloody diarrhoea spreading in the community?
- Can people identify the signs and symptoms of dehydration?
- Do people know how to make oral rehydration solution (ORS)? Do they have resources at hand to make it?

## Volunteer actions

See the following action tools for more information on what actions to take against acute bloody diarrhoea:

- 1 - Community-based surveillance
- 2 - Community mapping
- 3 - Communicating with the community
- 4 - Referral to health facilities
- 5 - Volunteer protection and safety
- 7 - Assessment of dehydration
- 9 - Preparing an oral rehydration solution (ORS)
- 10 - Giving oral rehydration solution (ORS)
- 12 - Managing fever
- 13 - Breastfeeding
- 19 - Psychosocial support (Psychological first aid (PFA))
- 29 - Hygiene promotion

- 30 - Clean, safe household water
- 31 - Good food hygiene
- 32 - Sanitation
- 33 - Building and maintaining latrines
- 34 - Handwashing with soap
- 39 - Preparing and using disinfectants
- 43 - Social mobilization and behaviour change