

1 Acute diarrhoeal disease



Community-based assessment

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When did people start to fall sick with diarrhoea? • How many people have fallen sick with diarrhoea? Where? • How many people have died from diarrhoea? Where? • How many people live in the affected community or area? • How many children under five years of age live in the 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 treat their water? • What sanitation facilities (including communal latrines) are available? Do people use them? • What hand-washing facilities are available? Do they have soap? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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? • Do people know how to treat water? |
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A *dehydrated* child

- Sunken eyes
- Dry mouth
- Lethargic/weak
- Skin pinch returns slowly
- Little or no urine



Encourage exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life – including when a child is sick.

