Acute bloody diarrhoea

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

Volunteer actions
See the following action tools for more information on how to take action against acute diarrhoeal disease:

1 2 3 4 5 7 9 10 12 13 19 29 30 31 32 33 34 39 43
## Community-based assessment

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

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