



## What can the **WATER DEPARTMENT** DO to support disease surveillance and response?

Because your focus is on the water supply, the Water Department can be most helpful with prevention and response of water-borne diseases. These include most of the diarrhoeal diseases — cholera, dysentery, diarrhoea in children under 5 year olds and typhoid.

Some measures are best taken before the rainy season, while other preventive measures can be implemented all year long. What can you do?

### THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- Regularly monitor community water sources. Conduct a survey of wells to see if there is any contamination. Liaise with the District Medical Officer to periodically report quality of water sources.
- Work with community leaders to protect water sources and promote healthy habits. Prevention ideas are included in this District Official Packet to assist in promoting use of clean water and other diarrhoea prevention activities.
  - Immediately report any contaminated sources to the District Medical Officer.
  - Disinfect/chlorinate water sources in collaboration with the District Health Officer.
  - Work with the village water committee and community at large to encourage them to build barriers to prevent animal or human faeces from entering the water sources. This could be secure covers, walls or fences around water sources.
  - If possible develop new, secure sources of water as needed.

### BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON:

Alert communities in anticipation of the rainy season to start taking preventive measures against diseases. Specific preventive measures include:

- Protection of water sources
- Promotion of hand washing
- Early recognition of dehydration associated with diarrhoea. At first signs of dehydration, the sick person must be given oral rehydration fluids.

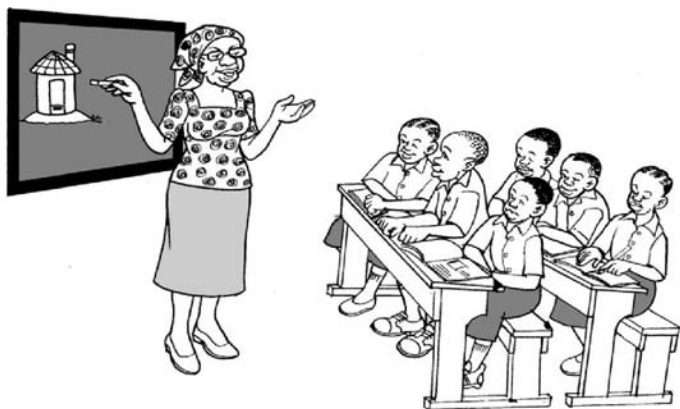
- Emphasize that early treatment minimises symptoms, and more importantly, reduces death due to dehydration.
  - Symptoms of diarrhoea-associated dehydration include: sunken eyes, skin pinch goes back slowly
- Encourage community members to notify village leaders or health facilities when they see an increase in diarrhoea. Telling leaders or health personnel about diarrhoea and other diseases allows for more rapid follow-up.

#### DURING OUTBREAKS AND INVESTIGATION:

- Participate fully in the response during outbreaks by following Council Health Management Team emergency outbreak plan.
- Work with outbreak investigation team to investigate the source of infection in water used for domestic purposes.
- Treat water sources by chlorinating in collaboration with the District Health Officer, especially during epidemics of water-borne diseases, such as cholera.



This guideline has been prepared by the Ministry of Health through the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response Project implemented by the National Institute for Medical Research in collaboration with the Academy for Educational Development's CHANGE PROJECT, with financial assistance from USAID. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and PHRPlus Project have also participated in the IDSR Project.



## What can the **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT** DO to support disease surveillance and response?

The Education Department can play an important role in educating community members, especially pupils, about all the IDSR priority diseases, the importance of recognizing symptoms of the diseases, and the important follow-up actions to take when a student or community member suspects someone is sick.

- Encourage teachers to recognize symptoms of the particular IDSR priority diseases, and to be on the look-out for these diseases while the pupils are in school. Request that they notify the health facility when they note an increase of sick children in their classrooms, or an increase in absences.
- Transfer students to the health facility whenever they note symptoms of the identified diseases.
- Follow-up steps may help cure the sick student and protect other students in schools from getting the same disease.
- Revise curriculum to include IDSR priority diseases especially on signs and symptoms and early reporting.
- Teach students the basic signs and symptoms of the particular IDSR priority diseases, and the importance of community members being on the lookout for these diseases.
- Teach students that when they see symptoms of these diseases, they should seek treatment immediately. Refer to the disease fact sheets to review symptoms.
- When they see there is an increase of those diseases in their communities, they must be encouraged to let the village leaders, WEO, or health facility know so that follow-up steps can be taken.
- Before rainy season, highlight the on-coming threat of malaria and other water borne diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea and typhoid. Teach the importance of hand washing with soap to prevent diarrhoea. See Prevention Idea #2, Preventing Diarrhoea by Promoting Hand Washing with Soap.

- Conduct regular inspection of students on cleanliness of the body and their dresses. Emphasize the importance of hand washing for disease control.
- In case of disease outbreak, participate fully in the response in collaboration with the Council Health Management Team especially in providing health education.
- Use simple health materials as text in adult education classes. Request materials from your Council Health Management Team.
- Conduct meetings with the school committee, which is comprised of parents, on disease reporting and follow-up. These meetings could emphasize:
  - **seasonal disease patterns**
    - dry season – increased meningitis
    - rainy season – increased diarrhoeal diseases and malaria
    - cold season – increased pneumonia cases
  - **the importance of vaccination for the vaccine preventable diseases such as AFP, measles and neonatal tetanus**
  - **the importance of community members being on the lookout for particular diseases**
    - When they see symptoms of these diseases, they should seek treatment immediately. Refer to the Disease Fact Sheets to review symptoms.
    - When they see there is an increase of those diseases in their communities they must be encouraged to let the village leaders, WEO, or healthy facility know so that follow-up steps can be taken.
    - Follow-up steps may help cure the sick person, to prevent the sick person from becoming sicker, and to protect other people in the community from getting the same disease.
  - **the danger signs and symptoms for the IDSR priority diseases**



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## What can the **VETERINARY DEPARTMENT** DO to support disease surveillance and response?

**The Veterinary Department needs to primarily focus on animal bites and rabies, as appropriate to their duties.**

**Specific actions to monitor and follow-up with animal bites and rabies include:**

- Meet regularly with the District Medical Officer to share disease information on the number and type of animal bite cases, geographical areas most affected, and to provide feedback on vaccination rates and patterns of household pets.
- Identify any priority actions for prevention or response. Track areas with high rates of animal bites. Make a plan for coordinated activities with the DMO.
- Prepare a plan of activities of controlling rabies in collaboration with the DMO.
- Work with community leaders in taking inventory of all pets in the community (vaccinated and unvaccinated), in order to simplify follow-up with vaccination campaigns in priority areas.
- If village-level vaccination for rabies is possible to conduct, run a campaign in collaboration with the health department in alerting communities to vaccinate their dogs.
- Conduct public education campaigns on the danger signs and symptoms of animal bites and rabies. Refer to the Disease Fact Sheets
  - Symptoms include: Severe pain in the wounded area. As the disease advances symptoms include convulsions, anxiety, depression, stiffness or paralysis of the limbs, spasms of the throat muscles that often result in a fear of drinking liquids.
  - Urge reporting to the health facility. Focus on the harmful impact of delay without treating animal bites.



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## What can the **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT** DO to support disease surveillance and response?

The Community Development Department can play an important role in educating community members about all the IDSR priority diseases, the importance of recognizing symptoms of the diseases, and the important follow-up actions to take when a community member suspects someone is sick. Through actual development projects, the Community Development Department can also help to encourage improved housing and water supply to assist in disease prevention.

### Specific actions include:

- Meet with the District Medical Officer to discuss disease patterns and their implications for action. Identify the biggest threats of disease outbreak for the coming year. Also identify any follow-up or disease response activities appropriate to the Community Development Department.
- During the outbreak, meet with different departments to discuss what to do.
- Alert the community on seasonal preparedness and response, through meetings and activities. Specifically, speak on a seasonal basis to inform the community of possible outbreaks, and steps to take. Topics for discussion include:
  - **seasonal disease patterns**
    - dry season – increased meningitis
    - rainy season – increased diarrhoeal diseases and malaria
    - cold season – increased pneumonia cases
  - **the importance of community members being on the lookout for particular diseases**
    - When they see symptoms of these diseases, they should seek treatment immediately. Refer to the Disease Fact Sheets to review symptoms.
    - When they see there is an increase of those diseases in their communities they must be encouraged to let the village leaders, WEO, or health facility know so that follow-up steps can be taken.
    - Follow-up steps may help cure the sick person, to prevent the sick person from becoming sicker, and to protect other people in the community from getting the same disease.

**- the danger signs and symptoms for the IDSR priority diseases**

*Refer to the Disease Fact Sheets for more information.*

**- remind them of the importance of vaccination for the vaccine preventable diseases such as AFP, measles and neonatal tetanus**

- Encourage the community to improve housing in order to prevent diseases. In particular, improved designs which avoid fleas, keep out mosquitoes and flies, allow for more easy use of mosquito nets, and better ventilation should be promoted.
- Support immunization campaigns
- Promote reproductive and child health services
- Promote the use of Insecticide-Treated Bednets
- Carry out some activities on environmental sanitation and personal hygiene



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## What can the **DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS** DO to support disease surveillance and response?

- Discuss disease patterns and their implications for action, as part of your regular meetings with District Medical Officer. Identify priority prevention and response actions.
- Participate in meetings organized by the Councillors which involve the Ward Executive Officer. Encourage their participation in surveillance and response, especially during an outbreak. Disseminate information from meeting with the District Medical Officer, discuss surveillance issues in their respective areas, and plan for any needed actions.
- Solicit resources from various sources to respond to disasters, including epidemics. Funding sources might include: the Regional Health Management Team, MOH Epidemiology Unit, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit, WHO, etc.
- In case of disease outbreak, communicate with the DED to coordinate all response activities.
- In case of outbreak, assure that by-laws for outbreak control are followed.
- Conduct advocacy on health matters in different campaigns carried out in the district.



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# What can the **DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## DO to support disease surveillance and response?

- Discuss disease patterns and their implications for action, as part of your regular meetings with the District Medical Officer.
- Organize and conduct meetings with the various departments to encourage their participation in disease surveillance and response. Disseminate information from meeting with the District Medical Officer, and plan for any needed actions.
- Mandate and encourage that relevant departments carry out disease surveillance and response activities. See corresponding department worksheets for specific key actions for the departments.
- Make follow-up on items agreed upon by different departments, including health.
- Monitor inter-departmental collaboration. Call departments together, as needed, for instructions or collaboration.
- Allocate resources to departments so that they can carry out surveillance and response activities.
- Ensure that the Comprehensive Council Health Plan incorporates epidemic preparedness plans, including staffing, finance, drugs/stocks, and any materials that can be used to sensitize the community.
- Remind departments to budget early for disease surveillance activities.
- Facilitate mobilization of resources in emergency cases.



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## What can the **COUNCILLORS** DO to support disease surveillance and response?

**Councillors are very important people to the community, officials who are very respected and accepted. They are very close to the people who can foster behavioural change on disease surveillance. They can play the following roles:**

- Organize and conduct meetings with the Ward Executive Officers (WEO) and Village Executive Officers (VEO) to share information on disease patterns and to encourage preventive action to minimize disease outbreaks.

Encourage the WEO and VEO to organize meetings in the wards and communities. These meetings could emphasize the measures the villagers can take to prevent and contain the epidemics.

- Alert the community on seasonal preparedness and response, through meetings and activities. Specifically, speak on a seasonal basis to inform the community of possible outbreaks, and steps to take. Topics for discussion include:
  - **seasonal disease patterns**
    - dry season – increased meningitis
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    - cold season – increased pneumonia cases
  - **the importance of community members being on the lookout for particular diseases**
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  - **the danger signs and symptoms for the IDSR priority diseases.**  
*Refer to the Disease Fact Sheets for more information.*



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# What can the **WARD EXECUTIVE OFFICERS** DO to support disease surveillance and response?

**Ward Executive Officers are very important people who are very close to the community. They can foster behavioural change on disease surveillance. They can play the following roles:**

- To take an active role in sensitizing community members on how to promote, maintain and sustain good health (*See Prevention Ideas*)
- To facilitate community based planning, implementation and evaluation of health programmes within the Ward (IDSR is among the programs)
- To make follow up of any outbreak in collaboration with health care providers and other extension workers at Ward level
- To act as a link between Local/Central Government and community leaders like Street/Village leaders, etc
- To provide administrative back up to health care providers at Ward and Village level
- To support enforcement of relevant legislations so as to prevent/control outbreak of infectious diseases



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