### The Plan of Action – Critical Steps

**Assessment**
- Assessment of the situation is the basis for any plan of action. Its objective is to:
  - assess the extent of the emergency, the communicable disease threat to the population, and the size of the population at risk
  - define the nature and extent of interventions needed
- Assessment is also critical for the preparation of an adequate response. The following information is needed and may be obtained from local authorities, relief organizations, and national agencies:
  - description of the disaster (local conflict, war, natural disaster) and its probable evolution
  - geographical description of the affected area (climate, terrain, water sources, etc.)
  - accessibility of the area (road quality, especially in the rainy season, local harbour or airport, security problems)
  - population size (permanent population, displaced/refugee population, distribution by age and sex, estimated numbers and expected date of new arrivals)

### Preparedness
- Preparedness is the period of development and implementation of preventive action and of definition of needs for responding to an outbreak. Preparedness activities will be based on the results of the assessment.

#### Response
- The response to an outbreak is the implementation of all planned activities. If the outbreak happens very rapidly, there may be no time for a preparedness phase. However:
  - The response must be started quickly; it may need to be adapted as the situation evolves and once data collection and analysis are complete.

### The Purpose
- The purpose of this leaflet is to help decision makers define key issues relevant to diarrhoeal disease control in complex emergencies and to guide the response to an outbreak.

### Key Messages
- Preparations and response must be started quickly; they may need to be adapted as the situation evolves.
- Personal hygiene behaviour will change only with strong community involvement.
- A proper sanitary environment prevents the spread of diarrhoeal diseases.
- Reinforce the use of safe drinking-water during outbreaks.
- Find and treat the source of transmission as soon as possible.
- Early rehydration using ORS is critical.
- Oral rehydration salts must be available at village level.
- Proper case management saves lives.

### The Plan
- The plan of action is a situation affecting large civilian populations facing war or civil strife, food shortages, and population displacement resulting in excess mortality and morbidity.

### The Problem
- The problem is a situation affecting large civilian populations facing war or civil strife, food shortages, and population displacement resulting in excess mortality and morbidity.

### Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases in Complex Emergencies

#### Purpose
- The purpose of this leaflet is to help decision makers define key issues relevant to diarrhoeal disease control in complex emergencies.

#### Case Management
- Early rehydration using ORS is critical.
- Oral rehydration salts must be available at village level.
- Proper case management saves lives.

#### Prevention
- Find and treat the source of transmission as soon as possible.
- Early rehydration using ORS is critical.
- To maintain health and reduce the risk of diarrhoeal disease outbreaks in refugee camps, water supply will be the first objective.
- A proper sanitary environment prevents the spread of diarrhoeal diseases.
- Proper case management will change only with strong community involvement.
- Cook it, peel it, or leave it.
- Disinfection and hygiene measures are essential during funerals.

### Preparedness
- The preparedness phase is the period of development and implementation of preventive action and of definition of needs for responding to an outbreak. Preparedness activities will be based on the results of the assessment.

#### Assessment
- The assessment of the situation is the basis for any plan of action. Its objectives are to:
  - assess the extent of the emergency, the communicable disease threat to the population, and the size of the population at risk
  - define the nature and extent of interventions needed
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#### Preparedness
- Preparedness is the period of development and implementation of preventive action and of definition of needs for responding to an outbreak. Preparedness activities will be based on the results of the assessment.

#### Response
- The response to an outbreak is the implementation of all planned activities. If the outbreak happens very rapidly, there may be no time for a preparedness phase. However:
  - The response must be started quickly; it may need to be adapted as the situation evolves and once data collection and analysis are complete.

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**Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acute Watery Diarrhoea</th>
<th>Acute bloody diarrhoea</th>
<th>Shigella dysentery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transmitted by faecally contaminated water or food.</td>
<td>Transmitted by faecally contaminated water or food.</td>
<td>Transmitted by faecally contaminated water or food.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outbreaks may be of two kinds:</td>
<td>Outbreaks may be of two kinds:</td>
<td>Outbreaks may be of two kinds:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- an AR of 0.6% in endemic areas with very poor sanitary conditions</td>
<td>- an AR of 0.2% in endemic areas</td>
<td>- the attack rate (AR) in previous years, if known</td>
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**Key Messages**

- Follow the development of the situation closely so that the plan of action can be adapted regularly.
- Use data to guide prevention, preparedness, and response.
- Early warning and preparedness for outbreaks are better and faster containment of cholera and Shigella dysentery.
- Acute diarrhoeal diseases, good coordination among the various operational partners is paramount.
- A good communications network is a valuable tool for surveillance.

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**Prevention**

- Find and treat the source of transmission as soon as possible.
- Early rehydration using ORS is critical.
- To maintain health and reduce the risk of diarrhoeal disease outbreaks in refugee camps, water supply will be the first objective.
- A proper sanitary environment prevents the spread of diarrhoeal diseases.
- Proper case management will change only with strong community involvement.

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**Protection**

- Cook it, peel it, or leave it.
- Disinfection and hygiene measures are essential during funerals.
1. Critical steps relating to diarrhoeal disease risk factors

1.1 Lack of water

- **Critical steps related to diarrhoeal disease risk factors**
  - **Sources of water:**
    - **Water-related:** drawdown (drinking water) — waste
      - **Water quality:**
        - **Pollution:** increase access to safe water, at least 20 litres per person per day
        - **Storage:** good water storage conditions in aid agencies
      - **Quantity and quality of water:**
        - **Access:** ensure: piped system aid agencies, for every 200 people — implement new safe water systems
        - **Campaign:** organize chlorination at water points
      - **Distribution:**
        - **Quantity:** improve personal hygiene
        - **Quality:** — improve personal hygiene
    - **Healthcare services:**
      - **Distributing:**
        - **Supplies:** — create an epidemic disease task team
      - **Access:**
        - **Quality:** — create an epidemic disease task team
      - **Access:**
        - **Quality:** — create an epidemic disease task team
    - **Healthcare services:**
      - **Distributing:**
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      - **Access:**
        - **Quality:** — create an epidemic disease task team
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1.2 Inappropriate sanitation

- **Critical steps related to diarrhoeal disease risk factors**
  - **Lack of sanitation:**
    - **Sanitation:**
      - **Quantity:** inform the population about the importance of sanitation
      - **Quality:** — inform the population about the importance of sanitation
      - **Cost:** — distribute soap where it is not available
      - **Cost:** — distribute soap where it is not available
    - **Sanitation:**
      - **Quantity:** — distribute soap where it is not available
      - **Quality:** — distribute soap where it is not available
      - **Cost:** — distribute soap where it is not available
      - **Cost:** — distribute soap where it is not available

1.3 Inadequate hygiene

- **Critical steps related to diarrhoeal disease risk factors**
  - **Lack of hygiene:**
    - **Hygiene:**
      - **Quantity:** inform the population about the importance of hygiene
      - **Quality:** — inform the population about the importance of hygiene
      - **Cost:** — inform the population about the importance of hygiene
      - **Cost:** — inform the population about the importance of hygiene
    - **Hygiene:**
      - **Quantity:** — inform the population about the importance of hygiene
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      - **Cost:** — inform the population about the importance of hygiene
      - **Cost:** — inform the population about the importance of hygiene

2. Inadequate food safety

- **Critical steps related to diarrhoeal disease risk factors**
  - **Lack of food safety:**
    - **Food safety:**
      - **Quantity:** inform the population about the importance of food safety
      - **Quality:** — inform the population about the importance of food safety
      - **Cost:** — inform the population about the importance of food safety
      - **Cost:** — inform the population about the importance of food safety
    - **Food safety:**
      - **Quantity:** — inform the population about the importance of food safety
      - **Quality:** — inform the population about the importance of food safety
      - **Cost:** — inform the population about the importance of food safety
      - **Cost:** — inform the population about the importance of food safety

15. Funeral practices for cholera victims

- **Critical steps related to diarrhoeal disease risk factors**
  - **Mortality:**
    - **Mortality:**
      - **Quantity:** inform the population about the importance of mortality
      - **Quality:** — inform the population about the importance of mortality
      - **Cost:** — inform the population about the importance of mortality
      - **Cost:** — inform the population about the importance of mortality
    - **Mortality:**
      - **Quantity:** — inform the population about the importance of mortality
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