Tool 30

30 Surveillance and reporting

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OVERVIEW

> Surveillance is a system to detect new patients with a disease in the community. Reporting is a system of sharing helpful information discovered while doing surveillance to your local branch and the health authorities.

What you need to KNOW (surveillance)

➥ First, the community should be mapped properly and you should know where people live and work.

➥ You should be able to scan the whole community through house-to-house visits.

➥ Knowing who is vulnerable in the community will help to identify people who are more likely to get sick.

➥ Surveillance should enable you to direct specific health messages and refer severe cases of a disease to health facilities.

What you need to KNOW (reporting)

➥ When working in the community and doing surveillance, volunteers get information that is important for others to tackle the epidemic.

➥ Communicating this information to your local branch, other volunteer teams and health authorities is very important to ensure the best possible response during an epidemic. This is called reporting.

➥ Remember that reporting has to be done systematically. This means that everyone doing the reporting has to follow the same method so there is no confusion. Talk to your local branch and health authorities to find out what reporting system will work the best for your work and situation.

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What volunteers can DO

➥ Map the community (see *Action tool 31*).

➥ Identify who may be vulnerable to the disease in the community.

➥ Divide up into surveillance teams who will actively look for sick people in their sections of the community.

➥ When people who are sick with the disease are detected, assess how severely ill they are and whether they need to be referred to a health facility (see *Action tool 33*).

➥ If sick people can be cared for at home, show their families how to do it and provide them with information and supplies, where possible.

➥ Record the cases you find and put all the records together with those of other teams so that you can build a clear picture of how the disease is spreading in the community.