

5 Yellow fever

Transmission

- Mosquito bite
- Mosquitoes transmitting yellow fever bite during the day

Symptoms

- Starts with sudden fever, headache and backache, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting and red eyes
- The sick person may improve for a short period of time but will get worse and develop jaundice (yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes)
- May include bleeding from the gums, nose or in the stools or vomiting of blood
- Can be fatal

Prevention

- ➔ Regular vaccination of all children (by injection at 9 months of age)
- ➔ Prevention of mosquito bites by vector control and use of insect screens on windows

- ➔ Health promotion
- ➔ Destruction of mosquito breeding sites (ponds, water surfaces)

Vulnerable people

- Children who are not vaccinated are most at risk

In case of epidemic

- ➔ Mass vaccination campaigns by the health authorities
- ➔ Vector control and spraying
- ➔ Destruction of mosquito breeding sites

- ➔ Detection and referral of new and suspected cases to health facilities
- ➔ Social mobilization of the community to get children vaccinated
- ➔ Health promotion

Volunteer actions

See the following **action tools** for more information on what actions to take against yellow fever:

31	29	32	2	3	4	18	19	14	15	30	33
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Community-based assessment questions

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

- When did the epidemic start?
- How many people live in the affected community?
- How many children under 5 years of age live in the affected community?
- Are children vaccinated or not?
- Who and where are the vulnerable people?
- How many people have died from yellow fever and where?
- How many people have fallen sick with yellow fever and where?
- Are there any health services and where?
- Are there going to be vaccination campaigns?
- Is there a health promotion programme in place?



A woman and child sleeping under a mosquito net

Actions

- Get to know health workers who are doing vaccinations and the centres where they are done.
- Know children and families who are hard to reach and help them get to vaccination centres.
- Help health workers make sure that all children are vaccinated.



A mosquito