

Communication and awareness plan

Objectives

- Communicate the dates and objectives of the SENS survey to governmental, administrative and health structures, as well as to the humanitarian partners at national and local levels (survey area(s)).
 - Develop a communication plan to increase awareness of the communities selected for the survey about data collection dates and the fact that women and children under 5 must be present on the day of the survey. The absenteeism rate cannot exceed 5%.
- ➔ Frequently encountered problems are the lack of awareness and information at community level as well as very limited communication about the survey between the partners.

Methods of communication

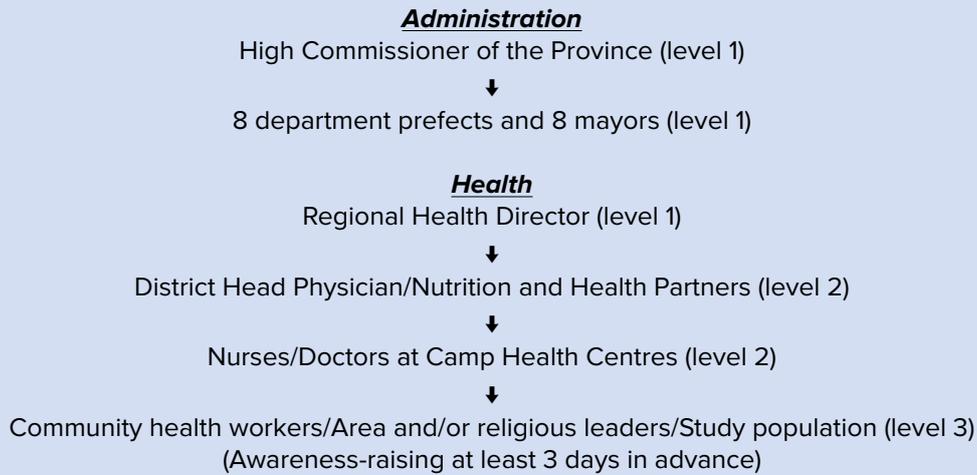
- Letter or email.

Other options depending on the context:

- Posters or information notes in health centers.
- Local radio.
- Local newspapers/local written press.
- Other media and/or other methods of communication.

Communication plan for the survey

- Prepare the awareness-raising organisation chart for the administrative and health authorities at central and local levels (level 1), for the various partners involved in the survey and/or working in the area(s) surveyed (level 2), as well as for the surveyed community (level 3).

Example of awareness-raising chart:

1. Communication with the administrative and health authorities at central and local levels (level 1)

- Write the awareness/information letter. (See the example of the letter sent to the administrative and health authorities below). The letter should provide information on the objectives of the SENS survey, the representativity of the survey and the data collection dates.
- **Example of a letter sent to administrative and health authorities.**

Subject: SENS nutrition and health surveys in Congolese refugee camps in Burundi

Dear Sir or Madam,

The PRONIANUT of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS (MSPLS), in collaboration with UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, AHA and GVC, wishes to carry out nutrition and health surveys, following the SENS (Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey) guidelines and tools developed by UNHCR.

The main objective of the SENS Nutrition and Health Surveys is to assess the nutrition and health status of children aged 6-59 months and women aged 15-49 living in refugee camps in Burundi; in order to contribute to a better management of the nutrition and health problems among the population of refugees in Burundi. Data collection will take place from May 10 to June 4, 2017.

More specifically, these SENS surveys among the refugee population living in Burundi will allow:

- Assessment of the prevalence of acute malnutrition (wasting) and chronic malnutrition (stunting) among children aged 6-59 months;
- Assessment of the prevalence of anaemia in children aged 6 to 59 months and women of childbearing aged between 15 and 49 years (non-pregnant);

- Evaluation of the feeding practices of infants and young children (IYCF) among children aged 0-23 months;
- Definition of the current state of food security;
- Determination of access to primary health services and indicators of health status that will contribute to nutritional well-being among children 0-59 months of age and pregnant women (measles immunization coverage, coverage of vitamin A supplementation, prevalence of diarrhoea over a two-week retrospective period, enrolment level in supplementary feeding and therapeutic feeding programmes for children aged 6 to 59 months and in antenatal care centres for pregnant women, and coverage of iron-folic acid supplementation in pregnant women);
- Determination of the level of access of the population to drinking water and hygiene and sanitation systems, as well as their level of use;
- Assessment of the level of ownership and use of mosquito nets;
- Development of recommendations and identification of potential areas of intervention, taking into account existing public health and nutrition programmes.

The SENS nutrition and health surveys will take place at the four refugee camps: Kavumu, Bwagiriza, Musasa and Kinama-Gasorwe. The target population involves refugees living in Burundi who are registered with UNHCR. Four separate samples will be selected from refugees living in Burundi. Cross-sectional household surveys using systematic random sampling will be conducted. All of the SENS modules will be used for these surveys: anthropometry and health, anaemia, IYCF, food security, water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) and provision of mosquito nets.

The surveys will be under the general supervision of a technical committee responsible for the management, coordination and monitoring of the key steps of the survey. As part of the implementation of these nutrition and health surveys, UNHCR has recruited a consultant specialised in nutrition surveys. Fieldwork will be conducted and supervised by the consultant to ensure high quality data collection.

During the survey, all children and women identified as suffering from malnutrition and/or anaemia will be referred to the health centres of the various camps.

Counting on your usual support,

Signature

2. Communication with partners (level 2)

- Send the partners a letter with information, by post and/or email, mentioning the objectives of the SENS survey, the representativity of the survey and the data collection dates. (See the example of the letter sent to partners below).
- **Example of a letter sent to partners.**

Subject: SENS nutrition and health surveys

Dear Sir or Madam,

As part of the activities of (*Organization / Partners*) related to the assessment of the nutrition status and health of refugee populations, I hereby inform you that a standardized expanded nutrition survey (SENS) will be conducted at *Names of the areas surveyed*, in collaboration with (*Organization / Partners*).

The main objective of these SENS surveys is to assess the nutrition and health status of children aged 6-59 months and women aged 15-49 years living at *Names of the areas surveyed* ; in order to contribute to better management of nutrition and health issues among the refugee population. Data collection will take place from (*Collection period*).

Your collaboration would be greatly appreciated, especially in informing the community surveyed in the areas where teams will visit, and to request that children under 5 years and women aged 15 to 49 years to stay home on the day of the survey visit. I attach to this letter the calendar of the nutrition surveys.

All children with signs of acute malnutrition will receive a referral slip to the health centre for which you are responsible, for immediate management of their situation. In case of severe anaemia, children and women will also be immediately referred for treatment

I am at your disposal for any additional information.

Thank you in advance for your support for the successful completion of this survey, please accept, Sir / Madam _____, my gratitude for your support.

Signature

3. Communication with the community (level 3)

- Send the surveyed community an information letter, and/or possibly posters/information notices, mentioning the objectives of the SENS survey, the representativity of the survey, as well as the data collection dates. (See the example of the letter sent to the community below).
- **Letter to be adapted for the community (community health workers, village leaders / neighbourhoods / areas and/or religious leaders and the population surveyed).**

Subject: SENS Nutrition and Health Survey

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are planning a SENS nutrition and health survey _____ (Location) _____. This survey is part of a nutrition surveillance program targeting children under 5 years and women between 15 and 49 years old. It will also help plan our future actions and projects.

The methodology allows us to randomly select, using specialized software, from the areas in _____ (Location) _____, a representative sample of _____ areas. The _____ areas were randomly chosen to represent the entire population of _____.

_____ teams of investigators will then go to the (Camps/Area of the survey) to conduct the data collection, which will take about _____ weeks _____ (Dates) _____. We would like to be able to count on the participation of each of the heads of these areas to facilitate the procedures. I attach to this letter the calendar program of the nutrition survey.

I thank you, Sir/Madam _____, for your support and convey my best regards.

Signature