

EDSP news

EMERGENCY DRUGS SUPPLY PROJECT

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Linkages Strengthened with the New Provincial Government of Balochistan

In an attempt to strengthen linkages with the new provincial government, EDSP Quetta team arranged a formal dinner at a local hotel in December 2002. The Secretary Health Govt. of Balochistan, DG Health, Chief Planning Officer Health, a representative of WHO, a team from P&D Department and representative from UNDP attended the meeting. The distinguished participants were given a presentation on the initial objectives of EDSP, targets achieved and future objectives in view of the project's extension. The Secretary and DG Health were presented drafts of the SOP documents and their advice and support was sought to incorporate these SOPs in the health system. The idea of a model district for implementation of these SOPs was also discussed with them. This event was very beneficial for the project and served in bringing the new provincial health team of Balochistan onboard.



Brief Report on Completion of Phase I of Emergency Drug Supply Project

Emergency Drug Supply Project for NWFP and Baluchistan aimed to supply, monitor and improve drug usage and management, in the targeted government facilities of the above provinces. The project was being funded by DFID UK and its Technical Assistance component was being implemented by The NETWORK in collaboration with WHO and ministries of health NWFP & Baluchistan. Technical Assistance (TA) component was responsible for provision of relevant

EDSP successfully completes phase I

The Emergency Drugs Supply Project started in May 2002, and completed its first phase in December 2002, having completed all the scheduled tasks successfully. The Department for International Development (DFID) UK agreed to extend the project another six months, after reviewing the outputs by the teams working in Islamabad, NWFP and Balochistan.

EDSP Quetta and Peshawar Offices Relocate to Government Premises

The EDSP offices in Quetta and Peshawar moved from rented buildings to government premises in January 2003. This was a very positive gesture as it shows the trust and willingness of the provincial DOH's to imbibe the work being carried out by EDSP. Letters of appreciation and gratitude were sent to the Secretaries of Health of both the provinces thanking them for their support in allowing the EDSP team to work in close proximity with the government Health Departments.

technical advice and input towards rational use of drugs and strengthening of essential drug management systems in public sector hospitals. The first phase of the project (April to Dec 2002) was successfully completed on 31 Dec 2002 and now it has entered its second phase.

The eventual expected outcome was to improve quality of and access to healthcare. The specific objectives were:

- a. Monitor project implementation
 - i. Use of DFID drugs
- b. Contribute to strengthening EDM
 - i. Establish a core group of trained and dedicated professionals having understanding of the issues at local and provincial level
 - ii. Identify problem areas in the drug cycle.
 - iii. Intervention in the targeted areas
 - iv. Improve drug management at district level
- c. Promotion of Rational use of drugs
 - i. Training and awareness of prescribers/stakeholders

Three steps in implementation of project were designed and carried out:

Step 1: Setting up of project in Islamabad and the two provinces

Step 2: Baseline survey in the provinces and identification of priorities

Step 3: Development of SOPs and other interventions:

SOPs development

Field testing and evaluation

Development of teaching materials

Training of trainers

Training for:

- Storekeepers
- Dispensers
- Pharmacists and MOs looking after stores
- Drug inspectors
- DTCs
- Managers (EDOs and MS)

Successful RUD Workshop in Collaboration with WHO

During the month of November 2002, a workshop was conducted by EDSP in collaboration with WHO on the topic of Rational Use of Drugs. This workshop was conducted in the city of Swat.

Prescribers from the city and vicinity areas attended this two-day workshop. This workshop aimed to educate prescribers about using medicines sensibly and to make them aware of drug use problems that are widespread in Pakistan. Through different activities like group work and brainstorming sessions, the participants came up with solutions to these problems and vowed to use the knowledge gained towards improving the drug management in their respective



areas. The local government's health departments fully supported this activity and important government officials attended the workshop.

Workshop on Rational Use of Drugs being conducted in Swat

District programs (TB, EPI, LHW)
Provincial staff
Other stakeholders (Nazims and reps, DCO's and reps)

The following activities/outputs have been generated at the end of the project:

1. The foremost achievement has been the establishment of a well coordinated and effective team of professionals in Islamabad, NWFP & Balochistan. This team now has the capacity to comprehend various aspects of Drugs Management Cycle in the provinces in relation to the on going devolution process. It has the ability to conduct surveys, training sessions, and seminars and organize/lobby for various targeted activities, in harmony with the local dynamics.
2. Baseline survey was completed and report of the survey was dis-

seminated effectively to all the stakeholders.

3. After identifying the priority areas, four interventions were identified and all of these are being carried out now:

- i. Preparation and dissemination of SOPs.
- ii. Trainings of prescribers for rational use
- iii. Feedback of the survey at district level.
- iv. Formation / Training of District Drugs & Therapeutic committees.

4. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for dispensing, storage & formulary development have been completed.

5. Teaching materials for trainers, which would be used for SOPs trainings, have also been complet-

ed, including :

- Trainee manuals
- Urdu Translations of SOPs.
- Video demonstration film
- Facilitators manual
- Transparencies / slides.

6. Workshops / Seminars

- a. RUD Workshops 2
- b. EDM / DTC Workshops 2
- c. Drug procurement/selection workshop 1
- d. Rational Drugs Use Seminar 2
- e. Survey report seminar (Islamabad) 1
- f. Feedback of surveys reports/seminars at district level 6
- g. SOP development workshops 5
- h. TOT for SOPs 3

About 200 doctors, professionals have been trained in the two provinces through the workshops; similarly more than 300 stakeholders have been sensitized to the issues concerning drugs, through our seminars in various cities.

7. Trainings of the following categories have been carried out so far in the program.

- i. Prescribers / Doctors
- ii. Pharmacists / Storekeepers/dispensers.
- iii. Drug Inspectors
- iv. Health Managers (EDO, MS, DMS)
- v. Policy Makers (senior staff from health directorates)
- vi. Other Stakeholders at district level (DCO & their reps, Nazims & their reps).

8. The establishment of Drugs & Therapeutic Committees is in final stages. The relevant ministries have been apprised of their importance and convinced of their necessity. In wake of the expected second phase of the project it was decided that formal notifications would be required when model districts are selected and a working paper to establish the models would include the dates for the notifications. The

TORs for DTC's composition and functioning have been drafted.

9. Linkages and collaboration: EDSP has been working in close collaboration with various stakeholders. WHO was closely involved and a number of trainings were carried out jointly.

Departments of Health NWFP & Balochistan have been deeply involved in SOP development process & ownership. They have repeatedly expressed their satisfaction with EDSP progress, both in writing and verbally. Other academic institutions & NGOs were also taken on board i.e. University of Balochistan Quetta, Institute of Public Health Quetta, UNHCR,

UNDP and many others.

10. Monitoring of DFID drugs has been carried out. In a few facilities the EDSP staff verified and checked the availability & distribution of drugs personally, whereas in others it was done through the existing government setup. Final report is in the pipeline and would be dispatched soon.

11. Publications of EDSP newsletter: 2 issues have been published till date.

12. Post intervention survey has been deferred till May 2003 to let the interventions be completed and imbibed by the system.

Training of Trainers Conducted in NEWFP and Balochistan

The EDSP organized Trainings of Trainers (TOT) in Quetta and Peshawar to educate potential master trainers who would eventually train district dispensers and storekeepers in Standard Operating Procedures for dispensing and storekeeping. In Quetta, the TOT took place on the 23rd and 24th of December 2002 and 26 master trainers were trained. Various lessons learnt during this activity were utilized to improve the training sessions for a similar TOT in Peshawar. The TOT in Peshawar was conducted on 26th and 27th December 2002. Eighteen master trainers were trained in the two day workshop. It is hoped that these master trainers will prove indispensable in capacity building of dispensers and storekeepers in their respective districts, which will eventually lead to proper dispensing and storage of medicines in the two provinces, leading to improvement in the drug management cycle



Training of trainers being conducted in Quetta (above) and Peshawar (right)



Female participants of the TOT conducted in Peshawar (above)

Standard Operating Procedures for Prescription Handling and Dispensing

(English and Urdu versions)

These documents provide definitions of important terms related to dispensing of medicines. Furthermore, these documents have detailed Standard Operating Procedures for prescription handling and dispensing practices.



Standard Operating Procedures for Storage and Inventory Control

(English and Urdu versions)

These documents provide definitions of important terms related to storage of medicines and contain, in detail, the Standard Operating Procedures for storage of medicines. They have information on ideal conditions of a drug storage facility and its maintenance.



Facilitator's Guide for Prescription Handling and Dispensing

This document aims to serve as a guide for facilitators who will be training the staff involved in dispensing of medicines. It is to be used in combination with teaching aides as well as the printed Standard Operating Procedures for dispensing practices. The training module contains different sessions; at the beginning of each session, materials required and teaching aides to be used are also listed.



Guidelines for Developing and Maintaining a Formulary

This document aims to provide information on the process of development of a formulary. Important definitions concerned with development of a formulary, along with the step-by-step process of formulary development is explained. This document also introduces the concept of Formulary and Therapeutics Committees.



EDSP Baseline Survey Report



This document details the results of the baseline survey conducted by EDSP in July 2002. It was an extensive survey to collect baseline data about the existing practices in the three provinces i.e. NWFP/FATA, Baluchistan and Punjab. The objective of the survey was to gather information on existing patterns of various dimensions of drug use and management in health services of NWFP, Baluchistan and Punjab province, including prescription and dispensing practices, client satisfaction (with particular reference to dispensing) and, storekeeping and storage procedures.

Facilitator's Guide for Storage and Inventory Control

This document aims to serve as a guide for facilitators who shall be conducting trainings to the staff involved in storage of medicines. It is to be used in combination with teaching aides as well as the printed Standard Operating Procedures for Good storage practices. The training module contains different sessions; at the beginning of each session, materials required and teaching aides to be used are also listed.



Checklists for Dispensing Personnel

This checklist are for the dispensing personnel to paste on their dispensing window to ensure that all steps of proper dispensing are adequately completed.



EDSP Activities Carried out During November - December 2002

S. No.	Name of activity	Collaboration	Date	Venue
1.	Workshop on Rational Use of Drugs	Ministry of Health NWFP, WHO	November 1 - 2, 2002	Swat
2.	Workshop on Drugs and Therapeutics Committee	Ministry of Health, NWFP	November 29 - 30, 2002	Abbottabad
3.	Training of Trainers on Standard Operating Procedures for Dispensing and Storage	EDSP	December 23 - 24, 2002	Quetta
4.	Training of Trainers on Standard Operating Procedures for Dispensing and Storage	EDSP	December 23 - 24, 2002	Peshawar



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