



## EMERGENCY DRUGS SUPPLY PROJECT

Vol. 1 Issue 3

November/December 2002

### Contents

- ◆ EDSP successfully completes phase I
- ◆ Linkages strengthened with the new provincial government of Balochistan
- ◆ Successful RUD workshops in collaboration with WHO
- ◆ Training of trainers conducted in NWFP and Balochistan
- ◆ EDSP Publications
- ◆ EDSP activities carried out during November - December 2002

## 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

**D**uring 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-

