

## EMERGENCY DRUGS SUPPLY PROJECT

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## Inauguration of Model Store in Abbottabad

One of the major activities of the project was the establishment of model stores and dispensaries in district Abbottabad in NWFP. Required renovations were carried out at three different stores and dispensaries to convert them into model facilities. These different sites were:

- ◆ EDO main store (Abbottabad)
- ◆ RHC Havelian
- ◆ BHU Nawansher.

All the necessary work on establishment of model stores and dispensaries, which was started during April, was successfully completed.

The stores were supplied with necessary equipment, stationary, computer (and relevant software) and the staff was duly trained.

Secretary Health NWFP Dr Ihsan-ul-Haq inaugurated the store in a simple ceremony on 31st May

2003. The chief guest inspected the newly established store and asked various questions. He showed keen interest in various items/equipment installed in the model store and lauded the efforts made by EDSP.

Besides others, District Coordination Officer, guests from TheNetwork for Consumer Protection and EDSP Islamabad, representatives of paramedical staff and the media were present at the occasion.

This was a major intervention of the project, which was successfully accomplished. It was the first step of its kind within the department of health and it is hoped that this will bring about positive changes towards better drug management in the current healthcare system.



## EDSP Team meets the Governor and Chief Minister of Balochistan

At a meeting held at Balochistan House Karachi, in the month of April 2003, the Governor Lt General (R) Abdul Qadir, Chief Minister Balochistan, Jam Mohammad Yousaf, Mr Danyal Aziz, Chairman NRB, Mr Ashraf Nasir, Chief Secretary Balochistan and Jam Kamal Khan, Nazim District Lasbela were briefed on various aspects of EDSP. The EDSP team consisted of Executive Coordinator TheNetwork, Project Director and Provincial Coordinator EDSP. The achievements of EDSP were highly appreciated and its plans were endorsed by the higher provincial hierarchy on the occasion. The meeting proved to be extremely productive; the Governor not only appreciated the activities of EDSP but also wished to be kept abreast of all its future developments in Balochistan.



## Inclusion of SOPs in Curriculum

The documents prepared by EDSP on Standard Operating Procedures for dispensing and storekeeping were officially incorporated in the curriculum of government schools of medical technicians/dispensers and nursing in Balochistan province. This is a major milestone achieved by EDSP and a step towards sustainability of the efforts by EDSP to improve the healthcare systems in the provinces.

## Formation of Steering Committee

In order to provide impetus and guidance to the Emergency Drug Supply Project (EDSP), a



Workshop on Standard Operating Procedures for dispensing and storekeeping underway in Swat

provincial Steering Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Health Balochistan, Hafiz Hamdullah. The other members of the committee are Secretary Health, DG Health, Additional Secretary Health, Chief Planning Officer Health, WHO Representative in Balochistan, Project Director and Provincial Coordinator EDSP. The Committee is responsible to supervise the work of EDSP at provincial level, to evaluate the progress of model stores and dispensaries in Lasbella, to supervise the imple-

mentation of SOPs, to oversee the development, implementation, and dispersion of provincial formulary, to guide the project in the development of PC 1 and to ensure the incorporation of EDSP's work in the provincial health management system. It was decided that the committee shall meet once a month.

It is hoped that this steering committee will be a major step towards institutionalization and sustainability of the work done so far by EDSP and shall take the work further towards improvement of drug management systems in Balochistan.

## Meeting with Secretary Health NWFP

A meeting between Project Director EDSP and NWFP project staff was held with the Secretary Health NWFP, Dr. Ihsan-ul-Haq and staff of Health System Research and Reform Unit (HSRRU) to explore various ways and means for continuation of EDSP's work in the future. Project Director EDSP shared the

## Preparation work for PC-1 in full swing

One of the objectives of EDSP was to institutionalize the drug management interventions in the government departments. PC-1 of essential drug management is an important document towards this direction. A number of meetings were held at provincial level to start the work on development of PC-1. During this process, Secretary Health, DG Health, Additional Secretary Health, Chief Planning Officer and other concerned staff in both provinces were lobbied. An opinion was built up that drug management was a neglected area and needed proper attention. A concept paper was developed on preparation of PC-1 for the continuation of activities undertaken by EDSP in both provinces, separately. Copy of the concept paper was circulated among all concerned. After a meeting with Chief Planning Officer, it was agreed that the concept paper should be supported by specific costing, which would be submitted to the P & D department for consideration and as an approval for preparation of PC-1. All the key players involved in the preparation of PC-1, in each province, were consulted, time and again, during the entire process. The consultation process resulted in building a judgment that drug management has not received appropriate attention in the past and this is the right time for this area to be focused upon. Based on these efforts, a PC-1 is in the final stages of development in each province. The finalized document would be submitted to the respective government very soon.



Participants of an SOPs training workshop held in Abbottabad





Rational Use of Drugs workshop being held in Lasbela, Balochistan

activities carried out by EDSP and their progress to date.

Establishment of model store at D.I.Khan and submission of PC - 1 to the health department was discussed. Subsequently, PC - 1 was submitted to the Department of Health NWFP for onwards necessary action.

## Model Store at DI Khan

Preliminary work on establishing a model store was initiated in the office of the Executive District Officer D.I.Khan. To begin with, the project staff visited the office of EDO (Health) D.I.Khan. The existing drug store within the office of the EDO (Health) and the necessary requirements for its renovation were identified. Work on restoration of the existing store was started in consultation with the EDO (Health) and would be ready for use by the end of July 2003.

## Trainings on Standard Operating Procedures

Several trainings on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for dispensing and storekeep-

## Disbursement of DFID drugs

In an agreement the Department for International Development UK (DFID) consented to supply emergency drugs to different districts in Balochistan and NWFP. In addition to the two model districts of Abbottabad in NWFP and

## Meeting with the Minister of Health, Balochistan

A meeting was held at Quetta with the Minister Health Balochistan Hafiz Hamdullah during the month of March 2003. The minister was briefed about EDSP and the concept and planning of the model district was explained to him by the Project Director EDSP. The districts where drugs should be supplied immediately were discussed in detail.

The honorable minister identified areas required to be included in EDSP's plans as partial intervention districts and gave his consent for the formation of a steering committee to facilitate the work of EDSP and formulation of PC 1 to incorporate the work of EDSP in government setup.

ing were conducted from March through May 2003 in NWFP and Balochistan. These trainings constituted a major activity of the project. The participants were identified with the help of the relevant EDOs (health) and they included dispensers, storekeepers and medical technicians working at government health facilities. The trainings were conducted in Abbottabad, Swat and D. I. Khan in NWFP and Lasbela and Quetta in Balochistan. These training sessions were well-attended and successful activities that aimed to enlighten the participants about the correct ways of dispensing and storing medicines. The respective health departments supported the trainings, which was a major contributing factor towards their success.

Lasbela in Balochistan, nine other districts were supplied with drugs namely: Swat, Upper Dir, Lower Dir and Dera Ismail Khan in NWFP and Mastung, Killa Abdulla, Dera Bugti, Kalat and Loralai in Balochistan.

The relevant district health departments were asked to first supply a list of drugs that were required at their health facilities. After approval of the lists, DFID outsourced the purchase and delivery of the drugs to Crown Agents.

These emergency medicines have been purchased for the districts and at present delivery at relevant locations is underway.



Participants of SOPs workshop held in Lasbela, Balochistan

