



## EMERGENCY DRUGS SUPPLY PROJECT

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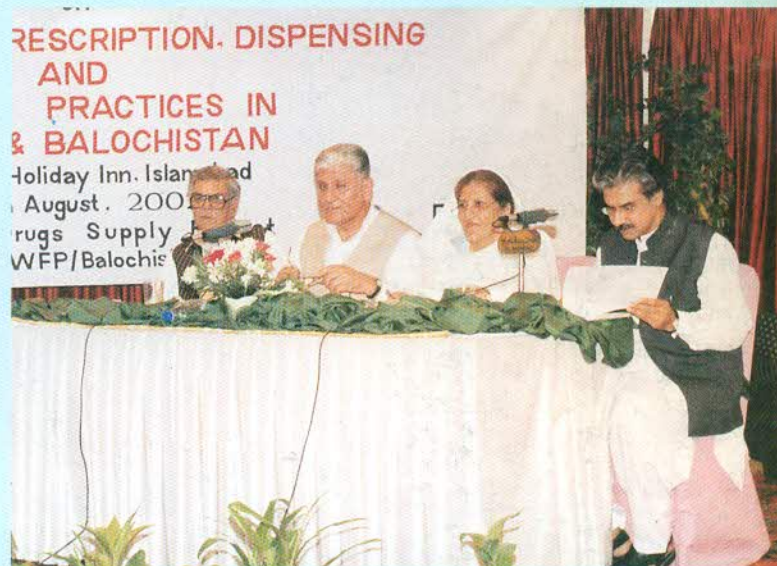
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## Well-Planned and Properly Executed Surveys are Mandatory to Gain Knowledge about the Existing Practices: Kasi

A one-day seminar was held by EDSP on August 27, 2002 in Islamabad in which the baseline data on prescription, dispensing and storage practices in NWFP and Balochistan were shared with all the stakeholders.

The seminar was attended by the Federal Health Minister Dr. Abdul Malik Kasi, health ministers of the NWFP and Balochistan, Dr. Khalif Bile: the representative of WHO, DG Health NWFP and the associate health advisor of DFID. Other officials from health departments of NWFP and Balochistan, representatives from the Ministry of Health were also present for this event.

Speaking on the occasion, the Federal Health Minister said that proper storage and balanced, careful and rational prescription would be beneficial to patients and save up to 70 percent of the budget allocation for drugs. Lauding the efforts of EDSP, the minister said that well planned and properly executed surveys are mandatory to gain knowledge about the existing practices; he urged the concerned authorities to make efforts to improve the prevailing conditions in the country.



## EDSP Seeking Partners

EDSP is actively seeking partners for future work in Essential Drug Management in the country. For this purpose, letters are currently being sent to potential allies introducing them to EDSP and its objectives and asking them to join hands in working on drug management issues. It is hoped that new partners will come on board and will cooperate with EDSP in dynamically addressing the issue of essential drug management in Pakistan.

## Government Officials Briefed on Findings of Balochistan's Baseline Survey

In the third week of September the EDSP Balochistan Team invited Secretary Health:Government of Balochistan, Director General Health, Director Health Services, Additional Secretary Health, HO Representative, Director IPH and Chairperson Pharmacy Department: University of Balochistan for a presentation on baseline data conducted in the province. They were also briefed on new developments, achieved and future targets. This activity was deemed very successful. It served to bring aboard all the stakeholders, besides developing a good rapport with the government machinery

## Monitoring of DFID Drugs

Monitoring of drugs supplied by DFID was carried out in the provinces of NWFP and Balochistan. The EDSP personnel visited several health facilities in different districts and collected the required information on pre-printed monitoring forms. The monitoring forms were mailed to the rest of the facilities, to be filled in by EDOs (H). Some setbacks were encountered in gathering the information due to large distance and communication problems

## Government of NWFP Supports Persistence of EDSP in the Province

The NWFP Health Department came out as a staunch supporter of continuation of EDSP activities in the province. The consensus came forward in a meeting held in the office of the Minister for Health, attended by Secretary and Additional Secretary Health and EDSP provincial staff. The participants were briefed on the activities accomplished so far and those planned for the future. Keeping in view the significance of the planned activities and the time limitation, it was agreed that the time frame needs to be prolonged. The participants agreed that the project has a promising role in strengthening and improving the existing system of drug management. They agreed that a lot of effort and a considerable amount of time would be required to improve drug management and rational use of drugs.

Additional Secretary Health placed a written request to the Associate Advisor of DFID for extension of the project for one additional year. The extension of the project would give the government ample time to incorporate the SOPs into its system and continue the work through its own institutions.

## Meeting in Islamabad on Strategy for SOP Development

Development of SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) is an integral part of the Technical Assistance component of the EDSP. A meeting was held on August 28, 2002 in Islamabad on how to devise standard operating procedures. Three areas: Dispensing, Storage and Formulary were identified as

weak & inefficient based on the data collected from baseline survey. EDSP teams from Islamabad, NWFP, FATA and Balochistan participated. Targets were set for the Balochistan and Frontier Teams to present their first drafts on the identified areas by the end of September.

# DG Health NWFP Emphasizes the Need for Proper Dispensing and Storage Practices

A workshop on good dispensing and storage practices was held from October 1 to 3, 2002 at a local guesthouse in Peshawar. Organized by EDSP Peshawar office, the basic objective of the activity was to design Standard Operating Procedures for vital practices of the health care delivery system.

Additional Secretary Health, Muhammad Ishfaq Khan, inaugurated the workshop and said that

dispensing and storage of medicines was a neglected area and proper attention by the policy makers was required for improvement. He added that poor dispensing has detrimental effects on health care delivery system and can result in wastage of valuable resources. He appreciated the efforts of EDSP for taking the lead and scientifically indicating the weaknesses in this field. He approved the development of standard protocols and procedures for dispensing and storage practices to improve the current state of affairs.

DG Health NWFP, Dr. Habib-ur-Rehman was the chief guest for the occasion. He appreciated the efforts being made by EDSP in the area of drug management and emphasized the need for proper dispensing and storage practices

in the country.

Delegates from Baluchistan, Punjab, Islamabad, WHO, Executive District Officer health, Medical and Deputy Medical Superintendent from selected districts and pharmacists from the teaching and DHQ hospital attended the workshop.

All the participants took active part in the discussions. The participants discussed at length the already prepared draft of the SOPs. At the end of each group activity, changes made in the draft were presented to the entire house.



## Workshop on Development of Guidelines for Formulary Development

A workshop on Development of Guidelines for Formulary Development was held on October 28 & 29, 2002 at Gardenia Resort in Quetta. The objective of the activity was to develop a consensus document (Guidelines for Formulary Development) with input from various stakeholders.

All the participants took active part in the discussions. The participants critically analyzed and discussed at length the different documents provided to them related to formulary development. At the end of the group activity, the participants presented the proposed changes in the documents. This gave shape to a new document on formulary development, well suited to the local requirements and prevailing conditions. On the second day of the workshop, participants discussed in detail the administrative stage of formulary development and suggested strategies of carrying forward the planned tasks. At the conclusion of the workshop several recommendations were made that would help in taking forward the task of formulary development

