

Guidelines for Drug Donations

Some Key Points

In the times of emergencies appropriate, sustainable and reliable medicine supplies are of critical importance. Many individuals and organizations donate medicines as charity. However, experience in international emergencies has shown that some times these supplies pose serious problems like un-needed medicines, expired medicines, inappropriately labelled medicines etc. which negatively effect the management of emergency situation and have a huge opportunity cost.

Guidelines for Drug Donations have been developed over the years with the help of hundreds of emergency health experts and organizations. These Guidelines are jointly owned by following 15 international organizations involved in humanitarian work including medicines supplies. Coordinated by World Health Organizations these organizations include Caritas Internationalis; Churches' Action for Health of the World Council of Churches; International Committee of the Red Cross International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; International Pharmaceutical Federation; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; Médecins Sans Frontières; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; OXFAM; Pharmaciens Sans Frontières; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Population Fund; and World Bank.

WHO appreciate all those who are making donation of medicines but request them to ensure the following before buying and supplying the medicines in order to maximally benefit from these donations:

- All the donations should be relevant to the current needs in the effected districts. Consult with Ministry of Health or WHO to know more about it.
- If drugs are being imported, then make sure that these are registered in the country of export to ensure safety and quality of medicines and to avoid any double standards.
- The donated medicines should not have expiry date less than one year, if the expiry date is less than one year, then please first consult with the MoH or WHO.
- All the medicines should be properly labelled and at least it should contain generic name, batch number, dosage form, strength, name of manufacturer, quantity in the container, storage conditions and expiry date.
- Drugs should be properly packed and each carton should not weight more than 50 Kgs.