

Table 1 Guidelines and standard operating procedures developed by WHO during the course of emergencies, their operational objectives and the expected outputs

Guidelines/standard operating procedures	Operational objectives	Outputs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO guidelines for medicine donations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To streamline international and local medicine donations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process of medicine donations was regulated • Unwanted, irrelevant medicines were eliminated from donations • Medicine with prescribed shelf life received
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of rational use of medicines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote evidence-based use of medicine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of rational use promoted • Essential medicines put into practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard operating procedure for BHUs and RHCs essential medicines supply chain management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish primary health care need-based list of medicines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand and supply of medicines rationalized • Stock-outs were avoided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard treatment guidelines for outpatients for priority diseases/conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide treatment protocols at primary health care level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescriptions rationalized • Supply of medicines facilitated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard operating procedure on quantification/forecast of needs of medicines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To adopt evidence-based method of quantifying medicine needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicine supply needs quantified • Stock-out avoided
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard operating procedure for good storage and inventory control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide for the professional storage and inventory control of medicines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicines professionally stored resulting in preservation of their efficacy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of expiry calendar • Warehouse assessment tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid expiry of medicine • To assess storage facility/capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum quantity of medicines expired/wasted • Storage capacity/facility assessed for improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard operating procedure for safe disposal of unwanted/expired medicines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To dispose of unwanted medicines locally in safe mode 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe disposal of unwanted medicines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring tool for essential medicines at BHUs/RHCs and secondary health care facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To monitor essential medicines at health care facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The medicines supplied and used were monitored and gaps identified
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training manual for essential medicine management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To train dispensing personnel on management components of essential medicine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensing personnel were trained on management components of essential medicine
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard operating procedure for dispensing child dosage form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure professional dispensation of child dosages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensation of child dosage rationalized
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard operating procedure on emergency medicine procurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate timely procurement of quality medicines during emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality medicines were procured in limited time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need-based list of medicines for earthquake devastated areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a rational list of essential medicines for earthquake victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unwanted medicines were neither requisitioned nor procured

BHUs = basic health units; RHCs = rural health units.