Pharmaceutical situation in Afghanistan: a preliminary assessment

WHO fact-finding mission
14-23 January 2002
Infrastructures greatly damaged: production and supply systems
Essential Medicines are not available and of low quality

- Empty shelves in public health facilities
- Strong reliance on drug donations by international community
Essential Medicines are not available and of low quality

- Very limited local production (broken machines, lack of raw material and basic material)
- Sub-standard drugs both in public and private sector
- Irrational prescription by physicians (i.e. double prescription due to ineffective drugs)
Urgent need for technical and financial assistance: US$ 25 million for 1 year

- **Strengths**
  - Afghan staff committed, motivated, determined to improve health situation
  - Commitment shown by international community in Tokyo

- **Immediate steps**
  - Re-organization of the MOPH Pharmaceutical Services
  - Application of drug donation guidelines
  - Create a Central Medical Store reaching the PHC level, with appropriate training of health professionals
  - Development of National Essential Drugs List and National Drug Policy