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Abstract

Background: Under-5 mortality remains high in developing nations despite decades of multilateral cooperation to reduce it. Diarrhoea contributes up to 15% of all mortality in this age group. Frequently reported barriers include poor hygiene, lack of sanitation facilities, and negligible public health education on the issue. Interventions such as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) could complement modern public health approaches with renewed vigour in wake of SARS-CoV-II (COVID-19).

Aims: We sought to assess maternal hand hygiene and ability to prepare oral rehydration solution at home.

Methods: In addition to the ability to prepare oral rehydration solution at home, this cross-sectional study, carried out at the Sughra Shafi Medical Complex, Narowal during 2017, compared knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of mothers of children with diarrhoea to those shoes children did not have diarrhoea.

Results: 511 (48%) children

Conclusion: These findings informed management of frequent child diarrhoea cases presented at the hospital with locally relevant preventive knowledge. They are also expected to be useful in educating mothers on regular handwashing and the preparation of ORS as home-based

interventions.

Keywords: childhood diarrhoea, WASH, ORS, hygiene, sanitation

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Introduction

Sustainable development in the World Health Organization (WHO) Region for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMR) has been held back by familiar shortcomings (1,2). A recent review of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) depicted the EMR as making patchy progress instead of applying coherent national planning to improve living standards across the board. It cited known limitations to sector-specific development practised during the 20th century as evident in several countries where the burden of childhood diarrhoea (

Like many countries in the Region, Pakistan has a long history of implementing the global agenda for diarrhoea control (12). Despite hosting the 3rd International Association for Maternal and Neonatal Health Congress in Lahore to interventions like Control of Diarrhoea Disease and exploring various local treatment options, the country nevertheless continues to experience high