

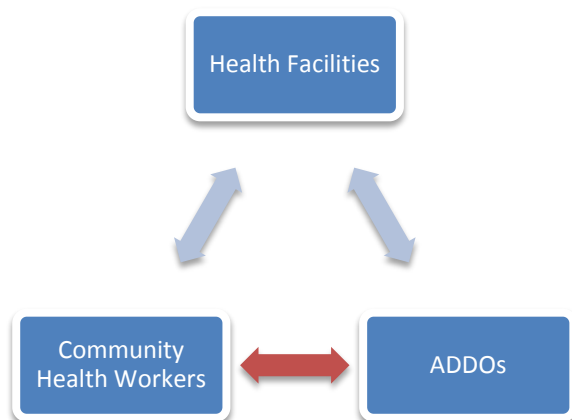
ADDO-CHW-Health Facility Linkage to Improve Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health

Introduction

Management Sciences for Health's (MSH) Sustainable Drug Seller Initiatives (SDSI) program aims to enhance the long-term sustainability of accredited drug dispensing outlets (ADDOs), ensure the quality of products and services provided by ADDOs, and help improve community-based access to medicines and health care. As part of achieving this goal, SDSI is proposing to link ADDOs with local community health workers (CHWs) and health facilities to improve community-based access to medicines and health care, while at the same time enhancing the sustainability of both the CHW and ADDO initiatives. The belief is that such a linkage would strengthen the quality of services provided by both CHWs and ADDOs and expedite patients' receipt of proper care.

Currently, CHWs and ADDOs are both independently linked to health facilities, but they lack a formal relationship with one another. CHWs are trained to refer sick patients to health facilities for care, which also supervise CHW work. ADDOs are also trained to refer severely sick patients to health facilities, as well as patients who require medicines that are not available at ADDOs. MSH is proposing to formally link HWs and ADDOs.

Proposed Model to Formally Link Health Facilities, CHWs, and ADDOs



We believe that this linkage will benefit ADDOs, CHWs, health facilities, and communities. ADDOs would improve their standing in the community as people develop a greater recognition of the dispensers' role in providing public health services. ADDOs could also profit from increased sales due to more customer traffic and periodic patient referrals from CHWs when health centers are far away, closed, or out of medicines. CHWs would benefit from greater recognition as their communities realize that CHWs play a critical role in connecting patients with prompt, high-quality care and medicines. Health facilities would benefit from having documented and coordinated referrals from CHWs and ADDOs. They would also profit from the increased opportunity for CHWs to identify critically ill patients to receive a timely first dose of antibiotics from ADDOs before arrival at the health facility.

Most importantly, communities would benefit as they would gain better access to quality medicines and health care services.

Exploring ways to optimize CHW contributions is a priority, as the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare considers introducing a national CHW program to improve maternal, neonatal, and child health. We believe that linking ADDOs and CHWs would help strengthen the effectiveness and the sustainability of the CHWs, which is the basis for the proposed collaboration between the Kibaha District Health Team and MSH.

Potential Collaboration with Kibaha District Health Team

MSH proposes the following activities, in collaboration with the Kibaha District Health Team, to facilitate the linkage between ADDOs and CHWs:

1. Agree upon an ADDO-CHW linkage strategy. This strategy will outline how CHWs will be connected to ADDOs, the communication expectations between ADDOs and CHWs regarding medicines availability and patient cases, CHW referral guidelines to ADDOs, the process for documenting CHW referrals to ADDOs and subsequent ADDO referrals to health facilities, ADDOs' role in supporting and mobilizing community members for community health programs (e.g., village health days, immunization campaigns, etc.), and the mechanisms for monitoring, supervising, and documenting the ADDO-CHW linkage.
2. Sensitize key partners, including the MOHSW, village government representatives, and Pathfinder International, on the strategy.
3. Conduct a joint orientation session for CHWs, ADDOs, and health facilities in the Kibaha district. The orientation session will include:
 - a. A refresher training on maternal, neonatal, and child health.
 - b. An outline of each party's roles and responsibilities around diagnosis, treatment, referral, and documentation.
 - c. The distribution of referral and documentation tools (to be coordinated with Pathfinder's existing CHW-health facility referral forms).
4. Monitor the ADDO-CHW-health facility connection, and provide supportive supervision to ADDOs and CHWs to enhance the linkage and optimize its benefits.
5. Document and disseminate preliminary results from the activity.

Timeline

The envisioned timeline for this activity is May – August 2014, as outlined below:

	May	June	July	August
Outline ADDO-CHW linkage strategy				
Joint orientation session				
Monitoring and supportive supervision				
Documentation and dissemination				