

Providing quality family planning products and services through Accredited Drug Shops in Uganda

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Background

- Uganda's National Drug Authority collaborated with the Sustainable Drug Seller Initiative (SDSI) to conceptualize and implement an accredited drug seller initiative which transformed existing Class C drug shops into regulated, profitable Accredited Drug Shops (ADS)
- ADS were piloted in Kibaale district (2009–2011)
- SDSI collaborated with MSH's STRIDES program to broaden the family planning services that ADS provide and expand ADS to the Kyenjojo, Kamwenge, Kamuli, and Mityana districts (June 2012 to present)

Approach/Methods

- Incorporate family planning into the ADS training curriculum
- Train drug sellers to counsel women on family planning, initiate oral contraceptives or condoms, and refer to nearby health facilities for other methods
- Accredit ADS attendants and premises that meet ADS standards
- Conduct supportive supervision of ADS attendants
- Provide family planning registers for sellers to maintain



Challenges and Solutions

- **Challenge:** Supportive supervision is critical to maintaining the skills of ADS attendants; however, sustainability is difficult due to reliance on the public health structure
- **Solution:** Support formation of ADS provider associations and build their capacity to conduct peer supervision
- **Challenge:** Relying only on medicine sales decreases business sustainability
- **Solution:** Stocking additional items, such as cosmetics and home care products, reduces dependence on medicine sales



Results/Accomplishments

- Between June and December 2012, 430 drug sellers were trained and accredited in the four districts
- Data collected demonstrated improved access to family planning services from the ADS outlets; for example—
 - From July–December 2012 in Kyenjojo, 56 ADS served 2,623 family planning clients: 52% received oral contraceptives while 13% were referred to public health facilities for other methods of family planning
 - In Kamwenge from September 2012–March 2013, 1,012 new clients and 696 returning clients accessed family planning services from 40 ADS outlets; 1,050 cycles of oral contraceptives were dispensed
 - From October 2012–May 2013 in Kamuli, 88 ADS served 4,942 family planning clients; 2,664 cycles of oral contraceptives were dispensed; 470 clients were referred to public health facilities for other methods of family planning
 - From September 2012–April 2013 in Mityana, 97 ADS served 2,811 family planning clients; 2,842 cycles of oral contraceptives were dispensed; 340 clients were referred to public health facilities for other methods of family planning

Conclusion and Way Forward

Because the vast majority of ADS attendants are women who live in the communities they serve, linking ADS shops to the provision of family planning products seems a natural fit.

