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# Tanzania, Uganda, and Liberia: Accredited drug shops as a platform for family planning initiatives

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*Family Planning Provision in Drug Shops: Research and Program Experience, Next Steps*

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# Accredited Drug Shops: Background

Since 2000, MSH projects have focused on creating and implementing public-private partnerships using government accreditation to increase access to quality pharmaceutical products and services in underserved areas of Tanzania, Uganda, and Liberia.

	Tanzania	Uganda	Liberia
Pilot	2003: 1 region	2009: 1 district	2011: 1 county
Current Scale	21 regions (full-scale)	5 districts	1 county
# Accredited shops	9,226 ADDOs	569 ADS	120 AMS
Population of ADS catchment areas	46,220,000	1,482,279	217,513

# Family Planning in Accredited Drug Shops



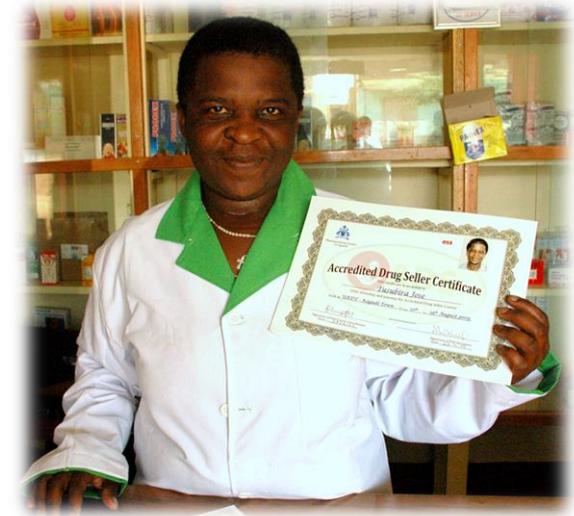
Approach	Output in TZ, UG, LR
Facilitate the inclusion of family planning prescription drugs in expanded medicines list for accredited drug shops	Expanded medicines lists include two oral contraceptive options
Incorporate counseling on options for family planning into accredited drug sellers' training curricula	Training module dedicated to family planning
Accreditation, local monitoring, regular inspections, and peer supervision	Skills maintenance & quality assurance

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

# Recommendations for future research



1. Determine most effective way of sustainably linking accredited drug shops with community health workers to improve access to medicines, including family planning options.
2. Evaluate whether peer supervision among accredited drug shop dispensers improves stock management, facility condition, and dispensing practices.
3. Assess whether consumer advocacy initiatives to encourage appropriate use of medicines in accredited drug shops improve quality of services.
4. Devise a new model for introducing accredited drug seller initiatives into very remote, hard to reach areas.
5. Determine safety and feasibility of expanding the family planning options available at drug shops.



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of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people  
by closing the gap between knowledge and action in public health.*