



Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlets: A Novel Public-Private Partnership*

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An assessment of the Tanzanian pharmaceutical sector co-sponsored by the Ministry of the Health (MOH) and Management Sciences for Health, was carried out in April-May 2001. One conclusion reached on the basis of assessment findings was that there was a need to improve access to affordable, quality drugs and pharmaceutical services in retail drug outlets in areas where there are few or no registered pharmacies. People living in such areas typically purchase their medicines at Part II drug shops, popularly known as *duka la dawa baridi* (DLDB), although the quality of products and services is frequently poor and the DLDB are not licensed to sell prescription drugs.

The MOH/Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority, in collaboration with MSH/SEAM, have developed a pilot program to establish a network of accredited drug dispensing outlets (ADDOS) to provide selected essential medicines (nonprescription and prescription) and other health supplies in four districts in the Ruvuma Region. The ADDO program is using a combination of training, marketing, commercial incentives, inspection, and support strategies to address DLDB problems and transform the shops into a regulated system of profitable ADDOs providing a range of quality drugs and professional services to underserved populations.

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