Drug Shops and Pharmacies:Sources for family planning commodities and information

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John Stanback, FHI 360, Facilitator

John Stanback, PhD, is an internationally recognized leader in research and testing of innovative FP practices. He brings 30 years of research and policy experience to his current role as Senior Scientist in the Health Services Research division of FHI 360. He has worked on the issue of drug shops for more than a decade, mostly recently through USAID's Advancing Partners and Communities (APC) project. Stanback earned his doctorate in health policy and administration from the University of North Carolina where he is an adjunct professor in the Department of Maternal and Child Health..









- Welcome and Introduction
- Presentations
- Q&A
- Closing













Service Deli	very and Social and Behavior Change HIPs are further categorized according to the the evidence base for each practice – proven, promising, and emerging. The darker
the	color used in the HIP brief, the stronger the evidence base for the practice.
Proven	Sufficient evidence exists to recommend widespread implementation, provided that there is careful monitoring of coverage, quality, and cost.
Promising	Good evidence exists that these interventions can lead to impact; more research is needed to fully document implementation experience and impact. These interventions should be implemented widely, provided they are carried out in a research context and evaluated for both impact and process.
Emerging	Limited evidence exists to assess impact; these interventions should be implemented within the context of research or an impact evaluation.







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- Background
- Why is this practice important?
- What is the impact?
- How to do it: Tips from implementation experience
- Priority research questions
- References







To join the Drug Shops & Pharmacies Working Group:

https://knowledge-gateway.org/drugshopsandpharmacies







Today's Panelists



Mario Philip Festin, WHO



Tracy Orr, FHI 360



Frederick Mubiru, FHI 360 Uganda



Pamely Riley, Abt Associates







Mario Philip Festin, WHC

Dr. Mario P.R. Festin is a Medical Officer at the Human Reproduction team at the Department of Reproductive Health and Research at WHO Headquarters. He is an obstetrician gynaecologist, with graduate degrees in health professions education and clinical epidemiology. His main area of work is on research and guidelines on family planning /contraception.









Drug Shops and Pharmacies Webinar 2017

Drug Shops and Pharmacies for Increasing Access to Contraception – WHO perspective

Mario Philip R. Festin MD

Department of Reproductive Health and Research





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FP2020 Goals

- Need to add 120 million new users of modern contraceptives by 2020 to address the unmet need.
- Many factors to ensure meeting this goal: providing commodities, providing quality of care services, within a gender and rights perspective by adequately trained health providers
- Access to contraceptive commodities remains difficult, esp. in hard to reach areas.
- Drug shops and pharmacies are important sources of contraceptives.
- Along with task sharing programmes, they can create a more rational distribution of commodities and services







Definitions

Drug shops – small private outlets offering over-the-counter medicines and supplies for common illnesses, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas.

- In sub-Saharan Africa, drug shops are often the most widely used source for health services, information, and products (Wafula and Goodman, 2010).
- Drug shops and pharmacies have been recognized for their potential to improve health across a wide area of diseases and health issues (Brieger et al., 2004; Smith, 2009)
- Drug shops are managed by usually trained community or lay health workers, or by other health providers



- Ideal Method Mix for Drug Shops and Pharmacies
 - Sell and administer: condoms, cycle beads, pills (COCs, POPs, EC), and injectables
 - Sell and Refer for administration: implants and IUDs







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Characteristics of drug shops

- Drug shops (or chemist shops or patent medicine vendors) vs. pharmacies:
 - Usually more numerous, first stop for care
 - Found in hard to reach and low income sectors
 - Do not typically employ a trained pharmacist
 - Legally allowed to sell only nonprescription drugs and prepackaged medicines.
- Drug shops typically have storefronts, product displays, and a counter.
 - Many have a small room (separated by a door or curtain) for examinations and treatment.
- Like pharmacies, many drug shops also sell over-the-counter family planning methods (condoms and OCPs, maybe DMPA SC)







Characteristics of drug shops

- Education and training of drug-shop staff vary by and within countries
- □ Some have clinical training, including injection.
- □ The owners of these shops are typically literate and may or may not have some type of retail license, family planning training, or health accreditation such as training as a nurse, nursing assistant, pharmacy assistant, or traditional medicine practitioner.





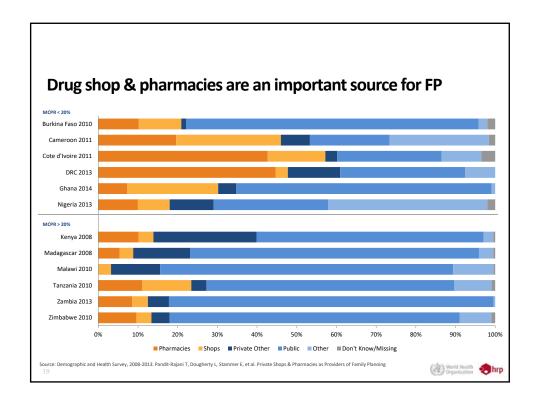


Drug Shops vs Pharmacies Sources for family planning commodities and information

Pharmacy	Drug Shop
Prescription medicines and OTC products	Nonprescription drugs and medicines
Supervised by registered pharmacist	Managed by drug shop operator (DHO)
Accredited and privately owned.	Mostly accredited (but sometimes unregistered) and privately owned
Specifically educated and trained health professional	Education level and training of DSO varies (nurse, nursing assist., pharmacy assist., or traditional practitioner)
Primarily in urban areas.	Numerous and found in rural areas

World Health Organization



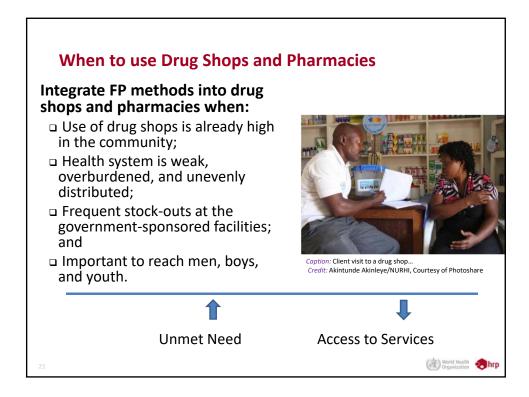


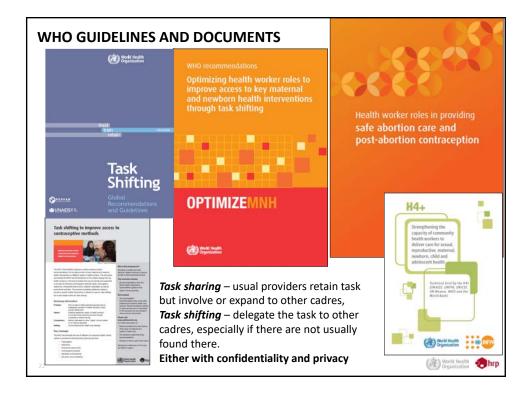
Experience with drug shops for other services

- In 2010, Uganda had 6 636 registered drug shops and many more unregistered ones in rural and hard to reach areas,.
- The WHO TDR project selected and provided drug shop owners with integrated community case management for malaria (iCCM) training (including practicum), appropriate diagnostics equipment (e.g. respiratory timers and malaria rapid diagnostic tests), and subsidized medication supplies.
 - Accredited district health officials provided all training, and at regular intervals a supervisor and the district drug inspector would conduct visits to the shops to assess treatment provision.
 - Referral systems were put in place to facilitate drug shop owners referring children with severe conditions to the local public health facility.

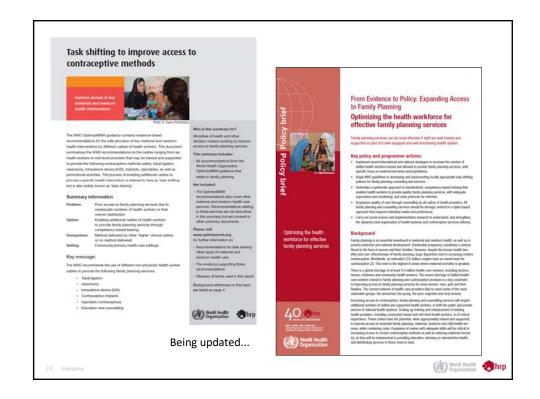
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General considerations for implementation of task sharing programme

- Implementation will be shaped by specific sociocultural and political factors in specific contexts
- National dialogue is required to determine whether:
 - Health worker availability contributes to accessibility/utilization of key interventions
 - There is a willingness to consider task sharing
 - Health care workers need to be supported by other interrelated health systems components
 - The individual recommendations should be considered as 'packages', in terms of health worker categories and the condition being addressed. New tasks should be considered in the context of overall health care delivery, rather than being implemented as standalone measures.





Drug Shops and Pharmacy Programs Challenges and Considerations

- □ Be aware of the **legal, regulatory, and policy environment** and support training, accreditations, and regulation for drug shop operators, including clinical skills.
- Promote quality assurance and oversight, including counseling skills
- Set up would need systems for supervision and referrals
- Utilize drug shops and pharmacies to provide accurate product information and promote FP uptake and use.
- Explore policy efforts to permit OTC sales and provision of FP commodities by drug shops and pharmacies
- Adding other FP commodities such as DMPA SC (and implants) in drug shops and pharmacy efforts may either catalyze policy action in favor of DMPA provision in drug shops or naturally results in home/self injection.



Subcutaneous formulation of DMP presented in the all-in-one Uniject

Consider drug shops and pharmacies as an integral part of the larger health system





Why drug shops and pharmacies? Why now?

- Offering contraception through a wide range of providers and facilities enables access and availability, safely and effectively.
- Access to contraception is part of a comprehensive SRHR package for men and women
- Need to improve policies to allow effective use of skills and competencies of the health workforce
- With appropriate training and support, pharmacy and drugshop operators can facilitate the use of modern contraception, especially in urban slums and rural areas where the unmet need is high, access is poor, and healthworker shortages and other barriers prevent men, women, and youth from accessing family planning services.





"Family planning is one of the best buys that exist for global development"



Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus Director General, WHO June 23rd 2017, RHR PCC Meeting



Pamela Riley, Abt Associates

Pamela Riley, JD, MS, has more than 20 years of experience in international public policy and strategy in information technology and health fields. In her role as Senior Digital Advisor at Abt Associates, Ms. Riley leads Abt's efforts to leverage mobile phone technology to improve development outcomes. Prior to joining Abt, Ms. Riley worked for more than 14 years as senior legal strategist with Vodafone, the world's then largest mobile operator. She holds a law degree from George Washington University, a Masters in Family Studies from the University of Maryland, and Bachelors in Science from Syracuse University.















- May 2016 Drug Shops Working Group meeting
 - Gap: Overview of regulations governing retail outlets
- SHOPS Plus conducted scan in 32 developing countries
 - To guide FP programmatic response
- Methodology
 - Desk review, key informant interviews, consultative meetings to validate findings



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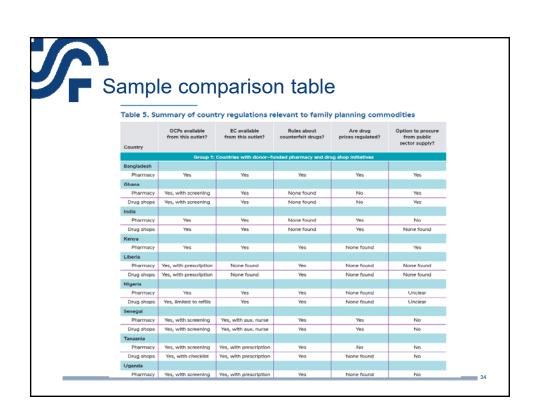
- Pharmacies: Retail facilities, overseen by licensed pharmacists, that sell registered prescriptionbased medicines
- Drug shops: Lower-tier retail outlets, with no pharmacist on staff, that sell over-the-counter drugs, chemical products, and household remedies.



- Rules governing retail establishments
 - Pharmacies and/or drug shops
 - Particular focus on factors that impact FP products and services
- Excludes
 - Rules related to supply chain (drug import, registration, distribution, drug safety)
 - Clinic-based pharmacy services
 - Adequacy of enforcement

Organizing Framework

- Tiers
- Premises
- Personnel
- Marketing
- Enforcement
- Services
- Products

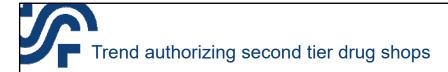




Regulatory frameworks are not standardized

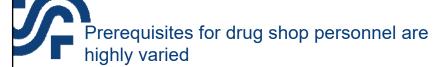
- Wide variation in topics, level of detail
- Difficult to rank along a continuum
 - Internal inconsistencies
 - Lots of missing documents, incomplete view
 - No regional patterns, or patterns based on year of adoption

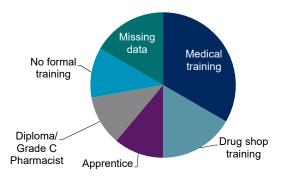




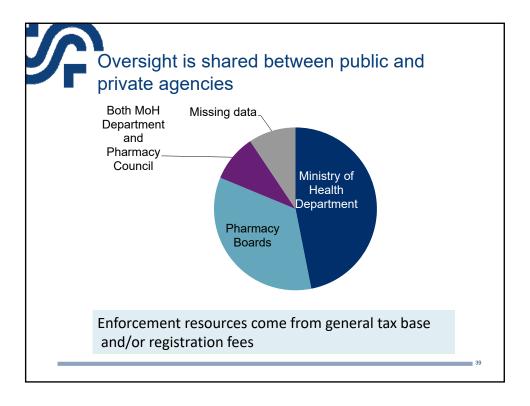
- Regulations authorizing drug shops in 17 of 32 focus countries
 - Response to unregulated market growth
- Four countries permit drug shops to sell some prescription medicines
 - For selected list of common illnesses and conditions
 - Tanzania, Uganda, Liberia, Philippines

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Compare: Pharmacist credentials standardized, university degree in pharmacy



Services: Assess, counsel, refer



- Majority do not address
- Three countries require pharmacists to encourage doctor consultations "whenever necessary"
- Seven countries require counseling when selling contraceptives
- No countries permit medicine dispensers to provide injections
 - Except under rules waivers



- EMLs promote availability of medicines deemed most critical for basic health needs
- OCPs included in every country reviewed
- Inclusion of other methods is widespread

Method	Number countries
OCPs	32
Implants	19
IUDs	26
DMPA	26
Male condoms	26
Female condoms	16

Prescription requirements Oral Contraceptive Pills Formally available No without information prescription on OCP & no prescriptions screening Available Formally only with available prescription without prescription, screening required **Source**: Oral Contraceptives Over-the-Counter Working Group 2016



Discussion/Implications







- Obtain regulatory waivers for pilots
 - Assess extent of existing practices happening outside of regulatory framework (e.g. FP Market Watch)
 - Gather data on positive practices, approaches for risk mitigation (e.g. education on selfscreening)
 - Controlled studies



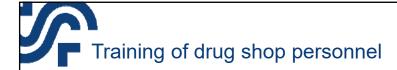
- Need for model guidelines on supervision and enforcement
- Role for self-regulation
 - Fee-bearing private associations providing member benefits
 - Engagement of local stakeholders to monitor quality, community voice
 - Consensus-based ethical standards
 - Dialogue with regulatory bodies

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- Recognize economic factors that impact quality of products and services
 - Induce self-regulation through training in business skills, stock management, record-keeping
 - Expand access to credit, inclusion in insurance, voucher programs



- Advocacy needed to link licensing and minimum prerequisites
 - With programmatic interventions to offer skillbuilding, job aids, peer support
- Potential collaboration with CHW training programs
 - Look to what similar cadres are doing to capture synergies in training and supervision requirements



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Tracy Orr, FHI 360

Tracy Orr, MPH, is a Senior Technical Officer for Research Utilization at FHI 360 where she is responsible for ensuring the effective use of evidence for policy and program decision-making. She has 10 years of experience working in international development and focuses on advocating for FP provision through drug shops, pharmacies and community health workers in sub-Saharan Africa. Currently supported by USAID's Advancing Partners and Communities (APC) project, Tracy has a Master's in Public Health from the University of Michigan









Frederick Mubiru, FHI 360 Uganda

Frederick Mubiru, MSC, is the Project Manager for APC. He is a research and evaluation specialist with 10+ years' experience in project management, action research and M&E in nationwide development and emergency response organizations. Fred works on projects addressing reproductive health/family planning, gender, HIV and AIDs, and he holds an MSC in Population and Reproductive Health Studies from Makerere University, Kampala, as wells as a Post Graduate Diploma in Development Evaluation Studies of Uganda Christian University, Mukono.









Advocacy for the Provision of Injectable Contraception by Drug Shop Operators in Uganda

Tracy Orr and Frederick Mubiru
FHI 360/Advancing Partners and Communities Project

July 12, 2017









Why injectables in drug shops?

- mCPR is low at 35% of current married women, unmet need is high at 28%
- · Injectables are a highly used and preferred method
- Task sharing to VHTs already endorsed and they provide injectables in Uganda
- There are 9,724 registered drug shops in Uganda





What are the local research conclusions?

- Drug shops are for suitable sales and injection
- Drug Shop operators are trainable
- Drug shops operators are significant contributors to CYP

Stanback et.al, 2011 and Chin-Quee et.al, 2010







What is the current family planning political environment?

- London Family Planning Summit 2012
- Family planning conference July 2015
- Uganda Costed Implementation Plan 2015-2020
- DMPA SubQ scale up plan approved 2017





What have been the key advocacy milestones?

- High level policy dialogue held to review evidence
- Task force formed by MOH with FHI 360/APC as secretariat
- Justification Paper presented to MCH Cluster and recommended for presentation to MOH Senior Management
- Justification Paper presented approved by MOH Senior Management
- MOH FP Focal person presented to NDA Senior Management
- Presented scale up implementation plan to Committee of NDA Board



What are the anticipated challenges and proposed solutions?

- Some drug shops are not licensed
 - > Strengthen existing accreditation processes, business practices and compliance measures
- Operators are profit oriented
 - ➤ Use social marketing approaches Create point-of-sale information and promotional materials for clients and job aids for DSO and clients
- Drug shops do not currently submit data to HMIS
 - Support a multi-sectoral monitoring and quality-control mechanism





... Continued challenges and solutions

- Untrained personnel might administer the injectables
 - > Permit only NDA-accredited drug shop operators to inject.
- · Most operators lack FP provision training
 - MOH training curriculum emphasizing counseling and injection skills
 - Incorporate drug shops task sharing into national strategic plans
- Potential for unsafe injection and poor infection control practices
 - Train DSOs on safe provision of FP and injection safety
 - > Establish supportive supervision guidelines
 - > Set up referral networks





Lessons learned

- Stakeholder consensus is important
- Open consultation makes for a richer case
- · Time and timing are important
- Planning is critical
- Building upon past achievements helps
- Linking to global rationales enhances relevance





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Q & A

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Recording and presentation available at:

https://channel.webinar.com/channel/965084607 443925509







For more information, please visit:

www.fphighimpactpractices.org

Drug Shops & Pharmacies Working Group:https://knowledge-gateway.org/drugshopsandpharmacies

www.ibpinitiative.org

www.familyplanning2020.org

THANK YOU





