How Can the Medicine Stores in Liberia Contribute to the War Against Ebola?

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The Platform: The Retail Drug Dispensing Outlets in Liberia

Sustainable Drug Seller Initiative (SDSI)

There are 140 Accredited Medicine Store (AMS), 635 trained dispensers and 17 trained Inspectors in Montserrado. Additionally, 600+ medicine stores in the remaining 14-counties not trained.
What Can Medicine Stores and Other Retail Outlets Do?

Early Prevention

1. Help protect those working in the retail outlets as well as community members through raising Ebola awareness and making available protective washing buckets and chlorine powder in all dispensing outlets in Montserrado County, the hardest hit.
What Can Medicine Stores and Other Retail Outlets Do?

**Early Detection**

2. Use laser beam thermometer to do temp reading and screen clients as they enter the outlet and monitor care-seeking requests for potential clues to Ebola in the community. Dispensers can be an important part of larger Ebola community screening and surveillance efforts.
What Can Medicine Stores and Other Retail Outlets Do?

Access to Routine Care

*Washington Post, 21 Sept 2014*

With Ebola crippling the health system, Liberians die of routine medical problems

3. Continue to provide critical access to essential medicines and services at the community level as other health facilities have closed down.
How is MSH Moving Now

Work with Liberia Medicines and Health Products Regulatory Authority, Pharmacy Board of Liberia, and Pharmacy Association of Liberia to:

• Immediately support the deployment teams of inspectors and pharmacist to educate 700+ dispensers in Monrovia first
• Train dispensers on Ebola in Montserrado and all remaining 14 counties
• Provide washing buckets, chlorine powder and laser beam thermometers
• Conduct rapid assessments of wholesaler and retail drug outlets on medicine availability
• Procure and distribute “community care kits”
• Link Medicine Stores with other broader community-based efforts
MSH’s unique position – the Accredited Medicine Stores (AMS) Program
Questions

• Can private medicine vendors play a role in your country or program in Ebola surveillance and response?

• What role do you feel they can play?

• What challenges do you see in the use of private medicine vendors for disease surveillance and in providing essential health services?