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REF: ADM. 140/269/01

8th December, 2020.

Executive Director/Chief of Party,

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RE: SUPPORT TO EXTENDED PILOT OF ALTERNATIVE DRUG DISTRIBUTION POINTS AS PART OF DIFFERENTIATED SERVICE DELIVERY (DSD) MODELS FOR HIV AND TB SERVICES.

The Ministry of Health, AIDS Control Program in her national consolidated HIV prevention, care and treatment guidelines 2016, 2018 and 2020 recommended and still recommends the implementation of differentiated service delivery (DSD) models for HIV Testing Services (HTS), care and treatment for Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV) and Tuberculosis (TB). DSD models are aimed at facilitating the attainment of the UNAIDS 95:95:95 targets by the year 2030.

Following three (3) years' implementation of DSD, we have been able to harvest innovations that have significantly contributed to simplifying access to and utilization of HIV services as well as contributing to attainment of the UNAIDS 90:90:90 targets. One of the innovations is premised on a pilot conducted by Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) which involved utilization of Community Retail Pharmacies as ART pick up points. The other is premised on a pilot by Health Access Connect that mobilized clients to pool resources and facilitate the health care providers take services closer to the clients. Implementation guidelines have been developed through a highly consultative process and we are now ready to expand these two pilots to other regions. The extended pilots are expected to generate additional evidence to guide policy review.

Implementation of the extended pilots will be coordinated by MOH - AIDS Control Division supported by PEPFAR through Africa Resource Centre (ARC) as an above site IP and regional HIV comprehensive partners. The AIDS Control Division will provide oversight and technical guidance.

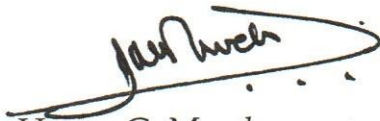
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The purpose of this communication is to request you to support these extended pilots. Below are the specific areas of support;

1. Use GIS Spatial software to identify pharmacies to be evaluated for participation in the initiative.
2. Assess identified pharmacies, using the prescribed selection criteria.
3. Support districts to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with each qualifying pharmacy (owner) on behalf of the Ministry of Health.
4. Provide technical support to the pharmacy in line with service agreement and Scope of works for the service.
5. Support training of pharmacy staff and health facility staff.
6. Pay dispensing fees to the pharmacies.

The extended pilots are scheduled to start **January 2021**.

For more information, reach out to **Dr. Kiggundu Josen (Senior Program Officer - DSD)** on Tel: +256773464624 or Email: jhkiggundu@yahoo.com.



Dr. Henry G. Mwebesa

DIRECTOR GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

- C.c:** Permanent Secretary.
" Commissioner - NDC.
" Program Manager - AIDS Control Program.
" District Health Officer.
" Health Facility In-charge.
" Team Lead - Africa Resource Centre - Uganda.