Kenya National Blood Transfusion Services Overview

By

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Background of Blood Transfusion Services in Kenya

- 1930s: transfusions were organized around surgical practice.

- 1950s: with increasing demand, BRCS organized BTS.

- 1964: after independence the GOK with KRCS support took over.

- Late 1960s: BTS was run as part of hospital laboratory services with no dedicated budget line, staff, or equipment. Each hospital sourced for their own blood.

- From 1985: with advent of HIV/AIDS, reduced blood collections, increased cost of blood and increased emphasis on blood safety became more critical.
Kenya’s Progress

• In 1994 Kenya recognised the need to set up a national blood service in line with WHO recommendations and WHA resolutions.

• Recommendations were made to establish a regional network of transfusion centres under central coordination

• In 2001 Kenya’s first ever blood policy guidelines were developed and launched and first Regional blood transfusion centre (RBTC) and national coordinating office were established in Nairobi.

• Progressively 6 regional and 9 satellite centres have been established.
Map of KNBTS RBTCs and Satellite Centres
Regional Centres

Nairobi RBTC

Nakuru RBTC
Regional Centres

Kisumu RBTC

Mombasa RBTC
Regional Centres

Embú RBTC

Eldoret RBTC
MINISTRY OF MEDICAL SERVICES

KNBTS Head Office
Kenya’s Progress

• Blood policy guidelines developed
• Policy Number 1 (administrative):
  o Mission and goals
  o Organization
    • Government responsibility and partners
    • Central coordination and regional network
    • Management Board
      ✓ Interpret & implement policy
      ✓ Develop enabling guidelines
      ✓ Staff recruitment, training and deployment
Kenya’s Progress

• Policy Guideline 2:
  o Blood supply
    Voluntary donors who meet set criteria
  o BTS functions
    • Community education and mobilization
    • Identification of safe donor pools
    • Donor selection and recruitment
    • Estimate blood needs
Kenya’s Progress

• Policy Guideline Number 3:
  o Processing and screening of blood
    • Maintenance of cold chain
    • Testing and screening of blood
    • Removal from circulation and destruction of contaminated blood
    • Preparation of different blood products
Kenya’s Progress

• Policy Guideline 4:
  o Appropriate use of blood
    • Prepare blood products
    • Develop and disseminate guidelines
    • Implement guidelines

• Policy Guideline 5:
  o Funding
    • Make BTS self sustaining
    • Source of funds
      ▪ Government allocation
      ▪ Cost recovery
      ▪ Income generation activities
      ▪ Donations and gifts
KNBTS Achievements

- Established visible integrated service
- Trained and dedicated personnel
- Infrastructure developed
- Management system in place
- Increased blood collection
- Reduced prevalence of TTIs
- Policy guidelines developed