

WHO's work on safe blood for transfusion in Kenya

Kenya Blood Safety Program Inception Meeting
Pan Afric Hotel

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Outline

- Introduction
- WHO strategies
- Strategy implementation in Kenya
- Areas of continued WHO support
- Conclusion

Introduction

- Estimated need for blood for transfusion for the African Region stands at 10 million units
- Currently, only estimated 4 million units of blood are collected annually in the region
- Lack of blood for transfusion thus continue to be an important contributor to the high mortality among pregnant women, children and trauma victims in the Region
- Unavailability of safe blood during emergencies also often leads hospitals resorting to unsafe replacement donors thus putting patients at risk of TTIs

WHO Recommended Strategies

- Establishment of nationally blood transfusion service
- Collection of blood only from voluntary unpaid blood donors
- Testing all donated blood for transfusion-transmissible infections
- Production of blood components to maximize the use of donated blood
- Appropriate clinical use of blood and the use of alternatives
- Safe transfusion practice at the bedside and quality system covering entire transfusion process

WHO Strategy Implementation in Kenya

- Kenya is among few countries in the region that has embraced all WHO strategies
- Indeed, recently introduced component separation was the last strategy to be adopted
- However, the country is only able to collect just above half of its safe blood needs; and, as a result
- Use of replacement donors is still common in most hospitals, coupled with
- Widely varying clinical practices on appropriate use of blood

Areas of continued WHO support

- Provision of appropriate technical advice, strategies and tools for country adaptation and implementation
- High level advocacy on importance of safe blood for transfusion and voluntary donors through events such as World Blood Donor Day
- Building capacity of national managers on blood safety and providing them opportunity for experience sharing
- Coordinating regional and global monitoring of national blood transfusion services

Conclusion

- Making adequate safe blood available for transfusion is one of the key interventions for achieving MDG 4, 5 and 6
- Kenya and other countries in the region are commended and encouraged to strengthen efforts of meeting their safe blood needs
- WHO together with partners will continue to advocate for adequate safe blood, provide normative programming guidance and build the capacity of national managers

Thank you