

MALAWI BLOOD SAFETY REPORT

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2010

1 Background

Passively reported data from hospital laboratories on blood transfusion services was incomplete for 2010. Therefore, a comprehensive survey of all hospital laboratories was included in the integrated ART and TB Programme supervision conducted in January and February 2011. The survey was limited to data on blood collected from family / replacement donors. The majority of blood products are now provided to health facilities by the Malawi Blood Transfusion Service (MBTS) from voluntary non-remunerated donors. Blood units supplied by MBTS were not directly included in the survey and are reported separately.

Data collected from the hospital laboratories focussed on the number of potential blood examined and on the number of blood units collected that were serologically screened for HIV, Hepatitis B and syphilis.

2 Methods

ART / TB supervision covered all hospitals in Malawi and the majority of health centres and private sector facilities. Given that blood units are only collected at hospitals in Malawi, the data in this report are considered complete. The supervision team visited the laboratory (if available) at each facility and reviewed all blood donor registers, collecting separate counts by quarter for the number of potential blood donors screened, those selected for donation and of the blood units collected, the number screened for HIV and/or Hepatitis B and/or syphilis. No data were collected on the outcomes of clinical screening (blood pressure, etc.) of potential blood donors or on additional lab screening (blood group, malaria, etc.).

3 Results

99.6% of 75,777 blood units collected in 2010 were screened for HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis. Complete screening for all 3 infections was 100% for the 41,424 units collected by MBTS and 99.2% for the 34,353 units collected at hospital laboratories. 242 (0.7%) units from replacement donors at hospitals were screened for HIV and hepatitis B only and 33 (0.1%) were screened for HIV and syphilis only. Collection of incompletely screened units was likely due to temporary unavailability of reagents in an emergency situation. A total of 88,814 potential blood donors were screened (clinically and/or in the lab) in Malawi in 2010 and 75,777 (85.3%) were selected for donation. MBTS contributed 41,424 (54.7%) of 75,777 total blood units collected in Malawi in 2010.

	Hospital labs (replacement donors)		MBTS (voluntary non-remunerated donors)		Total	
Potential blood donors screened	41,929		46,885		88,814	
Total blood units collected	34,353	81.9%	41,424	88.4%	75,777	85.3%
Units screened for:						
HIV + hepatitis B + syphilis	34,078	99.2%	41,424	100.0%	75,502	99.6%
HIV + hepatitis B only	242	0.7%	0	0.0%	242	0.3%
HIV + syphilis only	33	0.1%	0	0.0%	33	0.0%