



Blood Safety

Progress in 2014

CONTEXT

Blood transfusion services were provided by the Ethiopian Red Cross society since 1969 through a MoU with the FMOH.

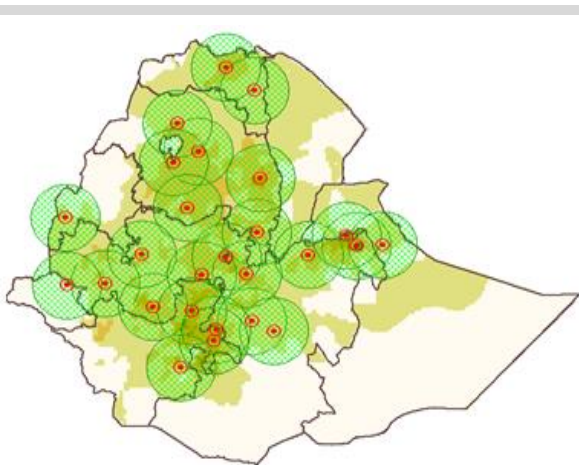
The Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) made a policy decision to revert the responsibility for the National Blood Transfusion Services (NBTS) from the Ethiopia Red Cross Society(ERCS) to a Government-led and managed service under the FMOH and the Regional health bureaus a process which started in 2010 and was completed in 2013.

This was with the aim of improving efficiency, access and quality of a service that was mainly a fragmented, hospital based system that could only be accessed by hospitals in the regional capitals, heavily reliant on family replacement donors, with neither universal nor quality assured testing of blood and inappropriate use of blood at the hospitals.

KEY COUNTRY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Blood transfusion program has been granted autonomy status under the FMOH
- The number of functional blood banks has increased from 12 to 25 each covering hospitals within 100km radius
- Number of hospitals accessing safe blood and blood products increased from 48% in 2012 to over 90% in 2014 (each of the blood banks supplies 8-12 hospitals each).
- The number of Active mobile blood collection teams increased from 4 in 2012 to 31 in 2014

NATIONAL OUTCOMES



FIGURE_1

Regional blood bank sites

- Total number of units of blood collected increased from 24,000 units per annum in 2004 to 95,466 in 2013 (62,000 units in first 6 months of 2007 EFY)
- Proportion of voluntary blood donation increased from 10% in 2012 to 92.1% in 2014 achieving the WHO regional target of 80% voluntary blood donation.
- Community involvement and ownership was strengthened through involvement of opinion, religious and political leaders as well as celebrities.
- HIV prevalence among blood donors dropped from 3.5% in 2004 to 0.78% in 2014.

KEY COUNTRY CHALLENGES

- Inadequate funds for activities
- Inadequate number of staff

KEY WHO and CDC ACTIVITIES for 2015

- Quality of the blood transfusion services working towards accreditation through AfSBT accreditation
- Consolidate the gains achieved through the years
- Support the establishment of structures for the autonomy of the blood transfusion service

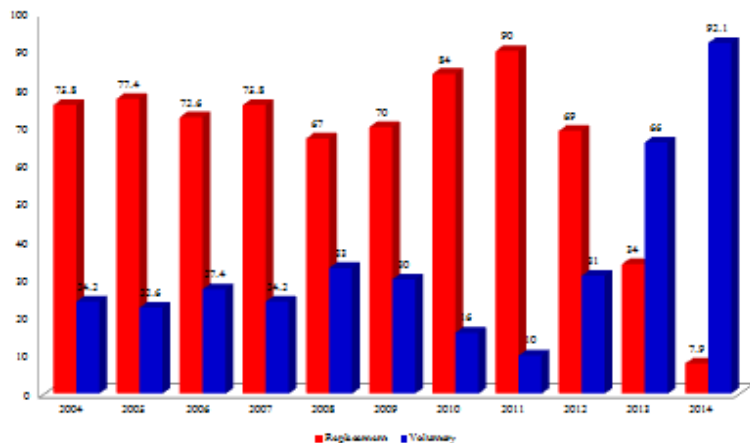


FIGURE 2

Trends of voluntary and replacement blood donation.

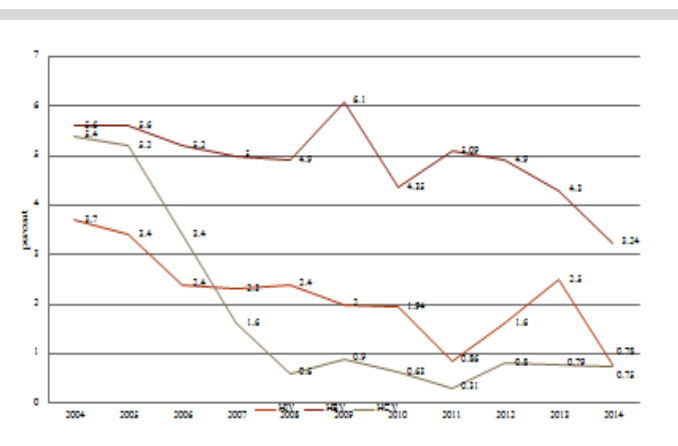
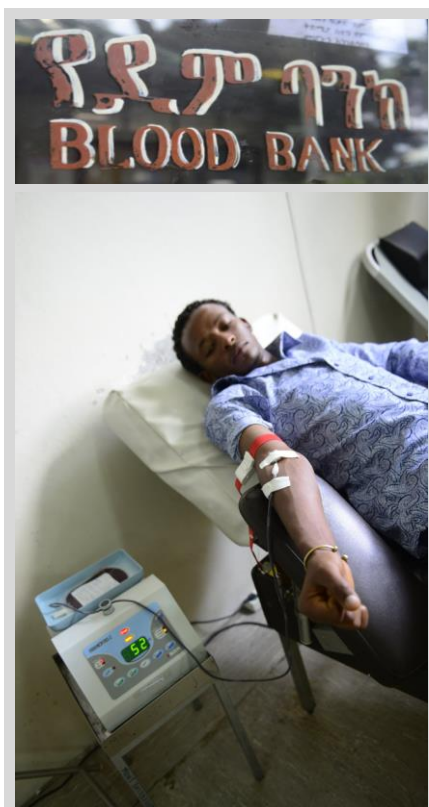


FIGURE 3

Trends in TTi prevalence among donors

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS OF WHO WITH PEPFAR SUPPORT

- WHO supported the blood safety program under the PEPFAR cooperative agreement since 2004.
- Created the blood safety unit and recruited staff to support the program.
- Blood policy and plan developed and implementation supported.
- Standards, guidelines developed and are being implemented.
- Supported the restructuring and reversion of the blood transfusion service from ERCS to FMOH (Support provided using funds from the FMOH CoAg).



FIGURE 3

Voluntary blood donation sessions at central blood bank in Addis Ababa

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