Managing a Blood Service in Papua New Guinea - Challenges

Submitted by: Papua New Guinea
Department of Health

Managing a Blood Service in Papua New Guinea-Challenges

APEC Regional Blood Safety Workshop-Attaining a safe and Sustainable Blood Supply-

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Introduction

- Background
- History of Blood service in PNG
- Challenges
- What have we done so far
- Way forward
Papua New Guinea

- “Land of the Unexpected”
- Largest nation in the South Pacific, both in land area and population.
- Papua New Guinea and its associated 600 islands have a total land area of 462,840 square kilometers.
- About 50% of the land area is mountainous and many areas remain inaccessible by road.
- Communication-difficult in many areas
- In 2012: total population estimated at 7.2 million (2000 National Census)
- Growth rate of 2.7%.
- The population is unevenly distributed among the regions, with about 40% living in the Highlands Region, 28% in Momase Region, 20% in Southern Region, and 14% in Islands Region.
- About 87% of the population resides in the rural areas.
History of Blood Service

- Established 1961-Port Moresby, Red Cross and Australian Admin.
- 1970s-other blood banks est. in other towns
- Blood service was managed by NGOs manage by Red Cross with funding from the Govt.
- 2006-St Johns Ambulance, Govt funding
- Govt funding: est PGK 300,000 (USD 121,200)
- National responsibilities by Port Moresby Gen Hospital staff
- 2009-Govt decision to take over function to Health Dept
- 2010- NBTS established within Health Dept
- 2011-Manager NBTS appointed (only national staff)
National Blood Transfusion service

- NBTS approx 3 years old in Department of Health
- Single staff
- No office set up/no national support staff
- 32 blood centers –(20 centers visited -2006)
- Local blood bank staff-employees of individual hospitals and health facilities
- Funding: PGK 65, 000 ≈ USD 26,260 (2012-2014)
- PNG req. approx. 150,000 units annually
- Collects average. 30,000 units
- TTIs rate 25% (HIV 1/2, HBV, Syphilis)
- VNRBD 50%
- Poorly coordinated Quality Management System
National Blood Transfusion service

- **Goal**—establish a national blood service as an integral part of the national health care system that will ensure provision of sufficient safe blood

- **Vision**—to be an efficient and effective provider of safe blood and blood products

- **Mission**—to save lives and improve health through the provision of safe blood and blood products
National Blood Policy-final draft

- **Intent of the Policy** - The National Blood Policy ensures the government’s commitment and support to establish an effective national blood service system.

- NHP 2011-2020

- Vision - 2050
12 Strategic Objectives-

The key strategies are:

- Establish a National Blood Programme
- Promote and achieve 100% voluntary blood donations
- Establish National Standards/Guidelines
- Implement quality management system
- Ensure availability of adequate and appropriately trained human resource
- Ensure availability of appropriate physical infrastructures and equipment
- Establish national and provincial donor data base
- Establish Blood Service Information System
- Promote appropriate clinical use of blood and blood products
- Constitute National Blood Advisory Committee
- Establish regulatory mechanism for private, churches and NGOs run blood banks.

Promote collaboration and partnerships
Where are we now:

- NBTS recognised by the Govt as a vital service
- Funding file no. allocated.
- Office space allocation approved with x 6 support staff confirmed to commence work shortly
- Blood Policy-Final Draft (Oct 2014 SEM)
- National Blood Guidelines-Final Draft
- Quality Standard Manual and Checklist-Final Draft
- Standard Operating Procedure Manuals
What have we done so far:

- Training conducted (World Health Organization Funding and Technical Support)

- 2010 - x20 nurses trained on Donor Management

- 2011
  - x25 nurses trained on VNRBD recruitment
  - 20 lab personnel blood banking procedures

- 2012 - x 20 lab OICs trained on Blood Bank Quality Management System

- 2013 - 35 TOT: PNG Red Cross Volunteers and some nurses trained on VNRBD recruitment

- Celebration and recognition of donors - WBDD
Biggest Challenge

- Is it possible to achieve a ‘well organised, nationally coordinated’ blood transfusion service??

  or

- Can Papua New Guinea manage a ‘fully centralised national Blood Service’??

- How do we do it?