

## WHO celebrates World Blood Donor Day

The WHO in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) and the Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia (NAMBTS) on 14 June commemorated the World Blood Donor Day. The event, which serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood, saw blood recipients giving testimonies and donors being honored with certificates.



Speaking at the event, the WHO Representative in Namibia, Dr. Charles Sagoe-Moses said blood transfusion is a core service within health care systems, and individuals who donate their blood provide a unique contribution to the health and survival of others. Highlighting that Namibia, like many other countries, faces an ongoing challenge in collecting a sufficient blood supply from safe donors to meet the national requirements, Dr. Sagoe-Moses, “The donation of blood by voluntary non-remunerated blood donors is recognized as crucial for the safety and sustainability of national blood supplies.”

He also advised that in order to ensure safety and a quality outcome, blood supplies and patient blood management should follow updated regulatory requirements and draw from the best available evidence.

The Blood Transfusion and Training Senior Medical Officer at the MoHSS, Dr. Britta Lohrke said only less than 1% of Namibia’s population donates blood regularly. “Patients need this gift of blood, and we are thankful to the donors for this important gift,” she expressed.

This year’s campaign focuses on blood donation in emergencies. The slogan is: ***What can you do?***, with the secondary message: ***Give blood. Give now. Give often.***

Individuals interested in donating blood should be older than 16 years, weigh more than 50 kg, lead a sexually safe lifestyle and enjoy general good health.