



# AfSBT

**Africa Society for  
Blood Transfusion**

Société Africaine  
de Transfusion Sanguine

Sociedade Africana  
para Transfusão Sanguínea

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Registration number: 2011/008414/08

## **Report of the Managing Director to the General Assembly of Delegates, June 20<sup>th</sup> 2018, Arusha, Tanzania**

Welcome members of Africa Society for Blood Transfusion (AfsBT).

Africa Society for Blood Transfusion this week celebrates twenty-one years of its existence. The primary objective of the Society is to promote efficient and effective national blood transfusion services all over Africa and beyond that meet the AfsBT Standards for Blood Transfusion. This is being achieved through training and education of personnel, providing technical support where needed and collaborating with partners who share similar interests to promote access to enough and safe blood transfusion with the ultimate goal of reducing patients' mortality and morbidity due to unsafe blood or lack of access. Secondly to advocate for safe and cost effective national blood programmes in all countries by engaging our governments, partners and community leaders to recognize this need in order to improve the quality of health care in our countries. The last two years have indeed been challenging with very limited resources available for our planned programmes.

### **The Step Wise Accreditation Programme (SWAP)**

In pursuit of AfsBT goals the leadership and management of your Society have worked to continually improve the Step Wise Accreditation Programme (SWAP). I am pleased to advise that Version 2 of the AfsBT Standards was released in September 2017 and became binding from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. The road map to registration of the AfsBT as an accrediting agency by the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua) was established and the Society is well set to achieve this status in the 12-18 months ahead. The documentation system associated with the SWAP has been extensively revised and is compliant with the ISQua requirements. In the last two years we have trained various cadres from French and English-speaking countries on the Standards and how to train personnel on the Standards and how to carry out assessments of facilities. Considerable progress has been achieved in both English speaking and French speaking countries.

Rwanda Blood Transfusion Service achieved Step 3 accreditation in February, 2017. The Board of AfsBT decided to appoint the Rwanda Blood Transfusion Centre in Kigali as the first Collaboration Centre for AfsBT. The Collaboration Centre hosts training and conferences of



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AfSBT promoting SWAP and AfSBT programmes. Similar centers are planned to be opened in each geopolitical region of AfSBT in a facility in a country that achieves Step 3 accreditation.

**Table** below summarises the personnel trained to date:

Category	French Speaking	English Speaking
Educators (Trainee & Registered)	14	8
Assessors (Trainee & Registered)	4	14
Mentors	2	2

The curricula for the training of both types of personnel were formalized as well as the certification of those that meet the standards. However, there is need for more field training of each group of personnel. This has been affected by the funding reduction over the last two years from our major funding partner, CDC.

### Achievements as per our Strategic Plan

The below summarises the key issues and strategy of the AfSBT until 2020. It shows the Vision, Mission of the AfSBT as well as the **6 “Is” of the core values of the AfSBT, “how we behave”**. It further shows the five (5) key areas of attention for the Society the 5 “Ms” if it is to grow and meet its mandate. These are: **Membership, Marketing, Management, Means and Momentum**. Progress over the last two years in each of these “Ms” is given below.



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## AFSBT'S HOUSE OF STRATEGY

### Big Hairy Audacious Goal for 2018:

In the run to 2018, AfSBT is in the business of growth:

Paid up Members 3,000 | Accreditation of 15 facilities & Society | Self-funding at > 20%

#### Vision:

A relevant and self-sustaining  
Society that ensures fidelity in the blood transfusion  
value chain and promotes blood safety and responsible use of blood  
products everywhere in Africa.

#### Mission:

AfSBT's mission is: To advocate for the highest ethical and professional standards, practices and skills in blood  
transfusion across Africa, enabling safe, universally accessible and sustainable national blood programmes.



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### 1. Membership

The AfSBT Board approved granting free associate membership of the society to transfusion facilities, such as Blood Transfusion Services, Hospital Blood Banks and similar bodies. This follows the recognition that the success of the SWAP and indeed AfSBT itself lies in the support of the transfusion services and especially their understanding of the benefits of SWAP to their national blood programmes and country in general. In addition, management is expecting that this action will result in a significant increase in individual membership as the associate members will encourage members to register. An incentive for associate members based on the number of staff recruited per facility is being worked upon.



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### 2. Marketing of the Society and its Programmes

The Board President and I conducted advocacy missions at the Africa Union, Africa- CDC as well as the Africa Society for Laboratory Medicine (ASLM). The President, Managing Director and Communications Manager were invited to the 57<sup>TH</sup> WHO-Afro ministers meeting in Victoria Falls during the launch of the “Report of the 2013 Survey” on the Status of Blood Safety and availability in the WHO Africa Region. During these contacts the SWAP and the general role of AfSBT was explained in order for these bodies to better appreciate our essential role in promoting safe blood transfusions in all clinical interventions. Dr. Tapko and I also conducted advocacy missions in 5 French speaking countries: Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, Mali and the Ivory Coast. As a result of the mission all the countries have since joined the SWAP programme. On the other hand, the Board approved the rebranding of the AfSBT, a new logo has been adopted and implemented in all our stationary, promotional materials, the journal, Africa Sanguine, the monthly newsletter of AfSBT, Blood is Life and the AfSBT website. Furthermore, the website has been redesigned to reflect the changes to the AfSBT brand. The new brand is also being reflected on the image of the Arusha congress in general. All these changes are aimed at improving the market image of the Society especially as it continues to grow among its peers, membership and potential customers. AfSBT is now definitely on the registers of most international organizations as the body representing blood safety and transfusion issues in the African continent.

### 3. The Management Office (Capacity Building)

The management office has been strengthened over the last 3 years, thanks to CDC funding. Unfortunately, there was no opportunity to capitalize and retain sufficient reserves to maintain a secretariat after the CDC period. The good thing though is that we have since established a good resource of well experienced and dedicated personnel who will be accessible to AfSBT to provide services as and when needed in ensuring the sustainability of programmes. Management office created a consultant register on the website. The aim is for AfSBT and its members, especially associate members, to have instant access to a data base of qualified and



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experienced consultants to hire as and when needed. Furthermore, as reflected in **Table 1**, AfSBT has trained and provided opportunity for experience in training on the AfSBT Standards as well as conducting assessments of facilities for compliance to the Standards. The AfSBT has also established Board committees to improve governance and Programme Committees to help in policy development. The Programme Committees include, Information technology, communications; Transfusion Associated Infections; Transfusion Medicine and Science, Education and Research.

I have had the privilege over the last twenty-one years to work with very dedicated members of the Board and management team. I wish to recognise the work of Mrs. Beryl Armstrong who retired July 2017, Mr. Rob Wilkinson also in the same year. I also recognise the current management team who have taken the SWAP to a much higher level on the ladder to the success of SWAP.

#### **4. Resource Mobilisation in order to Implement Programmes**

AfSBT has to diversify and mobilise resources if it is to grow. The future of AfSBT is in the Membership of AfSBT and the African institutions that are a potential infinite resource for advocacy, financial and material support. However, this remains a challenge. AfSBT management has developed “the cost/benefits” of SWAP in order to encourage Ministries of Health to provide support for SWAP for their national blood services. Nevertheless, it still needs further development, especially on the costing part. Another approach is to seek partnerships for implementing activities of mutual interest to both organisations. In this regard, AfSBT was invited by the Paul Ehrlich Institute (PEI) of Germany to collaborate on advocacy for improving regulatory mechanisms of blood safety in the Africa Region. Similarly, we have established good links with the Global Blood Fund on donor recruitment especially post school donor clubs. These initiatives will help meet our overall objectives as a society including anchoring of the SWAP.

#### **5. Sustainability**

The Strategic Plan clearly identified the need of AfSBT to be a self-sustained organisation, accordingly two approaches have been started. One is to approach other funding partners for sponsorship of specific SWAP activities. In this regard we acknowledge the support of Abbott



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Diagnostics in providing funds under its “Education Grants” scheme to enable AfsBT provide training and baseline assessment support to the French speaking countries of West Africa: Burkina Faso, Benin, Mali and Ivory Coast. Another approach has been to encourage potential customers to seek their own funding. In order to assist facilities, AfsBT has developed various fees schemes for SWAP which are available to facilities or funding agencies. Finally, we need to recognize the fact that the SWAP and related documents are the Intellectual Property (IP) of AfsBT and AfsBT should derive some income from this property. To that extend AfsBT has copy righted the documents related to SWAP. AfsBT also has to work on a financial plan on how to derive income from education and training using materials developed by AfsBT. Key activities include donor recruitment in collaboration with other partners, such as Global Blood Fund. Collaboration in research and establishing professional examinations for different cadres of personnel, especially scientists, nurses, donor recruiters and laboratory technicians.

**In conclusion** AfsBT has work still ahead of it especially in ensuring sustainability of itself as an organisation. The SWAP is a much needed and realistic programme to help uplift the quality of blood services as well as their effectiveness in the health programmes of our countries. There is serious commitment from the Board and management as well as our partners to support the Society so that it successfully implements its programmes especially the Step Wise Accreditation Programme. And we should not take this support for granted.

On my part I retire from the AfsBT this year but will remain accessible to provide any support and advice by any means possible.

On behalf of the Board and management I wish you all a successful congress.

David A. Mvere

Managing Director, AfsBT



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