

NAMBTS
donate life



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



Ministry of Health and Social Services



World Health
Organization

World Blood Donor Day



Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives. 14 JUNE 2022

PRESS RELEASE

On 14 June, the Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia (NamBTS) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) join the global community to commemorate World Blood Donor Day. The day focuses on thanking blood donors who save lives every day through their voluntary blood donations and strongly encourages more people all over the world, and in particular Namibia to donate blood voluntarily and regularly.

The event serves to create awareness to thank voluntary, unpaid blood donors for their life-saving act of solidarity and that services providing safe blood and blood products are an essential element of every health care system.

For 2022, the World Blood Donor Day slogan will be **“Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives”** to draw attention to the roles that voluntary blood donations play in saving lives and enhancing solidarity within communities. Through the campaign, we call on more people all over the world to become life-savers by volunteering to donate blood regularly.

The day and the theme is also a call to action to governments, national health authorities and national blood transfusion services to provide adequate resources and put into place systems and infrastructures to increase the collection of blood from voluntary, non-remunerated blood donors, to provide quality donor care, to promote and implement appropriate clinic use of blood and to set up systems for the oversight and surveillance on the whole chain of blood transfusion.

Blood and blood products are essential resources for effective management of women suffering from bleeding associated with pregnancy and childbirth; children suffering from severe anaemia due to malaria and malnutrition; patients with blood and bone marrow disorders, inherited disorders of haemoglobin and immune deficiency conditions; victims of trauma, emergencies, disasters and accidents; as well as patients undergoing advanced medical and surgical procedures. The need for blood is universal, but access to blood for all those who need it is not. Blood shortages are particularly acute in low- and middle-income countries.

NAMBTS has recently been experiencing critical blood shortages with more than 160 donations needed daily to meet the demand for patients in hospitals and medical centres across Namibia. NAMBTS helps give patients access to safe blood and blood products in sufficient quantity is a key component of an effective health system. An adequate supply can only be ensured through regular donations by voluntary, unpaid blood donors.

World Blood Donor Day is not just about creating awareness. It is also an opportunity to thank the 23 367 active donors in Namibia for their life-saving act of solidarity. In the light of this year's theme "**Donating blood is an act of solidarity**. Join the effort and save lives" NAMBTS, MoHSS and WHO are embarking on awareness-raising campaigns leading up to big blood drives in Windhoek, Walvis Bay and Ondangwa on Tuesday, 14 June 2022.

Those interested in donating blood should be older than 16 years, weigh more than 50kg, lead a sexually safe lifestyle, and enjoy general good health. Donors are encouraged to eat a balanced meal within 3 – 4 hours of attending the clinic and feel healthy on the day of donation.

World Blood Donor Day blood donation clinics will take place on Tuesday, 14 June 2022:

- 35 Tal Street Centre **Windhoek** (07h00-18h00)
- Channel Life Centre, 39 Post Street Mall **Windhoek** (08h30 – 16h00)
- The Grove Mall in front Checkers **Windhoek** (09h00-18h00)
- Gondwana People Team **Windhoek** (09h00 – 14h30)
- **Ondangwa** Centre (Gwashamba Mall) (09h00 – 18h00)
- **Walvis Bay** Centre (behind Welwitschia Medipark) (10h00 – 18h00)

Issued by: Namibia Blood Transfusion Service (NAMBTS), Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) and World Health Organization (WHO).

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