

ABOUT MENG0 HOSPITAL ROTARY BLOOD BANK

1.0 Background: -

- According to World Health Organization standards (WHO), Uganda needs at least 350,000 units of safe blood annually, yet our country collects 250,000 units of blood which leaves a deficit of approximately 100,000 units of blood annually excluding emergencies.
- Based on the above, Rotary clubs in Uganda decided to build another blood bank at Mengo Hospital to complement the existing National blood bank in Nakasero.
- The estimated overall cost of this project was US\$ 1,305,219 with the construction of a facility to house the Blood Bank at a cost of US\$ 856,000, fundraised through local initiatives while equipment and training worth US\$ 449,219 was through a Rotary Foundation global grant.
- The Rotary Blood Bank was jointly commissioned on 27th February 2017 by then Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, and the 2017/18 Rotary International President John Germ.
- Since inception, this facility contributes to 38% of the blood requirements within the Central region of Uganda.
- Services offered include; Blood Donor Recruitment, Blood Collection, Processing of blood into products (plasma, platelets & packed red blood cells), Distribution of safe blood to nearby Health centers, Screening of blood for transfusion transmissible infections (TTIs) like HIV HAC, HCV, HBAG, Hepatitis, syphilis among others.

2.0 The annual Rotary Transformational Leadership Forums and Concerts

For the sustainability of this facility, we organize annual concerts to mobilize resources that can help transform it into a fully-fledged facility which can test, process and pack safe blood.

3.0 Operationalization of the One Drop of Blood initiative (ODOB)

- We have partnered with several Rotary clubs and Rotaract Clubs in Uganda through this initiative to spearhead blood collections at the Mengo Hospital Rotary Blood Bank, field blood donation camps in different areas in the Country and Rotarians.
- We work closely with Uganda Blood Transfusion services to ensure that we close the blood needs gap in Uganda, and we are appreciative to them for availing consumables, reagents whenever ours run out of stock.

3.0 Future Plans

- Purchase of an automated Blood Grouping machine and a floor standing centrifuge (Component Separator) estimated at USD \$ 235,000 to enhance the entire blood testing cycle
- Purchase of an automated blood grouping machine to reduce the turnaround time for the safe donor blood from one week to just a day
- Purchase of a centrifuge helps in spinning whole blood at a very high speed by separating it into different components like packed cells, platelets & plasma to eliminate wastage of blood components.
- Replicate the program to Up Country Regional Hospitals.