

Welcome [\[Sign In\]](#)To track stocks & more, [Register](#)**Financial News**

Enter symbol(s) _____

Basic

Get

[Symbol Lookup](#)**Press Release**

Source: Safe Blood for Africa Foundation

Botswana's Available Safe Blood Supply Increases 100% With Safe Blood for Africa Foundation's Program

Wednesday September 21, 7:00 am ET

A Major Success For Botswana's Ministry of Health through President Bush's PEPFAR, ACHAP and Safe Blood for Africa Foundation Programs in The Fight to Prevent HIV/AIDS

GABORONE, Botswana, Sept. 21 /PRNewswire/ -- According to the most recent assessment of the blood supply in Botswana, there has been an effective 100% increase in safe blood availability due to Botswana's Ministry of Health and Safe Blood for Africa Foundation's (Safe Blood for Africa) programs that have enabled Botswana to double its safe blood supply over two years. As part of this significant improvement, a 50% drop in the amount of HIV-infected donated blood was also reported due to strategies to increase repeat donors and improve screening techniques prior to donation. This takes on even greater significance measured against the high adult population in the country estimated to be HIV positive.

The Safe Blood for Africa Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports blood safety, youth empowerment and training programs in Botswana and elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa. Working in close collaboration with Botswana's Ministry of Health, Safe Blood for Africa helped develop extensive capacity in Botswana's existing blood transfusion infrastructure including among other initiatives:

- * Addressing staffing, training and equipment needs in donor clinics, hospitals and laboratories
- * Opening new donor clinics
- * Developing quality control procedures and standard operating procedures in line with International practices.
- * Organizing active youth programs and centers to promote positive HIV free life styles and encourage youth blood donation.

"This is a major success in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Botswana Ministry of Health engaged us two years ago to work with them to scale up their blood transfusion service. With the good work of Botswana's Ministry of Health and the Safe Blood for Africa team, we not only achieved a spectacular increase in safe blood but also increased blood donations among young people and encouraged them to adopt and maintain a healthy lifestyle free from the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS," said Jeff Busch, Founder and Chairman of the Safe Blood for Africa Foundation.

Based on a survey of youth centers in Botswana, the improved blood supply is due to increased voluntary blood donor participation within the communities and youth peer groups. Young people from 16-29 have already provided over 4,000 units this year and will contribute substantially to the Ministry of Health's projected annual target of 30,000 units of safe blood per

Top Stories

- [Judge OKs \\$6.1B in WorldCom Settlements](#) - AP (3:36 pm)
- [Dow Loses 103, Nasdaq Falls 25 on Rita](#) - AP (4:44 pm)
- [BP Starts Shutting Texas City Refinery](#) - AP (4:45 pm)
- [Oil Prices Surge As Hurricane Rita Nears](#) - AP (4:37 pm)

[More...](#)

- [Most-emailed articles](#)
- [Most-viewed articles](#)

year.

This program, designed and implemented by the Botswana Ministry of Health and the Safe Blood for Africa Foundation, with funding from President Bush's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), has also received major funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and from Merck to support HIV prevention, blood safety, donor recruitment and youth programs.

With continuing PEPFAR support for the blood safety initiative, ambitious goals are being set. By 2007, the program aims to increase blood collection to 22,000 units and reduce HIV infection in donated blood to two percent. At that stage, the Ministry of Health's goal to reach 30,000 units of safe blood for Botswana will be within reach.

One of the youth support group programs, named "Pledge 25," currently operates in the districts of Kgatleng (Mochudi village), South East (Ramotswa village) and Gaborone, Botswana.

"After being a member of Pledge 25, I have changed my bad habits to good habits and into focusing on the reality of a healthy lifestyle. I have committed to helping the nation of Botswana with safe blood as well as an HIV prevention lifestyle," said Ditshebo Kgamanyane, a 23-year-old female participant. "Now I also educate my friends on the importance of donating blood and on who a blood donor is. These days I am also encouraged to participate in other village activities towards HIV prevention and the support of those living with AIDS."

Safe Blood for Africa has recruited and trained a network of blood testing scientists, blood collection experts and donor recruitment specialists to support the safe collection, testing and distribution of blood and blood products. Working side-by-side with the Botswana Ministry of Health, Safe Blood for Africa has provided technical assistance in formulating a national blood plan to help limit the HIV epidemic through blood transfusion and has joined with Botswana's medical professionals for its initial implementation through to completion.

About Safe Blood for Africa Foundation: Safe Blood for Africa is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Delaware corporation, which has had success establishing blood safety programs and complementary programs such as youth, donor recruitment, and safe injection programs in Africa. Safe Blood for Africa is a subsidiary of Safe Blood International, a 501(c)(3) Delaware Corporation whose purpose is to help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS by introducing innovative blood safety, youth, donor recruitment and safe injection programs throughout the world. Safe Blood for Africa is helping to secure a safe blood supply to multiple countries in sub-Saharan Africa where contamination from infectious diseases, including HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, is most prevalent. For more information visit <http://www.safebloodforafrica.org>.

Source: Safe Blood for Africa Foundation

 [Email Story](#)

 [Set News Alert](#)

 [Print Story](#)

Sponsor Results

[Free Achieving Financial Success guide](#)

Free guide helps you set goals and understand the long-term financial solutions for achieving them. From Ameriprise Financial, the next generation of American Express Financial Advisors.
ameriprise.com

[Best Lenders Home Finance Resources](#)

Financing information is provided to select best mortgage, refinancing, home equity, auto and credit card loan. Use the links for online application that results in multiple loan offers.
1000bestlenders.com

[Personal Finance](#)

Start investing in your future today. Our highly effective system with proven results is recommended for anyone who is

looking for financial freedom. We offer ongoing training and support.
www.bestlifeyet.com

[\(What's This?\)](#)

Copyright © 2005 Yahoo! Inc. All rights reserved. [Privacy Policy](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Copyright Policy](#) - [Ad Feedback](#)
Copyright © 2005 [PR Newswire](#). All rights reserved. Reproduction or redistribution of PRNewswire content is expressly prohibited without the prior written consent of PRNewswire. PRNewswire shall not be liable for any errors or delays in the content, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon.