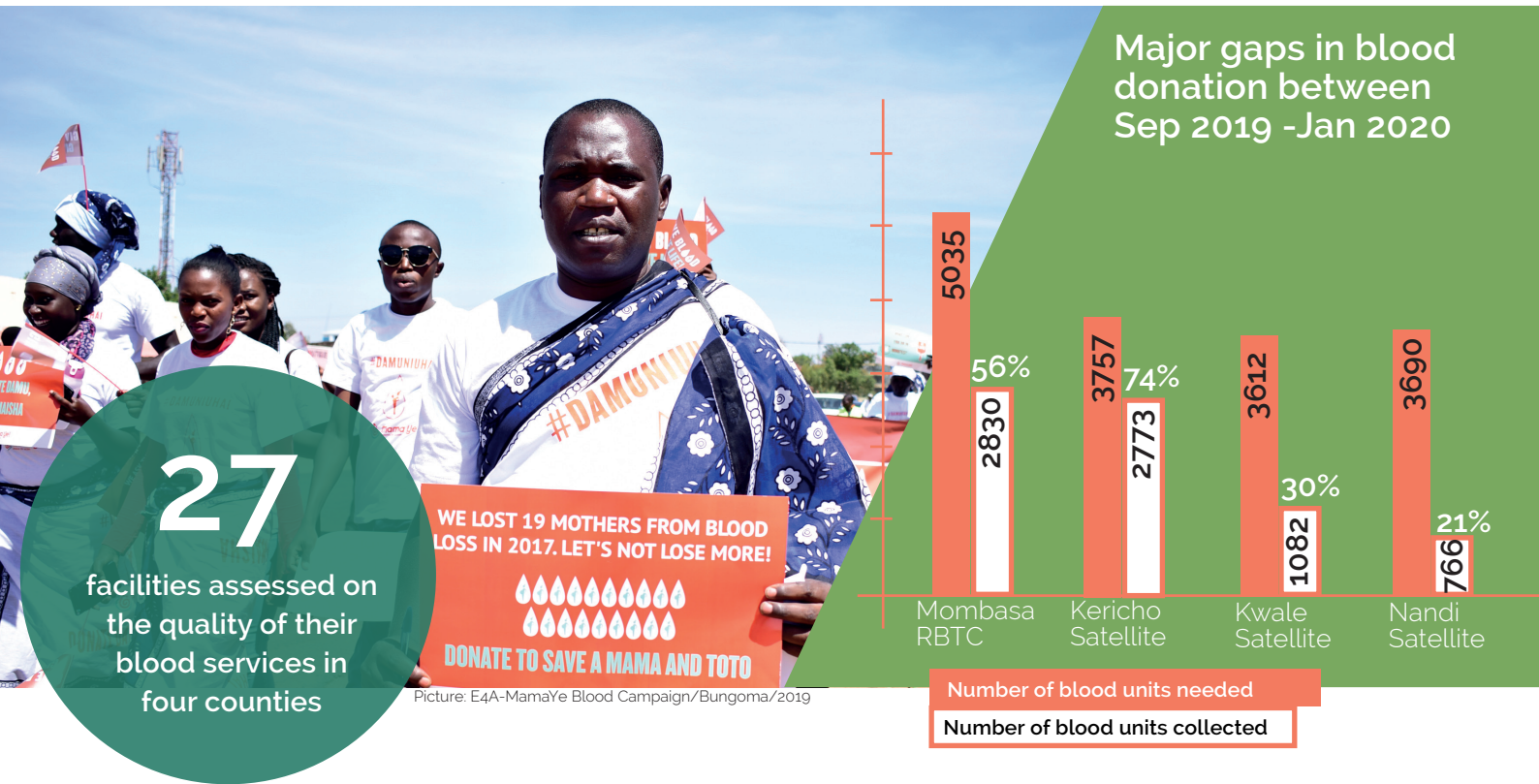


Status of blood availability and quality of blood services in Kenya



Post partum-hemorrhage is one of the leading causes of maternal mortality in Kenya: the continuous supply of safe blood is therefore essential to meet Kenya's goal of improving maternal survival. The Maternal and Newborn Improvement - Quality of Care (MANI-QC) project conducted a rapid assessment in Kwale, Mombasa, Nandi, and Kericho counties from Sept 2019 to Jan 2020. The assessment included one Regional Blood Transfusion Centre (RBTC), three blood satellites, and 23 transfusing health facilities with the purpose of assessing the capacity of the health system to collect, store, screen and utilise blood and hemovigilance processes to meet the needs of patients.





Key findings

1. Acute blood shortages in almost all transfusing facilities. Only private facilities with screening capabilities have adequate blood for patients.
2. Lack of screening reagents at the RBTC.
3. Unscreened blood at the blood satellites. Some satellites had to discard blood due to a lack of screening.
4. Sub-standard cold chain management in all facilities.
5. Little or no capacity of the four counties to process and use blood components
6. Poor reporting, monitoring, investigation and analysis of adverse events related to blood donations, processing and transfusion.
7. Limited forecasting of what blood levels are required by facilities.



Recommendations to stakeholders on blood services

Kenya National Blood Transfusion Service (KNBTS)

- Review the policy framework that guides relations between the KNBTS and the counties clearly outlining responsibilities and roles at both levels.
- Strengthen the surveillance of blood services, including blood inventory and its link with the Ministry of Health approved Kenya Health Information System.

RBTC and blood satellites

- Assist county blood satellites with costing the equipment and supplies required for screening and blood processing.
- Strengthen oversight and quality control of blood service processes within link county blood satellites.

County governments

- Allocate budgets for blood and hemovigilance activities in the Annual Work Plans (AWPs).
- Each county to have a blood satellite that is well equipped and able to conduct screening.
- All sub-county hospitals to be equipped to offer blood transfusion services.
- Procure the appropriate cold chain equipment (i.e. blood bank fridges, cooler boxes and reagents) for all of the county's transfusing facilities.
- Invest in social mobilisation programmes to ensure there are no blood shortages during school holidays or other low donation periods.
- Explore public-private partnerships with private facilities that have screening capacity to support the blood satellite / RBTC during shortages.
- Form Hospital Transfusion Committees in all transfusing facilities.

Transfusing facilities

- Form Hospital Transfusion Committees in all transfusing facilities.
- Promote networking among the transfusing facilities, satellites and blood stakeholders to improve coordination, communication and sharing best practices.