

# Zimbabwe's AfSBT Accreditation efforts - Current Status and Desired Position

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to

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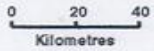
# Introduction

- Background to the NBSZ
- Key achievements
- Update on the AfSBT journey
- Challenges on the journey
- Conclusion

# Background to the NBSZ

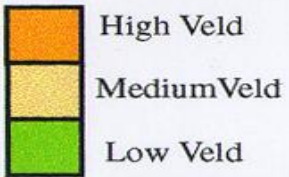
- NBSZ is registered as a not for profit company under the Companies Act, [Chapter 24.03]
- NBSZ occasionally receives grants from the MoHCC, but these have not come through for the past three years.
- Full cost recovery is applied therefore patients pay directly or via the hospitals for required products and services
- Currently collecting 65,000 units of blood, with 98% component production but there is capacity to scale up to 100,000 units p.a.

# ZIMBABWE



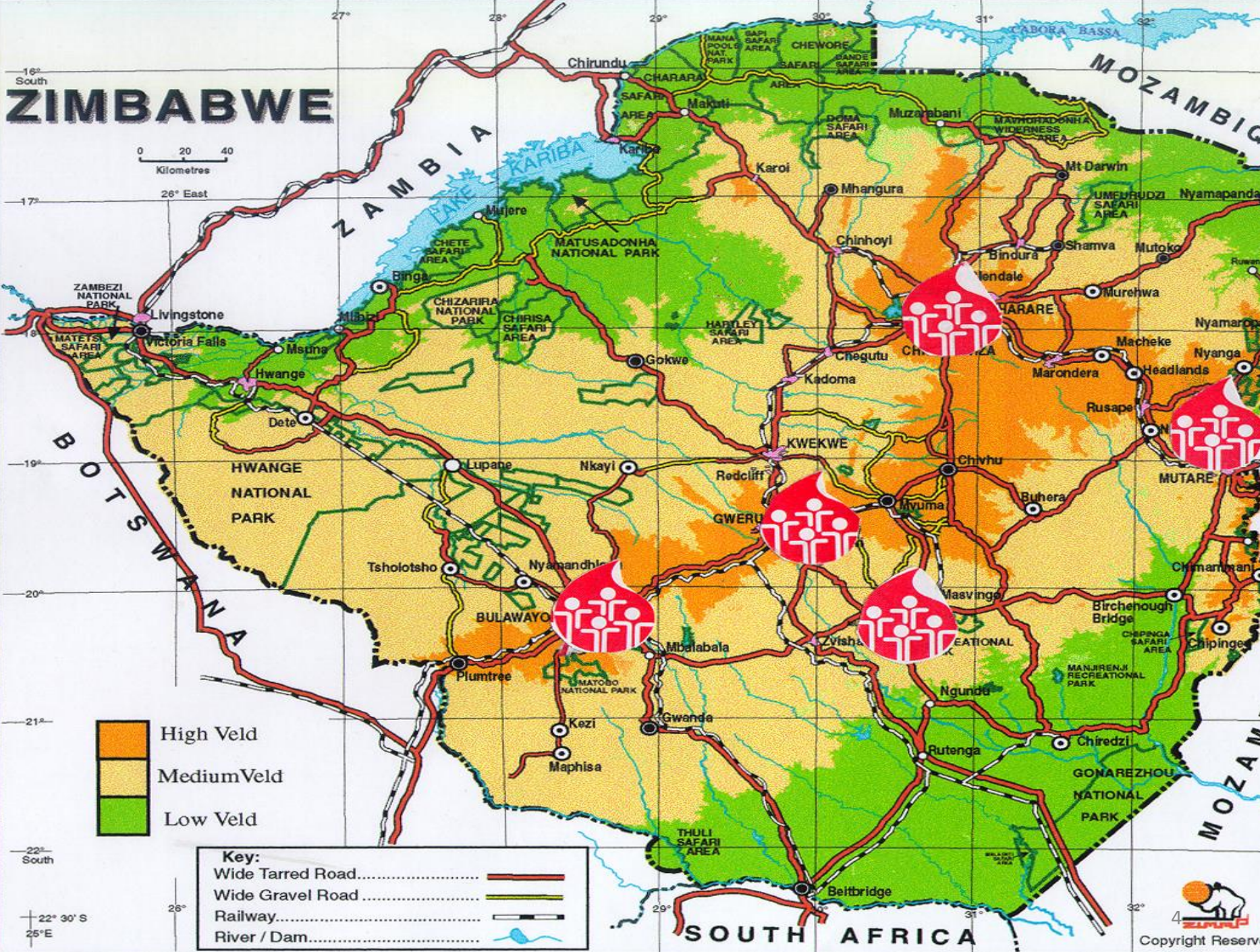
16° South  
17°  
18°  
19°  
20°  
21°  
22° South

26° East  
27°  
28°  
29°  
30°  
31°  
32°



**Key:**

Wide Tarred Road.....	
Wide Gravel Road.....	
Railway.....	
River / Dam.....	



# Key achievements

- Standards for Blood Donation, Processing and Clinical Transfusion in Zimbabwe launched by MoHCW in 2011.
- National Blood Policy launched by MoHCW in 2011.
- NBSZ increased blood collections from 42 000 in 2009 to 81 779 in 2012 with less resources that currently present. Currently maintaining at 65,000 p.a. due to depressed demand
- ISO 9001:2008 certified, with previous certification to ISO 9001:2008
- Previously a WHO Centre for Excellence, a status whose renewal is being actively pursued

# Update on the AfSBT journey

- NBSZ took a strategic decision in 2014 to implement the standards and get step3 accreditation. This was included in its 2015 -2018 Strategic Plan.
- NBSZ submitted an email enquiry to the AfSBT Accreditation Office towards the end of 2014.
- NBSZ completed the application form and submitted to AfSBT in February 2015
- Self assessment was done towards the end of Q1. A Microsoft Word version was used to enable capture of additional information
- The complete electronic self assessment document was sent to the AfSBT Accreditation Manager in May 2015
- A total of 64 findings need attention, with >75% requiring adjustment of documentation to suit the requirements of the standard, either by modifying current or creating new documents and records

## Update cont...

- A steering with representation from all departments was set up
- NBSZ requested for training on the AfSBT standards. The training was done by the Accreditation Programme Manager mid July 2015, attended by
  - all executive Managers,
  - middle managers/ supervisor and
  - the steering committee.
- Post training, the steering committee developed an action plan based on the self assessment results as well as recommendations from AfSBT.
- Implementation is underway presently

# Challenges on the journey

- The need to balance costs vs. quality improvement, given that the total cost is passed onto the blood recipient. What constitutes the essentials and the nice to have?
- Some of the requirements of the standard lead to an increase in the production costs of a unit of blood, creating the need to balance cost vs. quality e.g.
  - introduction of serum protein testing,
  - high titre antibody tests,
  - verification of levels of factor VIII at the end of one year storage at -25°C



## Challenges cont...

- NBSZ is not part of the Ministry of Health in Zimbabwe hence challenges in coordinating with the latter on issues such as
  - the legal framework
  - setting up of a haemovigilance system
  - providing evidence that transported products get to their destination under right conditions

# Challenges

- There is a need to determine whether it is essential for Zimbabwe to embark on this accreditation at present, given the poor national economic status or defer until a relevant time.
  - Will there ever be a relevant time?
  - Will the resultant modifications make the blood any safer than it is now?
  - Will Zimbabwe afford to introduce NAT testing in the short term to warrant immediate implementation of this standard with the hope of exporting excess plasma?
  - Will the exports of excess plasma be sufficient to significantly contribute to the capital outlay (assuming markets have been found)?

# Conclusion

- NBSZ has always been keen on improving quality in line with changing trends
- AfSBT standards are quite strict but more relevant to blood establishments and the incremental nature of the approach makes it easier for countries to implement them
- However, there is need for some flexibility on some clauses, with countries being given room to set their own standards
- A recommendation is being made for AfSBT to do a cost-benefit analysis of the added advantages of implementing the standards against the costs involved.
- NBSZ is hopeful that they will achieve step 3 accreditation by Q4 of 2016 at the very latest.