



Blood Safety Strengthening Program (BSSP)

An Implementation Summary Overview

This project is funded by PEPFAR through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The contents of this document are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of PEPFAR or CDC.

Physical Address Unit D11, Westlake Square, Westlake Drive, Westlake, Cape Town

Postal Postnet Suite 280, Private Bag X26, Tokai 7966, South Africa

Tel +27 (0)21 701 0939 **Fax** +27 (0)21 701 1979

E-mail info@jembi.org **Website** www.jembi.org

Jembi Health Systems NPC

(Reg#: 2009/018985/08) a not-for-profit company registered in South Africa

(NPO#: 054-906-NPO) (PBO#: 930034124) (VAT#: 4480259243)

Directors: S Reid (Chair), D Moodley (Vice-Chair), CJ Seebregts (CEO), A Gray, G Loots, N Gasa, D Morkel



Blood Safety Strengthening Programme (BSSP) Approach

The Blood Safety Strengthening Programme (BSSP) refers to the services offered by Jembi Health Systems (Jembi) related to the implementation and maintenance of the BSIS software tool. BSIS is an open source health information system designed to manage donors and blood-safety information from the point of donation, through to testing, component processing storage, transfer to hospital and clinics, and, ultimately issuance to recipients. BSIS is developed specifically for resources-limited settings and offers Blood Services a configurable Blood Establishment Computer System (BECS) offering the core functionalities necessary for good blood donor and donation management.

The BSSP looks at the implementation of the BSIS software as more than the simple deployment of BSIS at sites, but takes a whole system approach that acknowledges the interconnection between policy, practice and technology and looks at:

- Environment (where will the system be used?);
- Process (how will the system be used?);
- Technology (what hardware/software will be used?);
- Capacity building (who will use the system?), and;
- Sustainability (how much will it cost and who will pay?).

The aim is to implement an effective and sustainable health information system that facilitates the achievement of improved blood availability and safety in resource-limited countries. Through the BSSP the deployment of BSIS is not simply a software intervention but part of a larger programme strategy to improve quality management in resource-limited blood services. This comprehensive approach that Jembi is taking with the BSSP requires us to work closely with Blood Service and their Blood Safety Technical Assistance (TA) partners to ensure that the implementation of BSIS is accompanied by strengthening in other areas of the Blood Service.

This process sees both a Blood Safety Technical Assistance partner and Jembi working with Blood Services to holistically strengthen the Blood Service through the provision of capacity building activities, including standard operating procedures development, and the implementation of a health information system (i.e. a donor management system or a BECS). All of these activities are aimed at supporting the Blood Service to obtain certification or accreditation standards of the AfSBT.

The **First phase** of the BSSP implementation process is the assessment of eligibility of countries to implement BSIS. Eligibility is based on a number of factors including; stage of readiness of blood service for a BECS, blood service user requirements, political buy-in and availability of resources.

The **Second phase** of the implementation process focuses on the deployment, the validation of software to ensure blood safety and training/capacity building of local staff to use, maintain and support the BSIS tool.

The **Third phase** of the implementation process is implementation support. Having focused on local capacity during the second phase of the implementation, basic first line support (password resets, workstation connections etc.) will be carried out by the local BSIS support person identified by the blood service. Jembi will provide remote support to this person should they have queries as well as second/third line software support (bug fixes etc).

The final phase of the implementation process is the **Enterprise Support** phase which is an optional, ongoing support service that Jembi can provide Blood Services at a fee.

