OCTOBER 2025

# BLOOD NEWSFILE



> *"Let's willingly give blood ahead of emergency situations"*
>
> Dr. Shirley Owusu-Ofori, CEO National Blood Service

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# Accra Academy SHS participates enthusiastically in this year's blood donation exercise



A total of 271 units of blood were collected in this noble mission to touch thousands of lives through caregiving and to raise awareness about the imperative need for voluntary blood donation in our society.

Many of the donors were first year students who had just turned 17 and were donating for the first time. As a result, every effort was made to ensure they remained comfortable throughout the process.

The event was held on Wednesday, 23rd July, 2025 at the school's forecourt. It was organized by the National Blood Service in collaboration with the Melcom Care Foundation.

According to the Head of Donor Recruitment, Mr. David Ahiadzro who visited the school's blood donation center, the massive turnout was a direct result of the education on the importance of blood donation and its role in saving lives. He noted that a systematic process managed by a team of professionals from the NBS and staff from the Melcom Group of Companies, ensured the blood donation process was smooth and hassle free for the student donors.

Mr Ahiadzro explained that motivated donors also encouraged their hesitant peers, helping them overcome their fear of donating blood.

The NBS team carried out the exercise with seamless coordination ensuring every student was in good health before, during and after donation. The event concluded successfully with each donor feeling proud of their contribution.

In the end, the donors were filled with a sense of satisfaction knowing they had made a significant difference and a positive impact on society.

Concurrently with the support from the Melcom Care Foundation, blood collection drives were also organized at Ashiaman, Agona and Gomoa Dewarampong Senior High Schools.



# Mr. I.A. Musah Hits 100 Units of Blood Donation on His Birthday







On the 20th of August 2025, Mr. Inuwa Abubakar Musah celebrated his 63rd birthday by achieving a remarkable milestone: his 100th voluntary blood donation. He transformed his special day into an act of profound kindness that will help save lives.

Mr. Musah's long-standing commitment to regular donation has served as an inspiration to many, emphasizing the need for voluntary blood donors in Ghana. He shared that his journey began when he donated blood for an ailing family member. Following that successful experience, he committed to returning every four months to voluntarily donate for unknown beneficiaries.

In a brief statement, he encouraged all eligible Ghanaians to become blood donors, stating, “This is a small act that makes a big difference to patients.” He also expressed his gratitude to the staff at the Greater Accra Regional Blood Centre, who celebrated him with birthday songs and well-wishes.

The Chief Executive Officer of the National Blood Service, Dr. Shirley Owusu-Ofori, congratulated Mr. Musah and wished him continued health and strength. She further encouraged him to become an advocate for voluntary blood donation within his community, serving as a shining example for the entire country.

# Melcom Care Foundation Ends 2025 Blood Donation Drive With 2,952 Units








A nationwide blood donation drive organized by the Melcom Care Foundation (MCF) in collaboration with the National Blood Service successfully collected 2,952 units of blood to help save lives.

The three-day drive was held from July 23rd to 26th, 2025, as part of MCF's annual social responsibility activities. It took place at various Melcom shopping centers, malls, and four selected Senior High Schools: Accra Academy senior High School, Ashaiman Senior High School, Senya Senior High School, and Gomoa-Dewurampong Senior High School.

The initiative provided an opportunity for employees, their families, customers, and the general public to participate. The drive aimed to address the urgent need for blood and to inspire voluntary donations, which are essential for a sustainable national blood supply.

"The Assistant Shop Manager of Melcom Plus Kaneshie, Madam Bernadette Quartey, emphasized the company's leadership in answering the call to donate blood. "Our responsibility is not only to offer suitable shopping centers and malls but also to uplift the people we serve. She also expressed appreciation to the employees, noting that "one unit of donated blood can possibly save up to three lives."

Mrs. Sophia Blankson, the Deputy Chief Donor Recruitment Officer at the National Blood Service, who coordinated the exercise, commended the employees, schools, customers, and the public for their strong turnout.

# National Blood Service Honors Dr. Mrs. Sylvia Awo Mansa Boye





On Tuesday, 29th july, 2025, a delegation from the National Blood Service (NBS), led by its Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Shirley Owusu-Ofori, paid a courtesy visit to Dr. (Mrs.) Sylvia Awo Mansa Boye at her residence in Accra. The CEO was accompanied by members of the NBS management and staff, as well as Dr. Justina Kordai Ansah, the former CEO of the Service.

Dr. Sylvia A. M. Boye served as the Chairperson of the National Blood Committee (NBC) from 2007 to 2017. Her decade of distinguished leadership was instrumental in guiding the Blood Service through a period of significant transformation, culminating in its establishment as an agency under the Ministry of Health.

IIn recognition of her unwavering commitment, dedication, and exceptional leadership, she was honored with a bouquet of fresh flowers and a personalized plaque bearing a formal citation. The presentation was made jointly by Dr. Ansah and Dr. Owusu-Ofori.

In response, Dr. Sylvia Boye expressed her gratitude to the NBS team for the thoughtful gesture. She commended the Service for its continued efforts to ensure the availability of safe blood and encouraged management to sustain its commitment to increasing access to these life-saving blood units across Ghana.



# NBS Presents First Aid Items to Osudoku Senior High Technical School



As part of its corporate social responsibility, the National Blood Service (NBS) has donated essential medical supplies to Osudoku Senior High Technical School to support the first aid needs of its staff and students.

The presentation took place at the NBS premises on the 28th of July 2025. The donated items included an infrared thermometer, syringes and needles, gauze and cotton rolls, bandages, plaster, dressing trays, gallipots, a dressing drum, and other accompanying medical instruments.

In her statement, the NBS Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Shirley Owusu-Ofori, emphasized that while the Service's primary mission is to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply for both public and private healthcare institutions, it also deeply values its ongoing collaboration with the school. She reaffirmed NBS's commitment to supporting community health initiatives.

'The Senior Prefect, Master Tachie Foster Amoah, expressed profound gratitude to the NBS. He assured that the supplies would be put to good use for the benefit of any student in need of first aid treatment.



# NBS and GBF Donate Branded Blood Donor T-Shirts to Support Blood Donation at Hope Christian Hospital



The National Blood Service (NBS), in collaboration with the Global Blood Fund (GBF), has donated 470 branded T-shirts to Hope Christian Hospital. This contribution supports the hospital's advocacy for voluntary blood donation in the Central Region.

These T-shirts are part of a larger consignment provided by the Global Blood Fund, a UK-based charity dedicated to supporting blood services across the globe. The garments are designed to encourage and recognize voluntary blood donors and will be integrated into the NBS's national strategy for donor recruitment and retention.

The items were presented at the NBS Headquarters on the 5th of August 2025, by the Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Owusu-Ofori. She noted that this donation aligns with the NBS's corporate social responsibility to support blood establishments and health facilities through in-kind contributions, such as first aid supplies and promotional materials, to aid blood donation efforts.

Dr. Owusu-Ofori expressed confidence that the T-shirts would significantly boost the hospital's voluntary blood donation campaigns and commended the facility for its steadfast commitment to the Blood Service's mission.

Mr. Emmanuel Y. Oppong-Boakye, the Laboratory Manager at Hope Christian Hospital, received the donation on behalf of the institution. He extended the hospital's gratitude to the NBS for its continued support and assured that the T-shirts would be used effectively to promote blood donation, ultimately benefiting the hospital's patients.

# NBS lays wreath to honor the eight individuals who lost their lives in the helicopter crash at Adansi.




On August 14th, 2025, the National Blood Service laid wreaths at the Jubilee House to honor the eight individuals who tragically lost their lives in the Ghana Armed Forces Z-9 helicopter crash in Adansi, Ashanti Region.

Dr. Kennedy Tettey Coffie Brightson, Dr. Julian Derban, and Dr. Shirley Owusu-Ofori laid wreaths on behalf of the management and staff, offering their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.





# New NBS Governing Board Inaugurated



The Minister for Health, Hon. Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, has sworn in the National Blood Service Governing Board on Monday, July 14, 2025, at the Ministry of Health conference room in Accra.

Addressing the newly inaugurated National Blood Service Board, the Minister emphasized the critical role the board plays in transforming the health sector as part of the broader health agenda being championed by H.E. President John Dramani Mahama.

“Your appointments coincide with our efforts to make healthcare more accessible, responsive, and aligned with the evolving needs of the Ghanaian people. That makes your leadership not only timely but essential,” Hon. Akandoh stated.

He challenged the board members to focus on solutions and performance rather than excuses, assuring them of his full support and commitment.



# New Chairman of the NBS Governing Board

The Minister for Health, Hon. Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, has officially sworn in Dr. Emmanuel Maurice Ankrah as the new Chairman of the National Blood Service Governing Board








# NBS CEO Launches Twellium and Zipline Nationwide Blood Mobilization Campaign 2025

The National Blood Service's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Dr. Shirley Owusu-Ofori, officially launched the nationwide 'Twellium-Zipline' blood donation campaign on Thursday, September 11, 2025, in Accra. The campaign is themed, **'To Share Love, Donate Blood.'**





In her address, the CEO revealed that while the expected blood donation rate is 10 per 1,000 Ghanaians, the current figure is only about 6 per 1,000. This shortage means patients often face prolonged waits for essential blood transfusions.

Dr. Owusu-Ofori used the occasion to urge all healthy individuals between the ages of 17 and 60, especially first-time donors, to come forward and donate. She also reminded those who had donated in the past to renew their commitment to saving lives.

She commended Twellium, a food and beverage company, and Zipline, a drone delivery and health logistics organization, for the blood mobilization initiative. She stated that this partnership would enhance the donor experience and improve the availability of blood products in hospital banks, thereby reducing the stress families endure to secure blood for their loved ones.

"Donors across Ghana will be nutritiously refreshed, which will lead to improved blood collection outcomes and, consequently, greater availability and access to blood for transfusion therapy," she clarified.

She further remarked, "This drive will also contribute to national efforts to establish a safe blood supply system based on 100% voluntary, unpaid donations."

A speech delivered on behalf of Twellium's General Manager, Mr. Mohammed Kawtharani, highlighted the critical blood shortages in hospitals for scenarios like childbirth complications, childhood illnesses, and road traffic accidents. He disclosed that the year-long campaign aims to restock blood banks with over 10,000 units of voluntary blood to save lives, keep families together, and restore hope. The statement noted that the campaign had already been initiated in Tamale and Kumasi, registering over 150 donors. The General Manager also expressed pleasure in partnering with Zipline, a global leader in instant drone delivery that has transformed access to blood and medical supplies across Ghana.

# Dr. Shirley Phyllis Owusu-Ofori

***Chief Executive Officer,***
***National Blood Service Ghana***



Dr. Shirley Phyllis Owusu-Ofori serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Ghana's National Blood Service, where she spearheads the mission to provide a safe, sufficient, and sustainable national blood supply. A distinguished Transfusion Medicine Consultant, she brings extensive expertise in Blood Bank Management and Clinical Transfusion Medicine to her lifelong dedication to advancing transfusion safety and patient outcomes

Her academic credentials include a BSc in Human Biology and a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, complemented by a Diploma in Transfusion Medicine from the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. As a Fellow of the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, she has built a research career spanning over 24 years, authoring more than 60 peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Owusu-Ofori has led numerous clinical trials, with her most recent research concentrating on reducing malaria transmission through pathogen inactivation of whole blood. Her expertise is sought at the highest levels, evidenced by her role on the FDA Technical Advisory Committee on Safety of Vaccines and Biological Products. She is also an active member of the Ghana Medical Association, the African Society of Blood Transfusion, and the Institute of Directors Ghana.

Widely recognised as an international speaker and passionate advocate for voluntary blood donation, donor care, and transfusion safety, especially for maternal and pediatric patients, she recently completed a term as the Regional Director for Africa on the ISBT Board. Her outstanding contributions to the field have been honoured with the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) Award for Developing Countries Individual Runner-Up Award on two separate occasions.

# Activities in pictures

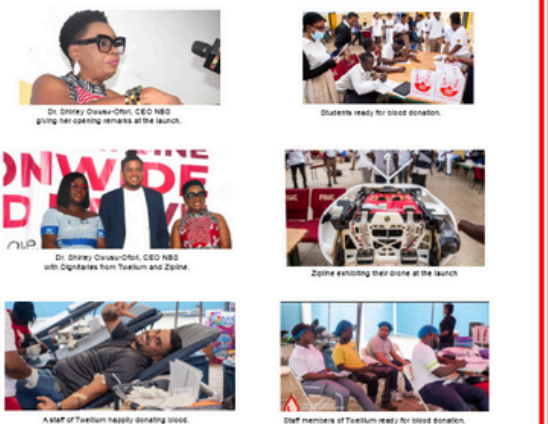
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## Twellium - Zipline 10,000 units nationwide voluntary blood donation 2025.



## Ayekoo!!!, Mr. I.A. Musah hits 100 units of voluntary blood donation on his 63rd Birthday.



## NBS and GBF donates branded blood donor T-shirts to support blood donation at Hope Christian Hospital.



## A new Chairman of the National Blood Service Governing Board swears in.



## 31st Annual blood donation exercise by the West Volta Christian Youth Builders(CYB) of the EP Church.



## NBS laid wreath to honour the eight individuals who lost their lives in the Ghana Armed Forces Z-9 helicopter crash at Adansi.



## 2 weeks training of new Blood Donor Recruiters from the Christian Health Association of Ghana.




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