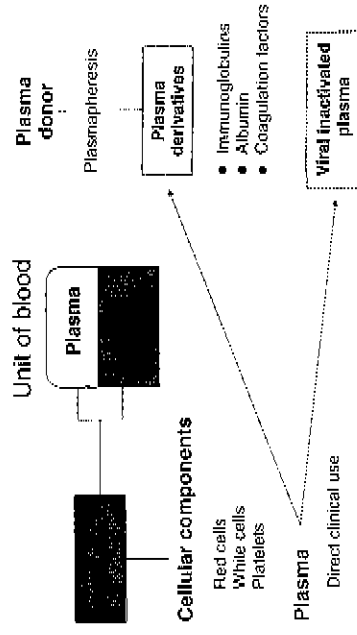


PLASMA DERIVATIVE SAFETY

Currently there is widespread sharing of blood products internationally. However, in some fractionation centres and countries, there is limited adherence to current Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), which should include the ability to trace plasma from source to product. In addition, there is either a lack of national regulation and guidelines on GMP or a lack of their application by appropriate authorities.

The ethical and moral issues of blood product safety need to be resolved on an international basis.

Definition of blood products



THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE WHO BLOOD SAFETY UNIT

The Blood Safety Unit collaborates with WHO Member States, other units, divisions and programmes within WHO, and with other organizations involved in blood safety to:

- **Raise** international awareness of the issues of blood and blood product safety and to encourage global collaboration and cooperation on blood safety.
- **Develop** strategies and guidelines on policy, planning, legal instruments, technical and national self-sufficiency issues.
- **Assist** in identifying potential financial aid and facilitate multilateral and bilateral funding for national blood programmes.
- **Promote** the development of clearly identifiable blood programmes through advocacy at the national level based on voluntary, non-remunerated blood donation.
- **Advocate** the appropriate use of blood and blood products in order to minimize unnecessary transfusion.
- **Encourage** training for all blood programme staff, as well as the prescribers of blood and blood products.
- **Implement** appropriate operational research to improve blood safety, i.e., simple cost-effective viral inactivation procedures, testing procedures and blood salvage devices.



For further information, contact Blood Safety Unit
Tel. + 41 22 791 43 87 - Fax + 41 22 791 07 46

BLOOD SAFETY UNIT



SAFE AND ADEQUATE BLOOD SAVES LIVES



Programme on Health Technology
World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27 - Switzerland

MISSION STATEMENT

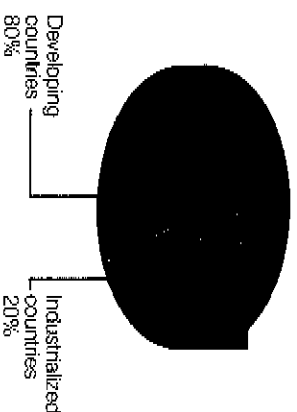
The mission of the World Health Organization's Blood Safety Unit is to assist WHO Member States to ensure that all individuals have access to blood and blood products that are as safe as possible, available at reasonable cost, adequate to meet the needs of all patients, transfused only when necessary and provided as part of a sustainable blood programme within the existing health care system.



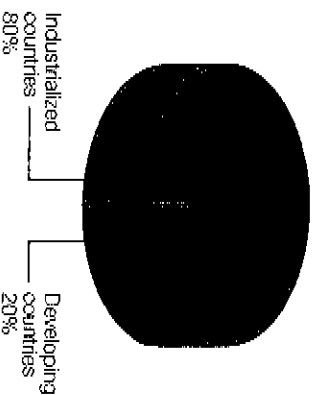
Every year millions of lives are saved through blood transfusions, but because of chronic shortages and weak blood programmes, transfusions in developing countries have an increased risk of adverse effects to the recipient.

Eighty percent of the world's population live in developing countries, but people in developing countries are supported by only 20% of the world's blood supply.

Global population



Global utilization of blood and blood products



In developing countries most transfusions are given to:

- **women** – to treat haemorrhage as a complication of pregnancy
- **children** – with severe anaemia
- **serious trauma victims**

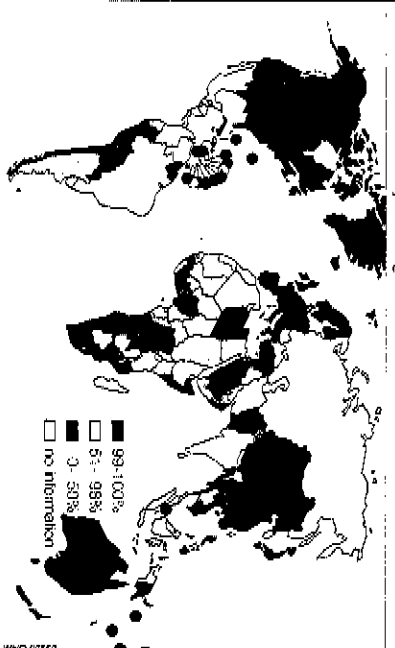
TESTING

Each year up to 4 million blood donations are *not tested* for Hepatitis B or HIV, and very few are tested for Hepatitis C.

Malaria, Chagas' disease and other tropical diseases are often not tested for in countries where these infections are prevalent.

In developed countries, whole blood donations come from voluntary non-remunerated donors, whereas in developing countries, 80% of the blood supply comes from paid or replacement donors who have a greater potential to transmit infectious diseases.

Current estimates of percentage of donated blood screened for HIV



The risk of disease transmission from blood transfusion is very much higher in developing than developed countries.