



2025

Annual Report



Greetings & Welcome to 2026

Happy New Year and welcome to 2026!

2025 was a pivotal year for CoBA, and 2026 is already shaping up to be even more impactful. With ambitious plans ahead, critical conversations to advance, and strong momentum to build on, the year promises meaningful progress.

As we look ahead, it is equally important to reflect on what we accomplished in 2025. From hosting and supporting blood drives, to shaping key policy discussions, strengthening partnerships, and navigating leadership transitions, this annual report captures the milestones, progress, and impact that defined our year.

Leading with Vision

“Blood is not just a medical resource- it is the foundation of resilient health systems. Through strong partnerships that ensure blood is safe, available and accessible, we can save lives today while securing the capacity of health systems to deliver quality care for generations to come.”

Dr. Ida Mbuthia

Treasurer
Africa Lead Healthcare Access
Roche Diagnostics



Board Members



Dr. Nathan Mulure

Chair
Head of Patient Access
Terumo BCT



Dr. Ida Mbuthia

Treasurer
Africa Lead Healthcare Access
Roche Diagnostics



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Country Manager
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Mr. Kilemi Thambura

Co-founder
Jiji Health



Marloes Kibacha

Managing Director
Africa Health Business (AHB)

Members & Strategic Partners

Members



Strategic Partners



Secretariat



2025 in Review: From Strategy to Impact

2025 marked a defining year for CoBA. We strengthened our foundation, expanded our reach, and advanced meaningful improvements in blood systems across the continent. Guided by our strategy, CoBA focused on policies, partnerships, and practical actions that make blood safer, more accessible, and more sustainable.

With the support of our Secretariat, Africa Health Business (AHB), we collaborated closely with National Blood Services, the private sector, and aligned organizations to tackle critical challenges in blood supply, safety, and access. Throughout the year we convened strategic discussions, supported blood drives, hosted a webinar and elevated the conversation to Parliament-reinforcing the importance of blood as an essential health resource.

These collective efforts deepened partnerships, amplified CoBA's impact, and solidified the Coalition's role as

a trusted and influential voice within Africa's blood ecosystem. The progress achieved in 2025 lays a strong foundation for an even more ambitious and impactful 2026.

Passing the Torch: Leadership for the Next Chapter

Towards the end of the year, Dr. Nathan Mulure, Head of Patient Access at Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies, formally handed over the role of CoBA Chair to Dr. Ida Mbuthia, Africa Healthcare Access Lead at Roche Diagnostics.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Nathan for his dedicated leadership over the past two years. His stewardship was pivotal to CoBA's growth, steering the Board through critical decisions, strategy development, and implementation during a defining period in the Coalition's evolution.

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Ida as the new Chair of CoBA. Her vision, fresh perspective, and energy signal an exciting new phase for the Coalition as we continue to advance our mission and drive sustainable impact across Africa.

Congratulations, Dr. Ida, we look forward to seeing CoBA thrive and grow under your leadership.



From Vision to Action 2025

Policy, Advocacy, and Thought Leadership

Annual Webinar



CoBA convened a highly impactful webinar titled **“From Dependency to Sustainability: Financing Africa’s Blood Future”**. This timely discussion addressed the heavy reliance on donor funding across Africa’s blood ecosystem and the growing risks posed by declining external support.

As donor funding continues to reduce, National Blood Services are increasingly exposed to supply disruptions and operational constraints. Without decisive action, the continent risks persistent blood shortages, fragmented service delivery, and missed opportunities for innovation. The webinar underscored the urgency of transitioning toward domestically financed, resilient, and self-sustaining blood systems.

The session brought together experts from the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, National Blood Services, and the private sector. Discussions explored sustainable financing models, policy and regulatory reforms, plasma utilization, and the critical role of public–private partnerships.

The webinar highlighted practical solutions and regional cooperation models to strengthen Africa’s blood ecosystem- improving access, reducing wastage, and positioning blood not only as a health security imperative but also as a strategic economic asset.

To access the session recording and report, click below.

[Click to Watch the Video](#)



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From Awareness to Action: Elevating Blood in Parliament

To mark World Blood Donor Week in a truly unprecedented way, CoBA together with the Kenya Young Parliamentarians Association (KYPA) and other key stakeholders took the blood agenda directly to Kenya’s Parliament.

The initiative sought to raise awareness among legislators about the urgent need for a safe, sufficient, and reliable blood supply, while encouraging policymakers to lead by example through both action and supportive policy measures.

Alongside the blood drive, CoBA convened a panel discussion highlighting blood as an essential medicine, its critical role in managing conditions such as sickle cell disease, and the actions required to ensure blood systems are safe, sustainable, and accessible nationwide.

During the event, CoBA also shared its position paper, ***Africa’s Lifeline: Why Investing in Sustainable Blood and Plasma Systems is a Health, Economic, and Security Imperative***, with parliamentarians and other lawmakers. The paper outlines the urgent need for long-term investment in Africa’s blood and plasma systems, providing evidence-based recommendations to strengthen health systems, save lives, and ensure economic and national health resilience.

The Speaker of the National Assembly, the Rt. Hon. Moses Wetangula, also issued a national call to action, urging all Kenyans to donate blood to help meet the country's growing demand.



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Africa Technology Day

Hosted by Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies, CoBA was honoured to participate in the Africa Technology Day, where leaders and experts from across sub-Saharan Africa's blood eco-system came together to share experiences, best practices and explore the future of blood and cell therapies in Africa.

The event was a powerful platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration and innovation with distinguished speakers highlighting:

- Cutting-edge advancements and innovations in blood and cell therapies
- The importance of whole blood automation
- Transformative progress in the treatment of sickle cell disease

CoBA were privileged to lead discussions on the power of partnerships- highlighting the critical role of Public-Private Partnerships in ensuring a safe, adequate, and sustainable blood supply across the continent.



Blood Safe Symposium

Held at Strathmore University in Nairobi, the Blood Safe Symposium 2025 convened researchers, policymakers, public health leaders, and private sector stakeholders from around the world to advance dialogue on blood safety in Africa.

During the symposium, CoBA presented a poster abstract showcasing its work to strengthen blood systems across the continent through strategic partnerships, policy engagement, and systems-level advocacy. The Coalition was especially honoured to be recognized by the World Bank during their presentation, underscoring CoBA's growing influence in shaping Africa's blood future.



Innovation Spotlight: Artificial Blood

This was CoBA's most reposted LinkedIn post of 2025, with approximately 60 reposts, capturing widespread interest across the blood and healthcare community. The topic? Artificial blood: a potential game changer for transfusion systems worldwide.

Blood shortages, short shelf life, and type-matching challenges continue to strain transfusion systems worldwide. Researchers in Japan are developing artificial blood that could address all three.

At Nara Medical University, expired blood donations are transformed into a synthetic substitute that:

- Requires no blood type matching
- Lasts up to two years
- It is protected against viruses
- The blood color is purple

Clinical trials with human participants are already underway, with nationwide use targeted by 2030. At Chuo University, researchers are also developing albumin-based oxygen carriers for emergency care, stroke, and trauma.

This innovation could dramatically strengthen blood supply resilience, extend shelf life 24-fold, and ensure lifesaving transfusions are available when and where they are needed most — marking a major advance in maternal health, surgery, emergency response, and disaster preparedness.

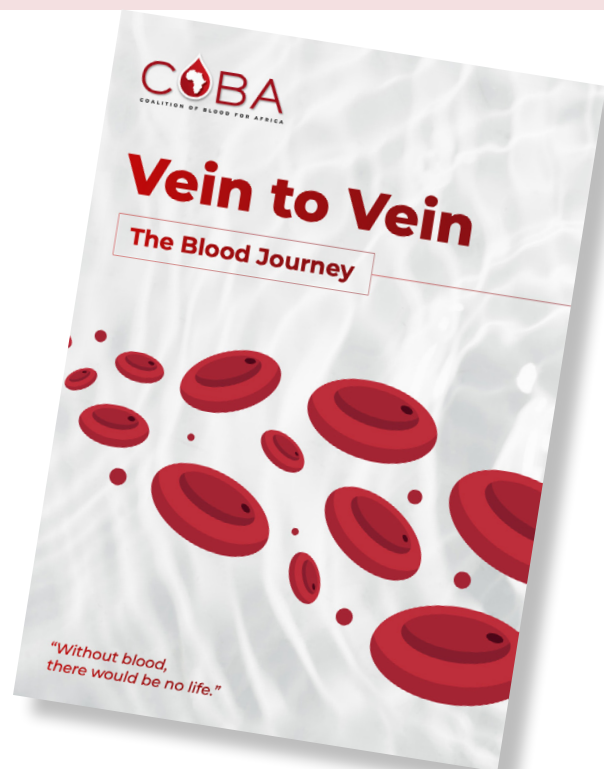


Vein to Vein Roadmap

From donor to patient, the journey of blood is one of the most critical yet overlooked pillars of healthcare especially across Africa, where the demand often outpaces supply. But what does it really take to get safe blood from one arm to another?

In this feature, we unpack each step of the blood journey from donor recruitment and collection, to testing, processing, and the final life-saving transfusion. Discover why strengthening this “vein-to-vein” process is not just about saving lives, but about building the resilient, equitable health systems Africa needs.

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Partnerships, Awareness & Collective Action

Alliances for Impact



We are proud to welcome the **European Blood Alliance** as a strategic partner in our mission to strengthen Africa's blood systems.

The European Blood Alliance plays a pivotal role in ensuring the availability, safety, quality, and cost-effectiveness of blood and tissue supplies across Europe. By fostering collaboration among national blood and tissue services, promoting voluntary non-remunerated blood donation, and advocating for ethical, science-driven blood systems, the Alliance sets a global standard for excellence.

This shared commitment to collaboration and knowledge exchange aligns seamlessly with CoBA's vision of a continent where blood is recognized and invested in as essential health infrastructure. We are excited to join forces to drive bold, transformative progress, knowing that global solidarity is critical to building resilient and equitable blood systems.



We are equally pleased to welcome the **Africa Sickle Cell Organization** as a strategic partner.

The Africa Sickle Cell Organization is dedicated to improving the survival, health, and well-being of people living with sickle cell disease and their families by ensuring access to comprehensive, high-quality, timely, and affordable care.

Through this partnership, we see tremendous opportunities to advance sickle cell care and advocacy across Africa—from strengthening safe and sustainable blood systems, to raising awareness, driving policy dialogue, and ensuring that patient voices remain central to the solutions we implement.

Action on the Ground—Every Mother Matters

In collaboration with the Coalition of Women's Health in Africa (COWHA), CoBA proudly hosted a successful blood drive at Pumwani Maternity Hospital. The event brought together donors and participants who not only gave blood but also took part in engaging, informative sessions on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Postpartum Hemorrhage.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made the Pumwani Blood Drive such a meaningful and impactful event from our dedicated repeat donors to those giving blood for the first time, and to everyone who joined to learn, engage, and raise awareness. Your generosity, compassion, and commitment are helping support mothers, families, and patients across Kenya who rely on safe and timely access to blood.

This event was more than a donation drive—it was a celebration of community, care, and collective action to strengthen our blood systems.



Other Blood Drives Supported in 2025

- World Malaria Day, Kwale
- World Sickle Cell Day, Kilifi
- Ministry of Health World Blood Donor Day, Samburu and Nairobi
- Don Bosco Youth Blood Drive

In 2025, across all blood drives hosted and supported by CoBA and its partners, over **1,500 pints of life-saving blood** were collected. We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed organizers, donors, and volunteers alike for playing a vital role in saving lives.

We look forward to your continued support as we work together to make an even greater impact in the year ahead.



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2026 & Beyond: The Road Ahead

As we step into 2026, CoBA's vision for Africa's blood ecosystem is clearer than ever. In late 2025, the Coalition convened a strategic planning meeting to set priorities and chart a focused direction for the year ahead, identifying where CoBA can make the greatest impact across the continent.

Building on this roadmap, 2026 will usher in new initiatives and strengthened programs designed to enhance policy, forge strategic partnerships, and reinforce systems that guarantee safe, sustainable, and equitable access to blood for all.

The work continues, the momentum is strong, and together we are poised to transform Africa's blood landscape in the year ahead and beyond.





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