

FIRST QUARTER REPORT

No More Death Due to Blood Shortage in Rural Areas

AT YANFOLILA REFERRAL HEALTH CENTER (CSRef), Mali

Zero deaths due to blood shortages

Zero referrals or evacuations due to blood shortages

Zero blood product shortages



JUNE 2025 – AUGUST 2026

WE ARE MAKING HEALTHCARE A RIGHT FOR EVERYONE.

I. CONTEXT

In 2023, an assessment conducted by the Réseau Santé au Premier Plan (R.S.P.P) revealed critical needs for blood products at the Yanfolila Reference Health Center (CSRéf). The main obstacles identified include blood and supply shortages, the high cost of systematic biological testing of a safe blood bag, and the risks associated with medical evacuations. To address these challenges, the R.S.P.P launched the "3 Zeros Initiative" project:

- **Zero deaths** due to lack of blood
- **Zero evacuations** due to blood shortages
- **Zero blood supply shortages**

After a successful first year of implementation from June 2024 to May 2025, the above objectives were achieved with 100% coverage of blood product needs. Given the impact of this first year and the many lives saved, the Réseau Santé au Premier has decided to proceed with the second phase of the project (June 2025–May 2026), despite the absence of technical or financial partners and with activities kept to a strict minimum.

II. PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The project's objectives are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, in particular **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being**.

1. General objective

To achieve a zero rate of deaths, referrals, or evacuations due to blood shortages, as well as a zero rate of blood supply disruptions at the Yanfolila Reference Health Center (CSRéf) over a 12-month period.

2. Specific objectives

- Ensure a 100% supply rate of blood products at the CSRéf over a 12-month period.
- To increase the population's knowledge of blood transfusion and blood donation.
- Increase the technical skills of healthcare professionals in transfusion and blood product management.

III. PROJECT INVENTION STRATEGY

This second phase of the project was launched in June 2025 in Yanfolila, in the presence of local stakeholders (prefect, mayor, chief medical officer, etc.).

To achieve these objectives, we are implementing several strategies:

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- Partnerships with local organizations and institutions
- Blood collection campaigns
- Raising awareness of the importance of blood donation and transfusion
- Establishment of a database of volunteer donors
- Training for healthcare professionals
- Free consultations and donation of medicines

IV. Impacts

This year, the *No More Deaths Due to Blood Shortages in Rural Areas* project was implemented with a limited scope of activities due to funding constraints between June and August 2025 in the Yanfolila district. Thanks to the support of our partners and the commitment of the community, we were able to continue our mission: saving lives by ensuring regular, free, and safe access to blood products. In just three months, this phase demonstrated the effectiveness of our community-based model for blood collection, management, and distribution. It eliminated shortages, improved patient care, prevented communicable diseases, and strengthened community mobilization around blood donation.

1. Full coverage of blood product needs

One of the major results of this phase is that **100% coverage of blood product needs** has been achieved at the Yanfolila Reference Health Center (CSRéf).

- **456 donors** mobilized and sampled (community campaigns, parental and voluntary donations).
- **390 healthy blood bags** available for **365 bags requested** by the CSRéf medical team
- **Zero** blood product **shortages** recorded during this period.

Result: Every patient in need of a transfusion was able to receive one without delay, thus ensuring continuity and quality of care.

2. Significant improvement in patient care

Rapid and reliable access to blood products has transformed the medical response to life-threatening emergencies:

- **Overall, 255 patients** were saved thanks to the availability of blood products.

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- **85 children under the age of 5 suffering severe anemia** were saved thanks to free transfusions.
- **82 women** in obstetric emergencies (pregnancy-related anemia, postpartum hemorrhage, cesarean section, abortion, ectopic pregnancy, etc.) were saved thanks to free transfusions.
- **There were zero deaths and zero evacuations** due to blood shortages.

Result: The immediate availability of blood products saved lives, reduced medical complications, and strengthened communities' confidence in the local health system.

3. Reduction and prevention of communicable diseases

The project is not limited to providing blood: it also contributes to protecting public health through systematic screening of donors.

- 456 donors screened free of charge for HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and syphilis.
- 58 positive cases detected, including:
 - 46 cases of HBsAg (hepatitis B)
 - 6 cases of syphilis
 - 5 cases of hepatitis C
 - 1 case of HIV
- All positive donors were counseled and referred to specialized facilities for treatment.

Result: In addition to providing safe blood, the project actively contributes to the surveillance and prevention of communicable diseases in the community.

4. Community awareness and mobilization

The success of the project depends on the active participation of the community. During this phase:

- 12 radio programs were broadcast to promote blood donation.
- More than 85 pieces of content (videos, posters, messages) were shared on social media and local platforms.

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- Regular information, education, and mobilization campaigns organized in neighborhoods, villages, and public places.
- Four blood collection campaigns were organized, resulting in the collection of 187 blood bags.

Result: A better understanding of blood donation as a civic duty that saves lives, and the ongoing mobilization of new volunteer donors.

5. Provision of medical supplies and support to the Yanfolila CSRéf

To ensure continuity of supply, RSPP has supplied the health center with essential supplies for blood collection, screening, and transfusion.

Supplies provided between June and August 2025:

- 5 packs of collection bags
- 20 packs of transfusion sets
- 4 Rhesus typing kits
- 4 boxes of 100 EDTA tubes
- 5 boxes of HIV Determine tests
- 12 boxes of syphilis tests (40 tests each)
- 12 boxes of hepatitis B tests (40 tests each)
- 12 boxes of hepatitis C tests (40 tests each)

Result: Improved quality of transfusion services and free, continuous access to safe blood for all patients.

NB: It should be noted that we received support from the sectoral unit for the fight against HIV, which directly supplied the reference health center laboratories with Determine tests (HIV tests) for the systematic screening of blood donors.

The implementation during this first quarter costed 3 315 000 FCFA (6,027 USD) with 3,768 USD collected on Global Giving.

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V. Sustainability and community ownership

To ensure the sustainability of the achievements, a local resource mobilization committee was created. It brings together all the key stakeholders in the Yanfolila district: administrative, health, traditional, and religious authorities, civil society, and women's and youth associations.

- As of August 31, 2025, the committee had already raised **405,000 CFA francs (\$ 736 USD)** from local figures and services to support the continuation of the project.

Result: The community is gradually taking ownership of the 3 Zero Initiative, ensuring its sustainability beyond the current phase.

VI. Challenges encountered

Despite these positive results, several challenges remain:

- **Insufficient funding** limited our ability to fully implement planned activities — including

training volunteer blood donors on safe donation practices and voluntarism, training frontline health workers on anemia management and Mali's referral system to prevent severe anemia and reduce transfusion needs, as well as expanding project activities and strengthening logistical capacity.

- **Limited storage capacity** remains a significant challenge, with only one functional refrigerator

available, increasing the risk of blood shortages in the event of equipment failure.

- **Absence of a digital blood management system** makes it difficult to efficiently track blood

stock levels, anticipate shortages, and manage donor and patient information in real time.

VII. Conclusion & Call to Action

In just three months, the project has saved dozens of lives in Yanfolila, eliminated blood shortages, improved the quality of care, and strengthened the resilience of the local health system.

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However, the road to universal and sustainable access to safe blood remains long. With your support, we can go further: expand the project to other rural areas, increase storage capacity, train more volunteer donors, and ensure that no more lives are lost due to a lack of blood.

Every contribution counts. Together, let's make sure that no one loses their life due to a lack of blood in Mali.

JOIN THIS LIFE-SAVING MISSION

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