Building Resilient Blood Supply Systems for Cancer Care: A Program Evaluation of the 3am Foundation Community Blood Donation Initiative in the Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria (November 2020–July 2026).

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POSTER ID: ICW2026-0086

BACKGROUND

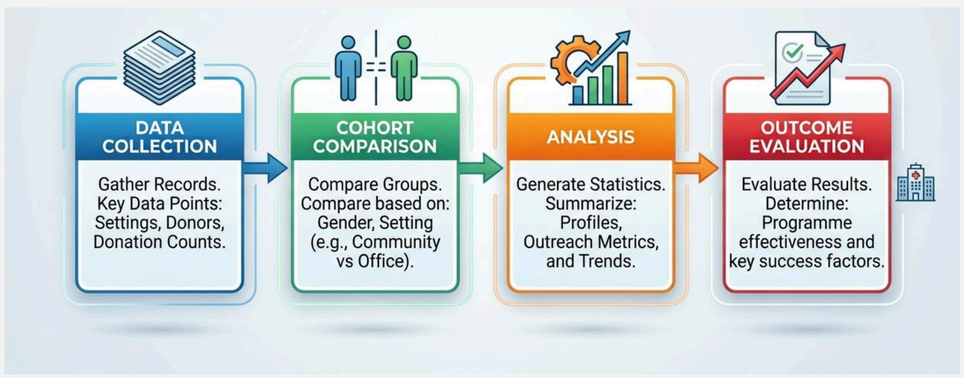
- **Cancer burden:** Cancer places a growing burden on Nigeria and other LMICs, where patients often face late diagnosis, limited treatment capacity, and inadequate access to supportive care such as safe blood transfusion.
- **Healthcare gap**: Persistent shortages of voluntary blood donors and weak community-based blood mobilisation systems can delay essential cancer treatment and highlight a critical gap in sustainable blood supply.

OBJECTIVES

- **Service delivery/intervention:** The study evaluates the effectiveness of the 3AM Foundation Community Blood Donation Initiative in mobilising voluntary blood donors and strengthening community-based blood supply in the FCT.
- **Research goal:** To determine the contribution of the initiative to voluntary blood donor mobilisation and assess its potential to improve access to safe blood for cancer care in Nigeria.

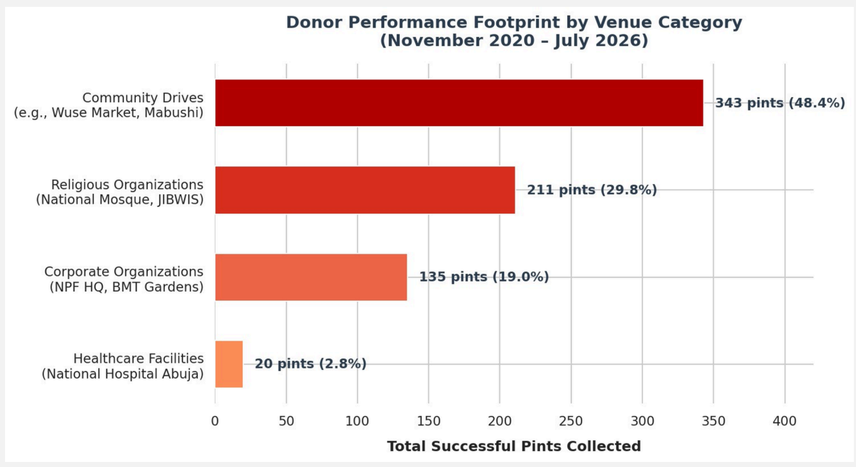
METHODS

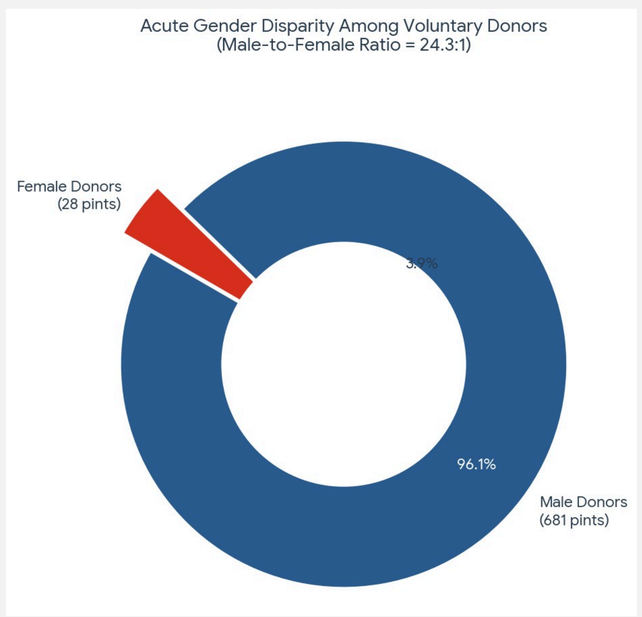
A retrospective programme evaluation was conducted using blood donation records from 3AM Foundation outreach campaigns in the FCT, Nigeria, from November 2020 to July 2026. A total of 1,000 voluntary blood donations were reviewed. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, and annual trends.



RESULTS / LESSONS LEARNT

- 709 voluntary blood donations were collected across 20 outreach campaigns, with community-based campaigns contributing the largest share (48.4%).
- Donor mobilisation improved over time, increasing from 20 donations in 2020 to a peak of 225 in 2025, although participation was predominantly male (96.1%).





CONCLUSION / OUTCOME

- System impact: Community-based blood donation demonstrated strong potential to strengthen voluntary blood supply and support transfusion services, including cancer care.
- Female donor participation remained low, highlighting the need for more inclusive donor mobilisation strategies.
- NICRAT/ICW relevance: Findings support stronger integration of community blood donation programmes with cancer-care services and the development of coordinated strategies to improve access to blood for patients requiring transfusion.

Actionable recommendations for health systems and clinicians.

- Scale up community-based blood donation outreach and strengthen partnerships with community and religious organisations to improve voluntary blood supply.
- Strengthen referral and coordination between blood donation programmes, blood banks, and cancer-care facilities to improve timely access to blood for patients requiring transfusion.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- On behalf of the 3AM Foundation, we appreciate NICRAT, the Nigerian Cancer Society (NCS), ICW, our partner institutions, donors, volunteers, and the conference committee for their valuable support and collaboration.