Introduction to the Global Advisory Panel

20th September 2014
Presentation Overview

- Background to GAP
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Who is GAP

GAP is an association which provides advice to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and their affiliated blood services, in matters concerning corporate governance and risk management in the field of national society blood programmes, as well as the IFRC Secretariat and other relevant IFRC bodies.
GAP Establishment

Nov 2000 - International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent (IFRC) ceased technical support to National Society Blood Services (NSBS) and focussed on promotion of VNRBD.

May 2001 - GAP was formed from experts from national societies with strong blood programmes.

2011 - IFRC Blood Policy approved by General Assembly

July 2012 - GAP established as separate legal entity to IFRC (Association under Swiss civil code)
IFRC Blood Policy


The policy outlines the responsibilities of IFRC, GAP, national societies and blood services in managing the risks associated with operating a blood program. GAP’s primary purpose is to provide advice, tools, resources and support to NSBS to assist in managing these risks.
GAP Vision and Mission

Vision:
All Red Cross/Red Crescent blood programmes will be safe, well governed and self sustainable based on the principle of voluntary non remunerated blood donation for the benefit of patients and to safeguard blood donors.

Mission:
GAP will support Red Cross/Red Crescent blood services in risk management, corporate governance of blood programmes and promote good practices and knowledge exchange.
GAP mandate

Consider and promote blood programme corporate governance and risk management issues

Recommend and promote appropriate risk management structures and processes at a regional level
GAP Structure & Membership

Formal structure - Election of President and Executive Board

GAP Members - Experts drawn widely from the RC/RC global membership, with relevant expertise in blood

Current membership – 12 NSBS

IFRC permanent observer - links to the IFRC Secretary General and connected to the Federation’s Health and Social Care programs.
GAP Member Zones

- Asia & Pacific
- Africa
- Europe & Central Asia
- Middle East & Northern Africa
- Americas – Latin America & The Caribbean

Zone Coordinators provide regional coordination of activities
GAP member blood services

- America (US)
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium (President)
- Finland
- Germany
- Honduras
- Hong Kong (China)
- Israel (MDA)
- Japan
- Switzerland
- Thailand

Observers: IFRC
National Society involvement in blood programmes

LEVEL A. Full Blood Service Provision
- Governance
- Advocacy for appropriate use
- Product distribution
- Laboratory testing
- Component preparation
- Collection services/donor care
- Donor recruitment
- Promotional campaigns
- Education and awareness
- Involvement in WBDD

LEVEL B. Systematic Blood Donor Recruitment
- Donor recruitment
- Promotional campaigns
- Education and awareness
- Involvement in WBDD

C. Advocacy for VNRBD
- Promotional campaigns
- Education and awareness
- Involvement in WBDD
Global mapping

- New global mapping process conducted 2013/14
- 71 countries responded. 85% of these NS reported having some involvement in the blood program:
  - 26 Level A - full blood service (37%)
  - 19 level B - recruitment of donors (27%)
  - 15 level C - donor motivation, advocacy (21%)
  - 11 nil - no involvement (15%)
- GAP Self Assessment distributed to all Level A NS
Core GAP Activities

- Provide **technical advice** on corporate governance and risk management
- Promote **knowledge sharing, networking and partnership** among Red Cross and Red Crescent blood services
- Develop Blood Service **tools, resources and guidelines**
- Provide **priority country support** to NS most in need
- Focus on level A blood programmes
- Support IFRC **VNRBD** programme
GAP Tools & Resources

- GAP Manual
- Self-Assessment questionnaire
- Knowledge Sharing/Networking
- Priority Country Assistance
GAP Manual

GAP manual: Development of Safe and Sustainable National Blood Programmes

- Provides guidance for national societies (NS) on managing blood program related risks.
Self-Assessment Questionnaire

- Distributed to NSBS to enable them to identify their corporate governance and risk management issues
- Focusses on the fundamental aspects NS should consider when undertaking blood programme activities
- GAP collates results and prepares individual feedback reports which are provided to NSBS with advice and suggested strategies to improve risk management and corporate governance
Self-Assessment Questionnaire

Types of risks that may be identified in SA

- Lack of government protection for blood borne disease transmission and/or appropriate insurance
- Inability to meet regulatory or national standards
- Lack of funding and resources – affecting BS ability to manage risks and implement donor and product safety systems/processes
- Lack of systems to identify/analyse, evaluate, prioritise and manage risks
Self-Assessment Questionnaire

Types of risks that may be identified in SA

- Ineffective government and lack of clear separation of blood service and national society regarding corporate management of blood service activities
- Lack of systems to monitor emerging threats to blood supply
- Lack of practical support to recipients of infected blood
Self-Assessment Questionnaire

Major Material Risk (MMR)

Defined as:
“A circumstance in which an individual NS or Blood Service knowingly endangers a high number of donors and/or recipients or acts in contravention to the principles of the Federation, thereby exposing the IFRC or sister NS to potential reputational damage”
Self-Assessment Questionnaire

Major Material Risk (MMR)

- GAP has developed a process to identify, manage and monitor and if applicable report MMR in conjunction with the IFRC
- GAP support is provided to NSBS most in need, to assist in risk monitoring and strategies for risk mitigation
Knowledge sharing/networking

Regional meetings

- Results (de-identified) of the SA are discussed at GAP regional meetings.
  - Sharing of ideas and strategies to address regional issues
  - Opportunities for buddying/twinning
- Where major material risks are identified, GAP liaises with IFRC
- SA Results assist the identification of GAP priority countries requiring further specific support
Priority Country Assistance

- 1-2 priority NS identified each year for specific technical assistance
- Support provided by GAP in 2012/14 ranged from high level support through to dedicated technical assistance
- Current GAP priority NS are:
  - Nepal
  - Haiti
  - Vietnam
  - Honduras
  - Bangladesh
Priority Country Assistance

Examples of some types of support GAP may offer:

- **Advocacy** with governments and Ministries of Health
- Provision of **best practice** examples of key governance documentation – Memorandum of Understanding, Blood Policies, strategic plans
- Assistance in the development of appropriate **risk management** systems and frameworks
- Assistance in **strategic planning**
- Provision of **training and workshops**
- Advice on **national coordination** of the blood program
- Coordination of **partnering** assistance with other NSBS
Priority Country Assistance

High level support - Example:

- Assisted NSBS with Government and National Public Health Laboratory regarding appropriate funding for blood donation screening.
- Government commitment achieved to fund ELISA testing equipment for screening blood donations for TTI.
- Director confirmed all blood donations collected in region now screened for TTI on ELISA.
Priority Country Assistance

Technical support – Example:

- Dedicated technical support visit to assist NSBS to develop an operationalised strategic plan.
  - Key activities prioritised
  - Deliverables planned over 3 year period
  - Budgetary requirements for key strategic activities identified
- The strategic plan is being used to assist and leverage NSBS applications for external funding to support its future program
GAP support to NS blood programmes

Video – IFRC Blood policy and GAP

Describes the role of GAP in supporting NSBS and the tools and resources available for assistance.

Refer: link on IFRC website

Conclusion

In coordination with partners, GAP will continue to provide support to national society blood services at a global, regional and country level.

GAP will continue to:

- Provide a networking forum for the sharing of risk management/corporate governance challenges and solutions with NSBS
- Provide tools, resources and priority country assistance to those NSBS most in need
- Provide advocacy and support to IFRC and NSBS on issues affecting blood programmes
- Coordinate disaster response support for blood services
- Influence global blood policy in conjunction with its partners
How to contact GAP

Email
gapsecretariat@redcrossblood.org.au

Website
- Currently in development and will be completed early 2015
Global Advisory Panel (GAP) on Corporate Governance and Risk Management of Blood Services in Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

GAP

Providing advice and support to NSBS on governance and risk management of blood programmes at a global, regional and country level.
Any Questions