



**The Global Advisory Panel on Corporate Governance and Risk Management of Blood Services in Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (GAP)** provides advice and support to National Societies and their affiliated blood services in matters concerning corporate governance and risk management of National Society blood programmes.

## ABOUT GAP

GAP commenced in 1999, following a decision by the IFRC Governing Board to focus on the promotion of voluntary blood donor recruitment. In 2012, GAP was officially established as an Association under Swiss law with its own statutes and terms of reference. The GAP Association members are National Society experts in blood programmes from around the globe.

*GAP pursues the vision that all Red Cross / Red Crescent blood programmes will be safe, well governed and self-sustainable, and are based on the principle of voluntary non-remunerated blood donation for the benefit of patients and to safeguard blood donors.*

GAP delivers its work programme in cooperation with IFRC Health and has an IFRC observer on its Board. In addition, GAP Regional Coordinators assist and coordinate GAP activities at a regional level, and identify opportunities for regional assistance and collaboration.

The release of the IFRC's blood policy "Promoting Safe and Sustainable Blood Systems" in 2011 cemented GAP's role to provide expertise and advice to National Society blood services. The policy outlines the specific responsibilities of the IFRC, GAP, National Societies and blood services in managing blood programme risk.

## GAP MEMBERSHIP

GAP membership is open to National Society blood services which meet the minimum criteria for membership, including:

- the effective operation of a full Level A blood service (production and testing of blood products)
- achieved or aspiring toward 100% voluntary non-remunerated blood donation
- regular completion of the GAP Self-assessment questionnaire.

Members pay an annual membership fee which constitutes the primary source of GAP's operating resources, and are represented by their Chief Executive or head of their National Society blood service.

## KEY OBJECTIVES OF GAP

- ✓ Provide technical advice on corporate governance and risk management to National Society blood programmes
- ✓ Promote knowledge sharing, networking, and partnership among and between Red Cross and Red Crescent blood services and external partners
- ✓ Develop and provide tools, guidelines and priority country assistance to National Society blood services most in need
- ✓ Coordinate assistance to National Society blood services in post-emergency situations including blood programme recovery
- ✓ Influence global blood policy in conjunction with its partners
- ✓ Provide advocacy and support to the IFRC and National Society blood services on issues affecting blood programmes

## GAP ACTIVITIES

### Self-assessment

GAP's principal tool is the Self-assessment questionnaire, which assists National Societies to ensure that appropriate steps are being taken to support the long term stability and sustainability of their blood service without exposure to unnecessary risk. National Society blood services can measure their progress against a number of selected criteria identified as fundamental aspects of corporate governance and risk management for National Society Blood Services.

The results of the Self-assessment are analysed by GAP and an individual feedback report is provided to the participating Blood Service, outlining specific governance and risk management recommendations for consideration. GAP also provides de-identified regional reports which enable comparison of performance and identify common themes or challenges which are further discussed at GAP regional meetings. Partnering opportunities for blood services with stronger regional counterparts are also identified.

### Country Support

As resources permit, GAP provides targeted assistance to a small number of identified support country blood services.

This may include:

- in-country support visits
- provision of GAP tools, resources and GAP expertise
- identifying partnering opportunities with other blood services
- coordination of technical assistance from GAP members or partners.

### Post-disaster

In countries where the National Society runs the blood programme, GAP has an agreed role with IFRC to provide coordination assistance to the affected National Society Blood Service for the recovery of their blood programme in the event of a disaster. This includes assessment of need and coordination of bilateral Partner National Society support programmes to minimise duplication of effort.



### Voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD)

The GAP VNRBD programme is designed to address the challenges associated with increasing the percentage of voluntary blood donation and provides:

- A dedicated focal point for VNRBD support and advice
- Strategies and tools to improve the safety of family and replacement donations
- Strategies for the conversion of safe family and replacement donors to become regular, voluntary donors
- Targeted tools and training
- Advocacy for VNRBD in high level and policy discussions globally

### GAP Global Mapping

Accurate information on all National Society blood services is critical for GAP to plan for future support activities. Global mapping provides visibility of the engagement of National Societies in the provision of blood programmes, and the role of the National Society and blood service in each country.

Between 2015-2018, GAP completed a global mapping exercise to determine the level of involvement of all Red Cross / Red Crescent National Societies in the blood programmes of their respective countries. The results revealed that 83% of the 190 National Societies are involved in blood-related activities. The global mapping report is available to view on the GAP website.

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