The World of Voluntary Non-remunerated Donations (VNRD)

8th FIODS Seminar - 2 October 2015

Dr Yetmgeta E Abdella
Medical Officer for Blood and Transfusion Safety
World Health Organization
Eastern Mediterranean Region
Outline of the Presentation

- Why VNRED should be preferred?
- WHO Resolutions addressing VNRED
- What is the global status of VNRED?
- What are the challenges?
- What are we doing?
- Conclusion
Why VNRD should be preferred?

- VNRD have been recognized as the cornerstone of a safe and sustainable supply of blood and blood products sufficient to meet the transfusion requirements of the patient population.

- Scientific evidence and ethical principles supporting VNRD have been well established and promoted by the World Health Organization, the Council of Europe, the European Union, and most of the countries in the world.
Why VNRD should be preferred?

- Safety for patients – e.g., transfusion transmissible infections
- Safety for donors
- Sustainability and continuity of blood supply
- Ethical / legal reasons for donors
WHO Resolutions
### World Health Assembly Resolutions addressing VNRD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Resolution Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>WHA28.72</td>
<td>Utilization and supply of human blood and blood products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>WHA58.13</td>
<td>World Blood Donor Day, 14 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>WHA63.12</td>
<td>Availability, safety and quality of blood products</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Situation of VNRED
Global distribution of population and blood donation

10 countries account for 60% of the global blood collection, in order of magnitude, these are: USA, China, India, Germany, Japan, Brazil, Italy, France, Russian Federation and Indonesia.
Blood donation rate

- Blood donation rate (donations/1000 population):
  - 39.2 high-income countries
  - 12.6 middle-income countries
  - 4.0 low-income countries

- 75 countries report collecting fewer than 10 donations/1000 population
  - 38 countries are in AFR, 6 in the AMR, 7 in the EMR, 6 in EURO, 7 in SEAR and 10 in the WPR
  - All are low- or middle-income countries
Donation rates in Eastern Mediterranean Region

Whole Blood Donations Per 1 000 population

Afghanistan  Bahrain  Egypt  Iran, Islamic Republic of  Jordan  Morocco  Pakistan  Somalia  Sudan  United Arab Emirates  Yemen
An increase of 8.6 million VNRD from 2004 to 2012 has been reported by 162 countries.

73 countries collect more than 90% of their blood supply from VNRD
  - This includes 60 countries with 100% of their blood supply from VNRD.

In 72 countries, more than 50% of the blood supply is still dependent on family/replacement and paid blood donors

25 countries still report collecting paid donations in 2012, around 1,500,000 donations in total.
Challenges
Low blood donation rate

- Low donation rates and lack of safe, regular blood donors especially in low-income countries resulting in shortages of or interruptions in the supply of blood and blood products

- Weak VNRD programmes resulting in dependence on replacement/paid donors
Wastage of collected blood and plasma

- Discard of >5 million whole blood/red cells units/year globally
- At least 6.5 million litres of plasma recoverable or recovered from whole blood donation based on VNRD either not recovered or discarded
Ageing population

- More likely to suffer from chronic diseases
- More likely to require medical treatments that may involve having a blood transfusion
- Fewer people of donor age, as currently defined, as the demand for blood potentially increases.
Increase in international travel

- Travel – for business and holiday – especially to countries where malaria and other transmissible diseases are endemic both reduces the number of available donors and potentially reduces the frequency of donation by otherwise regular donors.
Population movements

- Population movements throughout the world have enormous consequences on blood product supply and demand.
- The percentage of migrants, in European countries, is 6.2% and varies from 0.1% in Romania to 42.6% in Luxembourg.
- Migrant populations show different disease patterns with different transfusion demands.
- Migrants tend to have different patterns and rates of donation.
Efforts in Promoting VNRD
Promotion of VNRD

- Blood transfusion services have responded to the need to maintain and expand the numbers of regular VNRD in a number of ways:
  - Policies, strategies, programmes, marketing techniques, use of new media, creating/using databases, changing the age limits for donation etc.

- The fundamental objective of all these initiatives is to ensure that sufficient safe and reliable donors enter into sustainable relationships with their blood establishment.
Promotion of VNRD

Towards 100% Voluntary Blood Donation
A Global Framework for Action

Blood
Donor
Selection

Guidelines on Assessing Donor Suitability for Blood Donation

Blood
Donor
Counselling

Implementation Guidelines

World Health Organization
Every year, on 14 June, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day. The event serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank voluntary unpaid blood donors for their life-saving gifts of blood.

The lack of blood and blood products helps save millions of lives every year. It can help patients suffering from life-threatening conditions live longer and with higher quality of life, and support complex medical and surgical procedures. It also has an essential, life-saving role in maternal and perinatal care.

However, in many countries, there is not an adequate supply of safe blood, and blood services face the challenge of making sufficient blood available, while also ensuring its quality and safety.

An adequate supply can only be assured through regular donations by voluntary unpaid blood donors. WHO’s goal is for all countries to obtain all their blood supplies from voluntary unpaid donors by 2020. Today, in just 14 countries, national blood supplies are based on close to 100% voluntary unpaid blood donations, with 40 countries still dependent on family donors and even paid donors.

Every blood donation is a gift of life

The lack for this year’s campaign – the 10th anniversary of World Blood Donor Day – is blood donation as a gift that saves lives. WHO encourages all countries to highlight stories from people whose lives have been saved through blood donation, as a way of motivating regular blood donors to continue giving blood and people in good health who have never given blood, particularly young people, to begin doing so.

The objectives of this year’s campaign are to:
- thank blood donors for their life-saving donations;
- promote voluntary unpaid blood donation; and
- convince ministers of health to commit to achieving self-sufficiency in safe blood and blood products based on 100% voluntary unpaid blood donation.

The first country for World Blood Donor Day 2013 is France. Through its national blood service, the Establishment Français du Sang (EFS), France has been promoting voluntary non-remunerated blood donation since the 1960s. A global event will be held in Paris on 14 June 2013.

Campaign web site: www.who.int/campaigns/world-blood-donor-day
Conclusion

- VNRD:
  - Lowers the risks of transmissible diseases.
  - Lessen the risk of emerging diseases.
  - Protects safety of donors.
  - Totally compatible with meeting the demand in the future and with the security of blood supply.
  - Consistent with the WHO Resolutions and other international commitments.
  - Supported by blood donor organizations.
  - Widely supported by public perception globally, with indirect positive links to the voluntary non-remunerated donations of other Medical Products of Human Origin.
Blood transfusion safety

Millions of lives are saved each year through blood transfusions. In many countries, however, people still die due to an inadequate supply of blood and blood products.

This has a particular impact on women (as a consequence of pregnancy-related complications), children (malnutrition, malaria and severe life-threatening anaemia), trauma victims and, especially, the poor and disadvantaged.

The emergence of HIV in the 1980s highlighted the importance of ensuring the safety, as well as the adequacy, of national blood supplies. In many countries, even where blood is available, many recipients remain at risk of transfusion-transmissible infections (TTIs) as a result of poor blood donor recruitment and selection practices and the use of untested units of blood.

Every country has a common need to ensure:

- Availability of adequate supplies of blood and blood products and their accessibility to all patients requiring transfusion;
- Safety of blood and blood products;
- Safe and appropriate clinical use of blood and blood products.

The WHO Blood Transfusion Safety (BTS) team supports the establishment of sustainable national blood programmes that can ensure the provision of safe, high quality blood and blood products that are accessible to all patients requiring transfusion and their safe and appropriate use. In support of this mission, the WHO BTS team recommends the following integrated strategy to national health authorities:

- Establishment of a well-organized, nationally coordinated blood transfusion service that can provide adequate and timely supplies of safe blood for all patients in need;
- Collection of blood only from voluntary unpaid blood donors at low risk of acquiring transfusion-transmissible infections, and stringent blood donor selection criteria.

Contact information

World Health Organization
BTS
Department of Essential Health Technologies
Department of Essential Health Technologies
World Blood Donor Day
World Blood Donor Day
14 June 2007

Thank you