



# IFMSA

International Federation of  
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## Organ, Marrow & Tissue Donation

This is the Annual Impact Report of the **Organ, Marrow & Tissue Donation** Program, written by **Saad UAKKAS** (IFMSA-Morocco) on the **26th June 2018** submitted for the **67th IFMSA General Assembly August Meeting 2018**.

### Summary of the Report

This report represents IFMSA's work and impact done in the term 2017/2018 on the organ, tissue and marrow donation program.

In this report you will find data and impact done by 54 enrolled and reported activities from 45 NMOs on the program from the period between June 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 to June 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, as well as IFMSA international activities, campaigns and resources that aim to improve knowledge and skills of members to do more impact in communities regarding donation.

You will also find important discussions and recommendations in order to improve our work and impact on donation.

In case of any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at [organdonation@ifmsa.org](mailto:organdonation@ifmsa.org) or +212622802330



Picture: Donate blood! Be a Hero, by FASMR Romania

### Organ, Marrow & Tissue Donation Program 2017/18 in numbers

**75858** Donations reached, including blood donations collected, and donors registration for organ and marrow donation

**156683** Persons educated, including conferences, lectures and workshops

**3.3 Million** Persons reached in raising awareness, including online campaigns, media and field activities.

**679** Local events were organized for collecting donations, or educating people.

[Link to Organ, Marrow & Tissue Donation Program Description](#)



## Message from the Program Coordinator

Dear readers,

As I Always say, life is like a Wi-Fi hotspot, it was meant to be shared with others. That is the basic principle of donation, to share your life connection with others and save their lives.

I am Saad Uakkas and I had the honor to work as probably the last Program Coordinator for Organ, Tissue and Marrow donation. This term allowed me to discover the great work IFMSA members are doing all over the world to improve and raise donations and save people's lives.



Although this period of time wasn't enough to enroll all IFMSA activities on the program, I hope that This report and the number of activities enrolled will serve to show the impact IFMSA and its members are doing on donation.

If there is one thing I would like to say , it is that close monitoring and encouragement of activity coordinators and members, as well as establishing useful tools and helpful guidelines is the main way to advance even further with IFMSA's work on donation.

## Introduction to the Organ, Marrow & Tissue Donation Program

The IFMSA program on Organ, Marrow & Tissue Donation is designed to increase the availability of organs and tissues through living and deceased donation in a safe and ethical manner. For that, awareness of the population should be raised, the general public and medical students should be educated on the need, benefits and process of donation, health professionals should be trained on donation and Hospitals and health facilities should be equipped with adequate equipment in order to insure safety and efficiency of donation.

In order to achieve this IFMSA through this program aims to improve knowledge and skills of its members on donation, and give them tools to tackle different issues and challenges on donation, from socio-cultural misconceptions to lack of human, financial and technical resources.

### Main focus areas include:

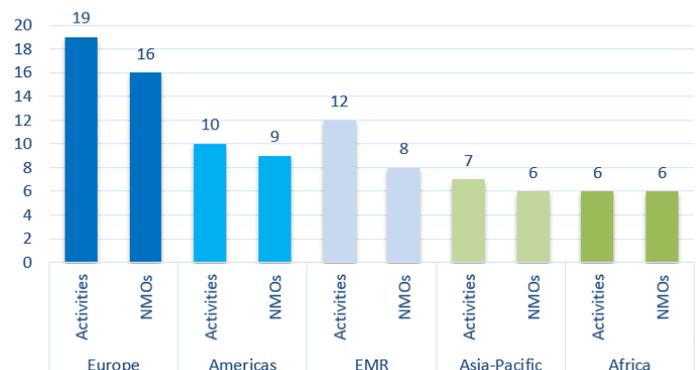
- Organ donation
- Blood donation
- Tissue donation excluding blood donation
- Marrow donation

## Impact of the Organ, Marrow & Tissue Donation Program

### 1. Basic Activity Statistics

in the term 2017/18 a total of 55 activities were enrolled in the program, of which 52 were reported, plus 2 continuous activities enrolled in the past term that were reported, with a total of **54 activities reported from 45 NMOs**, which corresponds to a reporting rate of 94%. In the term 2016/2017 there are 14 activities enrolled and 3 reported, which means there are almost **four time more activities enrolled** compared to last term.

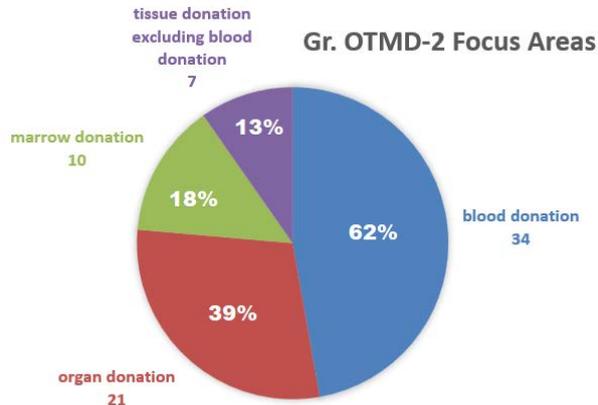
### Gr. OTMD-1 Regional Distribution





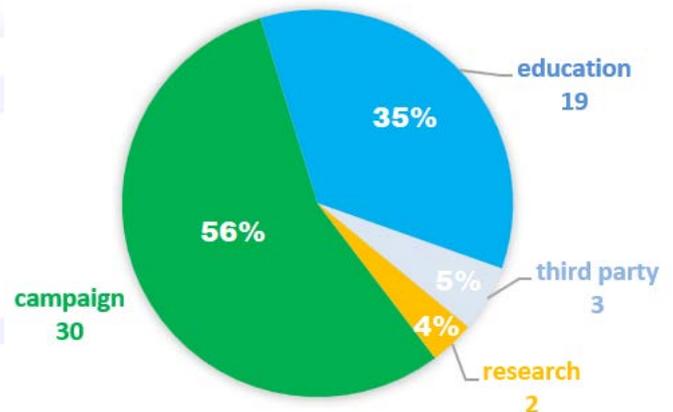
In terms of **regional distribution** (see Gr.OTMD-1), Europe has 35% of activities reported, followed by EMR with 22%, then the Americas with 18%, Asia-Pacific has 13% and Africa has 11% of all activities reported.

**Discussion:** It is encouraging to see that there is an equitable regional distribution of activities with all regions having **at least 6 NMOs** working on the program.



NB : Some activities had more than one focus area

**Gr. OTMD-3. Activity Types**



**For focus areas** (see Gr.OTMD-2) most of activities worked on blood donation (34) followed by organ donation (21). I note that all regions have at least 5 activities on organ donation, except from Asia and Africa who have 2 and 1 activity respectively, also 9 out of 10 activities that were conducted on marrow donation were in the European region.

**Discussion:** I understand that Organ and marrow donation are relatively new areas of work for many countries, and highly encourage NMOs to work on them in the future. I also congratulate NMOs that were able to successfully work on it for the first time.

## 2. Program impact

### End goal

- A. Increase the availability of organs, marrow and tissues through living and deceased donation in a safe and ethical manner

### Milestones and indicators

The milestones and indicators can be found in the Program Proposal, including 3 outcomes.

**Outcome 1:** *Increase in population consent towards donation*

**Outcome 2:** *Capacity building and training of healthcare professionals on donation*

**Outcome 3:** *Increase in the healthcare system's efficiency in donation*

The indicators will need to be updated as many cannot be measured on a short or immediate term, and make it hard to evaluate the impact made by activities ( e.g: annual donation rates, annual number of transplantations...)

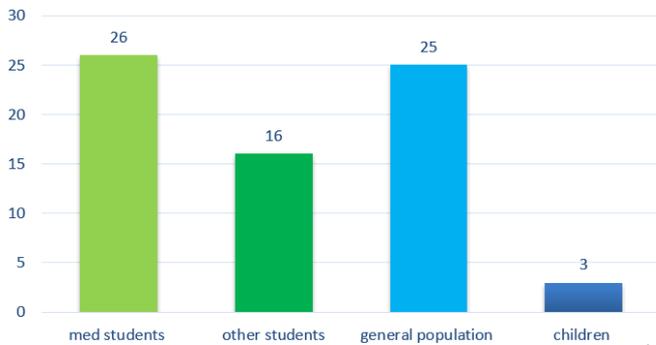
## 3. Impact reached by reported activities

Target groups and external partners:



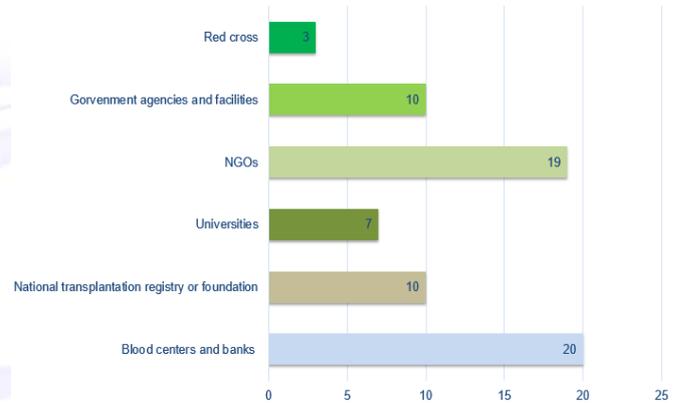
As can be seen in Gr. OTMD-4, most activities focused on the general population and students (mainly medical students) with some activities targeting children. For partners, (see Gr. OTMD-5) NGOs and blood centers and banks come at the first place by 35% and 37% of activities respectively, followed by Government agencies and facilities, and National transplantation registries and foundations of 18% of activities for each. 13% of activities partnered with universities and 5% with red cross/crescent.

**Gr. OTMD-4 Target Groups**



NB: Some activities had multiple target groups

**Gr. OTMD-5 External partners and external visibility of reported activities**



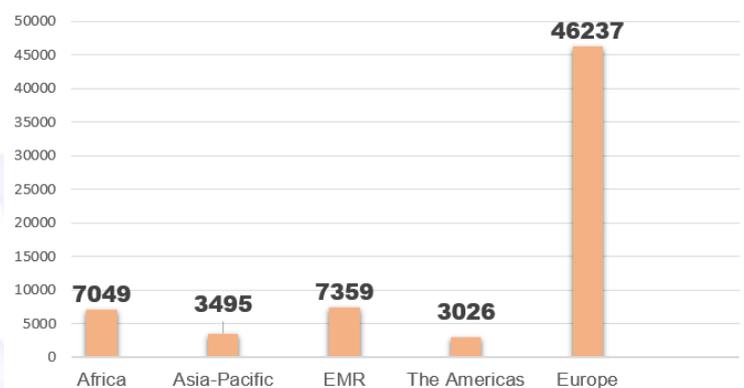
NB: Some activities had multiple partners

### Outcome 1: Increase in population consent towards donation

**Indicator:** Number of donations and registrations in donation registries:

- The total number of blood donations collected is **67066 from 28 NMOs**, Mainly from Europe 69% followed by EMR 11%, Africa 10% Asia-Pacific 5.5% and the Americas 4.5% ( see Gr.OTMD-6)
- The total number of registrations in organ donation registries is **611 from 5 NMOs**, with 51% from Asia-Pacific, 26% from EMR, 16% from Europe and 7% from the Americas.
- The total number of registrations in marrow donation registries is **8081 from 5 NMOs** from the European region.

**Gr.OTMD-6 Blood donations per region**



**Indicator:** Number of people educated on donation ( including medical students) :

Total number of people reached by conferences, lectures and workshops is **156683 from 32 NMOs**, Mainly from Europe 79.5%, Africa 11%, the Americas 5%, EMR 2.5% and Asia-Pacific 2%. ( See Gr. OTMD-7)



**Outcome 2:** *Capacity building and training of healthcare professionals on donation*

**Indicator :** Number of trained volunteer medical students in activities : **1105 students.**

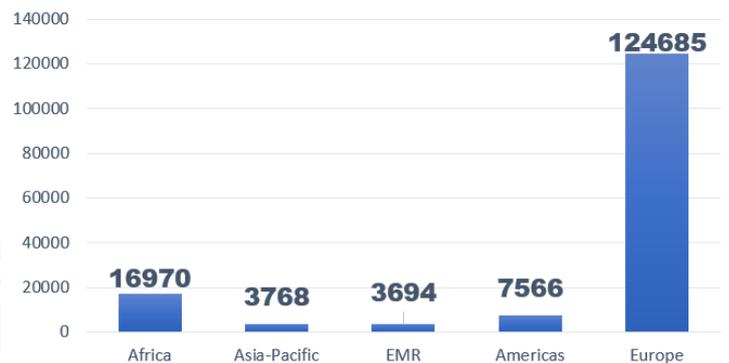
**Outcome 3:** *Increase in the healthcare system's efficiency in donation*

**Indicator :** Amount of money raised for improving donation **36180 euros** received and used by 6 NMOs

**Indicator:** Number of Apps/ electronic donation systems created : 2 Apps from 2 NMOs: **FASMR Romania** managed to launch an electronic mobile app platform in the whole country and to add every Blood Donation Centre in Romania, In Cluj-Napoca, one of the city in which their campaign takes place they've managed alongside their partners to acquire new medical equipment: 8 automatic beds for blood donation, medical equipment needed for processing the blood and they've managed to recondition the local Blood Bank in Cluj-Napoca. The final cost for all this was around 30 000 euros supported by their partners.

**IFMSA-Pakistan** have created an app to promote blood donation and facilitate contact establishment between donors and patients / blood centers.

**Gr. OTMD-7 Education per region**



#### **Interesting facts found from activities:**

- AMSA Austria and AMSA Australia had both a blood donation activity with the same name: "Vampire cup", both were enrolled at the same hour at the same day, both consisted of online campaigns and blood collection events and both collected 2700 blood donation.
- Many activities found that people are more likely to donate if a campaign is organized near them.
- Most of people had lack or wrong knowledge about eligibility, benefits and procedure which was a main reason for not donating.
- Fear and socio-cultural misconceptions had a big effect discouraging people to donate.

#### **4. Other IFMSA Activities on the topic**

1/ International campaign on blood donation 2018 Give a life Give a drop ( 27<sup>th</sup> May-19<sup>th</sup> June 2018)

- 4 infographics produced all in four languages ( ENG, FR, AR, SPA) on the need for blood donation, process of donation, advantages of donation and what can be done to promote donation. [LINK](#)
- A Quiz on knowledge of medical students on blood donation: 1346 answers from 96 NMOs [LINK](#)
- A survey on the situation of blood donation in different countries + world map showing results: 90 answers from 50 NMOs [LINK](#)
- A webinar on blood donation done with SCOPH-D [LINK](#)
- Online and field campaigns in the world blood donor day (14<sup>th</sup> of June) in more than 15 NMOs
- Facebook photo frame used by members to support blood donation [LINK](#)



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## 2/ International work on organ donation in medical curriculum

- A survey to analyze the situation of organ donation education in different universities around the world as well as knowledge of students regarding the topic [LINK](#)
- A world map showing the results of the survey: [LINK](#)
- A toolkit on how to implement an organ donation course in your university including a course proposal on organ donation will be published in August
- An article with the results will be presented by IFMSA in the international bioethics conference.
- A session related to the topic took place in MM18 SCOME session with around 50 participants

## 3/ International work on blood donation for SGI

- A survey on the situation of blood donation for MSM population in different countries [LINK](#)
- A map with results will be published in end of July 2018
- A session on the topic took place in MM18 SCORA sessions with around 40 participants

4/ IFMSA Manual on stem cell donation will be published in July 2018

5/ IFMSA Blood donation manual will be published in September 2018

6/ IFMSA international campaign on human trafficking, taking place in 31<sup>st</sup> of July

7/ Blood donation SCOPH talk in MM18 SCOPH sessions with around 90 participants

8/ MSI article on organ donation by AssociaMed Tunisia in MSI37

9/ Activities related to the program that were not enrolled yet : IFMSA Argentina 1 – SaMSIC

1 – CAMSA 1 – AECS 1 – CyMSA 1 – IFMSA CZ 1 – BVMD 2 – HeIMSiC 1 – SiSM 2 –

KazMSA 1 – MSAKE 1 – UMMSA 1 – NMSA 1 – IFMSA Paraguay 1 – MEDSAR 1 –

SLEMSA 1 – AMSA Singapore 1 – MedSiN Sudan 2 – TurkMSiC 3

## Discussion and Recommendations

- There have been a growth in both the quality and the quantity of activities enrolled and reported on the program, yet, there are still many activities that are not enrolled yet. It is important to note that NMOs are getting more familiar with the programs and enrollment structure, more work need to be done in the future in order to reach even more activities enrolled and be able to assess the global impact achieved in a better way.
- A major number of activities on the program are working on blood donation, seeing the continuous need for blood and its daily use in hospitals, and the lack of voluntary donors in many communities due to many factors, such as socio-cultural misconceptions, fear or lack of motivation and lack of proper knowledge. Most of these activities focus on educating people and organizing campaigns for blood collection. We encourage NMOs to work more on a long term impact regarding blood donation, via establishing electronic blood systems and apps, improving blood donation facilities, in collaboration with government structures ,national blood banks, Red cross and other NGOs.
- Many NMOs worked on organ donation for the first time, which is encouraging, still there is a need to work even more on the topic. Also almost all marrow donation activities were in the European region. We understand that those focus areas are still relatively new and not discussed much in many countries, where the importance of doing more actions about it.
- Most factors that discourage people from donating are related to lack of knowledge, lack of awareness, false ideas and cultural and religious misconceptions. We encourage NMOs to focus on educating people and raising their awareness using online and media and also field actions, while collaborating with social and religious leaders, and famous people to spread awareness.



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- There are many important topics related to the program that NMOs can work on, such as including donation in medical curriculum to improve health professionals' knowledge and skills regarding it, also organ trafficking which is a worldwide challenge that health professionals can have a major role tackling, and blood donation for SGI communities, as many are faces with deferrals or permanent ban to donate which is a direct form of discrimination against them.
- **Recommendations towards NMOs and Activity Coordinators:**
  - Make sure to enroll the activity before you start working on it, to get in touch with the PC, get advices and useful resources and be able to inspire from previous and similar activities
  - If the topic is new or uncommon in your community, make sure to start with the health professionals community and medical students, then young people.
  - Make sure to collaborate with cultural, religious and social leaders to raise people's awareness, those can play a powerful role in correcting false ideas and misconceptions about donation.
- **Recommendations towards the next Program Coordinators**
  - Being a PC can be time consuming, yet very rewarding, be ready to engage in daily conversations with activity coordinators from all over the world.
  - Make sure to start from the need and decide what kind of actions to organize, one term is very short, so choose your priorities and start working on materials and tools to improve members' work on the program
  - Don't start a campaign unless you are sure to have enough time and dedication to work on it and follow it up, you must be ready to take the lead and work on your own sometimes to make it happen.
  - It is very important to unify and coordinate between activity coordinators, many activities have similar objectives and needs, and it can be very useful to share different methods of work to improve its work.
  - Always be proactive, make sure to reach out and look for activity coordinators, national officers and the IT, to encourage them to work on the program, to offer them the necessary need and tools, and to help them start and improve their actions on the program.
  - Remember that it is not necessary for everyone to work on the program, many countries have no real need or problem at the moment, for those, make sure to learn about their situation, and major factors that enabled them to reach that level, so that you can share it as advices with others who need it.
  - And finally, As I always say, life is like a parachute jump, once you jump into the position, it will go so quick, so make sure to enjoy and make good use of it, interact with members, help and learn from them, and make sure to improve yourself so that you can improve others.

Live, develop yourself and help other.

Saad UAKKAS

PC OTMD