

Enterprise Risk Management Toolkit for Charities and Institutions of a Public Character (IPCS)

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Foreword

Establishing and implementing an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework for the first time can be a daunting task for any organisation, and especially for Charities.

This 2016 ERM Toolkit for Charities and Institutions of a Public Character aims to share practical ERM insights, and recommended methodologies and approaches with organisations currently registered as Charities in Singapore.

Jointly produced by the Charity Council, KPMG in Singapore and National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School, this toolkit sets out the best practices and key foundations for building an efficient and sustainable ERM programme within Charities across various sectors.

It will also provide Charities with a set of guidelines and practical considerations when starting off their ERM journeys, including establishing the ERM process, framework, governance, etc., and help the Management and Board to play a greater oversight role in ensuring the adequacy and effectiveness of risk management and internal controls.

It must be reiterated, however, that ERM should be viewed from the perspective of a sustainable journey where continuous reinforcements and improvements are paramount to the success of the programme.

We would like to thank the individuals and Charities for their time and invaluable contributions to the development of this toolkit.

Gerard Ee Chairman Charity Council Irving Low Head of Risk Consulting KPMG in Singapore Professor Ho Yew Kee Principal Investigator

Introduction

To meet with the growing demands for greater governance and transparency, Charities are urged to use ERM as a tool to provide their Management and Board with enhanced information and oversight on the Charity's risk and control environment.



Objectives

This toolkit aims to provide practical guidance to Charities on the implementation and sustenance of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), including guidance on the following:

- ERM process (e.g. risk identification, assessment etc.)
- ERM governance (e.g. risk governance structure, roles, responsibilities, etc.)
- Risk reporting process and format
- Building risk awareness and understanding within the Charity

This toolkit takes reference from local and global Risk Management and governance standards, including the following:

• ISO31000:2009

- COSO
- Risk Governance Guidance for Listed Boards (RGG)
- Board Risk Committee Guide 2016

Statutory regulations and legislations (e.g. Charities Act and regulations and sector specific regulations) should take precedence over the guidance provided within this toolkit as applicable.

This toolkit aims to provide guiding principles and references, and is not meant to be prescriptive or exhaustive in nature. Individual Charities should consider and tailor their approach to ERM development and implementation, taking into account the Charity's objectives, structure and context.

Embedding risk management practices in your charity

The ERM framework

A structured approach and framework around ERM related processes and governance is critical to the success of ERM in any Charity.

The ERM Framework typically provides the guidance and boundaries within which ERM related activities should be carried out, and usually includes the following key components:

- Risk strategy Provides the overall ERM strategy and direction of the Charity
- ERM process The process by which risks are identified, assessed, monitored and reported across the Charity
- Risk governance Clearly defined structure, roles and responsibilities for the operationalisation and oversight of ERM within the Charity

It is important that the ERM Framework is tailored to the unique requirements, circumstances and context of each Charity. The Framework should also be regularly reviewed and communicated to all stakeholders within the Charity.

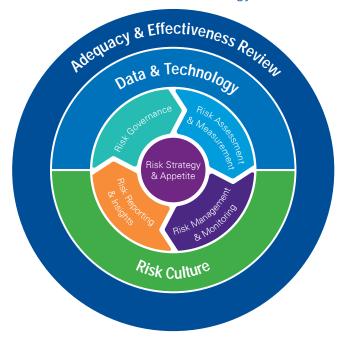


KPMG's ERM methodology

KPMG's proprietary ERM methodology defines the key pillars that a robust ERM framework should include. This methodology is aligned with leading global practices (e.g. ISO 31000, COSO, Singapore Code of Corporate Governance) and builds on years of practical experience developing, implementing and reviewing ERM programmes across Charities.

The actual approach and pace on implementing ERM typically varies significantly across Charities based on considerations such as size, resources, industries and objectives. Larger Charities may be able and willing to invest in building a comprehensive ERM framework to reap optimal benefits from such a programme, while others may only strive to establish and sustain basic ERM foundations.

KPMG ERM methodology



Challenges and critical success factors to implementing ERM

In the recent survey¹ of risk management practices in the Charity sector in Singapore, respondents were asked what they felt were the challenges faced in implementing and conducting risk management activities in their Charities. More than 70 percent cited the lack of risk management expertise and insufficient human resource as key challenges faced. Other top challenges highlighted include insufficient financial and technical resources, as well as lack of a formal ERM process and framework.

An ERM Framework can still be effectively built and sustained

within a Charity despite facing limitations in human, financial and technical resources. It becomes all the more critical for Charities to prioritise risk management resources to focus on what matters and establish strong foundations in terms of prioritising and assessing key risks to the Charity, defining risk accountabilities and responsibilities, as well as building basic risk awareness and understanding across stakeholders.

Typically, the most essential yet challenging factors involve building risk awareness and understanding,

as well as promoting the 'right' risk management mindset across all levels of the Charity, from Board to general staff. Risk awareness, understanding and capabilities have to be progressively built from the on-set to ensure maximum learning and buy-in.

Refer to Appendices A to C for further guidance on establishing an ERM process and framework, as well as building risk awareness and understanding across your Charity.

Common key risks in the charity sector

Common key risks highlighted

In the recently conducted survey of risk management practices in the Charity sector in Singapore, respondents were asked to rank what they felt were top risks faced by their Charity. The below table summarises the top risks highlighted by respondents.

Refer to Appendix D for further breakdowns of top risks identified by sector.

Of the various categories of risks, operational risks are typically the category where top risks and concerns may vary more across sectors. Refer to Appendix E for sample operational risk registers by sector.

Common key risks in the Charity Sector

Risk Catagory	Risk	Risk Description				
Financial	Funding risk	Inability to meet short term financial obligations arising from decreases in funding.				
	Accounting and reporting risk	Inaccurate / unreliable / untimely data used for financial and accounting reporting, resulting in material misstatements in financial information.				
	Non-compliance with established laws and regulations risk	 (A) Failure to comply with legal, regulatory or contractual requirements and significant breach of code of ethics and conduct or accepted industry practices. and/or (B) Unfavourable changes in regulatory guidelines and statutes that may have a high impact on business strategy, operations, funding and safety requirements, etc. 				
Compliance	Risk of violation of Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA)	Risk of non-compliance in PDPA.				
	Conflict of interest risk (e.g. related party transactions not at arm's length)	Less favourable transactions entered into by management with related vendors.				
	Professional liability risk	Risk of hiring unqualified professionals in the support of the charity.				
Technology	Risk of losing confidential data	Unauthorised leakage / disclosure of confidential / sensitive data. Cost of damage to donors, other relationships, and the business resulting from a breach of data privacy.				
	Risk of data corruption	Corruption of data resulting in loss of key data necessary for decision making and reporting.				
Operational	Employee risk (e.g. retention, disgruntled employees)	Inability to attract and retain the right talent with the required skill-set and competencies to take over key positions, which may result in disruption to operations, loss of institutional knowledge, and inability to achieve long term strategic thrusts.				
oporational	Adverse events risk (Internal and external)	Failure to effectively manage and/or respond to force majeure crisis (e.g. haze, serious pandemic, typhoons, floods), or man- made events (e.g. terrorist attack) resulting in interruption to business.				

Source: Influencing Risk and Risk Culture; Charity Council, KPMG, NUS Business School; 2017

Appendix A: Establishing the ERM process

Key Principles

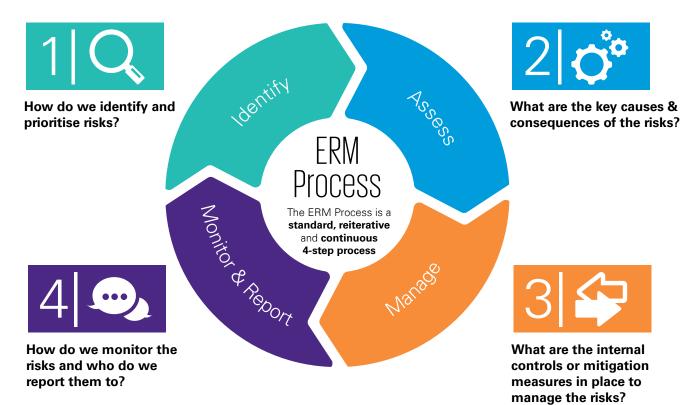
It is recommended for Charities to put in place a basic ERM process, including the following steps:

- 1. Identify risks Finding, recognising, and describing the risks (including short to long term, and emerging risks) that may have an impact on the strategic objectives.
- 2. Assess risks Prioritising and understanding key risks to the Charity, including likelihood and potential impact of the risk to the Charity.
- 3. Manage risks Understanding controls or activities undertaken by management to respond to, mitigate or manage risk by reducing its impact, its likelihood of occurrence, or both.
- Monitor and report risks Risks should be reviewed on a periodic basis, providing Management and Board with an up-to-date perspective on key risks faced by the Charity.

The ERM process should be a reiterative process that is refreshed periodically or as necessary should there be material changes in the operating and business environment.

The diagram below outlines the 4-step ERM process, aligned to ERM standards and good practices including ISO31000, COSO, BRC Guide etc.





Identify Risks

Before commencing the risk identification exercise, it is important to set the boundaries and scope for which the ERM process will be applied in the Charity (e.g. In-scope departments, divisions, subsidiaries etc.).

After setting the context, the next step will be to develop a comprehensive list of risks relevant to the Charity (i.e. risk universe). The risk universe should include all current and potential risks which may impact the Charity's ability to achieve its mission, vision or strategic objectives, including strategic, operational, IT, compliance and financial risks.

Sample Risk Universe



Strategic Risks

- Key Man Risk
- Stakeholder Engagement Risk



Financial Risks

- Fraud and/or Corruption Risk
- Procurement Risk



Compliance Risks

- Regulatory Compliance
- Data Confidentiality Risk



Operational Risks

- Pharmaceutical Management
- Cyber Security Risk
- Talent Attraction and Retention
- Critical IT System Downtime

Prioritising the 'Tier 1' risk profile

Once the risk universe has been developed, each risk should be prioritised by rating the probability of the risk occurring (likelihood) and the potential impact (consequence) should the risk occur. This is usually conducted through a risk workshop involving key stakeholders, with the main objective of discussing and coming to a consensus on the top, or 'Tier 1', risks faced by the Charity.

It is recommended that, to focus on what matters and familiarisation, Charities should keep to a maximum of six to eight risks in their Tier 1 profile for the first exercise.

Rating Risks

In order to ensure a consistent understanding of what may constitute a top (or 'Tier 1') risk, Charities should set a common set of risk parameters, or 'yardsticks' to measure risks. Risk parameters typically include measures for both likelihood and impact, with further guidelines on measuring various aspects of impact such as financial, operational and reputational factors. Risks may then be mapped into a risk matrix based on likelihood and impact to assess the overall risk rating.

Likelihood Descriptors	(1) Rare	(2) Unlikely	(3) Possible	(4) Likely	(5) Almost Certain
Prior risk incidents in industry	Did not happen in the industry	Has happened once in the industry	Happened several times in the industry	Happens regularly in the industry	Is a common occurrence in the industry
Probability	< 5%	BetweenBetween5% and 25%26% and 50%		Between 51% and 75%	> 75%

Sample Likelihood Parameters:

Sample Impact Parameters:

Impact Descriptors	(1) Insignificant	(2) Minor	(3) Moderate	(4) Major	(5) Severe			
Financial Impa	Financial Impact Parameters							
Financial loss / impact	< X1%* of income	X1% to X2%* of income	X2% to X3%* of income	X3% to X4%* of income	> X4% * of income			
Operational In	Operational Impact Parameters							
Unplanned outages for critical IT systems	Critical IT system outage for < 2 Hours*	Critical IT system outage for 2 - 4 Hours*	Critical IT system outage for 5 – 12 Hours*	Critical I IT system outage for 13 - 24 Hours*	Critical IT system outage for > 24 Hours*			
Reputational I	mpact Parameters							
Perceived damage to reputation	Adverse media coverage and/or internet activity resulting in minimal reputational damage amongst a selection of key stakeholders	Adverse media coverage and/or internet activity resulting in some damage to reputation amongst a selection of key stakeholders	Adverse media coverage and/or internet activity resulting in short-term (< 1 week)* damage to reputation across all key stakeholders	Adverse media coverage and/or internet activity resulting in medium-term (1-2 weeks)* damage to reputation across all key stakeholders	Adverse media coverage and/or internet activity resulting in prolonged (> 2 weeks)* damage to reputation across all key stakeholders			

*Note: Criteria should be tailored based on each Charity's respective business context.

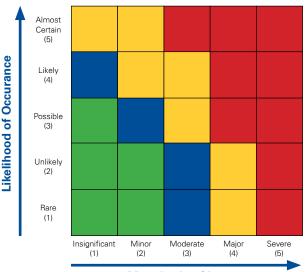
Risk Matrix

Based on the risk parameters, the likelihood and impact for each risk identified may then be plotted onto a risk matrix. The sample below shows a commonly used 5x5 risk matrix. Charities can however tailor the risk matrix to individual needs and requirements.

Risks are graphically depicted on the matrix with the areas in red representing a high likelihood and high impact zone, typically associated with risks that directly hinder the achievement of the Charity's objectives and require more attention in comparison to those with a low likelihood and low impact (green areas).

Charities may choose to rate each risk either at the 'Gross' or 'Residual' level, or to show both, depending on their ERM objectives and maturity.

- Gross risk level: Level of risk before taking into consideration controls in place to manage the risk.
- Residual risk level: The current or existing level of risks, taking into consideration controls or measures management currently has in place to manage the risk.



Magnitude of impact

Appointing Risk Owners

Risk Owners should be appointed for each 'Tier 1' risk identified, with the main responsibility to assess, review and manage assigned risk(s) on an ongoing basis.

The appointed Risk Owner should be the person in the Charity who is best-placed to manage the risk and has the relevant knowledge, resources, and authority (e.g. of a certain seniority) to deal with the risk.

Assess and Manage Risks

After the identification and prioritisation of risks, it is recommended that efforts be focused on understanding and analysing the 'Tier 1' risks of the Charity. It is the responsibility of Risk Owners to complete the risk assessments for respective assigned risks, typically facilitated by the ERM function.

Documenting risk registers

It is a good practice to document risk assessments to promote staff accountability and for future reference.

The purpose of a risk register is to document the key components of risk assessment in a user-friendly and easy to understand format. Risk registers should be validated and signed-off by assigned Risk Owners before finalisation.

The illustration below shows an example of how a risk register may be structured to provide an overview of the completed risk assessment.

Sample Risk Register:

				Risk Re	egister					
R1	Taler	nt Attraction	and Retention Risk		Risk Categ	jory	Operatio	nal	Risk Owner	Head of HR
				Risk Des	cription					
	y and/or failure to a pusiness objectives		n key personnel with the ap	opropriate a	nd required s	kill-set /	experience	/ compe	tency resulting	in potential failure to
	Ро	tential Key F	Risk Drivers			Po	otential Ke	ey Risk	Consequenc	es
	attractive compension panies	sation package	s / benefits as compared to	other	 Inability to Inability to 	•		-	,	ayers and public on
	of strong 'corporat onnel	te culture' and	'brand' to attract quality key	/	, i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	manage			eplacement of l	ey personnel and
			Risk	Assessm	ient - Ratin	g				
R1	Inheren Likelihood Impact Rating	t Risk Likely (4) Major (4) Very High			Almost Certain (5) Likely (4) Possible (3) Unlikely (2)			1 C		
R1	Residua Likelihood Impact	I Risk Possible (3) Moderate (3)			Rare (1)	Insignificant (1)	Minor Mod (2) (;			
	Rating	High					Magnitude			
			Existing co	ntrols / m	nitigating n	neasur	es			
Ref		Des	cription		Responsible Party				Remarks	
R1.C1	relationships with	nin the charities	rrals / top management con s sector and external provide tive search firms).			HR				
R1.C2	Credentials and background checks are performed on all staffs where possible 2 referrals are required (including written referrals).				HR					
R1.C3	Compensation benchmarking survey (covering all levels of staff, local, overseas and key personnel) towards the competitors conducted annually.				HR					
			Are	eas for Im	provement					
Ref		Des	cription		R	espons	siblity		Tir	meline
R1.A1	Develop a larger talent pool: Continue identifying talents through the High Potential Assessment Exercise and offer them trainings to improve their key skills ("Leadership, Analysis & Judgment, Managing Complexity and Achievements & Values Driven") and coaching from Heads of Departments and above.					HR			FY	2017/18

Key components of risks

The following key components of risk should be considered and documented in a risk register:

Risk causes – circumstances or situations, which may arise internally or externally, that can potentially result in the risk occurring.

Risk Event	Examples of Risk Causes
Fraud and/or corruption Risk	 Collusion between staff and external parties Non-compliance to policies and procedures Inadequate segregation of duties
Data Confidentiality Risk	 Staff negligence (e.g. misplacement of documents, thumb drives etc.) Inadequate IT controls around user access Breach in information security

Risk consequences – Potential impact resulting from the occurrence of a risk, which may be expressed in several aspects (e.g. Financial, Operational, Reputational, etc.).

Risk Event	Examples of Risk Consequences
Fraud and/or corruption Risk	 Negative media publicity and loss of stakeholder confidence Financial loss / loss of assets Operational disruptions due to investigations
Data Confidentiality Risk	 Negative media publicity and loss of stakeholder confidence Financial loss due to lawsuits against the Charity Operational disruptions due to investigations

Controls – Controls are processes, systems, or any other measures in place to reduce the likelihood or impact of the risk, or detect indications of the risk occurring such that follow-up actions can be taken to reduce the likelihood or impact of the risk.

Types of controls: There are three different types of controls as follows:



Areas for Improvement – Measures which need to be taken to strengthen the current control environment (e.g. strengthen existing controls, develop additional controls), so as to reduce the current level of risk to an acceptable level. Responsibility and timeline for the completion of each action plan should be assigned for the purpose of implementation and tracking its timely completion.

Examples of areas for improvement:

Ref	Description	Responsiblity	Timeline
R1.AP1	Develop a larger talent pool: Continue identifying talents through the High Potential Assessment Exercise and offer them training to improve their key skills ("Leadership; Analysis & Judgement; Managing Complexity; and Achievements & Values Driven") and coaching from Heads of Departments and above.	HR	FY 17/18
R1.C2	Develop an Online Performance Management system for 360 Feedback, Goal Setting and Mid- Year Review.	HR	Q2 FY 17/18

Monitor and Report Risks

The Code of Governance for Charities and IPCs (2017) recommends that "the Board should ensure that reviews are conducted from time to time on the Charity's controls, processes, key programmes and events"².

The internal and external environment of any Charity is constantly changing. ERM, similarly, cannot remain static. The risk universe, 'Tier 1' risk profile and risk registers should be monitored and reviewed at least annually to ensure continued relevance of ERM to the Charity.



² Code of Governance for Charities and Institutions of a Public Character (2017) issued by Charity Council

Appendix B: Developing and documenting the ERM framework

Key Principles

The ERM Framework provides the structure and guidance for the manner in which ERM activities should be carried out, in order to promote a common understanding and consistent ERM practices within the Charity. The Framework should minimally include documentation of the following components:

- Risk strategy ERM direction and objectives typically set by the Board and Senior Management
- Risk governance structure, roles and responsibilities – Allocation and establishment of risk related responsibilities, accountabilities and structure across the Charity
- ERM process, tools and templates Guidelines and tools to conduct and document the ERM process
- Risk reporting requirements Protocols and format to report key risk information to Senior Management and Board

The completed ERM Framework should be validated by the Board and Senior Management to set the right tone at the top, and reviewed on a periodic (recommended annual) basis to ensure continued relevance to the Charity.

Risk Strategy

The Risk strategy provides the overall direction and objectives of ERM from Management to promote alignment of ERM efforts within the Charity.

Considerations when developing the overall risk strategy of the Charity may include the following:

- 'Tone from the top' that Management intends to set with respect to ERM in the Charity
- Key benefits that Management and Board hopes to reap from the ERM programme
- Realistic and achievable objectives taking into account ERM resources available to the Charity

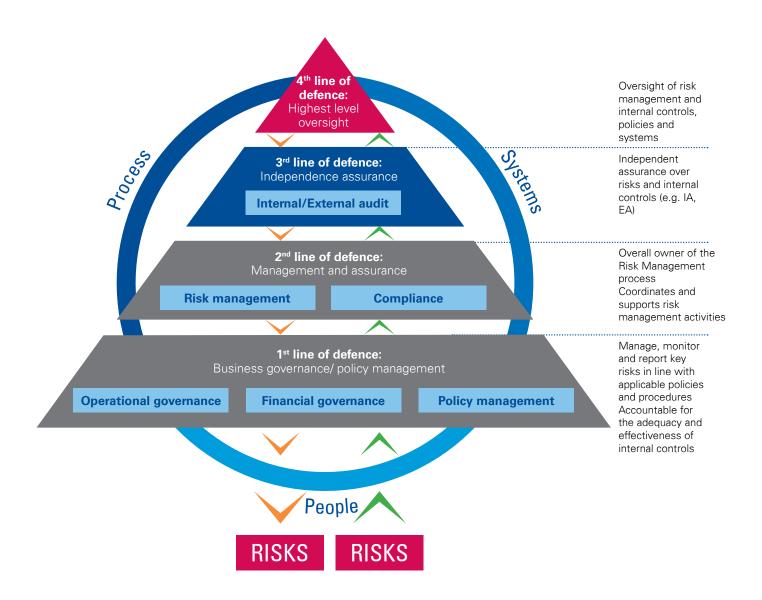
Example of ERM objectives:

- Establish and maintain good governance and a sound system of internal controls;
- Facilitate the achievements of the organisation's objectives and goals through better identification of opportunities, threats and managing them;
- Develop a common understanding of risk across multiple functions to manage risk cost-effectively on an enterprise-wide basis;
- Ensure compliance with the relevant regulatory and legal requirements;
- Develop and embed a strong risk culture;
- Encourage desired risk taking behaviours;
- Support risk-based decision-making; and
- Improve the organisation's preparedness and resilience to unexpected events.

Risk Governance

The diagram below illustrates KPMG's 'four lines of defence' model which defines the key principles of a robust risk governance structure. Robust risk management and internal control systems rely on the formal establishment and linkage of the four lines of defence, with clear definition, interaction and segregation of roles and responsibilities.

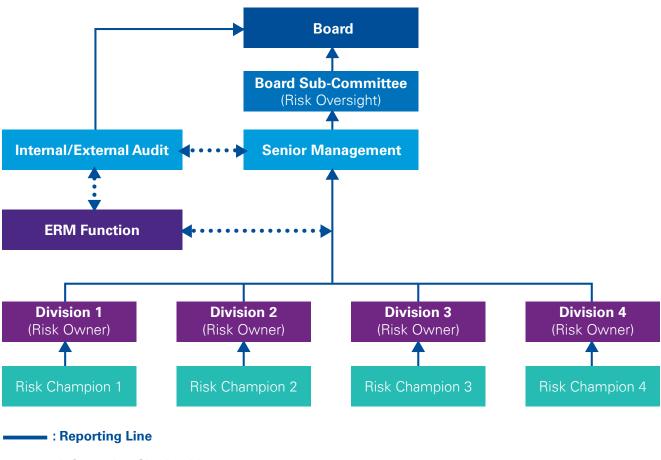
Line management and supervisors responsible for carrying out daily operations must be the first line of defence against risks, playing a crucial role in managing them through adhering to policies and procedures, reporting risks as appropriate and ensuring that controls are carried out as intended. The Board is ultimately responsible for the oversight of Risk Management and internal control systems within the Charity. The Code of Governance for Charities and IPCs (2017) also highlights the need to segregate the roles of the Board and Management, recommending that "a clear distinction should be made between their Board's role and their operational work"³, particularly in Charities where Board members for valid reasons, need to supervise the day-to-day operations of the Charities more closely (Basic II).



In order to better inculcate risk accountabilities and ensure appropriate segregation of duties between the four lines of defence, it is critical to establish a risk governance structure with clearly defined roles as well as indication of reporting and information sharing lines.

Example of risk governance structure:

The risk governance structure should also be accompanied by defined and documented risk roles and responsibilities, outlining the key activities and responsibilities to be undertaken by respective parties (indicated in the risk governance structure) with respect to ERM.



•••••: Information Sharing Line

Example of risk roles & responsibilities:

Audience	Roles & Responsibilities
Board	 Provides the overall guidance and advice on ERM matters, assisted by the Board Sub-Committee; and
buard	 Appoint, and delegate the ERM oversight responsibility to the Board Sub-Committee.
Senior Management	 Provide guidance and direction on ERM and is responsible for implementin the ERM policy and framework;
Management	 Set and instil the right culture throughout the Charity for effective risk governance;
	 Ensure that the risks relevant to the Charity are properly identified, assessed and monitored; and
	• Review the top risk (Tier 1 Risks) profile and ensure the mitigation responses are consistent with the risk appetite.
Internal /	 Provide independent assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal controls for the key risks; and
External Audit	 Share insights with the ERM Function and Senior Management on significant issues and findings from the audits conducted, to feed into the risk management process.
	 Maintain the ERM policy framework in line with industry better practices and the Charity's operating environment;
ERM Function	 Act as internal 'ambassador' and knowledge resource for ERM;
	 Foster a corporate risk culture through adequate training and communication sessions;
	 Liaise / coordinate with Risk Owners and Risk Champions on risk-related matters to obtain an enterprise-wide view of risks; and
	• Prepare periodic risk reporting to the Board Sub-Committee and Board.
Risk Owner	 Identify, assess, monitor and report potential risks in their areas of responsibility;
Alsk Owner	 Complete / review risk registers (risk assessment etc.) for all Tier 1 Risks; and
	 Monitor and report changes to existing risks or risk profile to Senior Management.

Enterprise Risk Management Process

Guidelines and tips on conducting the ERM process within the Charity should be documented in the ERM Framework (See Appendix A for more details on establishing the ERM process). Tools and templates that support the ERM Process (e.g. Risk parameters, matrix, registers etc.) should be included and documented as well.

Risk Reporting Requirements

Key reporting requirements to be included in the ERM Framework should minimally include:

- Frequency of periodic risk reporting to Senior Management / Board
- Key content to be reported (e.g. latest risk profile, summary of risk registers etc.)
- Responsible parties for reporting (e.g. Risk Owners, ERM function etc.)

Appendix C: Building risk awareness and understanding

Key Principles



People are often considered one of, if not the most, critical enabler of a successful and sustainable ERM programme in any Charity.

Risk management is the responsibility of everyone within a Charity, and all stakeholders need to minimally be aware of and understand 'how ERM works' in their context.

As ERM matures, it is critical to continuously build risk awareness, understanding and buy-in across all levels of stakeholders to ensure that ERM knowledge within the Charity remains relevant and up-to-date.

Tools to Build Risk Awareness

Various tools can be employed to effectively build risk awareness and understanding, especially in the context of Charities:

Workshops / Seminars



Traditionally, the main platform used to build risk awareness and understanding in a Charity is through face-to-face risk workshops / seminars. Depending on the group of stakeholders attending, the curriculum may be tailored to ensure optimal learning outcomes. Length of each workshop / seminar may range from 1.5 hours to a full-day session, depending on learning objectives.

E-learning Platforms



E-learning platforms are most useful to build risk awareness for Charities with a large number of staff at offsite locations on a regular basis. These platforms also provide more flexibility to staff who work regularly on a shift or rotation basis.

Newsletters and Posters



Periodic newsletters and posters are most useful for regular reminders and reinforcements of risk and risk management messages. Content in newsletters and posters should be kept direct and short, to ensure maximum reach to stakeholders.

Risk awareness, understanding and culture needs to be progressively and continuously built, especially as ERM in the Charity matures. It is recommended to conduct at least one ERM 'refresher' course annually to keep stakeholders apprised on latest ERM initiatives and updates, as well as recap on key risk and risk management concepts.

For Charities starting out on their ERM journey, it is recommended to consider using a mix of ERM

workshops and E-learning platforms to build risk awareness in a cost-efficient yet effective manner. A minimal number of ERM workshops may be conducted for key Staff such as Senior Management to provide an interactive learning platform, while E-learning can be used as a quick and efficient tool to build basic risk management awareness and knowledge among general staff.

Appendix D: Top risks by sector

Top Risks

The table below summarises the common top risks for each sector.

More details and guidelines on typical risk drivers, consequences and controls observed for the common top risks are presented in the following section.

	Sector								
Name of Risk	Arts	Community	Education	Health	Religious	Social & Welfare	Sports		
Funding Risk	•	•		•	•	•	•		
Risk of violation of Personal Data Protection Act		•	•	•	•	•	•		
Non-Compliance with established laws and regulation risk		•	•	•	•	•	•		
Conflict of interest e.g. related party transactions not at arm's length	•		•		•		•		
Employee risk e.g. retention, disgruntled employees			•	٠			•		
Adverse Events Risk (Internal and External)	•		•						

Sample Risk Assessment for Common Top Risks

Note: The content outlined below are suggestions based on KPMG's experience with risk assessments completed for similar risks in Charities. The information presented is not meant to be exhaustive. Risk registers should be tailored to individual Charities to ensure the relevance and value of risk assessment exercises conducted.

Sample Risk Assessment for Funding Risk

R3	Funding risk	Category	Financial		Risk Owner	r f	Typically finance- elated personnel / unction in charge of fundraising	
			Risk Desc	ription				
Inability	y to meet short term	financial obligations a	rising from de	ecreases in f	unding.			
	Risk Cau	ises / Drivers			Risk Con	sequences	5	
partn • Nega	ers and/or corporation	adversely impacting	the	 Heavy reliance on government sources of funding Greater need to utilise charity's reserves to carry out operational activities Inability to purchase adequate equipment / replacement o equipment 				
		Ri	sk Assessme	ent - Rating				
Typically <u>moderate</u> likelihood and <u>high</u> impact risk, especially in Singapore's context. Most Charities in Singapore rely (to an extent) on non-Government funding to supplement the costs from activities, holding events and carrying out day- to-day operations.				Almost Certain (5) Likely (4) Possible (3) Unlikely (2) Rare (1) Lnsigni (1)	icant Minor Moderate (3) Magnitude of ir	Major Severe (4) (5)	Risk typically rated in this zone	
		Existing (Controls / Mi	itigating Me	asures			
Ref		Description			sible Party		Remarks	
R3.C1	Establish a Media I	· · · ·		-	ommunications			
R3.C2	Monitoring of fund	utilisation and allocation	on.	Fundraising				
R3.C3	levels of staff, local	chmarking survey (cov , overseas and key pe titors conducted annu	rsonnel)	Func	draising			
			Areas for Imp	provement				
Ref	Areas for improven	Description nent are typically ident er strengthen controls.		Respo	onsiblity		Timeline	

Sample Risk Assessment for Non-compliance with Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA)

The sample risk register provides a guideline of how a risk register on this risk may be completed. R3 Risk of violation Category Compliance **Risk Owner** Typically a Data of Personal Data Protection Officer Protection Act (DPO) or equivalent (PDPA) personnel / function **Risk Description** Risk of non-compliance with PDPA **Risk Causes / Drivers Risk Consequences** Lack of awareness amongst staff on data confidentiality • Public complaints (e.g. requirements under PDPA) • Loss of public confidence Unintentional revealing of information to unauthorised • Reputation damage from negative media reports parties • Regulatory fines **Risk Assessment - Rating** Typically, moderate likelihood and high impact risk, Almos Certair (5) especially in Singapore's context. As operational staff have access to often sensitive or Likelihood of Occurance Likely (4) confidential information, poor oversight or lack of good practices when protecting or securing confidential data Possible (3) may present the opportunity for this risk to occur. Unlikely (2) **Risk typically** Rare (1) rated in this zone Insignificant (1) Minor (2) Moderate (3) Major (4) Severe (5) Magnitude of impact **Existing Controls / Mitigating Measures** Ref Description **Responsible Party** Remarks R3.C1 All staff are required to attend and complete a DPO mandatory PDPA course upon joining the charity. R3.C2 Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA) are signed Legal by third parties or external vendors to prevent unintentional / intentional leakage of confidential or privileged information / data. R3.C3 IT Compensation benchmarking survey (covering all levels of staff, local, overseas and key personnel) towards the competitors conducted annually. R3.C4 Clauses which require vendors to comply with PDPA Legal when handling sensitive information is included in standard contractual terms and conditions. Areas for Improvement Ref Description Responsiblity Timeline Areas for improvement are typically identified as necessary to further strengthen controls.

Sample Risk Assessment for Non-compliance with Established Laws, Regulations, and Code of Governance Risk

R4	Non-compliance with established laws, regulations, Code of Governance risk	Category	Compli	Compliance		Risk	Owner		Typically compliance / legal-related personnel / function
			Risk Des	scrip	otion				
con (B) Unf	ure to comply with le iduct or accepted ind avourable changes ir	ustry practices; and regulatory guidelin	d/or nes and statute			-			
ope	erations, funding and		s etc.						
 Failur stance 	e to understand and	ses / Drivers accept regulatory p	oolicies and		nquiry a Health)		Risk Cons gation by		es es (e.g. Ministry of
• Lack	of strong manageme	ent emphasis / focus	5	• 1	Von-rene	loss (if fir ewal of an to reputa	nual licer	•	
			Risk Assessn	nent	- Rating				
Typically, <u>low to moderate</u> likelihood and <u>high</u> impact risk, especially in Singapore's context. A Singapore registered Charity may lose its status as an Institution of a Public Character (IPC), hence the significantly higher magnitude of impact should this risk occur.				Likelihood of Occurance	Almost Certain (5) Likely (4) Possible (3) Unlikely (2) Rare (1)	significant Minor (1) (2) Mag	Moderate (3)	Major (5) Mapat	Risk typically rated in this zone
			ng Controls / I	۸itiç	ating M	easures			
Ref R4.C1	Quarterly in-house by Heads of Depar and Development	Description trainings are condu tments (HODs) or T team on external re s for all general stat	raining gulatory		Resp	onsible Pa HR	arty		Remarks
R4.C2	adherence to exter	framework is in pla nal regulatory comp bedded within the s w.	pliance	HR					
R4.C3	an outsourced exte	lit and testing is con ernal party to ensure regulatory compliar	e that any			Finance			
			Areas for Im	npro					
Ref	Areas for improver	Description ment are typically io er strengthen contr			Res	ponsiblit	γ		Timeline

Sample Risk Assessment for Conflict of Interest Risk

R1	Conflict of interest Category	Complian	ce	Risk Owner	Typically Head of Compliance or Finance function
	R	isk Descri	iption		
Less fav	ourable transactions entered into by management w	vith related	vendors (e.g	. related party trans	sactions not at arm's length).
	Risk Causes / Drivers			Risk Cons	sequences
proce SOP:	fficient or Non-compliance to policies and edures (e.g. procurement, vendor managemen s etc.) of communications or training on relevant SOF	t Ps	Negative n confidence (e.g. fraud	nedia publicity an should transaction and corruption)	use of resources Id loss of stakeholder ons be in breach of regulation to investigations
	Risk A	ssessme	nt - Rating		
risk. Typical risk ind Howey may be impact	Ily, <u>low to medium</u> likelihood and <u>medium</u> impa- lly, Charities have controls in place to manage to cluding SOPs, conflict of interest declarations e ver, enforcement and effectiveness of controls e a challenge in this area. Should the risk happe t may include adverse media publicity and ge / loss of resources.	his setc.	Rare (1)	iffcant Minor Moderate (2) Magnitude of im	Major Severe (d) Severe (d) Severe (d) Severe
Ref	Existing Cont Description	rols / Mit		easures sible Party	Remarks
R1.C1	 Procurement and Vendor Management policie procedures in place including: Three quotes for procurements above a predefined value threshold Approval matrix in place for procurement artransactions Due diligence process to be conducted on potential and approved vendors Reporting of potential related party transactivity with follow up actions Disciplinary actions for non-compliance to potential procedures. All parties involved in evaluation of quotations tenders to sign Conflict of Interest declarationa transaction basis. 	tions licies	Fi	nance	
		s fo <u>r Imp</u> ı	rovement		
Ref	Description			onsiblity	Timeline
	Areas for improvement are typically identified	d as			

Sample Risk Assessment for Employee Risk

R5	Employee risk e.g. retention, disgruntled employees	Category	Operationa	al	Risk Owner	Typically a Human Resource personnel / function
			Risk Descrip	otion		
						eover key positions which ng term strategic thrusts.
	Risk Cau	uses / Drivers			Risk Consequ	uences
• Lack	of strong 'corporate	culture' and 'brand'	• (Operational	l inefficiency / disrup	otion
• Lack	of long term career	development plans /	roadmap • I	Poor emplo	yee morale (E.g. he	avier workload)
		l	Risk Assessmen	t - Rating		
impact Most (risk, especially in S Charities in Singapor	e have difficulty in co	ompeting ²	Almost Certain (5) Likely (4)		
with private-sector companies in terms of average compensation and benefits due to financial constraints, hence the higher likelihood.				Possible (3) Unlikely (2)		
			2	Rare (1) Insignif (1)	icant Minor Moderate Major (2) (3) (4)	Severe (5)
					Magnitude of impact	-
) Controls / Miti			
Ref R5.C1		Description ackground checks are possible referrals ar referrals).			sible Party HR	Remarks
R5.C2	aligned to Perform	lent development pr ance Management f rom within, reviewed	ramework	HR		
R5.C3	basis to assess the	ng is undertaken on e competitiveness o d compensation pack	f the	ł	HR	
			Areas for Impro	ovement		
Ref		Description		Respo	onsiblity	Timeline
		ment are typically ide er strengthen contro				

Sample Risk Assessment for Adverse Events Risk

R2	Adverse events risk	Category	Operatic	nal	Risk Owner	Typically personnel / function in charge of Business Continuity
			Risk Des	cription		
	to effectively manag ade events (e.g. terro					mic, typhoons, floods) or
	Risk Caus	ses / Drivers			Risk Conseq	uences
 Acts 	of God (external envi	ronment)		 Operational 	l disruptions	
				 Injury or de 	ath of staff	
				• Damage to	assets	
				 Loss of key 	^y data	
				• Financial los	ss (e.g. asset repla	cement costs)
			Risk Assessm	ent - Rating		
in Sing	ly <u>low</u> likelihood and j apore's context. ore is not in a natural			Almost Certain (5) Likely		
but sho	ould such events hap onal disruption could	pen, impact in terr	ms of	Likely (4) Possible (3) Unlikely (2)		
operati	Ional disruption could	be proionged and	severe.	Possible (3)		
				Unlikely		
						Risk typically
				Rare (1)		rated in this
				Insignifi (1)		r Severe (5)
					Magnitude of impac	t
		Existin	ig Controls / N	litigating Me	asures	
Ref		escription			sible Party	Remarks
R2.C1	A Business Continu covering key operat key adverse events	ions and processe	es to address	Admin	histration	
	• Loss of access to	building premises	5			
	• Loss of computing	g services, power,	utilities, etc.			
	Mass staff quaranti	ne in the event of	pandemics.			
R2.C2	Critical systems and Backup data is kept documented SOPs using backup.	on off-site server:	s with	IT		
R2.C3	Communications ba of failure of email s and fax lines.			IT		
R2.C4	Fire drills are condu SCDF guidelines, w documented.			Administration		
			Areas for Im	provement		
Ref	D	escription		Respo	onsiblity	Timeline
	Areas for improven necessary to furthe	nent are typically id	dentified as			

Appendix E: Sample operational risk registers by sector

Note: The content outlined below are suggestions based on KPMG's experience with risk assessments completed for similar risks in Charities. The information presented is not meant to be exhaustive. Risk registers should be tailored to individual Charities to ensure relevance and value of risk assessment exercises conducted.

Sample Risk Register for Arts

R1	Project Management Risk	Category	Operati	ional Risk Owne)wner	Typically Project team and/or Director of Productions	
			Risk Des	crip	otion			
	of sufficient planning positive or negative ef		f arts events,	res	sulting in	n an uncerta	ain event or co	ndition that, if it occurs,
	Risk Caus	es / Drivers				Ri	sk Consequei	nces
• Unde	erperformance of ven	dors / partners		• (Cost ove	erruns in eve	ents	
• Poor	project planning and	budgeting		• /	Adverse	publicity fr	om negative m	nedia reports
 Lack proje 	of appropriate skill se octs	ts and experience t	o manage				ent attendees s' confidence	due to unsatisfactory
profe	nership with parties w essionalism, capabilitie ugh on objectives		o follow		delivery			,
		F	Risk Assessm	ien	t - Ratir	ng		
especi Art sce events the hig of such	ly <u>medium</u> likelihood ally in Singapore's cor ene in Singapore is gre is largely cyclical. Im h zone due to the por n incidents to the char ndees at events.	ntext. pwing and frequence pact, however, is ty cential reputational i ity due to the large	ey of pically in mpacts	Likelihood of Occurance	-		Moderate Major (3) Major	Risk typically rated in this zone
Ref		Description		Responsible Party				Remarks
R1.C1	Pre-assessment by for partnerships - st to define and set pa the partner.	aff will discuss with	companies		De	evelopment		
R1.C2	Identification of key necessary experien events.					Artistic		
R1.C3	Ongoing monitoring to identify key areas		ents are held		Ρ	roduction		
R1.C4	Post mortem review identify areas for im productions / events	provement for follo		Production				
R1.C5	Production / event k event and monitore					Finance		
			Areas for Im	pro	vemen	t		
Ref	C Areas for improvem necessary to furthe				Res	sponsiblity		Timeline

Sample Risk Register for Social and Welfare

R1	Programme / outcome management	Category	Operati	onal	Risk Owner	Typically personnel / function in charge of the programme / activity
			Risk Des	cription		
Lack of	f monitoring and rep	porting of programme	outcomes re	sulting in inat	pility to achieve pro	gramme objectives.
	Risk Ca	uses / Drivers			Risk Conse	quences
	Performance Indicat blished	ors (KPIs) are not clea	irly	-	e objectives not acl programme fundir	
• Perio	dic reporting mecha	anisms are not in place	e		rants received	.9
 Progr 	ramme objectives a	re not clearly commu	nicated	Loss of rep		
		R	isk Assessm	ent - Rating		
especia Due to likeliho zone d	ally in Singapore's c the regulatory envi od is low. Impact is	ronment in Singapore also typically in the n reputational impacts a ints and funding.	, the noderate nd	Almost Certain (5) Likely (4) Possible (3) Unlikely (2) Rare (1) Insigni) (2) (3) (4 Magnitude of impa	→
			g Controls / M	litigating Mea _		
Ref R1.C1		Description Is and objectives for o	each		sible Party Management	Remarks
	programme.			riogramme	management	
R1.C2		the outcome against H orted to senior manag nent committee.		Programme	e Management	
R1.C3	Any variances and justified.	d deviations are invest	igated and	Programme	Management	
R1.C4		g is performed every 3 sion and the program		Executive Director		
			Areas for Im			
Ref	Areas for improve	Description ement are typically ide her strengthen contro		Respo	onsiblity	Timeline

Sample Risk Register for Education

R1	Awarding of scholarships / grants to ineligible or unintended applicants	Category	Operatio	pnal	Risk Owner	Typically personnel / function in charge scholarships
			Risk Desc	ription		
	^r due diligence is not ng in grants given to				cholarships / financia	al assistance to applicants,
	Risk Cau	ises / Drivers			Risk Conseq	uences
appli	r criteria not establis cants			• Negative p	use of Charities' fun ublicity thereby affeo	
	of independent cheo agement	cks and conflict of int		reputationIntended b	eneficiaries not read	hed
• No p	rocess of document	authentication and v	erification		bjects not achieved	
			Risk Assessme			
Typically <u>medium</u> likelihood and <u>medium</u> impact risk, especially in Singapore's context. Inherently, due to relatively high volumes of applicants requiring financial assistance and other support, likelihood of the risk occurring is typically 'medium'. However, the quantum of each case of financial aid is typically not very high; hence the impact is moderate.				Almost Certain (5)		
				Unlikely (4) Possible (3) Unlikely (2) Rare (1)		Risk typically rated in this zone
		Existing	Controls / M	itigating Me	easures	
Ref		Description		Respon	sible Party	Remarks
R1.C1	Establish a clear ar evaluation.	nd measurable criteri	a in the	Fi	nance	
R1.C2	-	all staff involved in th nicate clear guideling		HR		
R1.C3	Establish process	to manage conflict o	f interest.	HR		
R1.C4				Fi	nance	
			Areas for Imp	provement		
Ref		Description ment are typically ide	entified as	Resp	onsiblity	Timeline

Sample Risk Register for Health

R1	Risk of sub- standard Clinical care	Category	Operatio	nal	Risk Owner	Typically personnel / function in charge of medical / clinical services
			Risk Desc	ription		
treatm	andard clinical care, p nent provided falls bel al and/or mental well-	ow the accepted sta				
	Risk Caus	ses / Drivers			Risk Conseq	uences
• Huma	an error / fatigue			• Families / P	atients complaints	
Poor	understanding of clini	cal SOPs / work ins	tructions	 Patient pre- 	mature deaths and/	or injuries
	of regular competenc ssional	y checks on healthc			ms and costs, inves blicity from negative	-
volun			nurses or	• Auverse pui	olicity norn negative	
• Lack	of incident reporting of	channels / near miss	es			
		F	lisk Assessm	ent - Rating		
Health likeliho to be le extrem	gapore's context. care in Singapore is a bod and frequency of ow. Impact, however, ne zone due to the po n incidents to the Cha	such medical incider is typically in the hi tential reputational i	sector, nts tend gh or mpacts	Bare (1) Insignifi	cant Minor (2) Moderate Major (4) Magnitude of impact	Severe (5) Severe
		Existing	Controls / M	itigating Mea	asures	
Ref	[Description		Respons	ible Party	Remarks
R1.C1		erence checks are p res to assess suitab arity and role.		ŀ	łR	
R1.C2	clinical staff involve services have the re	and tracking to ens d in delivery of patie equired valid license ry out their respectiv	nt care s and	Clinical Services		
R1.C3	All new staff are rec orientation and on-tl familiarise with scop SOPs, and roles and		amme to	HR		
R1.C4	to report clinical and	channels, escalation	d incidents,	Clinical Services		
R1.C5		s or audits are condi es and services to e maintained.		Clinical	Services	
			Areas for Imp	provement		
Ref		Description		Respo	nsiblity	Timeline
	Areas for improvements for improvements of the second seco					

Sample Risk Register for Religious

R1	Money Category laundering and terrorist financing	Operational	Risk Owner	Chief Financial Officer / Chief Executive Officer
	Ri	sk Description		
Inabilit	ty to detect and report suspicious activities that	may relate to money	y laundering and terroris	m financing.
	Risk Causes / Drivers		Risk Consequen	ces
	of awareness of the risk and implications of ey laundering	penalties	iance with regulations,	resulting to potential
	established procedures to perform due diligence onors		outation re not in line with the C	harity's objectives
 Lack 	of staff training			
	Risk A	ssessment - Rating		
especi Due to missio likeliho	Ily <u>possible</u> likelihood and <u>high</u> impact risk, ially in Singapore's context. to the nature of activities, including overseas ons and tie ups with foreign institutions, the bood is possible. Impact is also typically in the r extreme zone due to the potential reputationa	eS.		
	ts of being involved in money laundering activit	es. view in the second		Risk typically rated in this zone
	Existing Cont	rols / Mitigating Me	asures	
Ref	Description		sible Party	Remarks
R1.C1	Establish procedures to conduct due diligence checks for major donors, especially those from overseas.		Fundraising	
R1.C2	Establish a framework for the identification ar reporting of suspicious transactions.	nd Finance /	' Fundraising	
R1.C3	Conduct training to increase staff awareness money laundering.	of	HR	
R1.C4	Establish approval limits to ensure expenditur line with the charity's objectives.	e are in Fir	nance	
R1.C5	Establish procedures for overseas financial transactions to go through licensed financial channels.	Fir	nance	
		for Improvement		
Ref	Description	Respo	onsiblity	Timeline
	Areas for improvement are typically identified necessary to further strengthen controls.	as		

Sample Risk Register for Sports

R1	Sports infrastructure and facilities risk	Category	Operatio	onal	Risk Owner	Typically personnel / function in charge of planning / scheduling of events		
			Risk Desc	ription				
	ty to secure suitable , gs etc.).	/ adequate sports facil	lities to meet	the charity's	needs (e.g. for eve	ents, competitions,		
Singa • Insuf	of suitable infrastruc apore fficient budget to acc	ses / Drivers cture or facilities availa quire / develop facilities s on a long-term lease	s	Risk Consequences • Disruption to competition and training schedules • Loss of business or commercial opportunities • Negative impact to crowd experience during competitions and events • Negative impact to development and performance of				
			sk Assessme	athletes				
Typically <u>medium</u> likelihood and <u>medium</u> impact risk. In a land-scarce country like Singapore, competing uses of land and facilities means that Charities may not always be able to secure suitable facilities for their uses. When such situations arise, potential impacts may include loss of opportunities or re-scheduling of events, but is typically unlikely to severely threaten the reputation or ongoing operations of the Charity.				Certain (5) Likely (4) Possible (3) Possible (3) Unlikely (2) Rare (1) Insignifi (1)	cant Minor Moderate Ma (2) (3) (3) (4)	(5)		
		Existing (Controls / M	itigating Me	asures			
Ref R1.C1	Channels in place t	Description to provide regular feed acted future needs in t the development.		-	ible Party Management	Remarks		
R1.C2	in advance, with re	ns and trainings are p gular communications rs / sponsors on scher	s with	Programme Management				
R1.C3		lability of facilities are (e.g. schools, the publ :.).		Programme Management Marketing and Communications				
R1.C4		ations to venue owne s options for longer te						
R1.C5		elines and criteria in pl ons of sports facilities.		Admin	istration			
			Areas for Imp	provement				
Ref	Areas for improver	Description ment are typically iden er strengthen controls		Respo	nsiblity	Timeline		

Sample Risk Register for Community

R1	Grants or funds awarded not used in line with approved objective	Category	Operatio	onal	Risk Owner	Typically personnel / function in charge of the programme / activity
			Risk Desc	ription		
	f monitoring over us approved objectives.	e of grants / funds l	by recipients to	ensure that [.]	the funds disbursed	are used in line with the
	Risk Cau	uses / Drivers			Risk Conseq	uences
	odic reporting mecha vients are not in place		fund		ed use of grant/fund n a timely manner	ds by recipient may not be
subn • Peric	ess for following up nissions is not in plac odic evaluation and re	ce	nde usage is	-	harity funds e objectives not ach ırants received	ieved
not p	performed			Loss of rep		
			Risk Assessm			
Typically <u>medium</u> likelihood and <u>medium</u> impact risk, especially in Singapore's context. Inherently, due to number of applicants requiring financial assistance and other support, likelihood of the risk occurring is typically 'medium'. However, the quantum of each case of financial aid is typically not very high; hence the impact is moderate.			ing od of ver, the Ily not	(*	Magnitude of impac	(5)
			g Controls / M			
Ref R1.C1	Establish reporting	Description g timeline for each r	aginiant		sible Party	Remarks
R1.C2	Periodic review of recipient to ascert	the submissions fo ain that the use of t ial approved object	r each the funds is		nance	
R1.C3	Any variances and revisions approved	deviations are justi I.	fied and	Fi	nance	
			Areas for Im	provement		
Ref		Description ment are typically ic per strengthen contr		Resp	onsiblity	Timeline

About Us

Charity Council

The Charity Council aims to promote and encourage the adoption of good governance and best practices, to help enhance public confidence and promote self-regulation in the charity sector. It also aims to help build capabilities of Charities and IPCS to enable them to comply with regulatory requirements and enhance public accountability. In addition, the Council advises the Commissioner of Charities (COC) on key regulatory issues such as proposals on new regulations, where there may be broad-ranging impact on charities and IPCs. The Charity Council comprises 15 members, including the Chairman. 10 members are from the people sector, chosen for their expertise in accountancy, corporate governance, entrepreneurship and law. They are also involved in volunteer and charity work in varied fields such as arts and heritage, community, education, health and social services.

KPMG

KPMG in Singapore is part of a global network of professional services firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. The KPMG network operates in 152 countries, with more than 189,000 people working in member firms around the world. In the ASEAN region, member firms operate across all 10 countries of this regional grouping providing professional services supporting the growth, compliance and performance objectives of their clients. KPMG's experience and investment in the Charities/ IPCs sector translates to specialised knowledge that can help meet the sector's specific needs. Its dedicated team of professionals in Risk Consulting has assisted the Sector Administrators from the various ministries in reviewing more than 100 Charities/IPCs since the enactment of the Charity's rules and regulations, and has made recommendations to improve the governance, risk and compliance framework in these Charities and IPCs.

NUS Business School

The National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School is known for providing management thought leadership from an Asian perspective, enabling its students and corporate partners to leverage global knowledge and Asian insights.

The school has consistently received top rankings in the Asia-Pacific region by independent publications and agencies, such as The Financial Times, Economist Intelligence Unit, and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Top MBA, in recognition of the quality of its programmes, faculty research and graduates. In the Financial Times Global Rankings, the NUS MBA was ranked 26th in 2017, while the NUS-UCLA Executive MBA and Asia-Pacific Executive MBA were ranked 6th and 17th respectively in 2016. In the biannual Forbes rankings for two-year MBA programmes, NUS Business School was ranked 7th among business schools outside the United States in 2015. QS has also ranked the school 12th in the world for accounting and finance.

The school is accredited by AACSB International (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) and EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System), endorsements that the school has met the highest standards for business education. The school is also a member of the GMAC Council, Executive MBA Council, Partnership in Management (PIM) and CEMS (Community of European Management Schools).

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