

DROWNING PREVENTION



CIPRB Marks a Decade of Lifesaving and World Drowning Prevention Day 2024 at Cox's Bazar

The Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB) commemorated World Drowning Prevention Day 2024 and a decade of lifesaving through the SeaSafe project on October 31, 2024, at Sugandha Beach, Cox's Bazar. The event was co-sponsored by MJL Bangladesh PLC (Mobil) and brought together key stakeholders from the tourism and public sectors to reinforce the importance of beach safety.

Led by CIPRB's Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Aminur Rahman, the event welcomed Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Salahuddin as the Chief Guest, with Additional District Magistrate Mr. Nizam Uddin Ahmed presiding. Special Guest Al Asad Md Mahfuzul Islam, Superintendent of the Tourist Police, Cox's Bazar, along with senior officials from the DC office, including the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) and Senior Assistant Commissioner (Tourism Cell), also participated in the event. A panel discussion brought together major tourism stakeholders, including representatives from the

Kolatoli Marine Drive and Resort Owners' Association, Hotel Motel Guest House Owners' Association, Tour Operators Association, Tours Owners Association, Beach Management Committee, and the Cox's Bazar Press Club.

During his speech, Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Salahuddin outlined future initiatives, such as the establishment of a public swimming pool for tourists, enhanced awareness campaigns in high-risk areas, new educational tools for visitors, post-rescue medical facilities at the beach, and lifeguard training in communication skills and paramedic response. Stakeholders emphasized the urgent need for sustainable lifeguard services on Cox's Bazar's beaches and called for continued collaboration to support the lifesaving project. The event also recognized the dedication of lifeguards, presenting special awards to the top five lifesaving performers of the year. The celebration concluded with beach games and cultural performances, bringing together tourists and locals in a shared commitment to beach safety and community well-being.



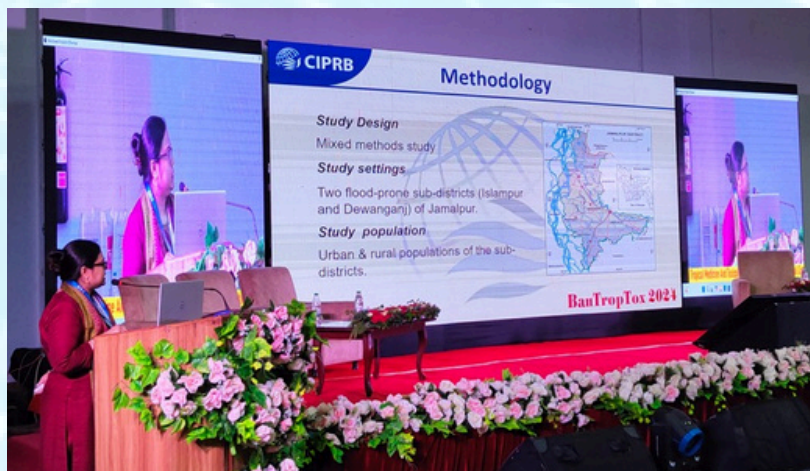
Participation on BanTropTox Conference

CIPRB participated in 12th National Conference on Tropical Medicine and Toxicology (BanTropTox 2024) at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh from 28-29 November 2024, hosted by Cox's Bazar Medical College, Toxicology Society of Bangladesh (TSB), and Bangladesh Society of Infectious and Tropical Diseases (BSITD).

CIPRB team took part in FlutNetz project symposium, which aims to improve access to medical and emergency care during flood disasters in Bangladesh. FlutNetz project had multiple components and work packages, and different components were presented by different stakeholders.

On behalf of CIPRB, Dr. Nawshin Torsha presented the baseline survey findings and Dr. Moonmoon Aktar presented on field interventions. The intervention packages including BLS and ALS manual development, Establishment of Poison Information Centre and Piloting of drone-assisted medical equipment delivery were discussed by Prof. Dr. Md. Robed Amin, Dr. Ulrich Kuch from Goethe University, respectively.

The symposium ended with a project overview and reflection by Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlur Rahman, Executive Director, CIPRB. FlutNetz symposium was chaired by Prof. Dr. Md. Abul Faiz, Retired Prof of Medicine and President (TSB).



CIPRB Representatives Join RNLI's 'International Leaders in Lifesaving' Course in the UK

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) hosted its prestigious 'International Leaders in Lifesaving' course at its headquarters in Poole, Dorset, UK, in September 2024. The program brought together drowning prevention experts from seven countries—including Bangladesh, the Philippines, Cambodia, Thailand, India, Nepal, and the UK—to exchange knowledge and strengthen global lifesaving efforts.

Representing the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB), Md. Abul Borkat, Programme Manager of Project Bhasa-2, and Dr. Yeasir Iftekhar, Deputy Project Manager of SeaSafe, participated in the week-long course, which commenced on September 30, 2024.

Participants engaged with key UK lifesaving organizations, gaining insights into data-driven risk mapping, advocacy strategies, research methodologies, and technical solutions for drowning prevention. The course also emphasized water safety campaigns and the power of strategic partnerships. RNLI facilitators conducted specialized sessions on leadership development, focusing on personal leadership, team leadership, and organizational leadership.

The lessons learnt and new partnerships formed during the course will help forward Bangladesh's drowning prevention agenda.



Sonamoni project organised capacity development and skills building workshop

A day-long workshop was organised in CIPRB titled 'Workshop on qualitative research methods and academic writing' on November 20, 2025. The workshop was facilitated by Prof. Dr. Edwin van Teijlingen, Faculty of Health & Social Science, from Bournemouth University, UK.

The workshop was scheduled in two sessions covered qualitative research approaches in the morning and academic writing and publishing in the afternoon. In total 18 staff from CIPRB including Sonamoni Project staff and other department were participated the interactive session.



One of the major objectives of the Sonamoni project is to undertake capacity building initiatives through implementation of extensive research activities. The aim of this initiatives is to develop qualitative research conduction and research paper publication skill of the collaborators' research staff.

"Drowning Prevention is Every Child's Right" – Experts Call for Nationwide Action



On October 3, 2024, a high-level event titled "Drowning Prevention is Every Child's Right" was organized in collaboration with Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA) and Synergos Bangladesh. The event brought together policymakers, representatives from drowning prevention initiatives, development partners, community leaders, media professionals, and national and international child welfare organizations to discuss the urgent need for sustainable drowning prevention measures.

Ms. Tania Khan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) and Director General (In-charge), BSA, attended as the Chief Guest. She emphasized the necessity of establishing proper infrastructure and facilities to integrate swimming lessons into compulsory education. She also stressed the importance of research to enhance the infrastructural and strategic aspects of swimming education.

Most. Ferdousi Begum, Joint Secretary, MoWCA and Project Director (In-charge), ICBC Project, chaired the event. She highlighted that the ICBC Project is designed to provide comprehensive childhood care, with a special focus on drowning prevention at the grassroots level. She expressed optimism about scaling up the project nationwide with collective efforts.

Professor Dr. AKM Fazlur Rahman, Executive Director of CIPRB, emphasized that data accuracy and preservation are essential for the large-scale implementation of drowning prevention programs.

He urged the government to strengthen the national data storage system for better policy execution.

A panel discussion on "Drowning Prevention is Every Child's Right, Not a Privilege", moderated by Esha Hussain, Country Director of Synergos Bangladesh, explored key strategies for effective drowning prevention. Dr. Aminur Rahman, Deputy Executive Director of CIPRB, delivered the keynote presentation, highlighting the importance of community volunteer development, skill-based training for media personnel, and increased media involvement in the drowning prevention movement.

Participants strongly advocated for nationwide implementation of scientifically proven and easily adoptable drowning prevention methods as a government priority. They also emphasized that introducing compulsory swimming lessons in educational institutions would significantly reduce child drowning rates in Bangladesh.



In collaboration with the district administration and BSA district office, CIPRB observed 'Child Rights Week-2024' at Patuakhali and Barguna. Series of events were organised between 29 September and 07 October 2024. An art competition and a quiz competition were organised in each district where 180 children participated in 4 categories. The topic for those events was child protection and safety and injury prevention, especially drowning.

Prof. Dr. Edwin van Teijlingen Visits Bangladesh for the Sonamoni Project



Prof. Dr. Edwin van Teijlingen, a lead researcher of the Sonamoni Project, visited the project sites for the first time in Bangladesh from November 16-22, 2024. As part of the visit, he traveled to Kalapara subdistrict in Patuakhali, one of the two major research sites of the Sonamoni Project located in Barishal division.

During his stay, Prof. Dr. Edwin engaged with community representatives, including caregivers of children under the age of two and members of the Village Injury Prevention Committee (VIPC). The discussions aimed to gather valuable insights into the local drowning issues and the preventive measures in place. He also visited a childcare center in Baliatoti union, where he interacted with center caregivers and project staff to better understand the experiences of caring for children under two years in these facilities. Accompanying Prof. Dr. Edwin during his visit were Dr. Aminur Rahman, another lead applicant of the project, and Mr. Notan Chandra Dutta, the Research Manager of the Sonamoni Project.

Several stakeholders visited PROJECT Bhasa 2 field areas

On 18 December 2024, the new Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Betagi Upazila, Md. Bashir Gazi visited an Anchal center of PROJECT Bhasa 2 located in the Municipality. The UNO observed the children's activities and talked with the parents. He thanked CIPRB for contributing in preventing child drowning.



On 03 November 2024, UNO of Taltoli upazila Umme Salma visited an Anchal center of Taltoli. She was impressed by the performances of Anchal children. She thanked CIPRB for implementing such impactful activities for child development and safety.



In mid-December 2024, RNLI Bangladesh Representative Shakina Ismail and PROJECT Bhasa-2's Program Manager Md. Abul Borkat visited the PROJECT Bhasa-2 field areas-Betagi and Kalapara. They observed Anchal children's activities and participated in the parent meeting during their visit.



Year-end swimming competition to remind community on Drowning Prevention measures

As the SwimSafe season ends for 2024 with swimming training success of 14,800 children, community-based swimming competitions were organised in Bhasa-2 and SeaSafe project. It created a festive atmosphere in the respective areas and raised community awareness about the importance of swimming skills for child safety. Children participated in different age-based groups. The top three participants were selected by three judges from the respective areas. Prizes were awarded to the

winners, and consolation prizes were given to all competitors. Volunteers were present to ensure safety of all children during the competition. The events were well-attended by Govt. officers, UP chairmen, UP members, journalists, VIPC members, teachers, religious leaders, children, parents, CSI and community peoples from their respective Upazilas.

The children and communities thanked the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation for supporting such initiatives.



Global Workshop on Childcare and Drowning Prevention

The Thai Ministry of Public Health, Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), and World Health Organization (WHO) jointly organised a global workshop on drowning prevention and child care in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from October 21 to 23, 2024. The purpose of this workshop was to develop and expand community-based preschool drowning prevention childcare facilities in low- and middle-income (LMIC) countries, enhancing their accessibility and effectiveness for communities in those regions.

Dr. Aminur Rahman, the Deputy Executive Director of CIPRB and Director of the International Drowning Prevention and Research Division, delivered a keynote presentation on the Anchal-community child care program and its implications for child drowning prevention in Bangladesh. He also facilitated several sessions during the workshop.

Rehana Parveen, the manager of Early Childhood Development at CIPRB, attended a workshop, where she shared valuable insights on implementation activities, best practices, successes, and key lessons learned from the Anchal.



This workshop brought together about 30 childcare professionals, early childhood development (ECD) experts, and leaders from international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) worldwide to discuss the important connections between child supervision and drowning risk reduction and to find ways to incorporate drowning prevention measures into current daycare programs and ECD activities.

CIPRB organised workshop on the MEAL framework for ICBC project



On November 28 and 29, 2024, CIPRB organized a two one-day consultative workshops on the MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning) framework. The workshops were attended by 56 field staff from the NGOs implementing the ICBC project. Mahabuba Akter, the Project Director, presided over the event, joined by the Project Manager and other key stakeholders.

These workshops provided an opportunity for participants to gain a deeper understanding of the MEAL framework, ensuring that project activities are effectively monitored and evaluated for continuous improvement. This initiative is part of CIPRB's ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and accountability of the ICBC project, empowering field staff with the necessary tools and knowledge to implement monitoring and evaluation processes effectively.

Data collection of CSIMH intervention completed



To ensure uninterrupted swimming teaching during menstruation of the female Community Swimming Instructors (CSIs), a research was conducted in 2023 titled 'Assessing acceptability and feasibility of using menstrual cups to reduce nonworking days amongst female community swimming instructors'. The research was named as CSIMH in short. With the successful trial of menstrual cup in 2023, the intervention continued in 2024. A total of 83 female CSIs received the menstrual management training with a menstrual cup and sterilizing container.

A baseline was conducted as all the CSIs were newly recruited for 2024. Regular follow-up were carried out to provide suggestions and motivation. The initiative was completed for the year 2024 with the endline data collection from the female CSIs. The user CSIs provided their opinions on the menstrual cup's comfort, usability, and challenges.

Bhasa project completed it's eight years journey in Patuakhali and Barguna by handing over to the government project



The government's ICBC project now includes Bhasa. This merger aims to support the government's efforts to expand its presence across Bangladesh. At the project closure in 2024, interventions of PROJECT Bhasa will be continued by the government through a project named Integrated Community Based Centre for Child Protection, Care and Swimsafe Facility, ICBC.

Since 2016, CIPRB implemented PROJECT Bhasa in in Kalapara, Patuakhali district and Betagi and Taltoli upazilas, Barguna district in collaboration with RNLI, and the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation. The main goal of the project was to prevent child drowning through three core interventions- institutional supervision, teaching survival swimming and first response training.

On 22 and 23 December 2024, project closing meetings were held at Betagi, Kalapara and Taltali. Those meetings were organised at the conference

room of the respective Upazila administration and chaired by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO). Relevant upazila level govt. officials, NGOs and media representatives, and other dignitaries attended the meeting. The guests provided their thoughts regarding sustainability of Bhasa project. Respective project field team, including the Deputy Executive Director of CIPRB Dr. Aminur Rahman and the head office team participated the meeting to express gratitude to stakeholders for their immense support and valuable contributions in achieving project goal.

In Taltali, participants were informed of the new project for Taltali upazila implementing by CIPRB. The UNO, Taltali assured immense support and cooperation in implementing CIPRB's new project in upcoming years. She concluded with the expectation of children's safety, early childhood development and swimming skill development as well as overall community benefit by the new project of CIPRB.

Parveen: The Lifesaver of Shudhirpur Village



In the heart of Shudhirpur village, Kalapara Upazila, Parveen, known as Anchal Maa, is a true life-saver. Since the beginning of the Bhasa project in 2016, Parveen has been one of the project's champions. She began her journey as a Swimming Instructor. In 2017, Parveen became an Anchal Maa, where she continued her mission of drowning prevention and early childhood care. Her skills were enhanced further through first response training, which made her the

community's trusted person for providing first aid in emergencies.

One of Parveen's most remarkable achievements occurred in October 2022. When Rabiul, a young child, suffered a drowning incident, Parveen performed CPR for over two hours, starting at the incident site and continuing through to the district hospital. Her dedication miraculously brought Rabiul back from the brink of death, leaving the family and the community in tears of gratitude.

In November 2024, Parveen once again became the miracle worker when she saved Mahir, another child, after he had drowned. Despite the initial signs of death, Parveen didn't give up. She gave CPR for the second time, and Mahir started showing signs of life. The entire community celebrated her determination, and the family was overwhelmed with thankfulness.

Parveen's unyielding commitment to saving lives has earned her a place as an angel of life in her community. Her courage, training, and love for her community continue to make a difference, one child at a time.

Anyone can drown, no one should



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