

DROWNING PREVENTION

Quarterly Newsletter



A mega project on Drowning Prevention has been approved in ECNEC

On February 22, 2022, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) authorized a project proposal to prevent child drowning named 'Integrated Community Based Center for Child Care, Protection and Swim-Safe Facilities' under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA). It will be implemented in 45 upazilas of 16 districts. During implementation, Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB) will provide technical assistance to implement the Interventions-Community based day care centres, survival swimming teaching for children and community awareness.

By addressing drowning as a silent epidemic, Bangladesh and Ireland proposed a resolution in United Nation General Assembly on 28 April 2021. Rabab Fatima, Ambassador of Bangladesh and Permanent Representative had proposed the resolution with Ireland which was endorsed by 79 member states. In that resolution ten directives were placed to be followed by the member states to prevent drowning fatalities. According to the directive, Bangladesh is the first state to take such initiative by approving the 3 years long project.

It is CIPRB's pleasure to convey the gratitude to the Chair of ECNEC and the honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, other members of the ECNEC, MoWCA and all relevant stakeholders who are involve all the way through the approval process of this initiative.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has been signed after getting ECNEC approval for implementing the project

Additional Secretary Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky, Economic Relations Division from the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, CIPRB's DED, Dr. Aminur Rahman, representing Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and Esha Husain, Project Lead Drowning Prevention Partnership Project, Synergos, representing Bloomberg Philanthropies, were present at that MoA Signing ceremony.



Representatives from concern organizations

Awareness campaign and Lifeguard's new uniform launching program under SeaSafe project

With the collaboration of DC Cox's Bazar, an awareness campaign was organized by Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh under SeaSafe project on 12th March 2022 at Sugandha Point, Cox's Bazar. New uniforms of the SeaSafe lifeguards also inaugurated in that event. Deputy Commissioner, Cox's Bazar, Md. Mamunur Rashid was present as Chief Guest. Md. Abu Sufian-

Additional District Magistrate, Mr. M Rezaul Karim Reza-President, Tour Operators Owners Association of Cox's Bazar, Mr. Milton Roy- UNO, Sadar Upazila, Mr. Syed Murad Ahmed - Executive Commissioner and Executive Magistrate (Tourism) and Dr. Aminur Rahman, Deputy Executive Director, CIPRB were presented as Special Guest.



Launching of new uniform of the lifeguards



Rescue demonstration of the lifeguards

Review meeting of the Draft National Drowning Prevention Strategy and Action Plan

On March 14, 2022, 5th stakeholder consultation meeting on 'Reviewing the Draft National Drowning Prevention Strategy and Action Plan' was arranged by Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abul Faiz, Professor of Medicine (Retd.), Ex-DG, DGHS, Prof. Mohammad Robed Amin, Line Director- Non-Communicable Disease Control (NCDC) programme, DGHS, relevant personnel from DGHS, representatives from Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Bangladesh Swimming Federation, WHO and UNICEF were present as the discussants. The Executive Director of CIPRB Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlur Rahman, Director of NCD and mental health and the Drowning Prevention team were also participated at the meeting. Dr. Aminur Rahman, Director- International Drowning Prevention and Research

Division of CIPRB described the evolution of the draft National Drowning Prevention Strategy development and proposed the strategic approach and plan of actions through his presentation. The distinguished participants had pointed out the necessary corrections and views to incorporate. After this meeting, necessary actions were taken and deiminated among all for further actions.

SeaSafe activities was presented in Dubai Fair 2022



On March 23, 2022, Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation, one of the implementing partners of SeaSafe project, organized a drowning prevention conference in Dubai. The objective of the conference was to exchange learning and implementation strategy and showcase project impacts on community. Partners from England, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Greece, Italy and Monaco presented their drowning prevention projects currently being implemented at their own country. The Intervention Manager of SeaSafe project Mr. Shafkat Hossain participated on behalf of CIPRB.



Working committee meeting on National Drowning Prevention Strategy

Field activities of PROJECT Bhasa resumed after 2 years

The field level activities of PROJECT Bhasa has resumed after two years by following Government's instruction. Reopening preparations, basic and refresher trainings, procurement, project management meetings etc. are conducting thoroughly.



Anchal children are attending the centres maintaining proper hygiene

'Anchal', one of the major interventions of the project has been started on March 12, 2022 by following community based alternative alternative child care intervention for child care instead of using regular Anchal Centers.



'Training of Trainer (ToT)' was organized where the Anchal Mentoring Officers and Anchal Supervisors learnt the skills and reinvigorated their knowledge on 'Anchal Operation and Early Childhood Development (ECD) Activities'. After the ToT, they have conducted trainings of Anchal Maa(s) accordingly.



Anchal maa(s) received refresher training on 'Operating Anchal and ECD Activities and responsibilities of Anchal Caregivers' as Anchal reopening preparation. Anchal Mentor Officers facilitated different sessions with the active support of Anchal Supervisors.



Representatives from the partner organization Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) Darren Williams and Steve Wills participated in different workshops and meeting at CIPRB. This was the first visit of RNLI after 2 years of COVID-19 spreading out worldwide.

Basic and Refresher trainings on First Response was provided to Anchal Maa(s) and Assistants. The main objective of the training was to enhance the Capacity of the project staff as first responders. The participants learnt how to deliver minimum health care and perform Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation(CPR).

Konika Rani was one of the Anchal Maa(s) who lost her 4 years old child by drowning recently. Her son gone through malpractices after being pulled out from the water. During the CPR session, Konika Rani burst out with tears and said with a heavy heart, "If I had known CPR, maybe I could have saved my child". Everyone, including Konika Rani, pledged to provide appropriate first aid and CPR if such incidents occur in their presence. They will work for removing the post drowning rescue malpractices and misconceptions.



Kanika Rani is practicing CPR



CSIs conducted baseline survey to identify and confirm potential children list for survival swimming activity of the project. Before that, they received training on how to conduct SwimSafe baseline survey and finalize children list.

Meeting with Bangladesh Tourism Board (BTB)



On January 24, 2022, a virtual sharing meeting with Bangladesh Tourism Board was organized in presence of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mr. Javed Ahmed (Additional Secretary), Deputy Director (Research & Planning) Mr. Mohammad Saiful Hassan (Deputy Secretary), Head of International Programmes of RNLI Mr. Steve Wills and the SeaSafe project staff. BTB expressed their interest for collective venture with CIPRB to sustain lifeguard service and looking forward for a formal partnership. Besides, the community awareness, relevant stakeholder engagement, funding opportunities exploration and expansion modality of the lifeguard service in other coastal tourist spots were the highlighted issues on the discussion table.

Need Based Supervision of Anchal children under CreSHeS project

Anchal Caregivers visited Anchal children's house as Anchal activities was closed due to COVID-19. They spent 20–30 minutes with every child and did singing, playing and early childhood development activities for the wellbeing of the children as well as keep them safe from drowning in the most risky hours (9am to 1am).



Anchal Maa is supporting a child in learning

As per the request from the parents, Anchal Maa(s) and Assistants also involved with direct supervision

of any Anchal child who had no one to look after from 09am to 01pm. The objective was to keep the child safe from various injuries including drowning.

Community awareness activities under SeaSafe project



SeaSafe project started 'Water Safety Lesson for School Students' activity after the withdrawal of countrywide COVID-19 restrictions. The Community Educators are providing information on water related risks and safety measures to save oneself from drowning through different sessions at schools.



SeaSafe Community Educator team are delivering beach safety messages on the beaches to make the tourists aware of water danger and do's and don'ts while at the beach and in water.

CIPRB joined in the National Child Protection Cluster

CIPRB has joined in the National Child Protection Cluster on January 2022. PROJECT Bhasa's Intervention Manager Mr. Farukh Ahmed and Policy and Partnership Manager Ms. Juliet Rosette participated in virtual workshop on 'Cluster Performance Monitoring Report' organized by UNICEF.

Anyone can drown, no one should

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