

DROWNING PREVENTION

Quarterly Newsletter



2nd World Drowning Prevention day observed

Bangladesh Shishu Academy under Ministry of Women and Children Affairs organized an event to celebrate the World Drowning Prevention Day 2022 on July 25, 2022 where Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh provided technical support. State Minister for Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Bangladesh Ms. Fazilatun Nessa Indira, MP inaugurated the event.

A portable pool was installed in the Shishu Academy premises donated by the UK-based organization Teach A Girl to Swim. The objective of this initiative is to prevent child drowning by teaching life-saving swimming techniques to 6 to 12 years old children of urban area.

Center for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB) provided technical support to pool construction, maintenance and Swimming Instructor's training. A cultural performance by Sisimpur and a show about drowning prevention marked the event's conclusion.

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This is the first time in Bangladesh that Government is providing swimming training in a portable swimming pool. Children living in Dhaka can easily learn survival swimming under the programme. This year's theme of the day is 'Do one thing to prevent drowning'. Today's portable swimming pool inauguration is one of that initiatives

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- State Minister Ms. Fazilatun Nessa Indira, MP



WDPD observance at National level



Round table discussion at Prothom Alo

In 24th July 2022, a round table discussion was organised by CIPRB in collaboration with a national daily Prothom Alo titled 'World Drowning Prevention Day: How Stakeholders Can Prevent Children's Death from Drowning'.

Twelve panelists from various stakeholder groups participated in the round table discussion and offered their insightful commentary in an effort to identify potential solutions to prevent Bangladeshi children from drowning. On July 31, 2022, a one-page supplementary appeared in the Prothom Alo newspaper. Approximately 5 million people were indirectly reached via the supplement page.

Round table discussion at BICC

On July 25, 2022, Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA) and Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) jointly organized a roundtable discussion on drowning prevention. Stakeholders from relevant ministries and NGOs were participated the event along with the presence of the Minister of Planning M. A. Mannan MP. Executive Director of CIPRB joined as a panelist. Deputy Executive Director of CIPRB, Dr. Aminur Rahman presented the national and international drowning context and the progress within one year of declaring UN resolution regarding drowning prevention.

The panel addressed how the anchals (child-care center) may promote early childhood development and prevent injuries, including drowning.

WDPD observance at field level



National Children Task Force of Betagi sub district of Barguna district a day-long event on July 25, 2022. Rally, art and extempore speech competition, discussion meeting and prize giving ceremony were the organised in collaboration with CIPRB.



Kalapara Municipality Administration of Patuakhali district organized a sharing meeting on July 25, 2022. Progress in one year after the declaration of UN resolution and the role of the field level stakeholders in drowning prevention were discussed.



The CIPRB and the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA) jointly organized WDPD celebration events in Sherpur, Matlab, Patuakhali, and Sirajganj districts. Local government, NGOs, police force, civil society, youth groups, press club, and district drowning prevention journalist networks attended rallies and discussions at the Deputy Commissioners' offices of each districts.



A discussion meeting was held at Baliatali, Patuakhali union council which was chaired by the Chairman on July 24, 2022. After the programme, the Chairman visited Anchal and SwimSafe activities and committed to continue their support for smooth running of drowning prevention activities from the union council.



Discussion meeting and cultural completion were organized by Village Injury Prevention Committee (VIPC) of Nilganj village under Kalapara sub district, Patuakhali on July 21, 2022. In this event, prizes were given to 118 children of 5 Anchals and to the Anchal Maa(s) of that ward with the funding the VIPC.



Barguna and Patuakhali District Administration organized a discussion and NGO coordination meeting on July 18 and July 19, 2022 accordingly. The progress of drowning prevention action taken by the government and non-government agencies and the way forward was the discussion agenda.



Survival swimming lesson sharing workshop in Tanzania



A workshop titled 'Survival Swimming Lesson Sharing' was held from September 17-20, 2022 at Zanzibar, Tanzania. Representatives from 16 countries participated there. The objective of that event was to standardise the survival swimming lessons for children in low resource setting countries. Deputy Executive Director of CIPRB Dr. Aminur Rahman, and Intervention Manager Md. Shafkat Hossain attended the workshop. They presented CIPRB's swimming teaching model to 06-10 years children in Bangladesh context along with the challenges and lessons learned.

Stretchers handed over to lifeguards



Cox's Bazar Tourist Police handed over 4 foldable stretchers to the CIPRB's lifeguard service. The stretchers were sponsored by Navana group. A event was organised in the conference room of the Tourist Police Office, Cox's Bazar on September 1, 2022.

Superintendent of Police Zillur said that these stretchers will be used to save the lives of tourists. Availability of lifeguards services with essential equipment is essential to enrich Cox's Bazar tourism sector.

Around 39 thousand children learned swimming under 'SwimSafe' intervention



After long break of COVID-19 pandemic, CIPRB's intervention to prevent child drowning 'SwimSafe-teaching lifesaving swimming skills' resumed from 2022. From July to September the program run to reach the maximum output as it was the pick time of teaching swimming considering weather condition in Bangladesh. SwimSafe intervention is being implemented under several projects of CIPRB in different districts of Bangladesh.

Under the UNICEF funded 'Survival Swimming Skills Teaching' project 33,000 children were certified SwimSafe graduate proficient in three skills- able to swim 25 meters, float for 30 seconds and can perform land-based rescue. This project is being implemented in Barishal, Bagerhat, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Manikganj, Sherpur, Hobiganj, Noakhali and other 5 districts in Bangladesh.

Another UNICEF funded project 'Saving lives through safe swimming and engaging communities in Cox's Bazar' certified 880 children SwimSafe graduated in Cox's Bazar district.

4,536 children become SwimSafe graduate through PROJECT Bhasa funded by RNLI and Princes Charlene of Monaco foundation in Patuakhali and Barguna districts. Both two donor organization are funding SeSafe project in Cox's Bazar under which 425 children were certified swimsafe graduate in this quarter.

Swimming Skill Retention Study



CIPRB is conducting 'Swimming Skill Retention Study' to verify the retention level of those skills after a certain time period.

The objectives of this study is to re-test the swimming skills of the person who learnt swimming lessons and certified as a graduate 10 years ago under SwimSafe programme. The major parameter are- Able to-

- # swim at least 25 meters
- # float at least for 30 seconds
- # know rescue techniques (both reach and throw rescue techniques).

Data collection was completed and report generation is under process of the study.

World Tourism Day-2022



CIPRB participated in the 7 day long celebration of World Tourism Day-2022 through SeaSafe project in Cox's Bazar. The lifeguards and community engagement team of SeaSafe project participated in the rally on September 27, 2022.

CIPRB set a stall in the tourism fair to showcase drowning prevention interventions and organizational contribution to keep people safe from



drowning. Beach safety messages were disseminated as well to keep the beachgoers and children safe on the beaches and to reduce drowning incidents.

The lifeguards conducted rescue demonstrations to show that how swift lifeguards reach to a person in danger in the sea. So people have to get into water in between the red-yellow flag (lifeguard patrolling area). Several fun games were arranged that reflected awareness raising on drowning risks and prevention.

Scaling-up activities of PROJECT Bhasa



CIPRB provided drowning prevention awareness raising skill development training to the field staff of Save the Children with the aim of scaling-up effective framework through partnership to prevent child drowning. From last week of July to 1st week of August, 2022 sessions were executed in Bakergonj and Muladi upazila of Barishal and in Gaibanda districts.

The participants developed their skill on effective delivery of drowning prevention messages and do's at parent meetings'.

Piloting of Kobo Toolbox software



CIPRB is piloting 'Kobo Toolbox software'-a digital data collection system to make the data collection, documentation and reporting process easier, time saving and more effective at the field level. Relevant staff of CIPRB received ToT on how to use and operate the software was conducted on August 30, 2022 facilitated by external experts.

Playpen re-utilization under CreCHes project



CreCHes field team collected the unused playpens from the community and redistributed to the parents as per their needs. These are being used in Anchal centers if needed.

These wooden structures used for playing and sleeping of toddlers to keep them safe. Playpens were distributed to the community few years ago but the activity didn't come up with desired result. Gradually parents are understanding its importance through awareness raising activities of the project



On September 04, 2022, Md. Shariful Islam, Director General of BSA, and the Project Director of the Integrated Community-based Center of Protection, Childcare and SwimSafe Facilities Project along with the UNO Manohardi Upazila visited the Anchals of CreCHes project in Manohardi, Narsingdi. They observed Anchal children's activities and talked with Anchal Maa, assistant, parents of the Anchal children and local leaders during the visit.



60 students of Bogura Army Medical College along with the teachers of public health department visited Raiganj Field Laboratory of CIPRB. They learned about the community's public health approach and observed how the research-based activities were being conducted.



On September 20, 2022, the SBC Chief of UNICEF Bridget Job-Johnson along with the other officials of UNICEF visited SwimSafe (teaching survival swimming skills) activity at East Taipalang village of Ukhiya Upazila. The objective of the visit was to observe programme implementation in the field.



GHAi Global Team visited CreCHes project area for advocacy with local journalists and community as well as Anchal activities.

Workshop and Training



To finalize drowning prevention awareness messages and stakeholder mapping under 'Saving lives through safe swimming and engaging communities in Cox's Bazar' project, 2 workshops were organized by CIPRB in Cox's Bazar.

On August 02, 2022 awareness messages development workshop was organized with the objective of reviewing and finalizing the drowning prevention awareness messages. SBC materials were settled up in line with the messages as well. Participants shared their thoughts about how best the audience based awareness messages delivering SBCs can fit together.

Stakeholder mapping workshop held on August 03, 2022 to identify the key catalysts, direct contributors and support systems for achieving project goals. Prioritizing the stakeholders according to their involvement and influence level was the another agenda of the workshop.



A trainer pool for First Responder Training (FRT) activity of PROJECT Bhasa has been developed to expand the number of trainers who can assist in FRT conduction at field level. The ToT conducted on September 11 to 13, 2022 under the facilitation of First responder trainers Samsun Nahar and Rajat Sen.



A day-long orientation on Safeguarding & PSEA Policy was held in Cox's Bazar on August 22, 2022 for the 'Saving lives through safe swimming and engaging communities in Cox's Bazar' project staff facilitated by the Safeguarding and PSEA focal of CIPRB.



CIPRB participated in the first-ever national symposium on child protection in Bangladesh on September 19, 2022. The symposium pooled a group of government professionals, members of the civil society, international partners and experts to discuss the child protection legal framework, social service workforce, rights and needs of children with disabilities and early identification of risks and interventions.



536 community Swimming Instructors (CSI) on Swimming teaching skill and First response received basic training under 'survival swimming learning project. These CSI will teach lifesaving swimming to 52500 children in 214 modified pond situated at 17 sub-district and one city corporation under 14 district of Bangladesh.



Anyone can drown, no one should

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