

DROWNING PREVENTION

Quarterly Newsletter



National Child Rights Week 2022

CIPRB in partnership with Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA), hosted a discussion forum on October 6, 2022 titled "Child Rights: Way Ahead to Reduce Children's Mortality from Drowning". Fourteen participants from government and non-government organizations discussed their opinions on how to prevent child drowning deaths in Bangladesh.

It is time to establish swimming as the seventh vaccine. Swimming can save a child from untimely death by drowning. Government of Bangladesh has taken a three-year project under Bangladesh Shishu Academy which is expected to be very effective in ensuring children's safety.



- Lucky Inam, Chairman, Bangladesh Shishu Academy

The meeting was presided over by the Director General of the BSA, Md. Shariful Islam, who stated, "Every child has the capacity to blossom to their fullest if they are provided with a stable childhood." BSA's recent initiative will speed efforts to prevent child drowning.

The official from the directorate of Primary and Mass Education indicated desire to join the initiative to prevent drowning. Participants expressed concerns over the lack of swimming instruction programs and facilities for urban children and children with disabilities.

Shishu Academy Barguna co-hosted a one-day event to commemorate World Children's Day and National Child Rights Week-2022. CIPRB offered technical assistance for the event. The event's activities include a competition for children's artwork, a cultural program, and a panel discussion on the prevention of child drowning. At the event, two trained Community Swimming Instructors from CIPRB also demonstrated land-based drowning rescue techniques.

The discussion on child drowning prevention was led by the District Children Affairs Officer, Mr. SM Rafiqul Islam, and included government officials, the president of the district press club, and NGO representatives. All the key speakers recommended that different agencies, communities, and networks have to incorporate child drowning prevention activities into their continuing initiative for child safety.





58,017
SwimSafe Graduates

Year (2022) ending celebration of SwimSafe intervention

The CIPRB's SwimSafe (survival swimming teaching program for children aged 06-10 years) program has concluded its sessions for the year 2022. Over 58,017 children learnt how to swim and were certified as 'SwimSafe Graduates'. Pond-based and Union-based swimming competitions were organized to celebrate the accomplishment.

Under Survival Swimming Skills Project, 214 pond-based swimming events were organized in which 1,7120 children successfully completed graduation. Boys and girls were divided into two categories based on their ages: ages 6 to 9 and 10 to 12 years. There were 9272 boys and 7848 girls competed in the competitions, and among them the top three from each group were awarded after each competition.

In PROJECT Bhasa 1,968 SwimSafe graduate children participated in the pond-based swimming competitions being divided into 4 categories. Discussion session was held after each competition where the representatives from the Village Injury Prevention Committee, parents, school teachers, influential leaders expressed their feelings and recommendations.

Best three children from pond-based competitions participated in the Union level swimming competitions. 10 competitions were organized where award of participation was given to all participants. Union Chairmen inaugurated the event and participated in the discussion session to share their opinions and suggestions.



Annual celebration of Anchal intervention

Throughout the month of December, 2022 Union/Pourashava-based Anchal competitions were held as part of PROJECT Bhasa to encourage Anchal children and caregivers and inform the community about Anchal activities. Anchal Maas and selected children performed rhyme recitations, rhymes, group dances, and stories at 21 events, and the three best Anchals from each Union/Pourashava were awarded as top performing supervision and care centers.

The competition was held at the respective

Union/Pourashava offices, ensuring maximum participation from community stakeholders such as the Union Parishad's chairman and members, the VIPC president and members, school teachers and parents. These activities enhanced the commitments and ownership of the community and public representatives to the project activities.

Some of the Union Chairmen voluntarily arranged prizes for all attendees. Several of them provided gifts to all Anchal children under their union.



CIPRB participated in the Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Conference 2022 : 15 research findings were shared

15 Research Presentations

2 Panel Discussion

1 Session Moderation



A team of 11 delegates from CIPRB participated in the '14th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion 2022' held in Adelaide, Australia with 15 Presentations, 1 Session Moderation and 2 Panel Discussion. CIPRB presented its achievement, learnings, challenges, research data, recommendations and best practices from different safety promotional

project including drowning prevention programmes. The Executive Director of CIPRB, Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlur Rahman attended in a pannel discussion on 'Strategies for sustainability of drowning prevention programmes'. The Deputy Executive Director, CIPRB, Dr. Aminur Rahman, discussed as a panelist on pre and post of UN Resolution of drowning prevention.

Victory Day celebration under CreCHeS project



On December 16, 2022, Victory Day of Bangladesh was celebrated in the Anchals of CreCHeS project. The main objective was to familiarized children with Bangladesh's history of independence, cultures, and culture preservation. The children participated in Dress as you like, art competition, crafting, singing and rhyme reciting competitions on the theme of Bangladeshi culture.

Child care centre of BSA supported by CreCHeS project



Bangladesh Shisu Academy (BSA) initiated a child care center at the BSA premise for their Staff. Honorable State Minister, MoWCA, Ms. Fazilatun Nessa Indira, MP inaugurated the center on December 16, 2022. CIPRB provided technical support to decorate the room and relevant logistics for smooth running of the center.



Famous TV actor of UK, Mr. Martin Compston and his team visited SwimSafe program in Saturia upazila of Manikganj on October 26, 2022, for documentation of the drowning prevention intervention led by CIPRB which was funded by the UNICEF. He had a discussion with the Executive Director, Prof. Dr. Fazlur Rahman, CIPRB. They met the families who have lost their children by drowning.



District Children Affairs Officer, Patuakhali Mr. Abdullah Al-Jabbar and District Children Affairs Officer, Barguna Mr. Rafiqul Islam visited Anchals and SwimSafe centers in Kalapara, taltali and Betagi Upazilas. During the visit, they appreciated the Anchal managing skills of Anchal Maa(s) and spontaneous participation of the children in various activities.

RNLI team visited PROJECT Bhasa and SeaSafe project



Representatives from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), visited the project area of PROJECT Bhasa in October 11-14, 2022. Darren Williams-Senior Programme Manager, Kate Eardley- Head of International Advocacy, Communication and Evidence and Rory Stamp- Strategic Content Manager was in the team. Dr Sanchoy Kumar Chanda-Advisor, Project Management, CIPRB was also with them. They not only visited the Anchal but also participated with children. The visitors also went to the SwimSafe pond and attended First Response Training session. Community stakeholders got chance to interact with them which helped the RNLI team to visualize the interventions' impact and ownership of the community.

RNLI team visited SeaSafe project in Cox's Bazar from October 15 to 16, 2022. The district administration invited them in the office. The team gave a overview of the running project and thank them for the continuous support.

Mr. Rory Stamp said that he visited the projects for the first time and he was overwhelmed to see the the project activities with his own eyes. 'The Anchals, Seasafe, First Response Training and Swimsafe are amazing lifesaving projects and it was a privilege to meet the people involved'-he said.



Distribution of SBCC material in Cox's Bazar

Hotels and restaurants owners of Cox's Bazar are one of the major stakeholder who can provide essential support in drowning prevention, raising awareness of the tourists and local community. In this regard, an orientation and SBCC material (X- Banner containing drowning risk and awareness messages) distribution ceremony was organized under 'Saving lives through safe swimming and engaging communities in Cox's Bazar'- project on November 17, 2022 in Cox's Bazar Sadar. The banners were placed at the entrance of the hotels and restaurants where they are easily visible.

Star Anchal Maa Parveen Akther



'A mother is the first protector of a child. As an Anchal Maa, I am committed to protecting Anchal children at any circumstances.'



Anchal Maa Parveen saved Rabiul's life by doing CPR. She acquired basic training in first aid through PROJECT Bhasa. Understanding the significance of First Aid, she vowed to do her obligations as a First Responder regardless of the circumstances.

Rabiul, 1.5-year-old boy from Mohipur Union, Kalapara Upazilla of Patuakhali District, belongs to Parveen's Anchal. Rabiul was not seen after 2.15 p.m. on October 29, 2022, while he was spending the winter holidays with his grandparents. Even though the house was filled with relatives, no one noticed when or where the child disappeared. Robiul's family began searching for him as soon as they realized he was missing. One of his cousins eventually spotted him floating in the pond.

Rabiul's uncle pulled him out from the water. He was taken to the nearest health facility immediately. Anchal Maa Parveen heard the news over phone and rushed to the spot where Rabiul was. When arriving, Parveen conducted some fast first assessments and discovered that Rabiul was unconscious. Immediately, she began performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Due to the seriousness of his condition, Rabiul was sent to the Patuakhali hospital. On the drive to the hospital, Parveen never stopped performing CPR. Finally, Parveen's efforts were rewarded as she began CPR for the third time. Rabiul was brought back from the brink of death thanks to everyone's sincere prayers and Parveen's dogged persistence. After a day of observation, the doctor at the hospital saw that he was doing quite great and released him.

Rabiul's family considering Parveen as a second mother of him as she gave him a new life.

Workshop and Training



Master trainer lifeguard Assessment

Master trainer assessors from RNLI conducted an assessment from October 11 to 23, 2022 in Cox's Bazar. Two lifeguard supervisors of SeaSafe project were being assessed in providing training to the master trainer. At the end of the assessment, the assessors certified both supervisors as lifeguard training experts who have the capacity to build master trainers for lifeguard service by maintaining international standard.



SBC partner coordination workshop

CIPRB participated in a day-long workshop on December 13, 2022 titled 'SBC Partners' Coordination Workshop' organized by UNICEF at Cox's Bazar. Integration among the project interventions implementing by the of partners in Cox's Bazar was the main objective of the event. Field team manager of CIPRB presented the achievement, challenge and lesson learned of the drowning prevention projects being implemented in Cox's Bazar.



Training on digital data collection

CIPRB is piloting digital data collection process by the Anchal Maa under PROJECT Bhasa. To implement the initiative, data collection software Kobo Toolbox was also being piloted. 41 Anchal Maa and field staff received training in different batches from October 29 to November 16, 2022 on the operating process of Kobo Toolbox. Participants did the field test at the nearby Anchals as well.



Meeting with safeguarding and PSEA focal

On December 8, 2022, safeguarding and PSEA Focal of CIPRB participated in a meeting organized by UNICEF. PSEA Focal from the partner organizations of UNICEF working in Cox's Bazar attended the meeting and shared their organizational safeguarding and PSEA process and practice.



ICBCS Project briefing workshop

BSA, CIPRB and Synergos jointly organized a project briefing workshop for the newly appointed 16 Assistant Program Managers under 'Integrated Community based Center for childcare, protection and SwimSafe facilities (ICBCS)' project. They visited Anchal centers in Manohardi Upazila to have the practical experience.



Capacity Development Training- CreCHeS

Anchal supervisors from the five intervention districts of the CreCHeS project received bi-annual capacity development training on Anchal operation, early childhood development activities, and safeguarding policy from October 29 to 31, 2022.

Anyone can drown, no one should

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