

National webinar held on 'World Drowning Prevention Day'

'Anyone can drown, no one should', was the theme of the first World Drowning Prevention Day which was observed on July 25, 2021. First in its 75-year history, the UN General Assembly acknowledged the significance of preventing drowning and declared July 25th World Drowning Prevention Day. The UN resolution was proposed by Bangladesh and supported by 81 other UN member of states.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), hosted a nationwide virtual dialogue to commemorate the first-ever Drowning Prevention Day through webinar. Director General (DG) of the DGHS, Prof. Dr. Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, presided over the meeting, Mr. Zahid Maleque MP, the Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) joined as the Chief Guest. Participants in the discussion were around 250, including representatives from MoHFW and DGHS, the Ministry for Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) along with other GO, NGO and INGO as well as WHO and UNICEF.

Line Director of Non Communicable Disease Control Programme (NCDC) Professor Dr. Md. Robed Amin delivered welcome speech and invited the participants to share ideas and proposals for scaling up drowning prevention initiatives in the Bangladesh setting.

Dr. Aminur Rahman, Director of the International Drowning Prevention and Research Division of CIPRB and Drowning Prevention Portfolio Director of the Royal Life Saving Society Commonwealth... (For more: see page 2, col 2)

On the first ever World Drowning Prevention Day, the Synergos and CIPRB arranged a TV talk show on a national television, Ekattor TV. In a programme named Ekattor Shongjog, Prof. Dr. Robed Amin, Line Director of NCDC, DGHS and Dr. Aminur Rahman, Director of the International Drowning Prevention and Research Division of CIPRB and Deputy

Executive Director of the CIPRB and Meher Afroz Chumki MP, the Chair of Parliamentary Standing Committee for Ministry of Women and Children Affairs were the discussants of the event. They discussed about the drowning magnitudes in Bangladesh, community awareness, and suggested some effective practices way via public-private partnerships for drowning prevention. The MoWCA had proposed a countrywide child care and preschool program that needed final approval which was mentioned in the discussion.



Scan the QR code to watch the full video



Discussion on drowning prevention on Somoy TV

A panel discussion with Dr. Aminur Rahman, Director of the International Drowning Prevention and Research Division and Deputy Executive Director of CIPRB, was broadcasted in an episode of Shomoy TV's 'Boddi Bari'. He recommended child institutional supervision, learning survival swimming skills, and knowing how to provide first aid to prevent drowning. Regarding the general public ignorance and negligence, he claimed that prompt and competent first aid may save millions of lives. He depicted the scenario in Bangladesh using the national drowning death reporting system.



Scan the QR code to watch the full recording



(from page 1)

spoke on the magnitudes of drowning situations across the globe and in Bangladesh as well as the state of obligations to implement the UN resolutions for ending drowning epidemic. In his remarks, he emphasized that the suggested strategy and national action plan for drowning prevention need to be revised in light of the present national and global data.

Mr. Zahid Maleque MP, the Minister of the MoHFW stated that drowning prevention measures will be completely implemented when the COVID-19 infection rate will be under control. In consideration of the countrywide lockdown, he reminded the relevant stakeholders to increase community awareness-raising activities at the community of their working areas.

The senior secretary, MoHFW, highlighted the need of institutional supervision and teaching children survival swimming skills for ending child drowning. Drowning prevention must be incorporated into every aspects of child protection and development laws.

An emphasis needs to be given on CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) to save lives as part of first response services was advocated by DGHS Additional Director General (Administration) Prof. Dr. Nasima Sultana. The DG of DGHS also lobbied for swimming as a compulsory subject in school curriculum. To achieve the zero drowning fatalities in Bangladesh, he is optimistic that a comprehensive drowning prevention strategy will be introduced, and implemented across the Bangladesh.

Meeting held with journalists in Betagi field office

An exchange of views with the members of the Press Club of Betagi Upazila was organized regarding the activities of PROJECT Bhasa-2. The meeting focused on discussing the modality of cooperation to uphold the community awareness campaign of Bhasa-2. Mr. Saidul Islam Montu, President of Betagi Press Club, presided over the meeting. The head office team of PROJECT Bhasa-2 had also joined the meeting virtually. The local journalists expressed their interest to explore more about PROJECT Bhasa-2's interventions and assured covering the important events and achievements of the project on regular basis. A number of national and local newspapers had covered the meeting both in print and online media.



Discussion on PROJECT Bhasa-2's intervention is going on

Case Studies

Case-1

Dola (Pseudonym) was a 4 years old child when Khodeja Begum and Badal Biswas lost her on July 6, 2021. Nobody gave attention to Dola on the day when their house was full of visitors. She made many attempts to get her mother and older sister's (14 years old) attention but failed. She was angry and frustrated to the point of tears. Even with the help of her mother, grandmother, sister, and other guests, she couldn't get any better. Dola fled the home without listening to anybody. Nobody expected her to be dead when she came back. When her sister went to the pond to wash utensils a few minutes later, she yelled with a shocking voice to see Dola's floating body in the pond. When everyone had the impulse to go to Dola, it was too late. Dola's small frigid face was filled with misery when her body was pulled out of the water, and her pouty sulky lips spoke to the failure of the family child protection system.

Case -2

On the 12th of July 2021, Moon (pseudonym) was given a second shot at life by PROJECT Bhasa-2 Anchal Assistant neighbor, Shahnaj Begum, who is a resident of the Betagi Upazila. Shahnaj performed CPR as soon as Moon was dragged from the water. Moon's residence right near to a canal, thus the risk of drowning is higher for any child reside there. Moon was looked for by her grandmother while her mother Khushi was busy doing the housework. Her father goes to work early in the morning. Moon stepped down near the canal that day, slipped and fallen down the canal. When Khushi heard a plop, she ran to get her daughter because she was aware of the

drowning risk through the awareness campaigns' of Bhasa-2's programme. When Khushi couldn't find Moon, she ran to the canal and saw her daughter sinking. She jumped into the canal and grabbed Moon from the depth.

The crowd decided to whirl around with Moon's body on their heads. The sound of the gathering brought Anchal's assistant Shahnaj attention and she quickly went there. She tried to stop those participating the harmful practice as soon as she saw them. Shahnaj began mouth-to-mouth breathing and chest compression. Moon gained consciousness shortly as soon as Anchal assistant started performing CPR on her. After witnessing Shahnaj's efficiency and effect of CPR, people realized that they were about to kill the child. Shahnaj received CPR training as an assigned Anchal caregiver of the Bhasa project which was being implemented in Barguna and Patuakhali district of Barishal division. The division is the most drowning prone area in Bangladesh.

Lack of supervision of children (aged 1-4 years) during the most vulnerable hours (9 am- 1pm) is one of the main reasons for fatal drowning. PROJECT Bhasa-2's 'Anchal', community-based daycare facility is closed since March 2020 due to COVID-19 lockdown. Between January and September 2021, eight Anchal enrolled children drowned. Several fatal drowning cases have been reported by the national media throughout Bangladesh, but many more go under reported due to the lack of importance given to drowning prevention in Bangladesh.

Safeguarding focal for the CIPRB field offices

Every CIPRB field office has a designated Safeguarding Focal, chosen by CIPRB. Representatives of PROJECT Bhasa-2 field offices at Kalapara, Taltoli, and Betagi obtained the ToT on September 27, 2021, together with the focal of other projects from Cox's Bazar, Sirajganj, Raiganj, Narsingdi, Sherpur, Chandpur, Cumilla, and Sylhet. . Ms. Sangeeta Barua, Deputy Manager, HR and Safeguarding Focal, CIPRB facilitated the training. Prof. DR. AKM Fazlur Rahman, Executive Director, CIPRB inaugurated the event and described the roles and responsibilities of a safeguarding focal to the participants.



Executive Director of CIPRB Prof. DR. AKM Fazlur Rahman is providing guidance to the newly selected field level safeguarding focals

Monitoring Evaluation & Learning (MEL) workshop

A MEL workshop was organized to ensure all field staff of PROJECT Bhasha-2 was equipped with the knowledge to use the monitoring tools for ensuring quality data collection, including sharing their thoughts. The objectives of the workshop were to enhance a common understanding of the purpose, principles of data collection, and application of the monitoring tools, how to use monitoring tools, conceptual understanding about the time and period of monitoring data collection, including review the reporting and documentation formats. The workshop was day-long for a group, where two workshops were held between 13 & 14 September 2021 at the Training Room, CIPRB Kalapara Project Office. A total of 34 participants from different three Upazilas of Taltoli, Betagi, and Kolapara participated in the workshop, including 6 staff from the Dhaka Office.

Apart from the tool sharing, the MEL Manager underlined some basic issues before the formal session. Firstly, he focused on the conceptual understanding for all staff who will be using the monitoring tools. He requested all to have a clear understanding of the variables even each word of the variables because there has some logic. If anybody has any confusion with any issue, then he or she requested to ask the issue to the concerned

person of the component he added. He also focused on the uniqueness of the activity in each Upazila. He expects from now and onwards the uniqueness will be ensured strictly. MEL Manager, Borkat also highlighted that all have to ensure quality work and collect more valid data.

In addition, the existing reporting and documentation format review was another awesome and important work of the workshop. Pre-listed reporting formats, data collection tools, information of registers were revealed. The MEL team expects that after incorporating the inputs the formats will be comprehensive, user-friendly, and help to ensure the uniqueness in each Upazila, the project catchment area of PROJECT Bhasha-2.



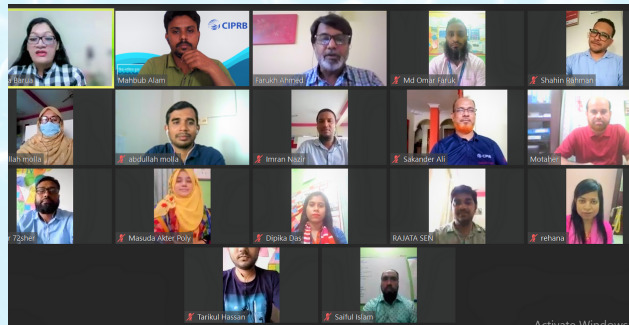
A session is conducting by the MEL Manager

Refresher training on Safeguarding



Refresher training on Safeguarding Policy for children and vulnerable adults was held on 08 September and 13 September 2021. All the staff of Kalapara, Taltali and Betagi field offices of the PROJECT Bhasha-2 participated in those virtual training sessions. HR Deputy Manager and Safeguarding Focal of CIPRB, Ms. Sangeeta Barua facilitated the sessions. Intervention Manager Mr. Farukh Ahmed assisted with the necessary information to make the event successful.

Detailed discussion on do's & don'ts while



communicating with children and vulnerable adults, reporting method, punishment provision if found guilty had been discussed to maintain safeguarding at every step of project implementation as well as in every sphere of personal life. The staff got the opportunity to refresh their understanding about safeguarding policy before starting Bhasha-2 activities after the lockdown. It will enrich themselves to set professional behavior and determination of actions in the aspects of safeguarding.

Drowning is preventable

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