



Advocacy meeting with the senior journalists

An advocacy meeting with renowned senior journalists held on November 14, 2021 at the Daily Star seminar hall in Dhaka, Bangladesh, to illustrate the scope of the drowning concerns there as well as internationally. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit their suggestions for effective methods of disseminating drowning prevention information and activities to the general public and policymakers. The dialogue was attended by 14 journalists from print and electronic media.

An overview of the global and national drowning context and the UN Resolution on Drowning Prevention was presented by Dr. Aminur Rahman, the Deputy Executive Director of CIPRB as the keynote speaker.

According to GTV's Editor in Chief, Mr. Syed Ishtiaque Reza, the focal ministry for drowning prevention must be chosen at first and then other activities can be synchronized. The Executive Editor of The Daily Time of Bangladesh, Mr. Toufiq Maruf said, specific events might help identify obstacles to adopting a multi-sectoral approach. In addition, he advocated for the creation of a volunteer program that would train elementary school students to be first responders in their community to prevent drowning death. Shishir Moral from the Daily Prothom Alo expressed their interest to cover drowning prevention highlights throughout the year if the organisations is ready to share proper information and data. Participants agreed to a multi-sectoral public awareness campaign conducted by the relevant government agencies.

On October 9, 2021, at Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA) conference room, a seminar on drowning prevention was hosted in collaboration among Bangladesh Shishu Academy and Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh. Participants included Bangladesh Shishu Academy officials, relevant NGOs/INGOs focusing on child safety and improvement and media. For the first time, Child Rights Week includes child drowning prevention. CIPRB presented the results of PROJECT Bhasa-1, which included successful drowning prevention methods in Bangladesh.

'Child drowning prevention is highlighted in Child Rights Week for the first time'



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Monitoring tools field test workshop

The workshop on “MEL tools and REDCap software field test” was held on November 1 and 2, 2021 in Kuakata, Patuakhali. The session aims to give field employees with a shared knowledge of data gathering utilizing monitoring instruments and the REDCap Mobile App. MEL Manager Mr. Abul Borkat and MEL Officer Mr. Kabir Hossain facilitated different sessions. During the training, all nine monitoring tools were used for indentifying the loopholes in filling them out. Installation and use of the REDCap App were reviewed. Orientation and group work on reporting and documentation templates were in the session. Participants learned about variables, performance, and quality report development and documentation. They had the chance to clear any misunderstandings and verify data correctness for each tool component. They also helped make the tools more user-friendly.



Participants are filling a monitoring tool through REDCap software

First Response Training for field staff

PROJECT Bhasa-2 field employees in Kalapara, Taltali, and Betagi were trained in First Response. The first group trained at Kalapara on November 13-14, and the second in Betagi on December 13-14, 2021. First Response Trainers Shamshunnahar and Rajat Sen led training with Mr. Farukh Ahmed, Intervention Manager and First Response Focal. Participants learnt about primary evaluation after being pulled from the water, treating conscious and unconscious casualties, and treating wounds, fractures, and burns. Special CPR session (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation). The participants obtained practical information on first response for injuries, including drowning, that they may use in both their professional and personal lives.



The Trainer is conducting a practical session on Injury

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Mr. Amir Hossain Khan, BSA Assistant Director, focuses on enhancing coordination of various child safety agencies in the inaugural speech. Islamic Relief Bangladesh, Bangladesh ECD Network, and Global Health Advocacy Incubator officials took part in the open dialogue. Mr. Tariqul Islam Chowdhury, ECD Specialist, BSA, said that Ministry of Women and Children Affairs took initiative to establish 8000 community based day care centres in 16 Districts. To speed up the process, all parties agreed on picking the primary agency for drowning prevention movement.

In the closing speech, Prof. Dr. Saidur Rahman Mashreky, Director, CIPRB said CIPRB is working for scaling-up the proven scientific solutions of drowning prevention with effective GO-NGO collaboration which will bring down the death toll.

Stakeholder Engagement



A sharing meeting with Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB) was organized in 15 Nov 2021. The objective was to explore the scopes of partnership for working in the drowning prevention scenario combinedly. IRB showed there interest to collaborate with awareness activities, swimming learning and rescuing programme.



With the same objective, another sharing meeting with Caritas Bangladesh was organized in 05 December 2021. They expressed their interest for awareness campaign aligning with the ECD programmes.

Case Story

Importance of 'First Response' right after rescuing from water

Srijon Bhallav, the sole child of Taltali residents Kanika Rani and Methun Bhallav, died tragically in October of last year. They left their boy with Grandmother on October 6, 2021, while they went to work in the fields. While doing the household chores, Grandma put Srijon playing with his toys. Srijon had disappeared for the moment due to a lapse in focus. Kanika, on the other hand, returned home. Kanika asked of her mother-in-law, but she was unable to provide any information.

To begin with, Kanika's thoughts turned to the street drain next to their home. She was scouring the sewer, terrified, when something soft brushed her leg from behind. She drew out that which was little more than the tiny body of her beloved baby. After being pulled from the water, Kanika had no idea what to do next. One of the neighbors placed Srijon's body on top of his head and spun it. He kept repeating the technique, but nothing

miraculous occurred. A doctor at the hospital where Srijon was taken confirmed his death.

CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and other First Response services might have saved Srijon's life even if he was already unconscious when he was retrieved from the water. Fatema Akter, the daughter of Rumi Akter and Md. Jahangir, was rescued from the water on October 19, 2021, and she, too, was a victim of medical misconduct.

Most of the time, once someone is saved from drowning, rescuers do one of these egregious mistakes, which permanently eliminates their chances of survival. Misconceptions and malpractices will be eliminated if a lot of emphasis is placed on spreading knowledge about "First Response immediately after being rescued from drowning." In order to maximize the chances of survival, the first responders of the community should be trained in First Response.

Parents Meeting and VIPC Meeting after a long interval

As the Covid-19 situation improved considerably, some of the regular activities of the project especially community engagement activities were conducted in October and December, 2021. A limited number of parents meetings (total 233) and Village Injury Prevention Committee (VIPC) meetings (total 120) were carried out in the three project areas of PROJECT Bhasa-2. The parents meetings aimed to understand parents' perspectives on reopening the Anchals and encourage the parents to get vaccinated to prevent the Covid-19 infection in children at home. Safeguarding policy, Anchal reopening plans and parents engagements issues, particularly, the presences of the fathers in the regular parents' meetings were discussed. The

The parents positively expressed their interest in reopening the Anchals. They also raised concerns over the prolonged closure of Anchals and its impact negatively their overall development and increased risk of drowning.

The purpose of the VIPC meetings conduction was to exchange views with the members of the VIPC, discuss their responsibilities in re-opening the Anchals and SwimSafe activities, safeguarding policy and the importance of getting Covid-19 vaccines for community people. The members of the VIPC committee informed that they have already received the Covid-19 vaccine and are assured to take necessary actions for the re-opening of the Anchal activities.



Parents are discussing about the increasing drowning risk of children due to COVID-19 lockdown



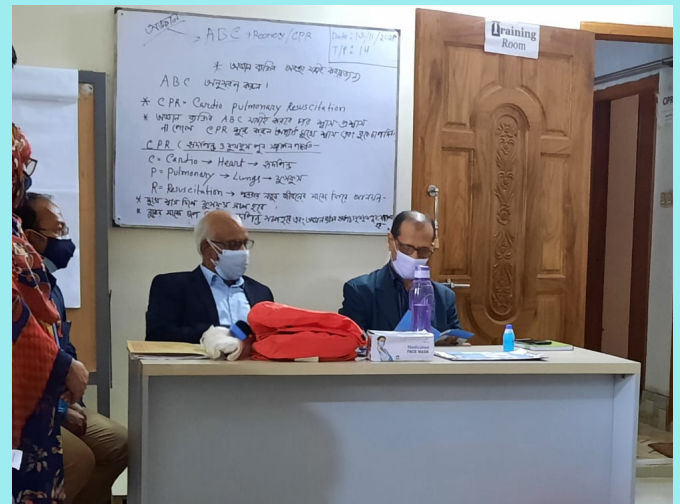
One of the VIPC members is describing his understanding about safeguarding

Highlights of Stakeholder Engagement with District and Upazila Administration

The District and Upazila administration have started organizing physical meetings though COVID-19 situation is improving in Bangladesh. Representative from PROJECT Bhasa-2 was participating in the District Coordination Meeting of Patuakhali and Barguna districts and Upazila NGO Coordination Meeting of Kalapara, Taltali and Betagi Upazilas on regular basis. On 30 November 2021, CIPRB presented a brief overview of PROJECT Bhasa-2 and findings of Bhasa-1. The honorable chairman thanked CIPRB for its contribution in prevent drowning and assured of necessary support in project implementation.



The DC, Patuakhali is in the dialogue on the activities of PROJECT Bhasa



On November 13, 2021, CIPRB Executive Director Professor Dr. AKM Fazlur Rahman and former DG of DGHS Professor Dr. Md. Abul Faiz visited the Kalapara field area of PROJECT Bhasa-2. The DG was pleased to see the project's many operations. He claimed he would highlight child drowning prevention, including Anchal (daycare center), SwimSafe, and First Response, in various venues and national platforms.

Dialogue with the members of Kalapara and Taltali Upazila Press Clubs



Area Coordinator, Kalapara is sharing the brief on PROJECT Bhasa



Area Coordinator, Taltali is presenting the brief on PROJECT Bhasa

A short summary of PROJECT Bhasa-2 was shared with members of the Kalapara and Taltali Upazila Press Clubs. Two presidents, chief editors, senior journalists and other journalists attended the sessions. Both conversations focused on raising community awareness about drowning prevention and executing Bhasa-2 actions.

They also examined the role of the media in the establishment of a national drowning prevention strategy and its execution. They expressed an interest in learning more about PROJECT Bhasa-2's drowning prevention initiatives and results. The Presidents praised CIPRB's ongoing efforts to prevent child drowning.