TEACH A GIRL TO SWIM

A campaign to save lives, empower girls and tackle climate change
FLOODS are the human face of climate change.
Account for majority of climate-related deaths
Most flood victims die due to drowning
Women & children 14x more likely to die in disasters than men
FLOOD RISK RISING - EVEN IN ARID REGIONS

ISRAEL

Hiker, 18, killed in Israel flood tragedy
texted friend 'we're going to die' day
before death

JORDAN

Death toll in flash floods rises to 19

DEAD SEA: Jordanian rescuers searching
the Dead Sea area for survivors of flash
floods found the body of a 12-year-old girl
yesterday, raising the death toll to 19.
The body was recovered a day after
middle school students and teachers vis-
iting hot springs in the area were swept
away by the torrent. Civil defence officials
have said the surge, caused by heavy rains,
carried some for several kilometres toward
the Dead Sea.

Mustafa al-Busisah, the director-general
of the Kingdom’s Civil Defence, said that
13 of the dead and 21 of about three dozen
injured were middle school students. Sev-
eral people are still feared missing, he said.
A complex rescue operation involving
helicopters, divers, sniffer dogs and hun-
dreds of searchers had continued into the
night on Thursday.

Searches resumed after daybreak
yesterday. AP
DISASTERS SCORECARD

#IDDR2018 Can we do better?

Climate disasters = 91% of 20 year total
Extreme weather = 77% US$3 trillion losses;
#Floods #drought #storms = 94% people affected;
#Earthquakes & #tsunamis = 56% deaths;
#ResilienceForAll
Stereotypes of drowning symptoms – thrashing & gasping for air – not true. A silent, often less dramatic event.

Drowning victims almost always unable to call out for assistance. And cannot, except in rare circumstances, wave for help.

Neglected and misunderstood crisis
More than 90% of drowning deaths in developing world

Drowning 3rd leading cause of child death worldwide after malnutrition & diarrhoeah

Drowning the #1 cause of child death in Bangladesh, China, Vietnam; #2 in India...
According to Myanmar’s Health Management Information System, drowning is the leading cause of injury deaths in the country, with 1257 to 1511 deaths per year since 2005.
PREVENTIVE ACTIONS

Install BARRIERS controlling access to water

Provide SAFE PLACES (for example, a crèche) away from water for pre-school children, with capable child care

TEACH school-age children basic SWIMMING, WATER SAFETY AND SAFE RESCUE SKILLS

TRAIN bystanders in SAFE RESCUE AND RESUSCITATION

Set and enforce safe BOATING, SHIPPING AND FERRY REGULATIONS

IMPROVE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT locally and nationally

World Health Organization
WWW.WHO.INT/VIOLENCE_INJURY_PREVENTION/GLOBAL_REPORT_DROWNING
© World Health Organization 2014
FROM KYOTO 1997 … TO PARIS 2015
2015 – GLOBAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTERS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
TAGS
OBJECTIVES

- Raise awareness of drowning crisis
- Put at top of political agenda
- Raise support (funds) for grassroots efforts
- Connect effort to save lives with girls empowerment & climate change
SDGS / GLOBAL GOALS – Adopted by 195 countries in 2015. #AGENDA2030
Swimming 500km around the world to raise attention to drowning crisis and act on climate change
Thanks to CALCUTTA SWIMMING CLUB for hosting 10km opening swim by Malini Mehra on 25 March 2018 of ‘Teach A Girl To Swim’ campaign.
Why do more girls & women die in disasters?
THAILAND
Suthichai Yoon
Talk Show

CHINA – TV news
Teaching Disabled Kids to Swim – Bringing UK good practice to Bangladesh by twinning our partners, Level Water & CIPRB

Promoting pioneering drowning prevention work of our Bangladeshi partner, the Centre for Injury Prevention & Research Bangladesh (CIPRB), to the world
UK Parliament Dialogue on TAGS Campaign & Drowning Prevention, Oct 2018
Get everyone on board – from global to the local

“We must make sure that nobody is left behind when disaster strikes. Teaching girls to swim, empowering them so that they can save themselves, is a crucial aspect of managing disaster risk. As the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, I support wholeheartedly Malini’s campaign.”

Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNISDR
WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE – SPECIFIC POLICY ‘ASKS’

1. Integrate swim & water safety into national climate change & disaster risk reduction strategies – with explicit gender equality lens.

2. Incorporate survival swim training & water safety into national school curricula.

3. Integrate gender into improved data collection, analysis and research.
Teaching **Survival Swimming & Water Safety** can...

- Save Lives
- Build climate resilience
- Impart a Survival Skill & Life Skill
- Develop confidence in girls
- Address self-esteem & body image issues
- Improve physical health & mental health
- Swimming is both good for you and fun!
We CAN end drowning, tackle climate change & empower girls

Need to improve understanding, link hands & agendas ...
THANK YOU

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