Center for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB) is conducting Saving of Lives from Drowning (SoLiD) in Bangladesh project, is an implementation study established to test the effectiveness of interventions to prevent and reduce the burden of childhood drowning in rural Bangladesh.

Drowning is the leading cause of death among 1-4 year old children in Bangladesh, accounting for 43 percent of child mortality in this age group. Every year, more than 12,000 children in this age group die due to drowning. Lack of supervision, high exposure to water hazards, lack of education and poverty are some of the major risk factors for childhood drowning in Bangladesh.

CIPRB’s previous research “Prevention of Child Injuries through Social-intervention and Education (PRECISE)” generated evidence that childhood drowning can be prevented in Bangladesh. Two different interventions, namely, Anchal (community crèche) and SwimSafe were found effective in preventing drowning.

This issue provides information on the different activities of the SoLiD project. We expect that the evaluation of this 2 year project will generate some new knowledge on child drowning prevention, which could be applicable in similar LMIC settings.

The Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit (JH-IIRU), in collaboration with the Center for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB) and International Center for Diarrheal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b), with financial support from the Bloomberg Philanthropies, will assess the effectiveness of two drowning prevention interventions—the provision of playpens and enrollment in crèche (Anchal) facilities in seven upazilas (sub-districts) of the country. In addition, family education and community awareness on drowning prevention will be provided.

Children between the ages of 9 – 36 months who are usual residents of the selected upazilas will be the direct beneficiaries of this project. The goal is to reach 80,000 children with the interventions over a two-year period. The project will benefit over 270,000 households and maintain injury surveillance for more than 1.2 million people.
Anchal (community crèche)

The typical Anchal is a spacious room located in the house of a crèche mother (the Anchal ma) equipped with charts, toys and other amenities that stimulate social and cognitive development of children. The Anchal ma works with an assistant to supervise Children between the ages of 9 – 36 months up to 30 children six days a week between 9:00am and 1:00pm, the peak period when children are most at risk for drowning in rural Bangladesh. 1592 Anchals Have been functioning since June 2013 which serve 34,438 children.

40,000 children. From May 2014 to July 2014, 9401 playpens have already distributed.

Playpen

A playpen is four-sided rigid structure with slats that serve as a barrier to protect the child from the surrounding water hazards. It is a useful aid to parental supervision, especially during critical times when mothers are busy with household chores.

Two types of playpens (wooden and plastic) were distributed in SoLiD project. CIPRB will distribute 40,000 wooden playpens among

Baseline Survey

Prior to implement the Anchal and Playpen interventions of the SoLiD project a baseline survey was conducted to assess the current magnitude of morbidity and mortality due to various injuries including drowning in the selected intervention areas and to identify the eligible children for enrollment in the project. The survey was accomplished in 302 villages of 19 unions of three upazilas, namely Raiganj, Sherpur sadar and Manohardi, during June 2013 to September 2013. A total of 1,28,820 households, comprising of over 5,34,221 population covered the survey. Data was collected by 168 trained data collectors under the supervision of 32 Survey Supervisors. Data analysis is in progress and a report will be published in near future.
SoLiD project has an inbuilt active surveillance system to measure the effectiveness of child drowning prevention interventions over a two year time frame, to track the trends of various child injuries along with others over time, and to estimate the cost-effectiveness of the SoLiD intervention package. Following the baseline survey, data collectors have been visiting every household of the study area to collect demographic and injury related morbidity and mortality data every 4 months interval. The surveillance system has the opportunity to record information on birth, death, illness, marriage or divorce and in and out migration in the surveillance areas. A total number of 10 Surveillance Supervisors and 40 Surveillance Data Collectors have been working for surveillance data collection in three different field sites of SoLiD project since 5th November 2013.

1st round of surveillance data collection was wrapped-up on 05th March 2014 within four months round of surveillance successfully. A total of 131,934 HH of 1st round surveillance data have been entered. 2nd round commenced on 08th March 2014 in all fields of CIPRB. 118,444 Households (HH) out of 131,934 have been visited in 2nd round surveillance till June’2014 in three Upazilas which was 89.78% of all households. Surveillance codebook has been finalized by CIPRB and icddr,b.

**Launching ceremony of SoLiD**

“Saving of Lives from Drowning (SoLiD) in Bangladesh” project officially launched on Thursday, 27 February, 2014 with a national seminar at Sasakawa Auditorium, icddr,b,. The chief guest speaker was Mr. MM Neazuddin, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and featured special guests Prof. Dr. Mohammad Shahidullah, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BSMMU; Mr. Ganesh Chandra Sarkar, Director General, DGFP; Prof. Dr. Deen Mohd. Noorul Huq, Director General, DGHS and Dr. Kelly Henning, Director of Public Health at the Bloomberg Philanthropies. Special guests gave their speeches in the seminar. Welcome note was given by Dr. John David Clemens, Executive Director, icddr,b and key note presented by Dr. Shams El Arifeen, Director of Child and Adolescent Health icddr,b; Dr. Aminur Rahman, Director of the International Drowning Research Centre-Bangladesh, CIPRB; and Dr. Olakunle Alonge, the Program Manager for SoLiD at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.
The joint-chief hosts for the seminar were Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlur Rahman, Executive Director, CIPRB; Dr. Shams El Arifeen, Director of Child and Adolescent Health, icddr,b; and Dr. Adnan Hyder, the project lead and Director of JH-IIRU and the event was chaired by Dr. Abbas U Bhuiya, Deputy Executive Director, icddr,b. Over 100 participants including government officials, representatives from the development partners, civil society, NGOs, academia, researchers, CIPRB and icddr,b officials, journalists and allied stakeholders took part in the event.

The Chief Guest, Mr. MM Neazuddin, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare mentioned, “We need to take different approaches, such as raising awareness, education and capacity building of communities to prevent the deaths of children due to drowning. I congratulate the organizers on taking the initiative to develop an intervention package to address this major public health issue.” He thanked the development partners for their contribution, and CIPRB and icddr,b for undertaking the responsibility of implementing to the SoLiD project.

The Seminar was welcomed by Dr. Shams El Arifeen, Senior Scientist & Director, CCAH, icddr,b. Dr. Adnan Hyder, Director, JH-IIRU & Director, Health Systems Program, JHBSPH presented the concept of SoLiD.

Key note on “Burden of childhood drowning in Bangladesh” presented by Dr. Shams El Arifeen, Senior Scientist & Director, CCAH, icddr,b. Dr. Aminur Rahman, Director, CIPRB presented “Childhood drowning prevention interventions: Experiences so far” and Dr. Olakunle Alonge, Assistant Scientist, JH-IIRU, JHBSPH discussed and presented “SoLiD project.”

After Seminar Dr. Adnan Hyder, Prof. AKM Fazlur Rahman, Dr. Saidur Rahman Mashreky, Dr. Shams El Arifeen, Dr. Aminur Rahman, Dr. Olakunle Alonge attended a Press briefing with Media.
Saving of Lives from Drowning (SoLiD) in Bangladesh

SoLiD Team members

**Project Director**- Dr. Aminur Rahaman  
**Team Leader**- Dr. Kamran ul Baset  
**Associate Director**- Finance, Administration and HR- Md. Zillur Rahman  
**Deputy team leader**- Dr. Md. Al Amin Bhuiyan  
**Senior Statistician** - Md. Abu Talab  
**Senior Finance and Administrative Officer**- Mohammad Mahadi Alam  
**Upazilla Coordinators (UC)**  
**UC Raiganj**- Dr. Ikhtiar Ahmed  
**UC Sherpur**- Dr. Md Razibul Islam  
**UC Monohordi** - Zobaer Alam  
**Training Coordinator**- Rabbya Ashrafi  
Asma Ul Hosna  
10 Anchal Monitoring Officers, 40 Anchal Supervisors, 10 Surveillance Supervisors, 40 Surveillance Data collectors, 12 data enterer, 1592 Anchal Ma. 1592 Anchal Assistant.

Editorial board  
Asma Ul Hosna  
Dr. Aminur Rahaman  
Dr. Kamran ul Baset  
Dr. Md. Al Amin Bhuiyan  
Rabbya Ashrafi

Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB)  
House # B162, Road # 23, New DOHS, Mohakhali  
Dhaka-1206, Bangladesh  
Phone: +88-02-8814988  
E-mail:info@ciprb.org  
Website: www.ciprb.org