**The World Health Organization calls on global community to “do one thing” to save lives on World Drowning Prevention Day**

**25 July 2022** l Today, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a call for people around the world to “do one thing” to prevent drowning. As one of the leading causes of death globally for children and young people ages 1 – 24 years and the third leading cause of injury-related deaths overall, drowning tragically claims more than 236,000 lives each year. In [insert country name], drowning claimed the lives of an estimated [insert number of deaths[[1]](#footnote-1)] of people in 2019. To mark World Drowning Prevention Day, [insert summary of activties taking place in your country].

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More than 90% of drowning deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, with children under the age of five being at highest risk. These deaths are frequently linked to daily, routine activities, such as bathing, collecting water for domestic use, travelling over water on boats or ferries, and through occupational activity, such as fishing and aquaculture. The impacts of seasonal or extreme weather events – including monsoons – are also a frequent cause of drowning, and are largely preventable through a number of interventions.

[Insert quote from drowning prevention spokesperson in your country].

[Insert additional detail on activties taking place for World Drowning Prevention Day in your country].

WHO recommends six evidence-based measures to prevent drowning, including: installing barriers controlling access to water; training bystanders in safe rescue and resuscitation; teaching school-aged children basic swimming and water safety skills; providing supervised day care for children; setting and enforcing safe boating, shipping and ferry regulations; and improving flood risk management.

This year, the theme of World Drowning Prevention Day invites the global community to “do one thing” to prevent drowning. Examples of actions that can be taken are as follows:

* **Individuals** can share drowning prevention and water safety advice with their families, friends and colleagues; sign up for swimming or water safety lessons; or support local drowning prevention charities and groups.
* **Groups** can host public events to share water safety information; launch water safety campaigns; or commit to developing or delivering new drowning prevention programmes, using recommended best practice interventions.
* **Governments** can develop or announce new drowning prevention policies, strategies, legislation or investment; convene multisectoral roundtables or parliamentary discussions on drowning burden and solutions; and introduce or commit to supporting drowning prevention programming domestically or internationally.

Notes to Editors:

In 2021, the first [UN General Assembly resolution was adopted on global drowning prevention](https://undocs.org/A/RES/75/273). The resolution asks WHO to coordinate drowning prevention actions within the UN System and lead preparations for World Drowning Prevention Day.

WHO has published agrowing library of drowning prevention assessments and guidance documents. The 2014[*Global Report on Downing: Preventing a leading killer*](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/global-report-on-drowning-preventing-a-leading-killer). In May 2022, WHO published its latest [guidance](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240046726) on best practice recommendations for three of these interventions: the provision of day-care for children, basic swimming and water safety skills, and safe rescue and resuscitation training.

World Health Organization (WHO) provided World Drowning Prevention Day resources and information:

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-drowning-prevention-day/2022>

United Nations World Drowning Prevention Day information <https://www.un.org/en/observances/drowning-prevention-day>

**Global virtual webinar event:**

To mark World Drowning Prevention Day 2022, WHO and international partners will host a global virtual webinar event on 27 July (12:00 – 13:30 CEST), to discuss approaches to working across the UN system to prevent **drowning and showcase the “one thing**” partners from around the world have committed to for preventing drowning in their communities. Please register for the event using the following link: <https://who.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0ldeiorzMpG9EQR-6AlBABlSQKCWQhUZ9w>

**WHO attributed number of drowning deaths in specific countries:**

| **Country name** | **Number of people who have died from drowning in 2019** |
| --- | --- |
| Afghanistan | 996 |
| Albania | 25 |
| Algeria | 451 |
| Angola | 1600 |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 2 |
| Argentina | 380 |
| Armenia | 21 |
| Australia | 177 |
| Austria | 42 |
| Azerbaijan | 335 |
| Bahamas | 26 |
| Bahrain | 22 |
| Bangladesh | 7094 |
| Barbados | 1 |
| Belarus | 543 |
| Belgium | 79 |
| Belize | 24 |
| Benin | 570 |
| Bhutan | 20 |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | 406 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 48 |
| Botswana | 83 |
| Brazil | 4937 |
| Brunei Darussalam | 9 |
| Bulgaria | 129 |
| Burkina Faso | 910 |
| Burundi | 598 |
| Cabo Verde | 27 |
| Cambodia | 1113 |
| Cameroon | 1178 |
| Canada | 283 |
| Central African Republic | 202 |
| Chad | 1063 |
| Chile | 283 |
| China | 52807 |
| Colombia | 689 |
| Comoros | 35 |
| Congo | 104 |
| Costa Rica | 97 |
| Cote d'Ivoire | 1232 |
| Croatia | 86 |
| Cuba | 231 |
| Cyprus | 33 |
| Czechia | 152 |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 1126 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 3454 |
| Denmark | 37 |
| Djibouti | 28 |
| Dominican Republic | 248 |
| Ecuador | 470 |
| Egypt | 1122 |
| El Salvador | 137 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 39 |
| Eritrea | 118 |
| Estonia | 30 |
| Eswatini | 87 |
| Ethiopia | 3133 |
| Fiji | 60 |
| Finland | 106 |
| France | 868 |
| Gabon | 42 |
| Gambia | 69 |
| Georgia | 95 |
| Germany | 459 |
| Ghana | 740 |
| Greece | 435 |
| Grenada | 4 |
| Guatemala | 463 |
| Guinea | 262 |
| Guinea | 528 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 89 |
| Guyana | 145 |
| Haiti | 1306 |
| Honduras | 183 |
| Hungary | 97 |
| Iceland | 1 |
| India | 48774 |
| Indonesia | 4518 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 930 |
| Iraq | 658 |
| Ireland | 57 |
| Israel | 39 |
| Italy | 344 |
| Jamaica | 10 |
| Japan | 8409 |
| Jordan | 107 |
| Kazakhstan | 680 |
| Kenya | 1200 |
| Kiribati | 9 |
| Kuwait | 19 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 226 |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | 568 |
| Latvia | 127 |
| Lebanon | 62 |
| Lesotho | 200 |
| Liberia | 127 |
| Libya | 74 |
| Lithuania | 150 |
| Luxembourg | 2 |
| Madagascar | 825 |
| Malawi | 458 |
| Malaysia | 820 |
| Maldives | 14 |
| Mali | 1053 |
| Malta | 2 |
| Mauritania | 116 |
| Mauritius | 43 |
| Mexico | 1799 |
| Micronesia (Federated States of) | 17 |
| Mongolia | 151 |
| Montenegro | 11 |
| Morocco | 426 |
| Mozambique | 1418 |
| Myanmar | 2212 |
| Namibia | 110 |
| Nepal | 1505 |
| Netherlands | 98 |
| New Zealand | 54 |
| Nicaragua | 157 |
| Niger | 1581 |
| Nigeria | 6584 |
| North Macedonia | 18 |
| Norway | 65 |
| Oman | 211 |
| Pakistan | 5376 |
| Panama | 103 |
| Papua New Guinea | 240 |
| Paraguay | 178 |
| Peru | 584 |
| Philippines | 3881 |
| Poland | 636 |
| Portugal | 79 |
| Qatar | 45 |
| Republic of Korea | 501 |
| Republic of Moldova | 179 |
| Romania | 596 |
| Russian Federation | 6629 |
| Rwanda | 285 |
| Saint Lucia | 9 |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 8 |
| Samoa | 13 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 4 |
| Saudi Arabia | 821 |
| Senegal | 494 |
| Serbia | 73 |
| Seychelles | 12 |
| Sierra Leone | 366 |
| Singapore | 29 |
| Slovakia | 144 |
| Slovenia | 17 |
| Solomon Islands | 80 |
| Somalia | 1272 |
| South Africa | 2403 |
| South Sudan | 466 |
| Spain | 446 |
| Sri Lanka | 731 |
| Sudan | 1684 |
| Suriname | 28 |
| Sweden | 114 |
| Switzerland | 49 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 215 |
| Tajikistan | 580 |
| Thailand | 3956 |
| Timor-Leste | 84 |
| Togo | 225 |
| Tonga | 4 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 31 |
| Tunisia | 122 |
| Turkey | 549 |
| Turkmenistan | 153 |
| Uganda | 1238 |
| Ukraine | 2312 |
| United Arab Emirates | 169 |
| United Kingdom | 301 |
| United Republic of Tanzania | 1642 |
| United States of America | 4070 |
| Uruguay | 65 |
| Uzbekistan | 1147 |
| Vanuatu | 35 |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | 388 |
| Viet Nam | 5097 |
| Yemen | 1142 |
| Zambia | 689 |
| Zimbabwe | 956 |

1. WHO attributed number of drowning deaths in specific countries are available in a table on page 2 of this document. Data can be accessed online through the WHO Global Health Estimates portal: <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/mortality-and-global-health-estimates/ghe-leading-causes-of-death> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)