



FINAL REPORT
SwimSafe Da Nang
A Drowning Prevention Program
Supported by the Australian Government
Presented by:
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Royal Life Saving Society – Australia
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Introduction

The SwimSafe Danang Program is a partnership with key stakeholders in Vietnam to influence the development of drowning prevention research, policy and practice, and the associated capacity to prevent drowning in Vietnam and the wider region.

This report outlines the key achievements, lessons and opportunities derived from the SwimSafe Danang project 2010–2011. It has been developed in consultation with key partners including The Alliance for Safe Children, and our local partners the Peoples Committee of Danang and the Department of Education and Training.

Background

Drowning – a silent and preventable epidemic

Child drowning has traditionally been significantly under-counted in the child mortality statistics released by WHO, UNICEF and other major development institutions. Recently published data shows that drowning is the leading cause of death after infancy in Asia and may exceed 250,000 deaths every year. While drowning is known to affect individuals, families, communities and nations in ways similar to other preventable diseases, it has not yet captured the full attention of international, regional or national development agencies.

Drowning in Vietnam

Drowning in children is a significant public health issue. Research is underway to update estimates of the child drowning rates across the country. The importance of drowning prevention is reflected by the Government of Vietnam's formation of the Inter-ministerial Panel on Child Drowning in 2009.

Since 2009 the Government of Vietnam has shown significant commitment to alleviating child drowning. Its efforts include partnering with SwimSafe Danang and in the delivery of the World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2011, and through a range of activities with UNICEF Bangladesh and via other government departments.

SwimSafe Danang

SwimSafe Danang was established in 2009 as a component of the Safe Danang project. SwimSafe Danang is a large scale pilot program that uses survival swimming lessons as a drowning prevention strategy in Danang, Vietnam. The project was initiated by TASC and the Hanoi School of Public Health (HSPH), with heavy involvement of the Peoples Committee of Danang, and the Ministries of Health, Education and Tourism.

In 2010, the program was expanded with assistance from the Australian Government. The stated justification for this support in 2010 included SwimSafe Danang's:

- Potential as a demonstration project for the Government of Vietnam's Inter-ministerial plan on child drowning prevention
- Potential to support the Ministry of Education's policy on survival swimming in schools
- Potential as a demonstration project for emerging programs in other East Asian countries including Cambodia and Laos

- Potential as a model child drowning intervention that could be used to build or support capacity development in conjunction with the World Conference on Drowning Prevention in Danang in 2011, stretching its influence beyond the Asian region and into other LMICs
- Position as a key component of the regional drowning prevention strategy being developed by Royal Life Saving and its partners, with links to sister programs in Bangladesh and Thailand.

Australian Government Support for the emerging issue of drowning

The Australian Government has provided support to Royal Life Saving in three areas:

1. As a major partner in the WCDP 2011
2. Through the establishment of the International Drowning Research Centre in Bangladesh
3. Through the SwimSafe Danang project

In June 2011, AusAID initiated the development of a concept note to guide or clarify its drowning prevention policy following the WCDP 2011. This concept note sought to focus on the Mekong region and Bangladesh. At this point the policy development process is continuing.

Overarching activity goal:

To develop and implement the SwimSafe Danang – drowning prevention program as a demonstration program to build capacity to prevent drowning in Vietnam and the wider region.

Specific objectives:

The specific objectives were divided into five key areas to assist in planning, management and reporting. These key areas and objectives are used throughout this document to provide clarity in terms of the relationship between the funded components and the overall program objectives. They are set out below;

1. Stakeholder Engagement – To engage key stakeholders in the development and implementation of the program. Key stakeholders include but are not limited to: program partners, policy makers, government officials, administrators, trainers, parents and participants.
2. Drowning Prevention Program – To develop, implement and review the survival swimming program in ten venues in order to reach at least 6,000 students.
3. SwimSafe Trainer Support – To supervise, mentor and increase the capacity of the network of SwimSafe trainers. This objective includes recruitment and remuneration, as well as the investigation of sustainability measures for future program implementation.
4. SwimSafe Venue Management – To develop and implement the venue management, safety and security plan across the 10 SwimSafe venues.
5. Building Capacity – To utilise SwimSafe Danang as a demonstration project in coordination with the World Conference on Drowning Prevention (WCDP) activities to raise awareness of Australian government support and build capacity in Vietnam, Australia and other Low and Middle Income Countries.

Key Area:	Stakeholder Engagement
Specific Objective:	To engage key stakeholders in the development and implementation of the program in Da Nang. These key stakeholders include but are not limited to: program partners, policy makers, government officials, administrators, trainers, parents and participants.
Funded Components (Output)	Achievements
Management of key partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall project implementation is conducted by a small core staff through a highly decentralised process which places the teachers under the day-to-day control of the venue managers The venue managers are the principals at the schools where the portable pools are sited; or the district education officer when students are sent to either permanent pools or beaches At the pools, the lead swimming teacher takes immediate responsibility for the safety of the children At the beach, the senior life guard has this responsibility. Either the venue manager or the lead teacher may inform the SwimSafe office about problems or issues needing attention Because monitoring is such a routine part of the program, (see safety and venue management), both minor and major issues quickly come to management's attention <p><u>Key lessons, opportunities:</u> <i>The project office team has potential to manage a larger scale project i.e. increased venues. As the project has matured and responsibilities devolved to venue managers, they have been able to focus on stakeholder management, supervision and improvements to instructional quality. The project team has also contributed to WCDP implementation, and support to various Vietnamese Government committees.</i></p>
Engagement of school principals, teachers and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder engagement continued at two levels: the venue level and the community level Parents constituted the most critical stakeholders. To reduce drowning risks for younger children, the program provided interactive activities with students which included water safety awareness and home safety messages to parents and other caregivers Trainers met regularly with parents who observe the lessons and are briefed on all aspects of the SwimSafe Program School administrators, especially principals and district education officers, are considered critical parts of the core management scheme as they influence local resources needed to support and maintain the program <p><u>Key lessons, opportunities:</u> <i>School principals have become key advocates for the program within Danang and directly to counterparts in other provinces. SwimSafe has elevated the position of the participating principals, and provided leadership opportunities. The cohort of master trainers, several having participated in the program for 3 years, has provided 3 training workshops in other province in Oct–Nov 2011.</i> <i>This is a key program benefit as it provides for Vietnamese master trainer instruction, as opposed to the sporadic instructional support often provided by English speaking instructors flown in from Australia and other High Income Countries.</i></p>
Central Government engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Da Nang People's Committee provides political support at the highest level. Through the Da Nang Office of Foreign Affairs (DOFA), the People's Committee receives regular information from the program and can ask specific questions when desired DOFA provided strong support for the WCDP 2011 event including access to demonstration venues, provision of a welcome desk within the arrival terminal and speakers for opening sessions The Department of Education and Training and the Son Tra Eco Tourism Board serve

<p>as both key stakeholders and implementers of the Swim Safe program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They provided both teachers and venues for the program and are a ready source of constructive feedback and program improvement • The Danang People's Committee supported the implementation of the WCDP 2011 event • The Director of Prevention Services, Dept. of Health, provided the supervisory link because drowning prevention is seen, in part, as a public health issue. <p>Key lessons, opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The program has received strong program support from Government partners, who have been integral to project governance, implementation and review.</i> - <i>All stakeholders are keen to support program expansion across Danang (DOET) and into other provinces (MOET). MOET have expressed interest in becoming a national partner.</i> - <i>This support is demonstrated through the letters contained in the appendixes.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Appendix 1: Letter of support from Huỳnh Thị Tam Thanh, Vice Director, Danang People's Committee.</i> ○ <i>Appendix 2: Letter of support from Ngu Duy A, Director of Students Affairs Department on behalf of Minister.</i>

Key Area:	Drowning Prevention Program
Specific Objective:	To develop, implement and review the survival swimming program in 12 venues and reach at least 6,000 students.
Funded Components (Outputs)	Achievements
Implementation plan	<p>An implementation plan has been refined and used to guide the SwimSafe Danang program in 2010–2011. The plan comprised of several components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program operates in four modes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre summer – during and after school, March – May ○ Vacation Program – May to September ○ Post summer – during and after school, September – October ○ Winter – after school, November – February • The program has been delivered in 14 venues: 11 portable pools located in a cross section of school in the province, 1 permanent pool attached to a hospital, and 2 open water venues in partnership with the Danang Lifeguard Service • The program reached 4626 children in 2010 • The program reached 5839 children in 2011 <p>Key lessons, opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Program adjustments and a focus on instructor support has increased achievement rates among participating children. Demand from parents and schools outstrip supply</i> - <i>DOET officials have made the point that even at 6000 children per year, the program caters for only 15% of primary school students. The only alternative to SwimSafe in Danang is private coaching lessons provided at the central pool</i> - <i>The program has also shown that participants are happy to travel to neighbouring school to access the program, meaning that each pool has a logical catchment of several kilometres</i>

Key Area:	SwimSafe Trainer Support
Specific Objective:	To supervise, mentor and increase the capacity of the network of SwimSafe trainers. This objective includes recruitment and remuneration, as well as the investigation of sustainability measures for future program implementation.
Funded Components	Achievements

(Output)	
Deliver 'train the trainer' workshop and support activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Train the trainer' system developed, trialled and implemented. Consisted of pre-program training workshop, mid-term workshop and ongoing workplace supervision • VIDA's provided support to Trainers of Trainers (TOTs), who then delivered update and training for new instructors • Workplace mentoring and assessment program implemented to improve instructional quality • Slight adjustments made to curriculum, and mid program training workshop conducted • The 11 Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) have been identified, provided with ongoing support and have delivered training workshops to instructor in Danang and in other provinces in partnership with MOET <p><u>Key lessons, opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>System of TOTs has proved effective in providing initial training and ongoing support for instructors. The TOTs have increased in confidence, and provide valuable inputs into program review, adjustment and smooth deployment of changes into field</i> - <i>TOTs were trained and monitored by qualified trainers from Australia, and used standardised materials prepared in Vietnamese in consultation</i>
Trainer supervision mentoring and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainer supervision was provided through a number of measures • The project managers provided weekly support to venues, following a schedule that divided Danang into regions • Further support was provided in 2011 by two VIDA supported swimming teachers who focused on quality teaching and program adjustments • TOTs provided training through workshops, and each venue had a lead teacher who was responsible for supervision of the small pool of instructors assign to a school pool <p><u>Key lessons, opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Close supervision of instructors is required to ensure standardisation of assessment, performance management and the monitoring of outcomes and child safety</i> - <i>The principals provided strong supervision, particularly given that they were effectively the employees of the teachers themselves</i> - <i>VIDA program provided good support, although a six month placement had to be negotiated to suit the program cycle</i>

Key Area:	SwimSafe Venue Management
Specific Objective:	To develop and implement the venue management, safety and security plan across the 12 SwimSafe venues.
Funded Components (Outputs)	Achievements
Development of venue management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational control of the day-to-day running of the venues was decentralized to the school principals • A full assessment of all facilities was undertaken at the commencement of each season • Upgrades in the basic facilities including showers, change areas, improved fencing and covers were undertaken • An ongoing program of maintenance of fences, gates, and specific security is required • These roles were assigned to local SwimSafe staff that monitored key elements of the project on a daily basis • The two officers visited each venue at least twice each week. The primary tasks included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Using venue checklists, they noted the general maintenance condition of

	<p>the pools, checked the condition of the water using observation and chemical test kits, checked fabric seems and support pieces on the frames, etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Making or arranging and logging minor repairs. Alerting central office of the need for major repairs ○ They also made note of teachers, numbers of students, and performed a check of the accuracy of class records as a way of providing administrative checks and controls ○ Specific issues were addressed with venue managers and resolved immediately if possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unresolved common issues were addressed with the District Education officers (for schools) or senior life guards (for beach training sites). These included a review of program data, adjustments to assessment checklists and safety checks for pool struts <p><u>Key lessons, opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The SwimSafe portable swimming pools are showing good durability, and require only minor repairs due to wear and minor rust to struts</i> - <i>Adjustments have been made to fence heights and materials to ensure after hours security</i> - <i>Additional amenities such as showers and change rooms helped establish and reinforce program importance</i>
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Key Area:	Building Capacity
Specific Objective:	To utilise SwimSafe Danang as a demonstration project in coordination with the World Conference on Drowning Prevention (WCDP) activities to raise awareness of Australian Government support and build capacity in Vietnam, Australia and other Low and Middle Income Countries.
Funded Components (Outputs)	Achievements
Visibility and recognition of Australian Government contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Banners at each venue acknowledged Australian Government contribution to the program ● SwimSafe T-Shirts provided to each graduate include AusAID logo ● All program materials carried AusAID logos ● A planned visit from then Foreign Minister Stephen Smith was cancelled at last moment in June 2010 ● The SwimSafe program was visited by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia during WCDP 2011 and featured widely across Vietnamese media ● SwimSafe featured heavily throughout WCDP 2011, including as part of interactive tours to two pool venues and the beach venue ● The program was visited by Consul General Mr Swift, and Consul Ms Woodford in September 2011 ● RLSSA conducted media featuring child drowning in Asia and SwimSafe in June 2011 ● Vietnamese Government conducted survival swimming workshop at SwimSafe Danang in January 2011, and July 2011 ● Presentations were made at the Vietnamese Government child drowning workshops February 2011 ● Presentations have been conducted at Australian events including Australian Water Safety Conference 2010, AUSTSWIM conference 2010–2011 <p><u>Key lessons, opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>SwimSafe has provided significant visibility and recognition for the Australian Government contribution throughout the program. This has included to local communities, at a provincial and central government levels, and among the Australian community.</i>

Linking SwimSafe to WCDP activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SwimSafe Danang was an integral component of the WCDP program with interactive workshops, stream presentations and a visit by the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia The interactive workshop allowed representatives from a number of countries and organisations to participate in a workshop aimed at building capacity to design and implement similar initiatives The stream presentation allowed key stakeholders to share their experience, including technical aspects with conference participants <p><u>Key lessons, opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>SwimSafe was a key feature of the WCDP 2011. Feedback from the event, particularly from those participants from LMICs was greatly appreciative of the opportunity</i> <i>RLSSA received requests for SwimSafe support from Pakistan, Philippines, Laos and Cambodia immediately after the event</i>
Linking SwimSafe to Vietnamese Government Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SwimSafe is strongly supported by the Danang People's Committee, and departments of education and tourism in Danang MOET implemented a national policy on survival swimming MOET conducted survival swimming workshops in Danang on two occasions MOET contracted Swim Safe program instruction for 3 provincial workshops in Oct–Nov 2011. MOET has requested consideration of support to adopt SwimSafe as a core program in support of its policy on survival swimming in schools The Inter-ministerial Panel on Child drowning is developing a child drowning strategy <p><u>Key lessons, opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>SwimSafe and associated activities WCDP 2011 has provided much support to the Government of Vietnam through its Inter-ministerial panel on child drowning and in support of the MOET's policy on survival swimming</i> <i>Several high level requests have been made for further support at national level across the 15 high drowning provinces in partnership with MOET</i> <i>The Government of Vietnam is developing a child drowning strategy and has set provincial government targets for drowning prevention measures. These efforts are hampered by a lack of resource for implementation and coordination</i>

Summary Results

Participation and Pass rates

The SwimSafe program reached 4,626 children in 2010 across 12 venues, and 5,839 children in 14 venues in 2011. Venues included portable swimming pools located in 11 schools across the province, 1 rehabilitation pool, and 2 open water locations. The program was conducted in four modes; as an after school program pre and post summer, as a vacation program and during winter

Children were provided 20 swimming and water safety lessons with the goal of achieving 25 metres of continuous swimming, and a survival sequence which included floating for over a minute. Pass rates varied from an overall pass rate of 68.7% in 2010, rising to 84.3% in 2011.

Pass rates were reviewed in detail following SwimSafe 2010, and adjustments were made to teaching techniques, assessment guidelines and class management techniques. This resulted in improved pass rates across all age groups. (Table 2 & 3)

Table 2: Pass rates by age Swim Safe 2010 (4626)

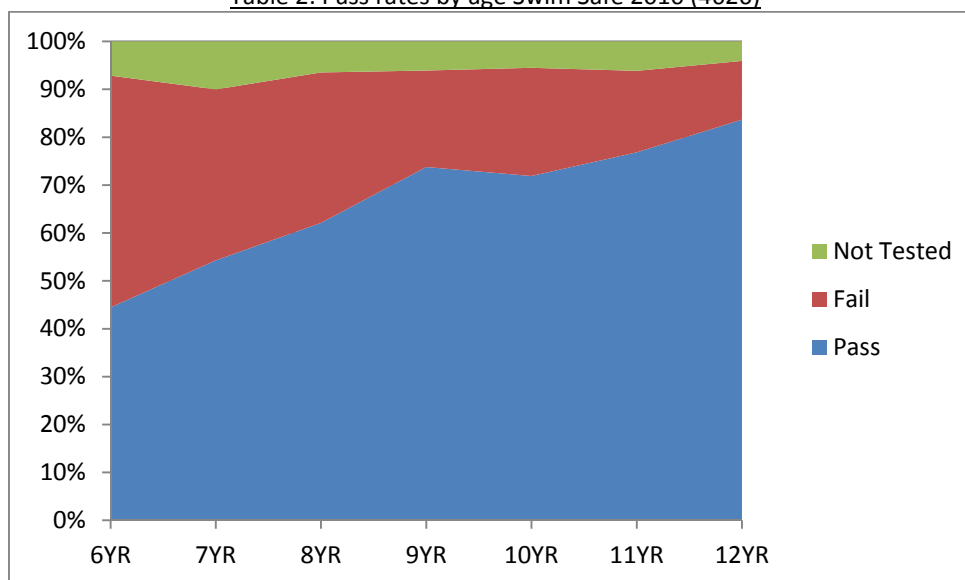
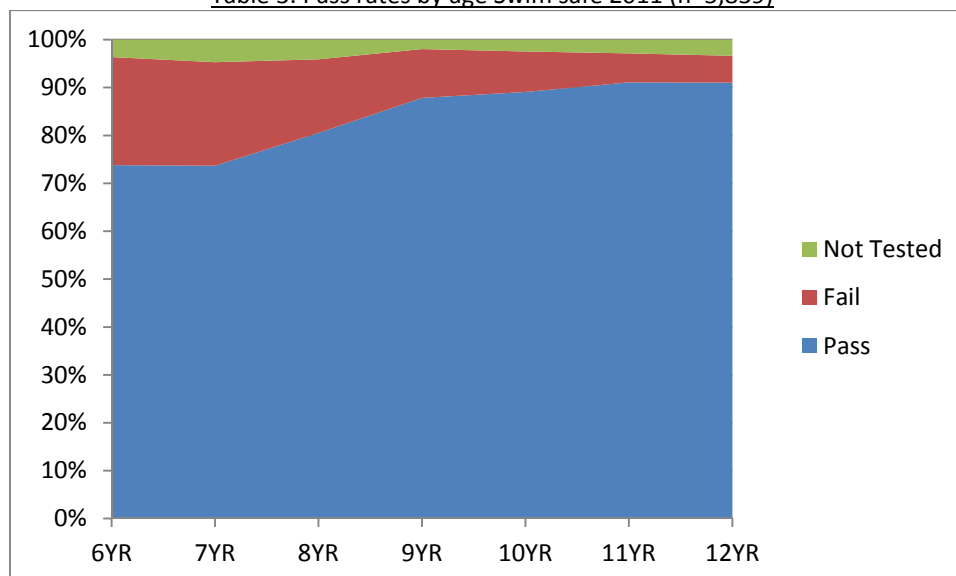


Table 3: Pass rates by age Swim safe 2011 (n=5,839)



Participation by Gender

Program managers make every effort to ensure that program enrolments reflect a 50:50 gender mix. Ultimately, the decision to enrol is that of the parent and some cultural factors have had to be addressed. This includes a concern by parents regarding sun-care, resulting in permanent shade covers all on pools, and privacy and hygiene, resulting in change rooms and showers being erected and student hygiene being reinforced as part of lessons.

The tables below (3, 4) show the analysis of program participation by gender and cycle. Whilst there is some variation between cycles, overall the program achieves an approximate 50:50 ratio.

Table 4: SwimSafe Participation by Gender

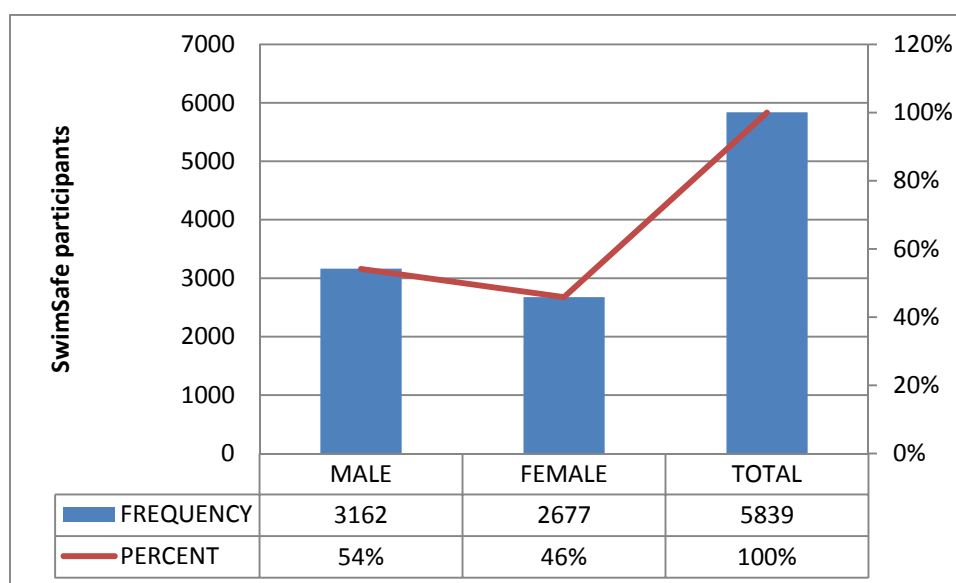


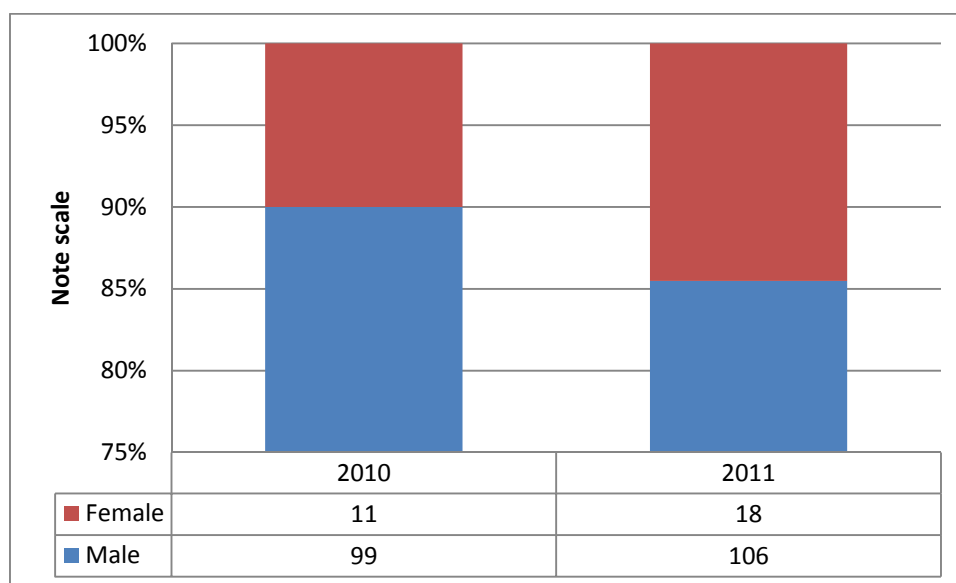
Table 5: SwimSafe Participation by gender and cycle

		EARLY CYCLE	CYCLE 1	CYCLE 2	AFTER SCHOOL	TOTAL
MALE	Count	105	1395	1510	152	3162
	%	3.3%	44.1%	47.8%	4.8%	100%
FEMALE	Count	86	1294	1171	126	2677
	%	3.2%	48.3%	43.7%	4.7%	100%
TOTAL	Count	191	2689	2681	278	5839
	%	3%	46%	46%	5%	100%

Instructor Gender

Instructor gender is another area where SwimSafe has made some progress. Instructors are essential appointed by the Department of Education and Training (DOET), and there requirements include that the instructor is employed and train by DOET as a Physical Education Teacher. This cohort is predominately males. SwimSafe has been working to ensure that there are no further barriers to recruitment of female instructors. Proportion of female instructors was lifted from 10% in 2010 to 15% in 2011 (Table . Several of these female instructors have been recruited to the master trainer cohort and now provide training and supervision to trainee instructors.

Table 6: SwimSafe Instructor Gender 2010 – 2011



Disability

There is no data available to identify disability in participants. The partner schools are run by the government, and attempts will be made to gain further information that identifies any students with disabilities in 2012. It is important to note that SwimSafe excludes no student, and reinforces this to program partners.

Issues

Achievement rates

- 5,839 students have participated in SwimSafe in 2011.
- 256 children completed a second cycle, making the total 6095 places in 2011.
- The overall pass rate is 84.3%.
- There were 54% boys, and 46 % girls. Both boys and girls had similar pass rates, 84%.
- Children age 6-9 years comprised 66% of the total. They had an 81 % passing rate.
- Children aged 10-12 comprised 36% of the total with a 90% passing rate.
- The passing rates for the 4 cycles were:
 - o Cycle 0- 76.4%;
 - o Cycle 1- 80.6%;
 - o Cycle 2- 88.8%;
 - o Cycle 3- 82.4%.
- The 256 students whose training was extended from cycle 2 into Cycle 3 had a 96.5% pass rate; “new” students had an 82.4% pass rate.
- Analysis by venue by age group has been conducted.
- Hoang Du Khuong school had the highest pass rates at 91%
- Ngo Gia Tu and Son Tra (Beach) venues had the lowest pass rates at 73% and 74%

Operational

- Water quality in portable pools - chemical imbalances and debris in the water associated with high rotation of people through the pools continues to pose a problem. This has been improved through ongoing training of venue managers, sourcing of better quality tanked water for filling and top-up of pools.
- Pool security – has been improved with ongoing modifications to pool fencing, location of pools and training for venue managers.

Strategic

- There has been increasing interest from Government partners in project continuation and support for activities in other provinces from Ministry of Education and Training (MOET).
- SwimSafe trainers have supported MOET in trainer capacity workshops for 15 high drowning provinces.
- SwimSafe Danang has partnered with programs being initiated in Hoi An and Hue in order to share expertise, and provide monitoring of instructional results for both programs

Sustainability

- **Royal Life Saving Contributions (2010 forecast)**
 - Royal Life Saving will provide management, oversight and mentoring to the project
 - Royal Life Saving will contribute the train-the-trainer expertise
 - Royal Life Saving will review and create all public awareness and promotional materials
 - Royal Life Saving will support the current regional AYAD in contributions of management
 - Royal Life Saving values this contribution in kind at over \$60,000 over two years, plus cash contributions from its revenues at \$30,000 over two years
- **2011 Update:**
 - RLSSA continues to provide in kind contributions to program management, design and supervision.
 - RLSSA cash contribution to SwimSafe 2009-2011 exceeds \$250,000 (although this level is unsustainable without fundraising and other partnerships)
 - RLSSA Board witnessed the SwimSafe program in Danang during WCDP2011 and remains committed to supporting it as a mechanism to support the Government of Vietnam's survival swimming policy
 - RLSSA has budgeted to make a continued cash contribution to international development in and funds are to be allocated to SwimSafe in 2011-2012 pending confirmation of continuation
- **Fundraising Strategy(2010 forecast)**
 - RLSSA will secure Overseas Aid Gift Deductibility Status (OAGDS) in the coming months. Fundraising for child drowning prevention activities such as SwimSafe Danang is a key priority.
 - RLSSA will create a specific fundraising appeal tied to the SwimSafe Danang program that allows the Australian community make contributions to the venues, instructional and public awareness components of the program.
 - RLSSA will also seek donor contributions in partnership with Aquatic Facility and Industry groups in Australia
 - RLSSA will investigate a fundraising strategy linked to conference participation
 - Fundraising is expected to contribute funds in the 2010-2011 budget year, and continue into 2011/2012
- **2011 Update**
 - RLSSA has achieved OAGDS status
 - RLSSA is building a fundraising website in support of its international development activities
 - This website will be completed within 3 weeks and will provide a mechanism for donations and regular giving
 - RLSSA has received small scale corporate donations from Australian companies, but has yet to identify a potential long term corporate partner
- **Maximising Local Government Partner Contributions (2010 forecast)**
 - Our partners, TASC are currently in the field working with various Government Departments to seek a greater co-contribution to project elements
 - From a sustainability perspective, this needs to increase over time
 - The contributions we are seeking include a greater contribution towards venue security, supervision and teacher wages
 - We expect this to increase in a stepped process, with some savings in final period of 2010/2011 and into 2011/2012
- **Update 2011**
 - RLSSA has received a letter requesting further support from Department of Education and Training Danang

- RLSSA/TASC met with Ministry of Education and Training (August 2011) regarding support for additional provincial programs, and is expecting a letter of request in the next week
- There is some evidence of contributions from partners but at this stage it is channelled at program extension i.e. conducting classes within school hours, or outside of program period Oct – Mar).
- Department of Education and Training Danang is pressuring for increased scale of program across Danang, meaning that any likely contributions on their part will be directed towards widening the program rather than taking responsibility for its current form.
- **Corporate Contributions (2010 forecast)**
 - RLSSA is seeking a corporate partner for a variety of SwimSafe activities, including SwimSafe Danang as a priority
 - World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2011 sponsorships will be linked to this key legacy activity
- **Update 2011**
 - WCDP sponsorships focused on partner attendance and capacity in other provinces and among policy makers
 - RLSSA continues to look for local corporate partners, but has so far been unsuccessful
 - Local business raised \$12,500 for Swim Safe Danang via Montgomery Links /Vietnam Swans charity golf day in 2011, scheduled again in 2012.
 - JWT Asia Regional Director is talking to several companies regarding sponsorship, although this remains unlikely in the short term and risks confusing the wider development program.

Comment

Interest in survival swimming program has grown significantly since 2010 both in Vietnam and across the region. SwimSafe Danang has provided a focal point in support of Vietnamese Government policy, providing technical advice to the MOET and other provinces.

The Government of Vietnam survival swimming policy, increases in media around the child drowning issue and the interest centred around the World Conference on Drowning Prevention all supports government, community and donor interest. However, donor interest has not been converted into ongoing support.

Research showing the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of the SwimSafe sister program in Bangladesh is to be released in coming months. Interim results were released at WCDP.

The SwimSafe program continues to be well positioned to influence all stakeholders towards sustainable, appropriate and impactful developments in Vietnam, and in neighbouring countries including Cambodia and Laos. Enquiries for SwimSafe developments in Cambodia and Laos have been received in recent months.

RLSSA continues to look for additional donors and funding support to continue the program in 2012.

The table below provides a reflection against the initial justification for SwimSafe funding:

- Potential as a demonstration project for the Government of Vietnam's Inter-ministerial plan on child drowning prevention
 - o RLSSA partnered with the Inter-ministerial panel on child drowning and provided support for drowning prevention workshops in 2011, and in conjunction with the WCDP event.

- Potential to support the Ministry of Education's policy on survival swimming in schools
 - o SwimSafe has provided direct support through two hosted workshops for MOET personnel at SwimSafe Danang in 2011, contributions to national conferences 2011 and trainer support for provincial workshops in 2011.
- Potential as a demonstration project for emerging programs in other East Asian countries including Cambodia and Laos
 - o SwimSafe hosted delegations from Malaysia, Philippines, Cambodia and Laos, during the WCDP event.
 - o SwimSafe has received enquiries for program support from Laos and Cambodia
 - o SwimSafe Danang was featured at the WHO ASEAN Regional Drowning Prevention Workshop in Manila in 2010
- Potential as a model child drowning intervention that could be used to build or support capacity development in conjunction with the World Conference on Drowning Prevention in Danang in 2011, stretching its influence beyond the Asian region and into other LMICs
 - o SwimSafe was a significant focal point during the WCDP event
 - o The Governor General attended SwimSafe and presented trainer and student awards
 - o SwimSafe conducted a workshop featuring local stakeholders
 - o Related data was presented during key notes and parallel streams
- Position as a key component of the regional drowning prevention strategy being developed by Royal Life Saving and its partners, with links to sister programs in Bangladesh and Thailand.
 - o RLSSA has facilitated exchanges between Thailand, Bangladesh and Vietnam
 - o Program enhancements were made
 - o The portable pools have been imported into Bangladesh and are being tested for feasibility, durability in the south Asian context

SwimSafe has the strong support of Government of Vietnam and the Peoples Committee of Danang. Extracts from letters received are included below:

We sincerely send you our deep thanks for this help and support. However, every year Danang has 65,000 primary school students. Therefore, the number of children who have a chance to take part in the program (5,000 kids/year) is still very small compared to the total number of the city's primary school students. With the aims of helping students to have the necessary skills to use when they meet the water environment and reducing the maximum number of child drownings, Danang DOET hopes to continue to be funded by RLSSA and TASC to maintain the activities of SwimSafe in Danang for the next few years.

Huỳnh Thị Tam Thanh, Vice Director, Danang People's Committee.

If the program still receives interest and support from RLSSA, the MOET can be the main national partner. The MOET can facilitate mechanisms and policies to help SwimSafe work effectively in Vietnam. Presently, Vietnam has national policy on reducing children drowning. The help and support from RLSSA will make operating and carrying out the policy easier. Therefore, the MOET would like to expand the cooperation with RLSSA and TASC to achieve our national goal on preventing children drowning.

Ngu Duy Anh, Director of Students Affairs Department on behalf of Minister.

Conclusion

We wish to thank the Australian government for the opportunities provided through this funding agreement. We believe that RLSSA and its partners have utilised this funding in a many consistent with the programs objectives, and have ensured strong outcomes in Danang, in partnership with the Government of Vietnam and in increasing awareness of child drowning issues among the Australian community.

Separate to this report Royal Life Saving has submitted a proposal for 2012.

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