



2011 SEASON REPORT
SwimSafe Da Nang
A Drowning Prevention Program
Supported by the Australian Government
Presented by:
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Background

SwimSafe begins its third operational year in Da Nang, Vietnam, in 2011 as a continuing program between Royal Life Society Saving - Australia (RLSSA), The Alliance for Safe Children (TASC), and local Vietnamese partner organizations. This is the second full year of support from AusAID.

The overall goal remains to reduce the incidence of child drowning through an applied program which teaches large numbers of primary school children basic survival swimming skills and increases their knowledge of water safety. The primary target group for the summer and after-school training programs are 6000 primary school children. Ten portable swimming pools set up at primary schools as teaching venues make this program affordable and easily accessible for large numbers of children.

The program will be conducted at 4 schools as an after-school program beginning in April, then at 10 schools with portable pools, 2 beach sites, and one hard pool during the summer vacation starting at the end of May, then again as an after-school program for 2 months at 11 venues in the autumn. An 11th portable pool will come on line in July. Two of the schools plan to keep teaching as long as the weather is warm enough.

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 decentralized 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 pool or the 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
Engagement of school principals, teachers and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder engagement will continue at two levels: the venue level and the community level. Parents constitute the most critical stakeholders. To reduce drowning risks for younger children, the program will send home information and interactive activities with students which include water safety awareness messages to parents and other caregivers. Trainers will regularly meet with parents who observe the lessons, and they are briefed to inform on all aspects of the SwimSafe Program. School administrators, especially principals and district education officers, are considered as critical parts of the core management scheme as they influence local resources needed to support and maintain the program.
Central Government engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within Da Nang City, the Department of Education and Training and the Son Tra Eco Tourism Board serve as both stakeholders and implementors of the program. They provide both teachers and venues for the program and are a ready source of constructive criticism. Due to their active participation of the SwimSafe process, the program will continue

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	<p>having broad exposure within the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Director of Prevention Services, Dept. of Health, remains the supervisory link because drowning prevention is seen, in part, as a public health issue. • 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's support has been a constant since the start of the program. • DOFA's willingness to support the World Conference on Drowning Prevention scheduled for May, 2011 is, in part, a demonstration of continuing support for SwimSafe in Da Nang.
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Key Area:	Drowning Prevention Program
Specific Objective:	To develop, implement and review the survival swimming program in 12 venues and reaching at least 6,000 students.
Funded Components (Outputs)	Achievements
Implementation plan	<p>An implementation plan guided recommencement of the SwimSafe Danang program in 2010. The plan comprised of several components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program will be conducted at 4 schools as an after-school program beginning in April, • then at 10 schools with portable pools, 2 beach sites, and one hard pool during the summer vacation starting at the end of May • An 11th portable pool will come on line in July • An after-school program for 2 months at 11 venues from September/October. • Two of the schools plan to keep teaching as long as the weather is warm enough. • The target for the 2011 Summer is 6,000 children

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 (Output)	Achievements
Deliver train the trainer workshop and support activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% of the trainers and teachers from last year are expected to return to the program. With about 120 teachers and lifeguards returning, training for brand new teachers will be covered in the refresher training done for all staff. • Brand new teachers will then be paired with experienced teachers through the first 20 lesson cycle before being permitted to teach a class on their own. • There will be a Trainers of Trainers (TOT) workshop just for the 20 TOT's (and possibly guests from other nearby programs) in early April taught by the lead trainer, the 2 VIDAs, and the small group of instructor trainers. (Completed) • The TOTs will then teach a refresher workshop for all of the remaining 100 teachers in mid to late April. (Completed) • As there are no curriculum changes for the 2011 season, the core group of 9 Instructor Trainers will determine the emphasis areas for refresher training for all of the teachers, including the other 11 Trainers of Trainers, (TOTs).
Trainer supervision mentoring and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two VIDA swimming teacher volunteers will arrive in early March for a 6 month tour. After orientation and settling in, the 2 VIDA swimming teachers will provide input for both training workshops. • The VIDA mission is to help core teacher's better address training of the younger

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	<p>children. The outcome of the VIDA's time will be measured in improved testing results within the 6-9 year old age groups. That will hopefully improve the overall pass rates for the entire program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VIDAs will work with the teachers at all the venues on a daily basis. The program may conduct special workshops for teachers and / or the TOTs based on observations and needs identified by the VIDAs. • A secondary objective of the VIDA assignments is to continue building core training capacity using the cadre of senior Da Nang instructor trainers who were certified by RLSSA in 2010 to teach instructor trainers. • This core resource is expected to be used to teach classes in other provinces of Vietnam if again requested by the Ministry of Education and Training. Building ongoing training capacity in Da Nang remains a constant goal within the program.
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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 will continue to be decentralized. • A full assessment of all facilities needs will be conducted in March. Upgrades in the basic facilities needed to support the portable pool venues will be finished before the summer program resumes in late May. • While access to and protection of physical capital equipment such as portable pools, filters, and water pumps has not been a problem for the program, maintenance of fences, gates, and specific security on all items will remain a continuous process. • Two of the Vietnamese SwimSafe staff are Field Officers assigned to monitor key elements of the project on a daily basis. • The two officers will visit every venue at least twice each week. • Using venue checklists, they will note the general maintenance condition of the pools, check the condition of the water using observation and chemical test kits, check fabric seams and support pieces on the frames, etc. • Any needed minor repairs will be arranged and the central office will be advised. They also will make note of teachers, numbers of students, etc. and check the accuracy of routine class records as a way of providing administrative checks and controls. Specific problems may be addressed with venue managers and resolved immediately if possible. • Unresolved common issues will be addressed with the District Education officers (for schools) or senior life guards (for beach training sites). • The two VIDA volunteers will also contribute to this process, but their primary focus will be on assisting the teachers, not facilities or administrative issues.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banners at each venue acknowledge Australian Government contribution to the program. • SwimSafe T-Shirts provided to each graduate include AusAID logo.

Government contribution

Linking SwimSafe to WCDP activities

- SwimSafe Danang is 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 will allow 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 will allow key stakeholders to share their experience, including technical aspects with conference participants

Linking SwimSafe to Vietnamese Government Agenda

- Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) is considering adopting the SwimSafe curriculum as a core strategy for child drowning prevention for Vietnam.
- RLSSA facilitated a workshop of 15 high drowning provinces in January and SwimSafe was considered in detail by representatives of MOET and these provinces
- Another trainer session is being planned by MOET for July 2011

Issues

Program

- Preliminary data collected from first cycle of vacation program shows lower pass rates for younger students (aged 6-8 years)
- Teaching quality will be a focus, including close review and supervision by the VIDA's

Operational

- Water quality in portable pools - Despite improvements since 2009 (including local sourcing of quality filtration systems), chemical imbalances and debris in the water associated with high rotation of people through the pools continues to pose a problem.
- The VIDA's will conduct weekly pool water quality testing, review and revise procedures based on results

Strategic

- SwimSafe Danang builds the drowning prevention capacity of individuals and communities. These skills are a highly valuable resource.
- In response, TASC has worked with the Hanoi School of Public Health to generate a MoU with MOET regarding the application of the SwimSafe curricula:
 - Further application requires adequate monitoring by qualified swimming instructors before certification of other programs can be granted.
 - TASC and RLSSA are technically responsible for advising on the content of the monitoring process.
 - SwimSafe Danang certified trainers represent the Vietnamese technically qualified persons capable of assessing the teaching proficiency of other SwimSafe program teachers.
- 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
- RLSSA continues to develop a blueprint or set of guidelines to help regulate the establishment of new survival swimming programs.

Sustainability

The following points relate to project impact and sustainability:

- Royal Life Saving has secured Overseas Aid Gift Deductibility Status (OAGDS) and been gazetted as an overseas relief fund
- Royal Life Saving has commenced planning for fundraising for child drowning prevention including SwimSafe Danang as a key priority.
- Royal Life Saving has commenced negotiations with key industry partners regarding fundraising strategies
- Royal Life Saving incorporated SwimSafe Danang into sponsorship strategy for World Conference on Drowning Prevention 2011
- Royal Life Saving has partnered with Vietnamese Government's survival swimming policy in order to exchange knowledge and expertise and assist in planning for national implementation of stated policy
- Royal Life Saving has initiated discussion with local partners on potential contributions in future years including supervision, security and instructor costs, and including discussion of strategies to increase community contributions
- Royal Life Saving secured two volunteer positions under the VIDA program for 2011. Volunteers will provide trainer mentoring and support to local master trainers and instructors.
- Royal Life Saving has made board and branch board presentations to deepen organisational commitment and secure financial contributions to program

Comment

Significant interest in survival swimming programs has been generated over the past 2-3 years.

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.

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.

RLSSA continues to look for additional donors and funding support to continue the program beyond the immediate season.

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