

# CHILD DROWNING PREVENTION PROGRAM

## BACKGROUND

Over 2,000 children die from drowning in Vietnam annually. Drowning is the country's leading cause of death in children under 15 years of age.

In 2018, Bloomberg Philanthropies announced its partnership with the government of Vietnam for a five-year program aimed at preventing child drowning in Vietnam under the leadership of the Ministry of Labor, War-Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA). The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are implementing partners brought in to support MOLISA test, scale and sustain evidence-based interventions to reduce child drowning in Vietnam.

Vietnam is currently implementing a world-class, evidence-based survival swimming program for children between 6 -15 years of age. As a direct outcome of the program, a drowning prevention network involving local representatives from the public sector, private entities, academia and mass organizations are jointly working towards the goal. A set of standards and guidelines for survival swim instruction have been developed and accredited for nationwide application. With the preliminary success of the demonstration program in reducing drowning cases in eight of the highest burden provinces in Vietnam, MOLISA has now scaled its program to cover twelve high burden geographically diverse provinces. By providing direct technical assistance and partnership to the lead agency (MOLISA), the program plans to demonstrate impact and advocate for integration of survival swim intervention within the government's development plans and budgets for long term sustainability.



## CORE OBJECTIVES

01

Begin in pilot provinces, evaluate, scale-up and sustain with government investment and eventual ownership.

02

Ensure human resources, government budgets and infrastructures are in place for the program to continue without international funding.

03

Avail survival swim training to at least 40,000 children, covering 20% of the national drowning burden by the end of 2022.

## THE APPROACH

### COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

No one size fits all. Interventions are tailored to local circumstances, demand and available resources. Cultural norms are respected.

### LONG TERM VISION

Integrate survival swim as a critical component for drowning prevention within national policy.

### TRANSFER OF TECHNIQUES

Global best practices and lessons learned are adapted in the national guidelines.

### UNITED

Government led, civil society supported, data driven and diverse partnership.

### SUSTAINABILITY

Political commitment and local ownership is key. Public financing for intervention has increased.



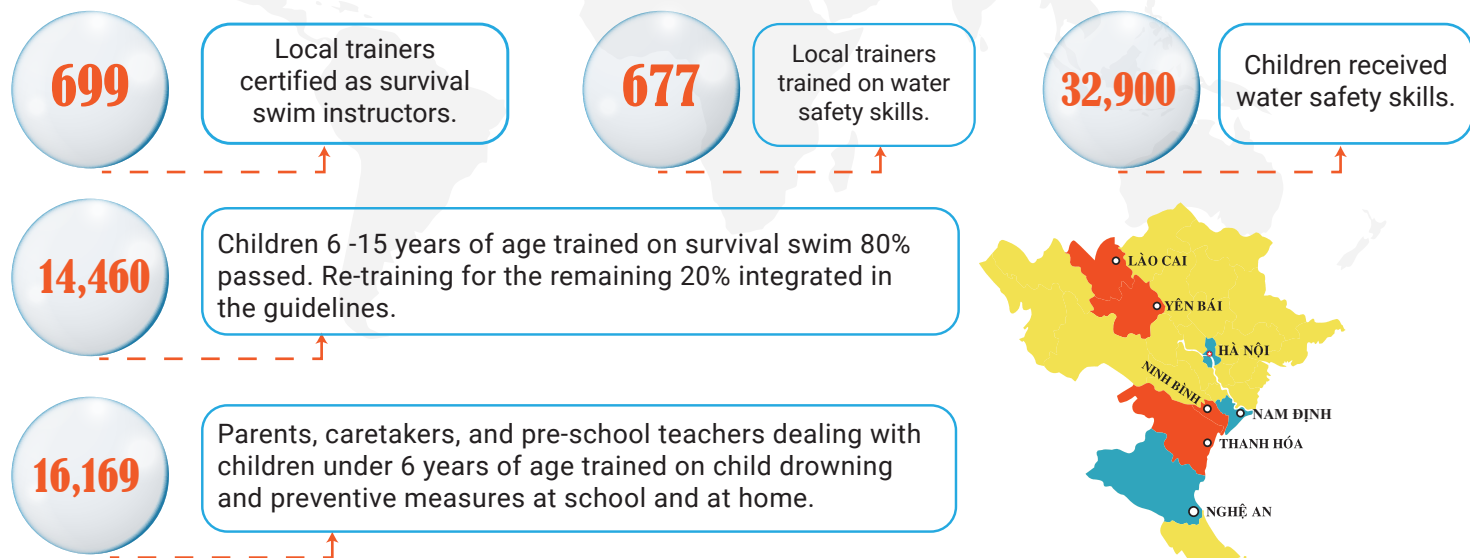


## THE HIGHLIGHTS

### Drowning Prevention Infrastructure

- A functional child drowning prevention network is in place with increased government leadership, effective coordination, NGO participation, strategic resources allocation and expertise sharing, and a well defined M&E program/process in place to measure and inform progress.
- 14 new portable pools and 55 existing pools (local, private and state-owned) have been availed for the program.

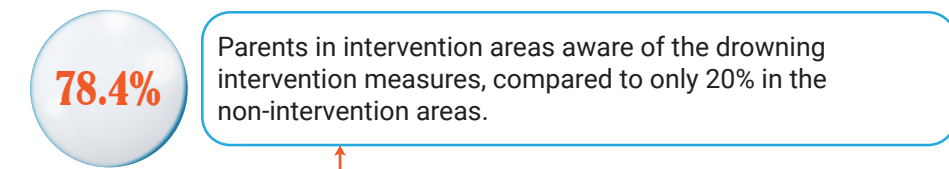
### Standardized training and nationwide application\*



- National survival swim standards based on WHO guidelines developed and adopted as a mandatory standard for all training and instructions.
- Strict safety compliance in place going meeting government regulations.

\*By the end of December 2021

### Communication and advocacy campaign



Comprehensive traditional and social media advocacy on the burden of child drowning and preventive measures resulted in its inclusion as the top agenda for child rights, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Sustainability and ownership

- Drowning prevention was highlighted in the 10-year National Program on Child Injury Prevention 2021 - 2030 approved by the Prime Minister. Survival swim and water safety education is regarded as a core solution for nationwide replication.
- Results from Phase I showed high impact. In Phase II, program has been scaled to 32 districts of 12 provinces. Additionally, GHAI will collaborate with MOLISA to expand the program to 10 additional provinces, which will increase the program's coverage to 47% of the national child drowning burden.
- Local co-funding for program interventions increased fourfold, amounting to approximately one million US dollars.

