

## The use of portable pools to increase swim learning: The SwimSafe Danang Experience

Ross Cox<sup>1</sup>, Amy Peden<sup>2</sup> and Tarina Rubin<sup>1</sup>

The Alliance for Safe Children (TASC)<sup>1</sup>, Royal Life Saving Society – Australia<sup>2</sup>

### Introduction

The numbers of children who are at risk of drowning and would benefit from the protection conferred by SwimSafe survival swimming are in the tens of millions in Vietnam alone. There aren't sufficient pools or natural water bodies to teach this large number of children, and the resources and time required to construct the number needed is not available. The Safe Danang program began an operational research program to examine the feasibility of using portable pools as an alternative. This reports on the activity.

### Methods

An operational research program across three different countries, Bangladesh, Thailand and Vietnam, has been underway for three years to test, modify and develop portable pools. The program has focused on safety aspects of teaching young children, suitability for use in different environments, cost, durability and developing implementation experience in urban and rural settings.

### Results

Details of various aspects of the longitudinal program in three countries will be presented for discussion at the WCDP.

### Conclusions

Portable pools are an effective way to provide the necessary water sources for safely teaching children to swim. They have a number of advantages over other alternatives: controlled water depth, excellent water quality, and a very safe training environment. The costs are significantly lower than in-ground pools; they have unique safety advantages for teaching young children and have an expected durability of five years. When safely sited in primary schools where large numbers of children can be readily accessed, it is possible to safely train large volumes of children in SwimSafe survival swimming at low cost.

### Corresponding Author

Ross Cox  
Operations Director  
The Alliance for Safe Children  
Danang Project Office  
75 Ba Huyen Thanh Quan  
Danang, Vietnam  
Email: [rcox@tasc-gcipf.org](mailto:rcox@tasc-gcipf.org)  
Website: [www.tasc-gcipf.org](http://www.tasc-gcipf.org)  
Telephone: 84 5113 836837