

SECTION 2

TEN ACTIONS TO PREVENT DROWNING

The 10 actions outlined in this section are based on available evidence and are deemed to be effective, feasible and scalable. Complementary measures such as drawing on best-practice models, using social media and communication to raise public awareness, and adapting interventions to suit local contexts (for example, making barriers from locally sourced materials) are important in ensuring these strategies are effectively implemented.

In addition, in resource-poor settings where educational levels are low, it is important to understand how people perceive drowning before introducing interventions, including what local people see as the cause of drowning and appropriate ways to treat and prevent it. Findings should guide how actions are implemented.

Our 10 actions fall into three categories:

COMMUNITY-BASED ACTION



Install barriers controlling access to water



Provide safe places (for example, a crèche) away from water for pre-school children, with capable child care



Teach school-age children basic swimming, water safety and safe rescue skills



Train bystanders in safe rescue and resuscitation



Strengthen public awareness and highlight the vulnerability of children

EFFECTIVE POLICIES AND LEGISLATION

6



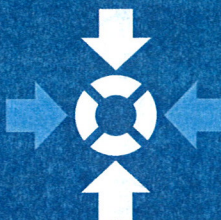
Set and enforce safe boating, shipping and ferry regulations

7



Build resilience and manage flood risks and other hazards locally and nationally

8



Coordinate drowning prevention efforts with those of other sectors and agendas

9



Develop a national water safety plan

FURTHER RESEARCH

10



Address priority research questions with well-designed studies
