

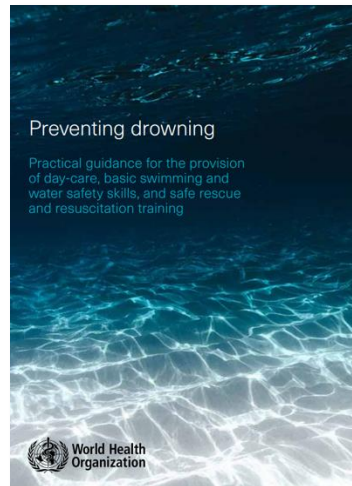
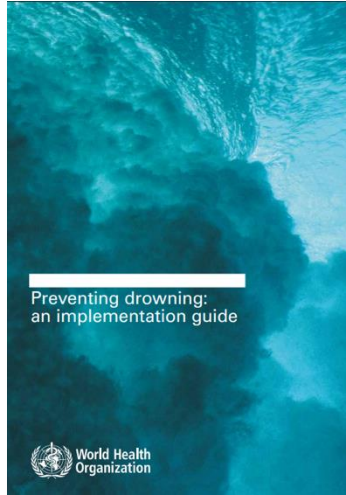
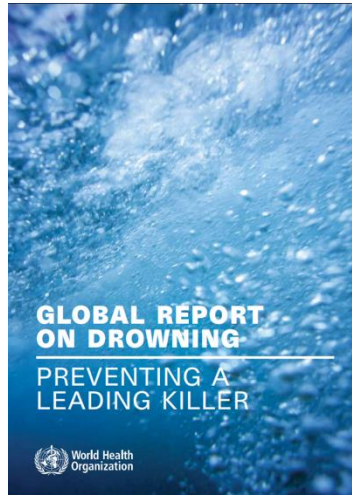
Drowning prevention:

Tools and resources from the World Health Organization

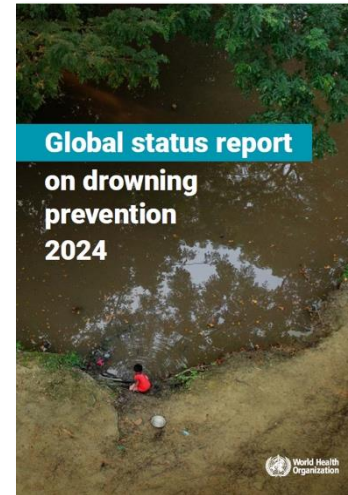
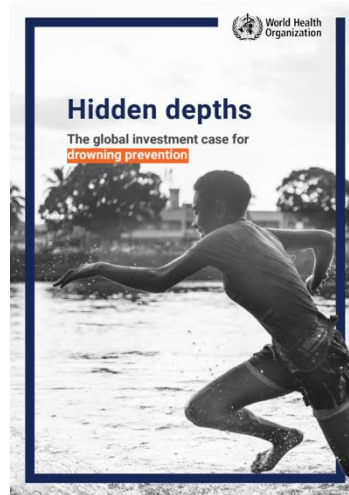
Caroline Lukaszyk
Technical Officer, Unintentional Injury Prevention
WHO Headquarters

Overview

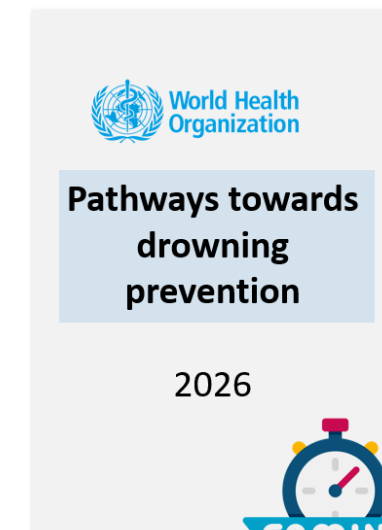
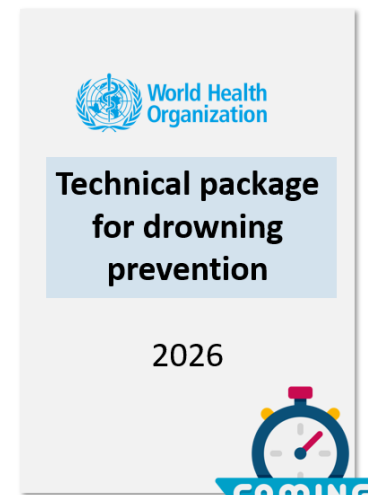
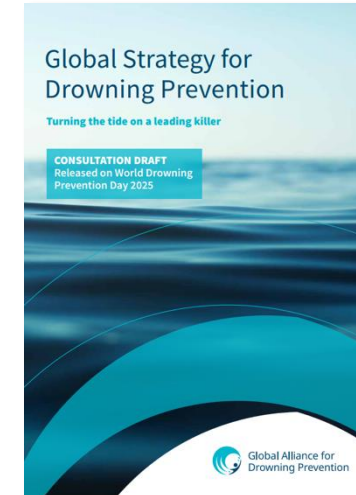
Past resources



New resources



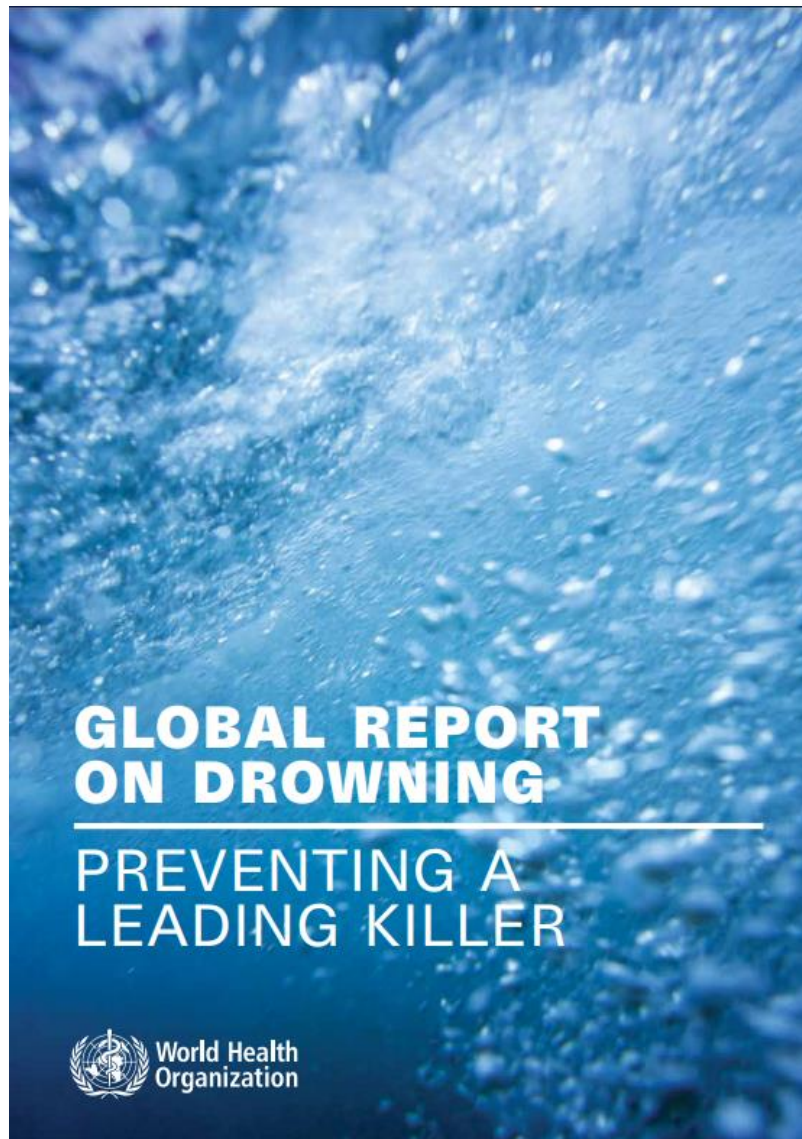
Upcoming resources





Past resources

Global report on drowning : Preventing a leading killer (2014)



Interventions



Provide safe places (for example, a day-care centre) away from water for preschool children, with capable childcare



Train bystanders in safe rescue and resuscitation



Install barriers controlling access to water



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



Teach school-age children swimming and water safety skills



Set and enforce safe boating, shipping and ferry regulations

Strategies



Develop a national water safety plan



Advance drowning prevention through data collection and well-designed studies

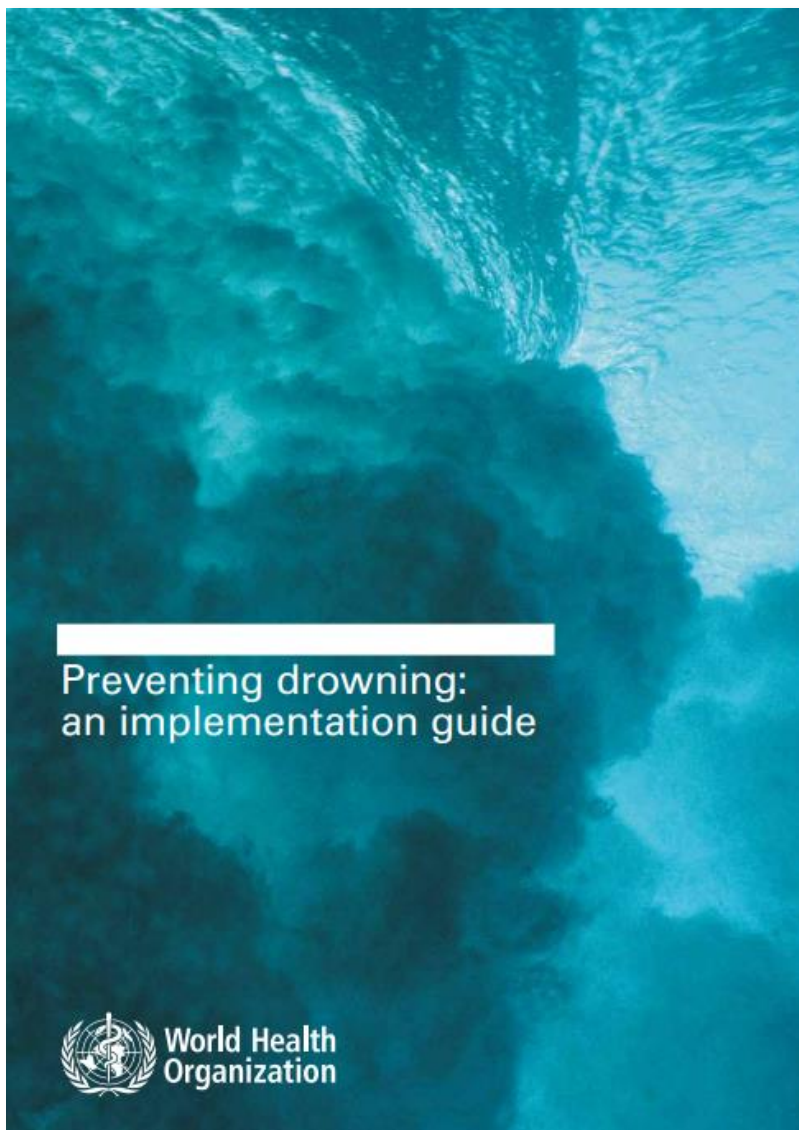


Promote multisectoral collaboration



Strengthen public awareness of drowning through strategic communications

Preventing drowning: an implementation guide (2017)



EXAMPLE:



Teach school-age children swimming and water safety skills

Assess the swim skill and water safety situation

01

Define a target group

02

Select training site

03

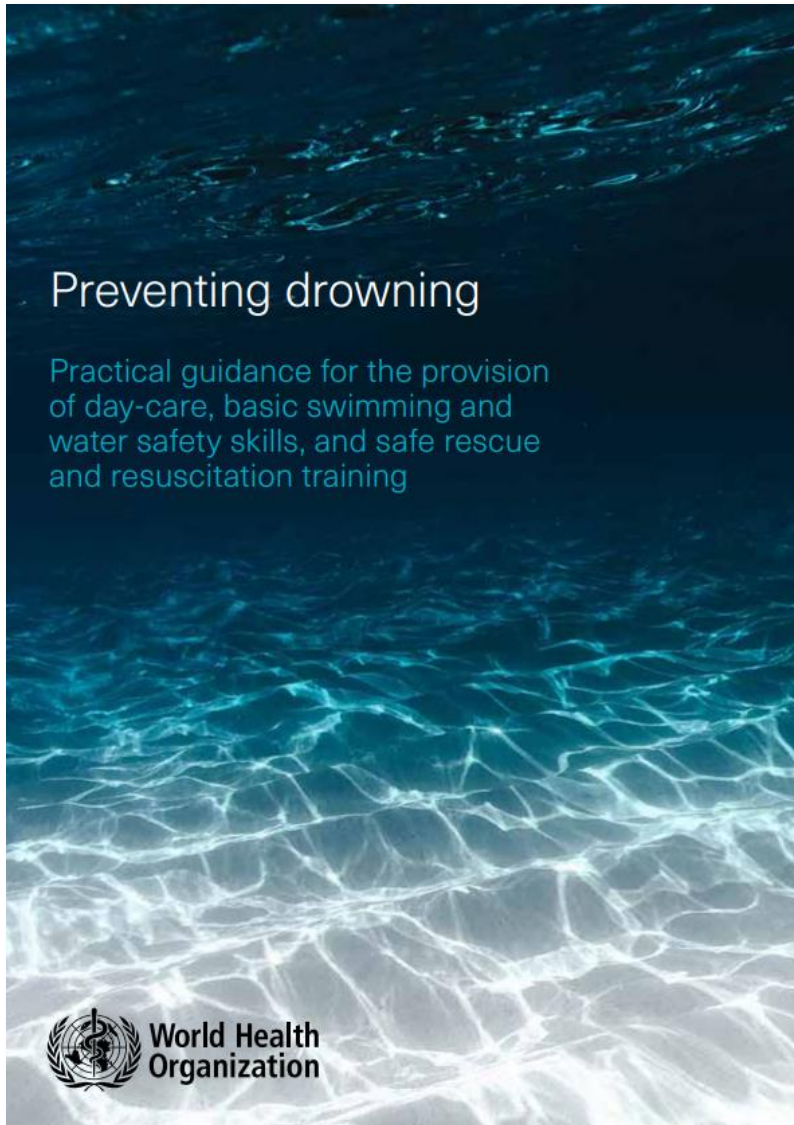
Select and train instructors

04

Engage parents

05

Practical guidance for drowning prevention (2022)



EXAMPLE:



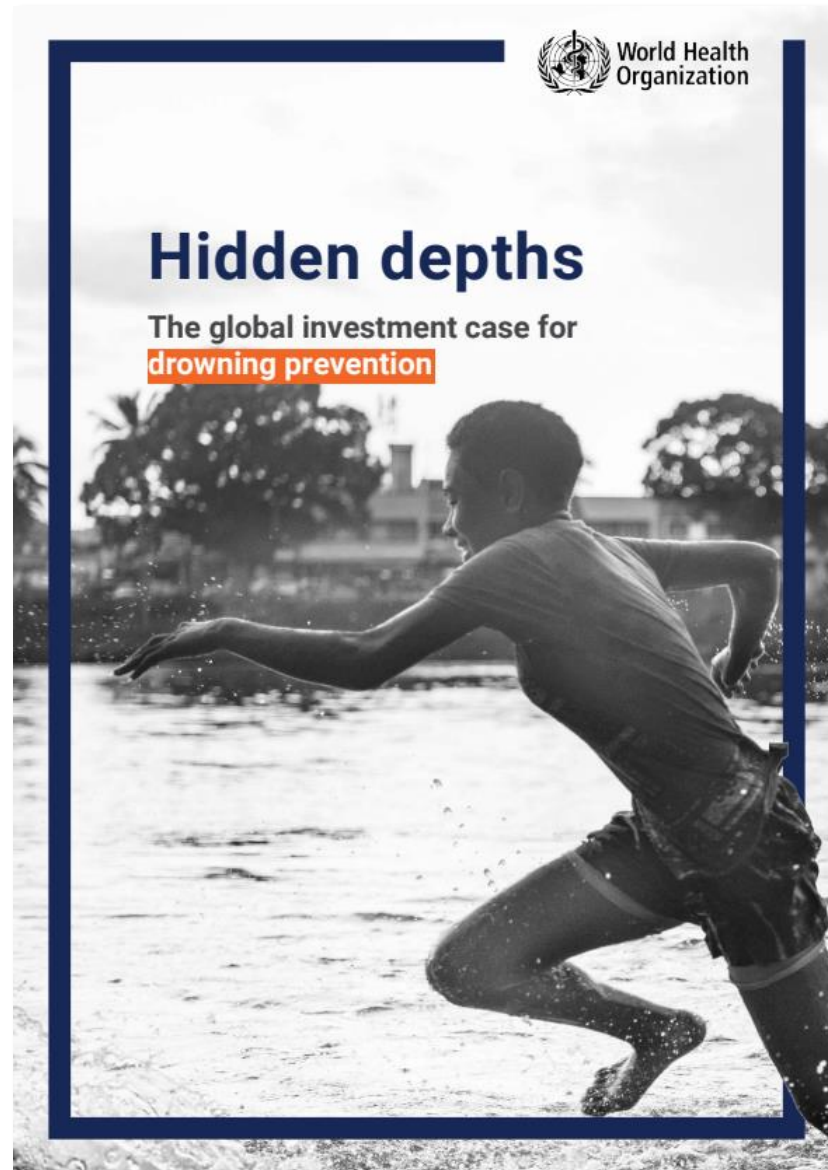
Teach school-age children swimming and water safety skills

- Target school-age children aged **6 years and older** especially those in **rural** communities who are regularly exposed to water.
- Screen potential child participants targeted for **medical conditions** or **disability**.
- Gain documented, verbal or written informed **consent** for children to participate from parents or guardians.
- Perform a **safety assessment** using a checklist each time a swimming training site is used for a lesson.
- Select and recruit **local people** already certified for a recognized training curriculum, first aid and CPR, and experienced or trained in teaching and managing groups of children.
- Develop an **emergency action plan**.
- Specify a maximum **instructor-participant ratio** of 1:5.
- Ensure **incident-reporting mechanisms**.
- Conduct **site-safety** audits regularly.
- Ensure strong **safeguarding** policies.
- Etc...



New resources

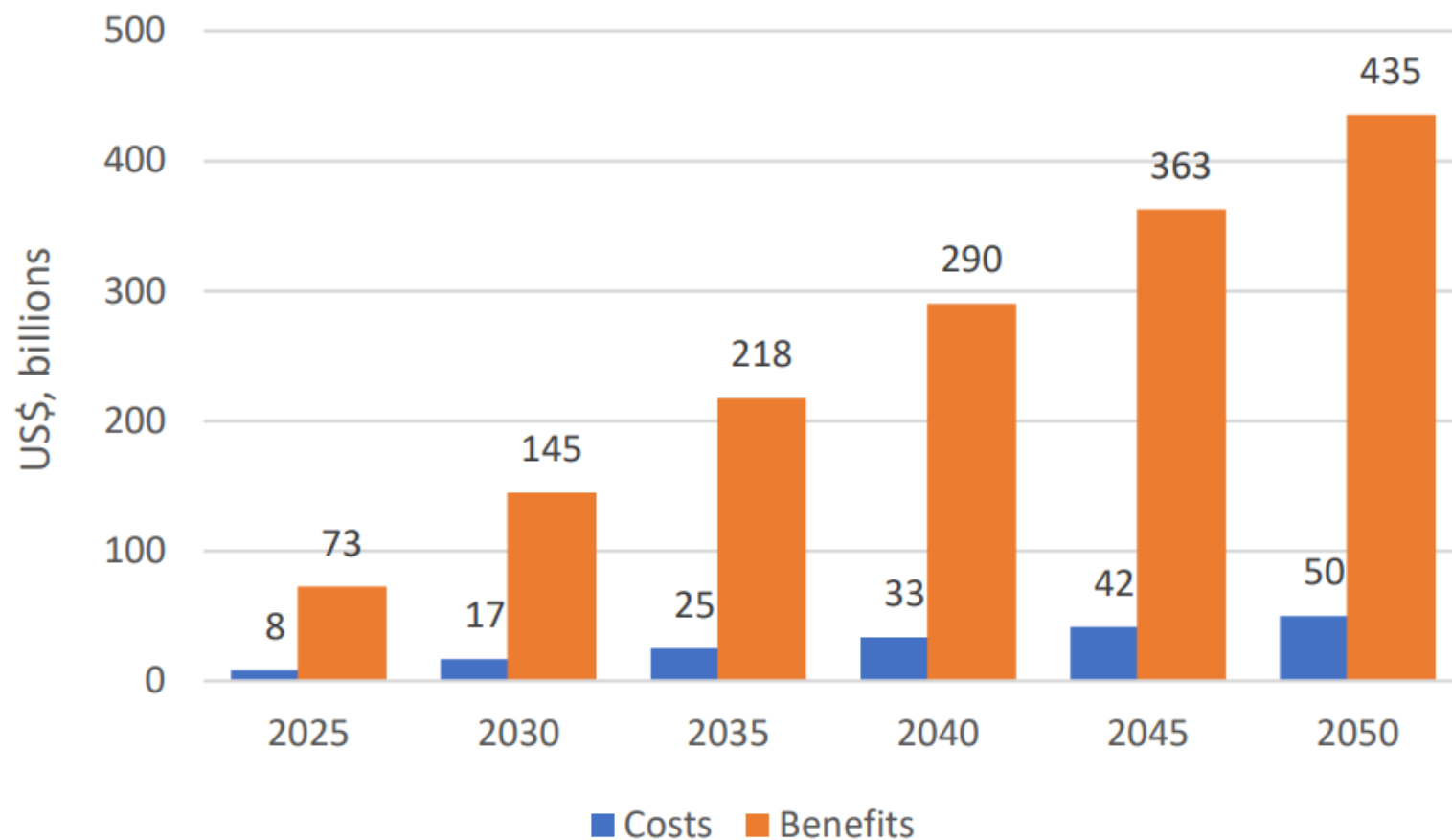
Hidden depths: the global investment case for drowning prevention (2023)



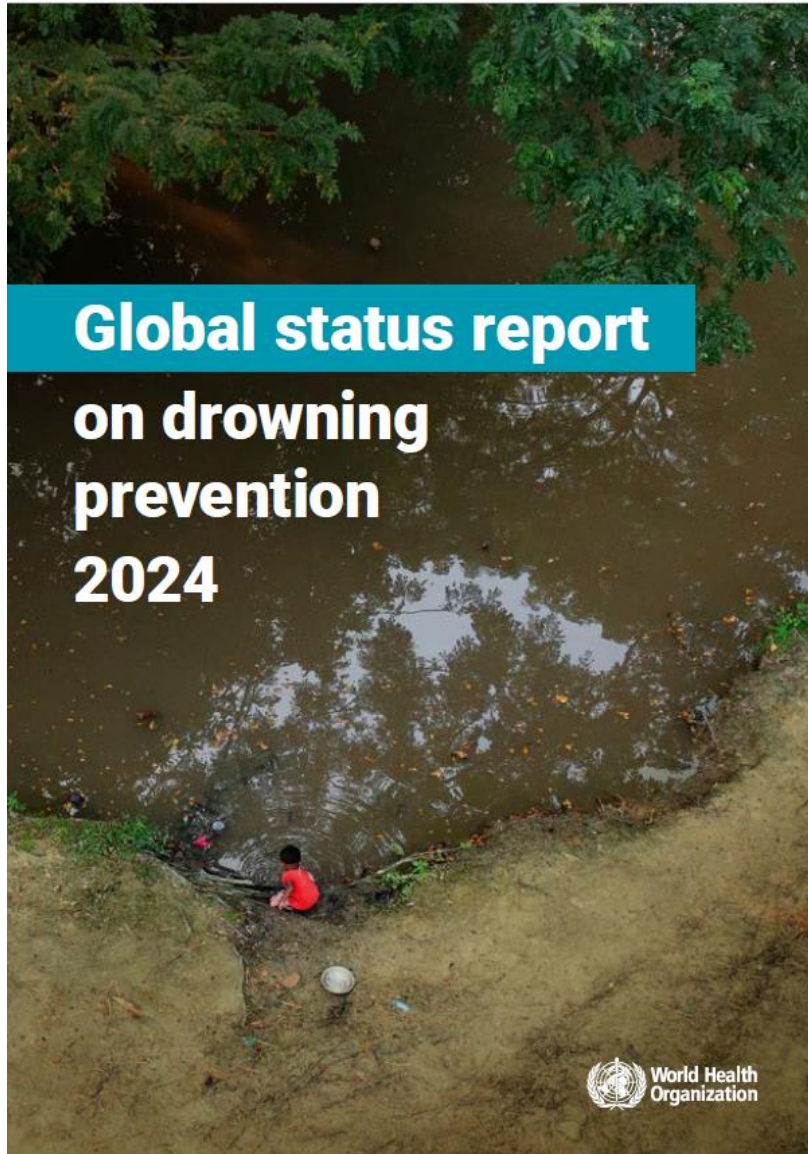
Hidden depths: the global investment case for drowning prevention (2023)



Fig. 2. Cumulative intervention costs and economic benefits from scaling up drowning prevention interventions, high-burden countries, 2020–2050



Global status report on drowning prevention (2024)



139

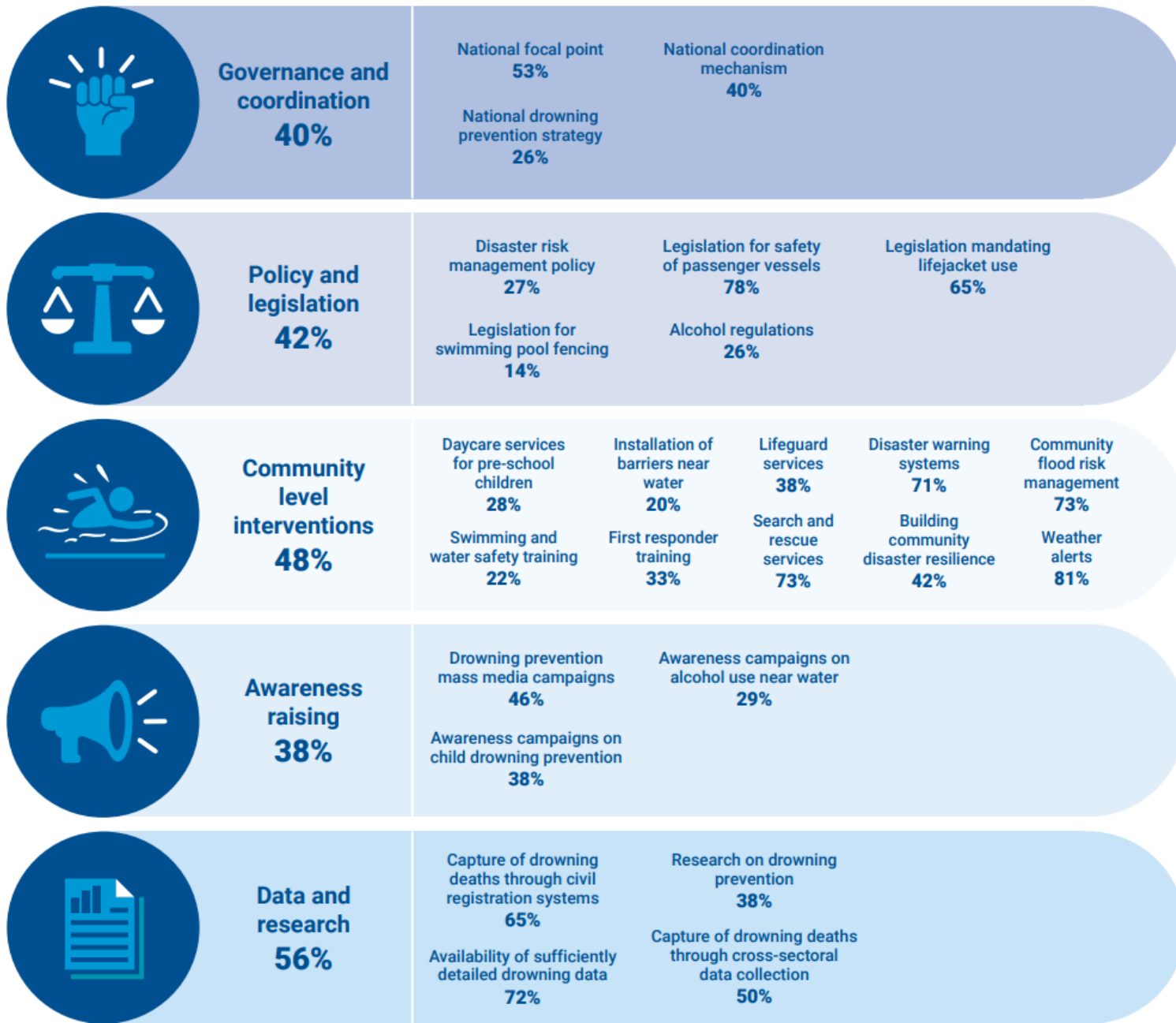
Participating Member States and Territories

953

National data contributors

- Starting point for situational assessments to better understand drowning risks
- Identify priority interventions that will have greatest impact in response to local context
- Identify and engage multisectoral partners in drowning prevention
- Enable between-country comparisons, promoting knowledge sharing
- Advocacy tool
- Monitoring and evaluation of progress over time

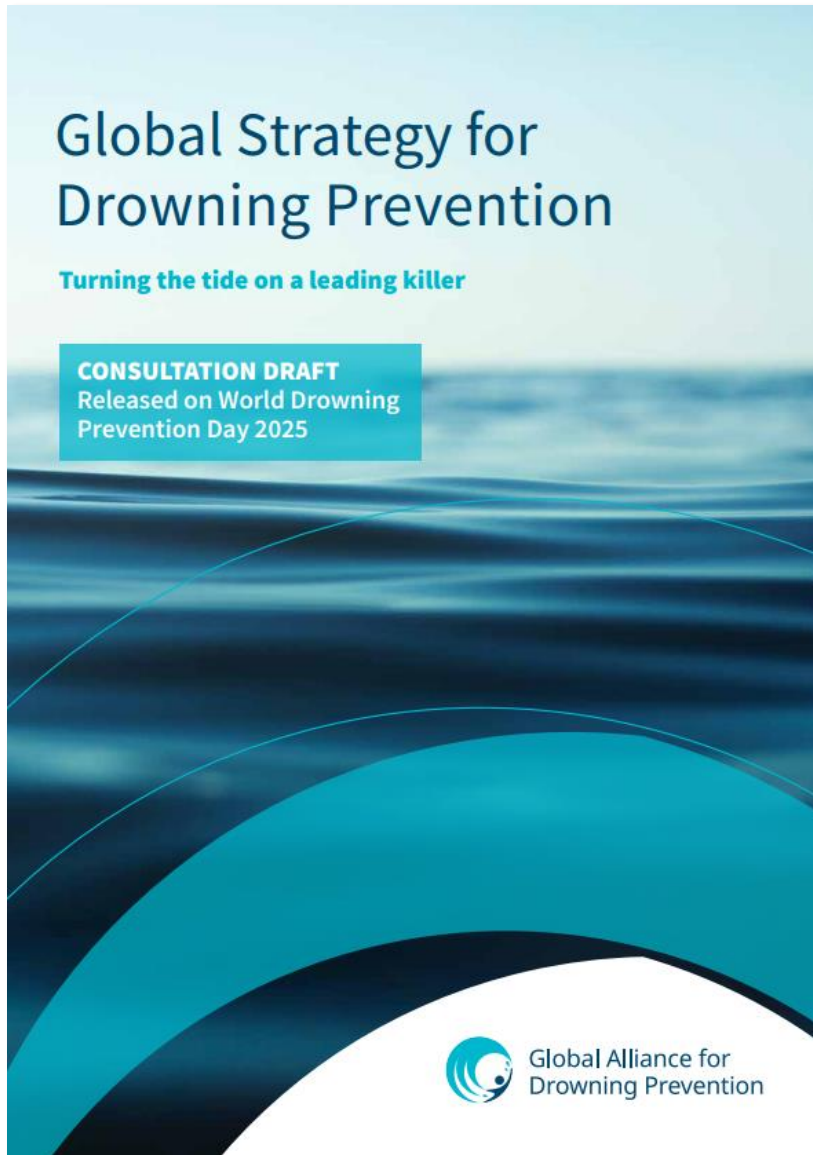
Global status report on drowning prevention (2024)





Upcoming resources

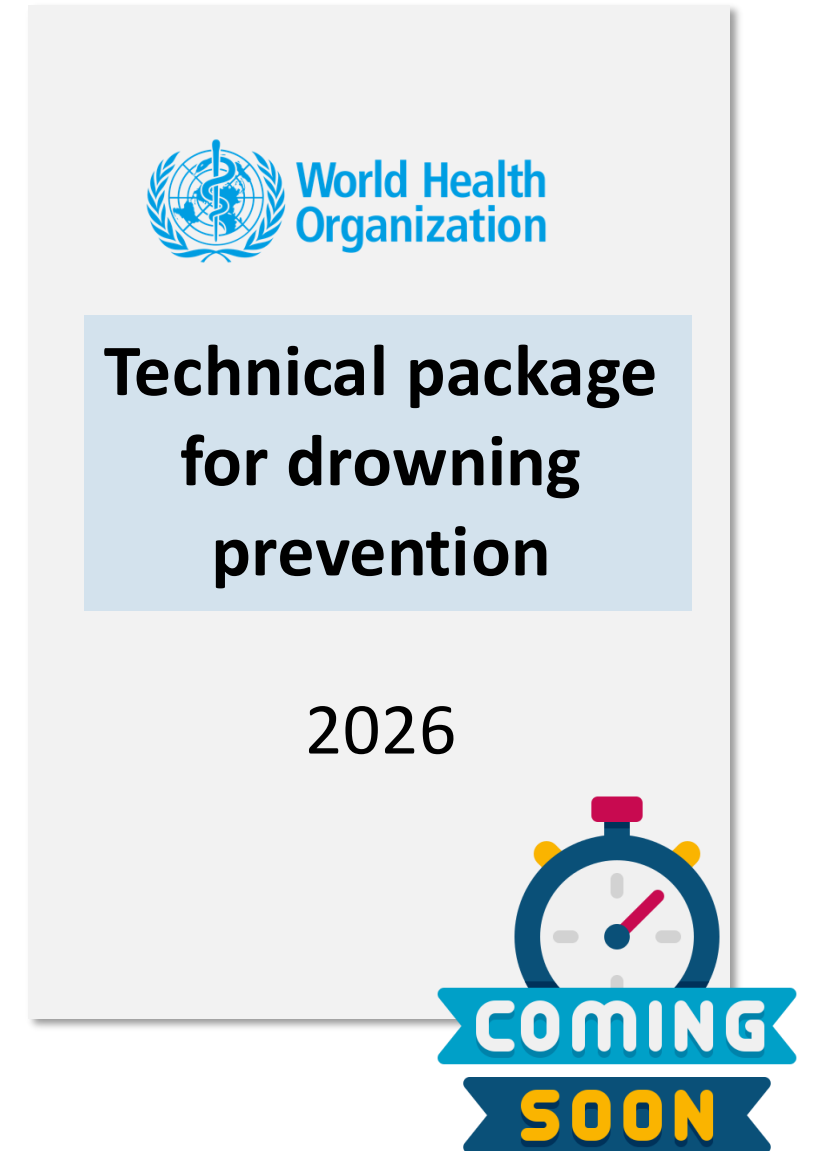
Global strategy for drowning prevention (to be launched November 2025)



OPEN FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

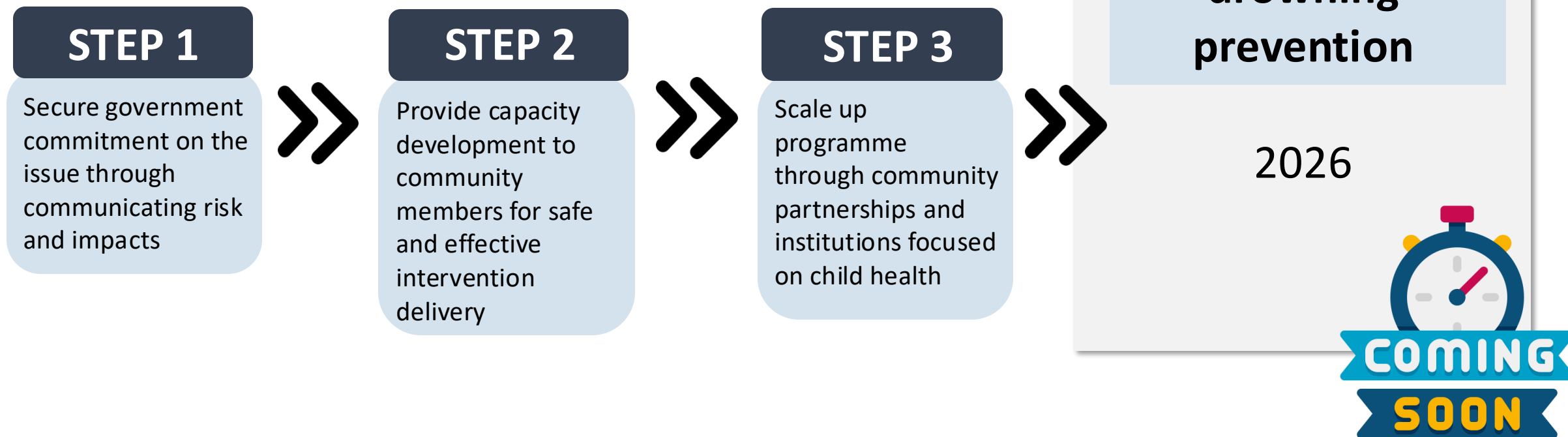
Technical package for drowning prevention (to be launched 2026)

- Best-practice approaches to establishing policy and legislative environments that promote safety around water and aid drowning prevention efforts
- **Sector specific:**
 - Protection of children
 - Maritime transport safety
 - Occupational safety for water-based employment
 - Risk reduction during flooding
 - Safety services on and around water
 - Safety infrastructure in and around water

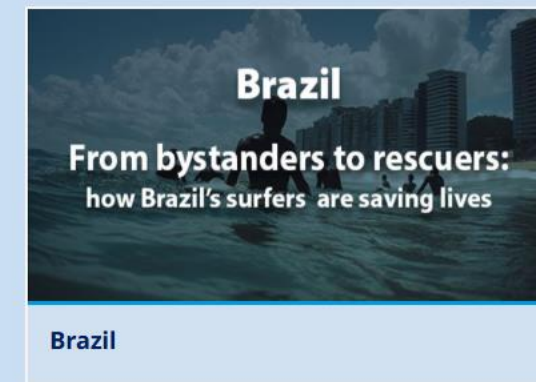
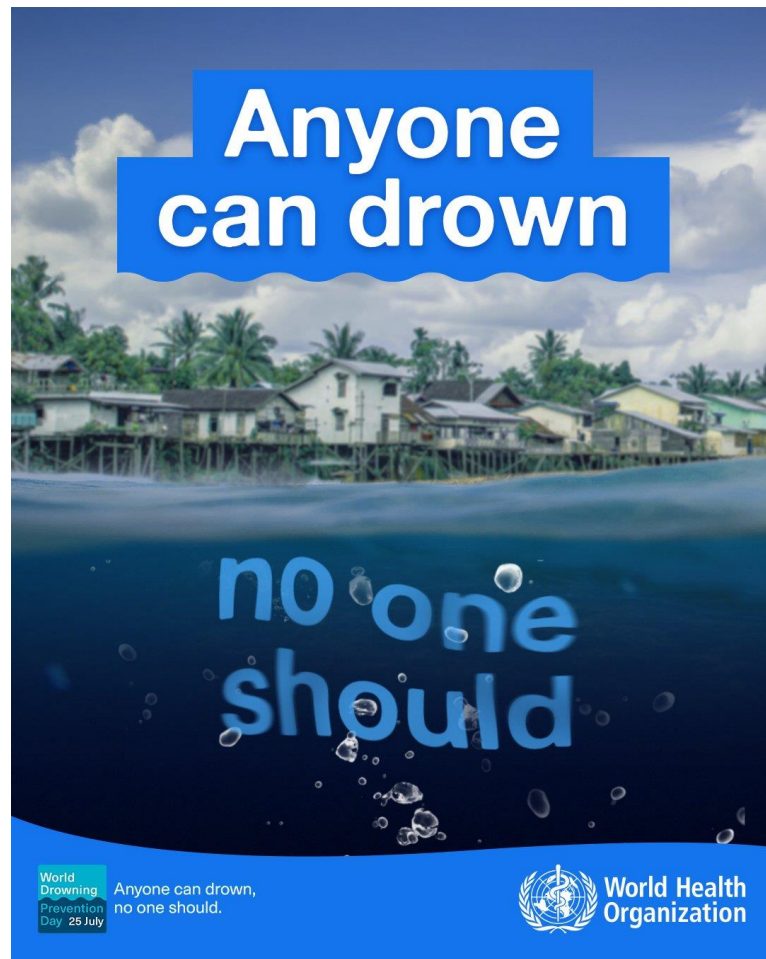


Pathways towards drowning prevention (to be launched July 2026)

- Step-by-step guidance to support countries overcome drowning prevention implementation challenges, drawing on first-hand experience



World Drowning Prevention Day – 25 July



WDPPD 2025: Your Story Can Save a Life
Drowning prevention through shared experiences