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CHILDHOOD DROWNING PREVENTION: WHAT APPROACHES WORK?

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**Background** Drowning is a global public health problem of children. Drowning affects all age groups, but children 1–4 years appear the greatest risk. In high-income countries (HICs), various child drowning prevention measures have been advocated. However, prevention efforts in low- and middle-income countries are almost non-existent.

**Objectives** The objectives of the paper are to review different child drowning prevention approaches of both high and low-income countries and to recommend global strategies.

**Methods** An extensive literature review, both scientific articles and grey reports, was carried out to document effective approaches for childhood drowning prevention in both high and low-income countries.

**Results** In HICs various drowning prevention measures including pool fencing, pool fencing legislation, parent education, close supervision of young children, use of personal devices, laws on alcohol use, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and swimming instruction have been proven effective. However, in LMICs there is scarcity of proven interventions. The recent intervention study ‘PRECISE’ in Bangladesh generated some evidence of child drowning prevention; where the creche for young children 1–4 years and survival swimming for 4–10-year-old children were found 80% and 96% protective respectively.

**Significance** Child drowning is preventable even in resource poor settings. Considering the socio-economic and geographical differences many of the prevention approaches of HICs are not applicable to LMIC settings. Therefore, interventions need to be set according to individual country context.