

13:00 BST (UK)

Mon 25 July 2022

On World Drowning Prevention Day by
the World Health Organisation (WHO)
‘Do One Thing To Prevent Drowning’

SPECIAL SESSION: The Future of Drowning Risk in the Context of COVID-19 and Climate Change



Special Session on World Drowning Prevention Day: The Future of Drowning Risk in the Context of COVID-19 and Climate Change

Drowning deaths are avoidable deaths. And yet ‘drowning is the third leading cause of unintentional injury-death worldwide, accounting for 7% of all injury-related deaths’ according to the WHO’s *Fact Sheet on Drowning*. ‘Drowning is the process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion-immersion in liquid; outcomes are classified as death, morbidity and no morbidity’ (WHO, 2021). Although the global burden and death from drowning is experienced in all economies and regions, low and middle-income countries account for over 80% of unintentional drowning deaths worldwide (WHO, 2021).

To highlight the tragic and profound impact of drowning on families and communities and offer life-saving solutions to prevent this type of avoidable death, in April 2021 the United Nations General Assembly declared 25 July as World Drowning Prevention Day (WDPO) (WHO, 2022). This is the second year that the Member States and stakeholders are celebrating WDPO on 25 July supported by the WHO.

The theme for WDPO 2022 is ‘Do one thing to prevent drowning’ in the spirit of doing one thing to prevent drowning, the Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN) has decided to organise its debut Special Session on ‘The Future of Drowning Risk’ in the context of COVID-19 and climate change.

The ADN’s Special Sessions were first launched on 4 December 2020 at the International Conference on Geographical Science for Resident Communities at Makerere University in Uganda. Since then, we have organised eight Special Sessions attended by more than 250 participants.

The Special Sessions are knowledge exchange and engagement webinars delivered virtually to the public for free with the aim to raise awareness on the concept of avoidable deaths and their avoidance through theoretical or practical solutions, or both. The Special Sessions also raise knowledge and awareness on those deaths that are often not in the