

Avoidable Deaths Network



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# Annual Report

## August 2023 - July 2024

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Prepared by

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## INTRODUCTION

This report documents the activities undertaken by the **Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN) members** from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024. Members include the Operations Team, Advisory Board, Regional Coordinators, and Interns.

The ADN was launched on 12 March 2019 at the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Global Alliance of Disaster Research Institutes (GADRI) in Kyoto, Japan. This is the fifth annual report.

**Our purpose** (*why we exist*): To help policymakers, practitioners, and at-risk communities make better decisions to save lives and reduce injuries for sustainable development.

**Our vision** (*what we want to achieve by 2030*): To be recognised as global leaders in avoidable deaths for impactful research, solutions, and services.

**Strategic areas:** We focused on three interrelated areas to achieve our vision by 2030.

1. Promoting a global community for avoidable deaths.
2. Promoting research, networking and knowledge exchange.
3. Promoting the Global Campaign 'International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths' (IAD4AD) and the Campaign slogan 'Disaster Deaths Are Avoidable'.

To achieve these strategic areas, although not limited to ADN conducts eight activities discussed below.

### **Milestones to support our strategic areas:**

Since 2022, ADN has been a Member of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's (UNDRR) 'Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments (VC) platform'. We provide a six-month progress report to the Sendai VC Platform. Our Commitments are for the Sendai Goals A (reduce disaster mortality) and B (reduce the number of people affected by disasters) at the interface with four Sustainable Development Goals (3, 11, 13 and 17). The last report submitted was for the period July to December 2023. ADN's page on the UNDRR's VC platform can be viewed through this link:

[sendaicommitments.undrr.org/commitments/20211123\\_001](https://sendaicommitments.undrr.org/commitments/20211123_001)

Since 2023, ADN has been a member of the WHO's Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) and the HEUREKA Project – 'Civil Protection Knowledge Partnership Middle East'.

In 2023, ADN also became part of the University of Leicester's Institute for Environmental Futures' research challenge, 'Climate Risk'.

On 7 May 2024, ADN became a Member of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Groups Leading-Edge Programme. As a Member, ADN can organise seminars and webinars at the 'Humanitarian Networks Partnerships Week' (HNPW) in Geneva in person or virtually.

## MEMBERS

Members include the Operations Team, Interns, Regional Coordinators, Advisory Board, and Affiliates. As of 31 July 2024, the [Operations Team](#) (core and supporting members) comprised 27 members from 12 countries (**Table 1**). This is an increase of 15 members (more than 100% increase since July 2023) compared to the previous academic year.

**Table 1: List of Core and Supporting Operations Team Members (July 2024)**

#	Name	Role	Country
<b>Core Members</b>			
1	Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett	Founding President and Convenor	United Kingdom
2	Dr. Hideyuki Shiroshita	Founding President	Japan
3	Ms. Denise Corsel	Operations Manager (currently on study leave)	United Kingdom
4	Mr. Matt Merry	Marketing Consultant	United Kingdom
5	Mr. Abdullahi O. Umar	Global Campaign Coordinator	Nigeria
6	Mr. Shahidul Hoque	Activity Coordinator	Bangladesh
7	Ms. Lauren MacLeod	Activity Coordinator; Research Administrator	United Kingdom
8	Master Arkoneil Ghosh	Junior Champion Magazine Editor; Global Campaign Administrator	India
9	Mr. Lasith Dissanayake	Activity Coordinator and Research Assistant	United Kingdom
10	Ms. Marina Yagi	Activity Coordinator	Japan
11	Ms. Hana Hirotsuka	Activity Coordinator	Japan
13	Ms. Yuna Hanafusa	Activity Coordinator	Japan
<b>Supporting Members</b>			
14	Mr. Alex Skinner	Administrative Coordinator	United Kingdom
15	Ms. Anushka Koner	Future Leader Intern; and Junior Champion Magazine Co-Editor	India
16	Miss Prarthona Datta	Junior Champion Magazine Co-Editor	Canada
17	Mr. Rajesh Patra	Field Coordinator, Case Station for Avoidable Deaths (CaSA)	India
18	Dr. Mahulika Sahoo	Editorial Manager	India
19	Dr. Winifred Ekezie	Evidence Synthesis Coordinator	United Kingdom
20	Dr. Aditya Ghosh	Science Society Interface Coordinator	United Kingdom
21	Dr. Nimra I. Choudhary	Knowledge Exchange Public Engagement Coordinator	Pakistan/ New Zealand
22	Ms. Anusha Manahil	Project Volunteer	Pakistan

23	Ms. Racheal Nantume	Project Volunteer	Uganda
24	Mr. Biswajit Paul	Project Volunteer	India
25	Ms. Srashta Choudhury	Project Volunteer	India
26	Ms. Kelly N. Litsoung	Project Volunteer	Germany
27	Ms. Isha Biswas	Project Volunteer	United Kingdom

Between 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024, ADN has/ had six Future Leader interns from four countries and two Junior Champions from two countries. Please see **Table 2**. To read the Testimonials of our Junior Champions, please see [ANNEX 2: TESTIMONIALS](#).

**Table 2: List of Future Leader Interns**

#	Date of Joining	Name	Departure date	Country
1	March 2023	Ms. Kelly Litsoung	31 April 2024	Germany
2	November 2023	Ms. Anushka Koner	Ongoing	India
3	November 2023	Ms. Darshanika D. Arambegedara	31 March 2024	United Kingdom
4	January 2024	Ms. Ayesha Butt	31 July 2024	United Kingdom
5	February 2024	Mr. Shafkat Hossain	31 July 2024	United Kingdom
6	May 2024	Dr. Mohammed Maryam Samaila	Ongoing	Switzerland

**Table 3: List of Junior Champions**

#	Name	Role	Country
1	Master Arkoneil Ghosh	Junior Champion Magazine Editor; Global Campaign Administrator	India
2	Miss Prarthona Datta	Junior Champion Magazine Co-Editor	Canada

The role of [Regional Coordinator](#) runs for two years. From 1 March 2023, a new cohort of seven Regional Coordinators began their tenures for two years (2023-2025), with 11 Regional Coordinators from the previous tenure continuing their position. As of 31 July 2024, the ADN had 17 Regional Coordinators from 10 countries for the two-year term 2023 - 2025 (**Table 3**). One Regional Coordinator from India was removed due to lack of engagement, and a new

member of the National Emergency Management Organisation replaced the Regional Coordinator of Belize.

**Table 4: List of Regional Coordinators (2023 - 2025)**

#	Date of Joining	Name	Institution	Country
18	May 2023	Professor Deepthi Wickramasinghe	University of Colombo	Sri Lanka
17	May 2023	Mr. Rohan Cooray	Asian Development Bank	Sri Lanka
16	April 2023	Ms. Josette Charlemange	OECS	Saint Lucia
15	April 2023	Mr. Muhammad Ferdaus	BRAC University	Bangladesh
14	April 2023	Dr. Ranjan Datta	Mount Royal University	Canada
13	April 2023	Dr. Jebunessa Chapola	University of Regina	Canada
12	March 2023	Mr. Snehendu Koner	CliniMed LifeSciences	India
11	Dec 2021	Mr. K.G. Mahendra Jagath	Disaster Management Centre	Sri Lanka
10	April 2021	Dr. Inshah Malik	New Vision University	Georgia
9	March 2021	Ms. Shaiza Khawaja	Amir Jafri & Associates	Pakistan
8	March 2021	Ms. Anuradha Bhardwaj	Doers	India
7	April 2019	Dr. Yazidhi Bamutaze	Makerere University	Uganda
6	April 2019	Dr. Fatima Akter	University of Dhaka	Bangladesh
5	March 2019	Mr. Dillip Pattanaik	Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association	India
4	March 2019	Mr. Krishna Clarke	Caribbean Development Bank	Barbados
3	March 2019	Dr. Edris Alam	Disaster and Development Organisation	Bangladesh
2	March 2019	Dr. Azukaego Nnaji	APIN Public Health Initiatives	Nigeria
1	March 2019	Mr. Daniel Mendez <i>Replaced by Officer Zain Donuhue</i>	National Emergency Management Organization	Belize

On 31 July 2024, the [Advisory Board](#) comprised 24 multi-disciplinary world-renowned Members from 13 countries (**Table 2**). Of these 23 members, three are new.

Sadly, we lost our founding Advisory Board Member, Professor Peter Jackson in August 2022.

**Table 5: List of Advisory Board Members**

#	Date of Joining	Name	Institution	Country
24	March 2024	Professor Vinod Sharma	Indian Institute of Public Administration and Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority	India
23	October 2023	Dr. Amarendra Mohapatra	Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) – Regional Medical Research Centre	India
22	October 2023	Professor Ravinder Kumar Soni	Dayanand Medical College and Hospital Ludhiana Punjab	India
21	July 2023	Col. Sanjay Srivastava	Climate Resilient Observing-Systems Promotion Council (CROPC)	India
20	July 2023	Dr. Matthew Lewin	Ophirex, Inc. USA	United States of America
19	July 2023	Dr. Stephen Paul Samuel	Ophirex, Inc. USA	United Kingdom
18	March 2022	Mr. Samuel Akera	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Ethiopia
17	March 2022	Ms. Pamela Komujuni-Kalule	Office of the Prime Minister	Uganda
16	March 2022	Professor Alois Hirschmugl	Disaster Management, Advice and Training (DMAT) Consulting KG	Austria
15	April 2022	Dr. Tony Moore	Previous: Institute of Civil Protection and Emergency Management (ICPEM)	United Kingdom/ Turkey
14	July 2021	Mr. Mohammed Ali Said Albadi	YAS Centre for Health and Environment	Oman
13	February 2021	Mr. David Wales	SharedAim	United Kingdom
12	February 2021	Professor Michael G. Petterson	Auckland University of Technology	United Kingdom/ New Zealand
11	January 2020	Mr. Steve Glovinsky	PeerConnect	United States of America



10	July 2019	Professor Daniel Ladley	University of Leicester	United Kingdom
9	March 2019	Professor Norio Okada	Kyoto University	Japan
8	March 2019	Dr. Ambika Prasad Nanda	Tata Steel	India
7	March 2019	Mr. Mihir R. Bhatt	All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)	India
6	March 2019	Ms. Aditi Ghosh	ChildFund International	Sri Lanka/ India
5	March 2019	Ms. Patience Fyne Andrew	Custodians for African Literature (COAL)	Nigeria/ South Africa
4	March 2019	Ms. Magda Stepanyan	Risk Society	Netherlands
3	March 2019	Mr. Hamdou Wane	Albida International LLC	Senegal
2	March 2019	Ms. Cecilia Aipria	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Ethiopia
1	March 2019	Professor Heiko Balzter	University of Leicester	United Kingdom

As of 31 July 2024, the total number of Affiliates is 912. This is an increase of 213 Affiliates (30% increase since July 2023).

As of 31 July 2024, the total number of Members was 980, 198 more than the previous year (25% increase since July 2023 when there were 782 members). This includes 27 Operations Team Members, 24 Advisory Board Members, 17 Regional Coordinators, 21 [Collaborator and Partner Organisations](#), and 912 [Affiliates](#).

## GLOBAL CAMPAIGN: INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS DAY FOR AVOIDABLE DEATHS

[International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths \(IAD4AD\)](#) was launched on 13 March 2023 at Texpia Osaka, Izumiotsu, Osaka, Japan. The purpose of this global campaign is:

- To raise the visibility of disaster deaths, especially indirect deaths and missing persons and capture their impact on the lives and livelihoods of the deceased family members;
- To capture the causes and circumstances surrounding disaster deaths so that context-specific interventions can be put in place to save lives; and
- To promote the slogan 'Disaster Deaths Are Avoidable'. They are avoidable through preventable, amenable and risk governance measures.

### Update on Year 1 of the Global Campaign

To mark the global campaign, 54 activities took place across 12 countries (four continents) in Austria, Bangladesh, Belize, Georgia, India, Japan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, UK and Zambia.

There were 19 different types of activities, which comprised an article, press release, light show, meeting, workshop, field visit, chapter launch, social media campaign, tree plantation, orientation, vlog, video, poster, rally, seminar, spoken word poetry, symposium, capacity building, and webinar.

The activities were led by 23 ADN Members, namely the Founding Presidents (Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett and Dr. Hideyuki Shiroshita), four Advisory Board Members (Dr. Ambika Prasad Nanda, Ms. Patience Fyne Andrew, Professor Alois Hirschmugl, Professor Michael G. Petterson), ten Regional Coordinators (Dr. Fatima Akter, Dr. Inshah Malik, Lt. Zain Dueheney, Mr. Asad Tahir, Mr. Dillip Pattanaik, Mr. Snehendu Koner, Ms. Anuradha Bhardwaj, Ms. Shaiza Khawaja, Professor Deepthi Wickramasinghe), four Operations Members (Dr. Madhulika Sahoo, Dr. Winifred Ekezie, Ms. Lauren MacLeod and Master Arkoneil Ghosh), one Hub Committee Member (Dr. Shakuntala Pratihary) and two Affiliates (Dr. Nikhil Paul and Ms. Tahira Khan).

The events were featured in six [press](#) articles and detailed in the '[Highlights Report: International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths \(IAD4AD\) Global Campaign 2024](#)'.

In collaboration with Custodians for African Literature (COAL), Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett also released four short films to raise the visibility of this Global Campaign in Africa, including Zambia and Nigeria.

Short films can be accessed through [COAL's YouTube Channel](#).

- [Maternal deaths](#) (released on 8 March 2024)
- [Snakebite deaths](#) (released on 12 March 2024)
- [Silicosis deaths](#) (released on 21 March 2024)
- [Drowning deaths](#) (released on 26 March 2024)

## COUNTRY CHAPTERS AND HUBS

**Country Chapters** are the local chapters of the ADN; their purpose is to carry out local activities. The Chapter brings together a number of actors to create a community representing different sectors, networks, and at-risk groups involved in reducing avoidable disaster deaths. The Chapter can be hosted by an organisation or a number of organisations, and must be led by a Regional Coordinator, as the host organisations' point of contact.

Since March 2023, two ADN Country Chapters have been launched, and the India Chapter and Hub strategies was revised in 2023. Thus far, ADN has three Country Chapters (**Table 6**).

**Table 6: List of Country Chapters**

Date of Inauguration	Country	City	Host
25 June 2023	Oman	Al Buraimi	YAS Centre for Health and Environment, YAS Hospital
18 June 2023	Bangladesh	Dhaka	Department of Meteorology, University of Dhaka
11 September 2019	India	Bhubaneswar	Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association

**Research Hubs** are academic institutions or other organisations that carry out research related to reducing avoidable disaster deaths. Research ideas are generated by Country Chapters or ADN networks, ensuring the research is relevant to the knowledge gaps or innovative initiatives identified by ADN Communities. The researchers involved should be community members, but their research should be carried out independently. Research Hubs could also carry out joint projects with other Hubs or participate in research consortiums. Thus far, ADN has one Research Hub in India led by Orissa State Volunteers Social Workers Association (**Table 6**).

**Table 7: List of Research Hubs**

Date of Inauguration	Country	City	Host	Facilities
18 December 2019	India	Bhubaneswar	Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association	Office and accommodation for 15 interns/ research fellows

## **ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2023/2024**

To achieve the ADN's purpose, eight activities were undertaken are as follows:

- 1) Foster trans-disciplinary ideas, partnerships and solutions to reduce avoidable disaster deaths and people affected by disasters for sustainable development in low-and middle-income countries, through knowledge exchange events (conferences, symposiums and webinars).
- 2) Raise visibility and awareness of the Sendai Framework's first two targets, through publications, knowledge exchange events, and global campaign.
- 3) Develop capacities of disaster responders and other stakeholders, through continuing professional development courses, knowledge exchange events and an information repository.
- 4) Develop lifesaving tools, kits, interventions, innovative technologies, governance models and theories to reduce the burden of maternal mortality, snakebite mortality, drowning mortality during disasters, and tsunami mortality through evidence-based pioneering research on hazards, exposures, vulnerability and risks.
- 5) Strengthen connections between disaster responders, through leveraging existing and promoting novel networking platforms.
- 6) Nurture future leaders for Avoidable Deaths and improve their leadership and employability skills, through expert mentoring and engaging interns for activities related to 1-5.
- 7) Publishing a Newsletter and Bulletins for knowledge exchange; and
- 8) Actively soliciting and securing private and public funds to promote the above activities.

**Activity 1: Foster trans-disciplinary ideas, partnerships and solutions to reduce avoidable disaster deaths and people affected by disasters for sustainable development in low-and middle-income countries, through knowledge exchange events (conferences, symposia and webinars).**

**Special Session Webinars:** The Special Session on *Avoidable Deaths* was launched on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at the ‘*International Conference on Geographical Science for Resilient Communities, Ecosystems and Livelihoods under Global Environmental Change*’ organised by Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. The Special Sessions are knowledge exchange and engagement webinars delivered virtually to the public for free with the aim of raising awareness on the concept of avoidable deaths and their avoidance through theoretical and practical solutions, or both. The Special Sessions also raise knowledge and awareness on those deaths that are often not in the mainstream agenda of policy makers, practitioners, and even academia. World-class researchers, experts and practitioners are invited to speak at the Special Sessions.

The ADN’s Core Team, in collaboration with Regional Coordinators, Organisational Partners and Advisors, organised two virtual Special Sessions and one hybrid side event at a conference across Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Malawi, the United States of America and Switzerland (**Table 8** and **Figure 1**). The sessions welcomed 15 world-class speakers and garnered 287 participant registrations.

Before and after each Special Session, the participants were asked to answer questions about their confidence level and knowledge of the topics covered in the Special Session. The questions were asked using a 5-level Likert scale, where 1 = not at all confident, and 5 = very confident.

The results showed a significant increase in positive responses (very confident and moderately confident) after the Sessions (see **Table 8**). It can be concluded that the Special Sessions provided the participants with expert knowledge related to avoidable deaths. The increase in the overall percentage of positive responses after the sessions and the fact that no one responded "not at all confident" for the sessions suggest that the Special Sessions were meaningful, regardless of the level of participant experience.

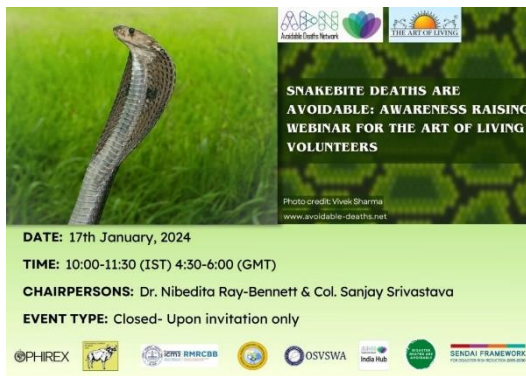
**Table 8: List of Special Sessions 2023 - 2024**

Date	Title of Special Session	Facilitating Organisation	Impact
6 May 2024	<a href="#">Quite Interesting (QI) Quizzes for Avoidable Disaster Deaths</a>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	1. Number of speakers: five 2. Number of registered participants: 78 3. Feedback from participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘What a wonderful way of delving into deeper issues surrounding avoidable deaths’</li> <li>• ‘Could you share us your quiz questions - we would</li> </ul>

			<p>like to use it for capacity building’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Just enjoyed it’</li> <li>• ‘I enjoyed the dynamism and the interaction’</li> <li>• ‘The structure worked’</li> <li>• ‘It was interesting to hear how a concept has a different meaning’</li> </ul>
25 January 2024	<a href="#">Burn Deaths and Burn Injury are Avoidable</a>	Leigh Day	<p>1. Number of speakers: five  2. Number of registered participants: 78  3. Results of confidence and knowledge poll (5-level Likert scale):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before (n=29): 10% very; 21% moderately, 38% somewhat; 31% only slightly; and 0% not at all.</li> <li>• After (n=36): 35% very; 38% moderately; 27% somewhat; 0% only slightly; and 0% not at all.</li> </ul> <p>4. Feedback from participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Excellent session by all presenters. Thank you all and the Organisers for arranging this’.</li> <li>• ‘Thank you for this session, it is helpful to hear how others are dealing with burns injuries and prevention’.</li> <li>• ‘Thank you very much for a great series of presentations and great hosting Krissie’</li> </ul>
17 January 2024	Snakebite Deaths Are Avoidable: Awareness Raising Webinar for The Art of Living Volunteers	Climate Resilient Observing-Systems Promotion Council (CROPC), Art of Living	<p>1. Number of speakers: five  2. Number of registered participants: 131 including the at-risk community of farmers.  3. Results of confidence and knowledge poll (5-level Likert scale):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before (n=47): 34% very; 17% moderately, 23% somewhat; 17% only slightly; and 9% not at all.</li> <li>• After (n=72): 75% very; 18% moderately; 4% somewhat; 3% only slightly; and 1% not at all.</li> </ul>

		<p>4. Feedback from participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Thank you, Nibedita mam, for your wonderful information . Thank you all of you for your golden time for us’.</li> <li>• ‘Very useful and informative session, thank you all’</li> <li>• ‘Thank you for arranging this session’</li> <li>• ‘Thanks everybody, very informative’</li> <li>• ‘Thanks all very good and informative’</li> </ul>
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**Figure 1: Flyers of the Special Sessions**



**Consultations with Stakeholders – Identifying Gaps in Drowning Data Collection in Low-and Middle-Income Countries and the Actors Addressing Them:** As part of the research project '*Identifying Gaps in Drowning Data Collection in Low-and Middle-Income Countries and the Actors Addressing Them*', the project team organised four 60-minute virtual consultations from 8 – 30 May 2024. Five key informants from Bangladesh, India, Kenya and Uganda were consulted on three discussion topics: i. how drowning data is captured using the WHO's verbal autopsy tool; ii. suggestions for a minimum dataset and guidelines needed to identify modifiable risk factors among high-risk groups; and iii. partnership for collaboration.

**Outreach Workshops with High-Risk Groups – Case Station for Avoidable Snakebite Deaths:** Under the ambit of the ADN India Hub's Case Station for Avoidable Snakebite Deaths (CaSA) and funded by the Institute for Precision Health, three outreach workshops were conducted by Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett from 15 to 18 March 2024 with 127 participants. The aims of these workshops were: i) to disseminate the findings of the Leicester Institute for Advanced Studies and Institute for Environmental Futures-funded '*Avoidable Snakebite Deaths in India Project*'; and ii) to explore local-level action network (LAN) model for and with high-risk groups. The outreach workshops were conducted in three Gram Panchayats of Ganjam District, viz., Burujhari, Su Mondol and S. Chachina. In the latter part of the workshops, community members were mobilised to form LAN.

Furthermore, funded by the Institute of Environmental Futures '*Visiting Research Fellowship Scheme*' three '*Awareness Raising Workshops on Avoidable Deaths for Higher Secondary Schools in Ganjam District*' were delivered from 15 to 17 April 2024 with 165 participants. The workshops were organised by Ms. Lauren MacLeod under the mentorship of Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett. The workshops facilitated knowledge exchange on snakes, climate change and snakebite deaths through quizzes, discussion and consultation and scope for future collaboration with ADN.

**Meetings with Stakeholders:** As part of the research project '*Identifying Gaps in Drowning Data Collection in Low-and Middle-Income Countries and the Actors Addressing Them*', the project team held six formal meetings with collaborators with Dr. Colleen Saunders (University of Cape Town), Dr. Aminur Rahman (Centre for Injury Prevention Research, Bangladesh), Dr. Frederick Oporia (Department of Trauma, Injury and Disability, Makerere University) and Mr. Tom Mecrow and Dr. Rebecca Sindall from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

As part of the research project '*Prototyping Facility and Crisis Reproductive Health Kits in Bangladesh*', the project team held more than 12 formal meetings with collaborators with Dr. Elvina Mustary (Reproductive Health Services Training and Education Programme (RHSTEP)), Mr. Maqbul Bhuiyan (Data Management Aid (DMA)), Dr. Manjur Hossain (Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), Government of Bangladesh). Furthermore, the project team also held four meetings with the 15 Technical Advisory Group, which comprises national and international stakeholders, including UNFPA, IPPF, CARE International, Ipas, Ophirex Inc. Comat – among others)



**Activity 2: Raise visibility and awareness of the Sendai Framework’s first two targets (A&B), through publications, and knowledge exchange events.**

**Knowledge exchange events**

See Activity 1 above.

From 20 to 23 October 2024, ADN’s Regional Coordinator, Mr. Snehen du Koner, facilitated the India Hub’s participation in Kolkata’s Durga Puja festival (UNESCO intangible cultural heritage of humanity) to raise awareness of avoidable disaster deaths. The stalls were in three pandals in Jodhpur Park, Suruchi, and Maddox Square. Run by local and international volunteers, they attracted up to 70,000 people during the night hours.

The stalls were inaugurated by Dr. Dhriti Banerjee (Country Head and First Woman Director, Zoological Survey of India), Dr. Pratyush Mohapatra (Scientist E and Officer-In-Charge, Reptile Section, Zoological Survey of India), Dr. Badal Kumar Sahu (MBBS, DPH, MD Cardio, Diabetic and Medicine Specialist, NRS Medical College and Hospital), Mr. Sujoy Roy (National Advocacy Officer, Child in Need Institute), Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett (Convenor and Founder, Avoidable Deaths Network) and Mr. Snehen du Koner (Head of Business Development, CliniMed Lifesciences).

**Figure 2 : Group photo at Maddox Square**



***Publications related to Sendai Framework's first two targets by the core team:***

Ray-Bennett, N.S., Ekezie, W., Biswas, I., Choudhary, N.I., Cowie, D., Dissanayake, L. MacLeod, L. Nnaji, A., Sahoo, M. (2024) 'Sexual and Reproductive Service Interventions for Menstrual Regulation, Safe Abortion, and Post-abortion Care and Their Effectiveness During Disaster Response: A Global Systematic Review', *International Journal of Disaster Risk Science*, 15: 359–373. Available at: [doi.org/10.1007/s13753-024-00565-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s13753-024-00565-7)

***Engagements with external organisations to raise awareness of Sendai Framework's first two targets***

See Activity 1 and the section on 'Conferences, Seminars, Workshops and Presentations'.

Between 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024, ADN engaged with more than 600 people through special sessions, consultations, outreach workshops, and stakeholder meetings. Additionally, we worked with 23 ADN Members to organise 54 activities across 12 countries through the global campaign IAD4AD.

The ADN has four media outlets: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and a dedicated website. The outlets disseminate international, national, regional, and local news, research, and innovative solutions to avoidable deaths. Two to three posts are published per week.

As of 31 July 2024, ADN had attracted 1,242 followers on LinkedIn, an increase of 445 followers (56% increase since July 2023).

On Twitter, ADN had attracted 719 followers, an increase of 64 followers (10% increase since July 2023).

On Facebook, ADN had attracted 647 followers, an increase of 30 followers (5% increase since July 2023). Of the 647, 34.6% are women and 65.4% are men.

On Instagram, ADN had attracted 200 followers, an increase of 46 followers (30% increase since July 2023). Of the 200 followers, 34.5% are women, and 55.4% are men.

ADN's website has a dedicated section on Resources, which consists of i. Innovations, ii. Newsletter, iii. ADN Junior Champion Magazine, iv. Bulletins, v. Annual Reports, vi. Annual Achievements Posters, vii. Project Outputs, viii. Event Outputs, ix. Relevant Publications, x. Repository of Snakebite Information, xi. Repository of COVID-19 Information, xii. Photo Gallery, and xiii. Season's Greetings. Through this range of outputs throughout the year, we continue to shine a light on the Sendai Goals A and B.

**Activity 3: Develop capacities of disaster responders and other stakeholders, through continuing professional development (CPD) courses, knowledge exchange events and an information repository.**

**CPD:** none this year.

**Professor Peter Jackson's Annual Lecture:** On 12 March 2024, the second Professor Peter Jackson's Annual Lecture was held to celebrate his legacy of mentoring Future Leaders.

Professor Vinod Sharma (**Figure 2**) from the Indian Institute of Public Administration was the second speaker who discussed '*The Vital Role of Mentors in Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development*'. This Lecture was part of the *IAD4AD India 2024: Symposium on Reducing Avoidable Deaths*.

**Figure 3: Professor Peter Jackson's Annual Lecture with Professor Vinod Sharma**



## **Knowledge exchange events**

Please see Activities 1 and 2 above.

**Activity 4: Develop lifesaving tools, kits, interventions, innovative technologies, governance models and theories to reduce the burden of maternal mortality, snakebite mortality, drowning mortality during disasters, and tsunami mortality through evidence-based pioneering research on hazards, exposures, vulnerability and risks.**

The previous and ongoing innovations of the Core Team are outlined below:

**1. Knowledge-Exchange Network (KEN) Platform** (work in progress): Also referred to as a Knowledge-Sharing Network (KSN) in older documents. A KEN fosters i) dialogue and discussions within and across stakeholder locations; ii) coordination, cooperation, and communication amongst stakeholders for resource-sharing and response at local levels; iii) identifying scope for transformative interdisciplinary research; and iv) improving the capacity of local stakeholders.

KEN Platform for 'Avoidable Snakebite Deaths' is implemented through a WhatsApp group of more than 53 members from 11+ countries representing 40+ organisations.

**2. Local-Level Action Network (LAN) Platform** (work in progress): is being trialled with high-risk groups (Ambassadors), including women, school children, farmers and herders, to empower the local community to prevent snakebites and deaths in Odisha, India. LAN Ambassadors are oriented on preventing snakebites and deaths through information, education, and communication (IEC) and behaviour change communication (BCC) materials. This information is then shared with villagers through home visits and community meetings. Through these meetings, Ambassadors identify local problems requiring technical experts' solutions. Ambassadors from a respective Gram Panchayat meet regularly, and field coordinators monitor these meetings.

As of 31 July 2024, we have 35 Ambassadors across 13 villages of Kodala Block of Ganjam District.

**3. Avoidable Deaths Framework (ADF)** (work in progress): Also referred to as Avoidable Disaster Deaths (ADD) Framework is a research project that aims to capture the number of avoidable deaths from the effects of COVID-19 and economic lockdown in India (first phase), and how can we reduce avoidable disaster deaths. The number of deaths from the effects of COVID-19 is understood through the lens of an 'avoidable disaster deaths perspective', one that understands disaster deaths are both avoidable and unavoidable, and avoidable disaster deaths are of three types: amenable, preventable and disaster risk governance. The project is ongoing.

As of 31 July 2024, Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett's book proposal for this project has been approved for publication by Springer Nature.

**4. Reproductive Health Kits for Disasters and Crises** (work in progress): The Facility and Mobile (renamed from Crisis) Kits are designed for the management of post-abortion complications, including incomplete or missed abortion (before and after 12 weeks of missed menstruation). These Kits consist of lifesaving medicines, equipment, and educational and instruction guidelines. Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)- IAA [ES/X004732/1] and ESRC-Commercialisation schemes, Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett is currently prototyping the Kits (September 2023 - August 2024). The collaborators for this phase are Data Management Aid (DMA) and Reproductive Health Services Training and Education Programme (RHSTEP).

## Publication:

Ray-Bennett, N.S., Corsel, D.M., Khan, S.T., Haseen, F., Bhuiyan, M. and Goswami, N. 2021. *Introducing Reproductive Kits for Facility and Crisis Set-Ups*. IPPF-South Asia Region Office: New Delhi. [ippfsar.org/resource/introducing-reproductive-health-kits-facility-crisis-set-bangladesh](http://ippfsar.org/resource/introducing-reproductive-health-kits-facility-crisis-set-bangladesh)

**5. Integrated intervention package RHCC:** is designed to improve the quality and availability of post-abortion care during a major flood at primary health care level with the overall aim of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity (SDG3, Sendai Target A)). The RHCC has three components: i) pre-positioning of Reproductive Health Kit prior to flooding; ii) Capacity building of health workers; and iii) Community awareness raising. The evidence-based RHCC package was first tested in Belkuchi, Bangladesh. This intervention package comes with a Structured Facility Assessment Tool and a Two-Step Checklist Facility Assessment Tool. These tools are designed to assess the capacity of the facilities for sexual and reproductive services, including menstrual regulation and post-abortion care, during disasters and humanitarian crises.

## Publications:

Ray-Bennett, N.S., Corsel, D., Goswami, N. and Bhuiyan, M. 2021. 'RHCC Intervention: Strengthening the delivery and coverage of sexual and reproductive health care during floods in Bangladesh' *International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare*, 14(4): 327-347 [doi.org/10.1108/IJHRH-11-2020-0098](https://doi.org/10.1108/IJHRH-11-2020-0098)

Ray-Bennett, N.S., Corsel, D., Goswami, N. and Ghosh, A. 2019. 'Understanding reproductive health challenges during a flood: Insights from Belkuchi Upazila, Bangladesh', *Gates Open Research* 2019(3): 788. [dx.doi.org/10.12688/gatesopenres.12920.2](https://dx.doi.org/10.12688/gatesopenres.12920.2)

Ray-Bennett, N.S., Corsel, D., Goswami, N. and Jackson, P. 2019. 'Challenges and opportunities around reproductive health during a flood: Insight from Belkuchi upazila, Bangladesh'. Contributing Paper to *Global Assessment Report (GAR) 2019*.

Ray-Bennett, N.S., Corsel, D.M. and Goswami, N. 2019. *Exploring the Challenges and Opportunities Around Reproductive Health in Disasters in Belkuchi Upazila, Bangladesh*. IPPF Publication: London. [ippf.org/resource/improving-quality-and-availability-post-abortion-care-humanitarian-crisis](http://ippf.org/resource/improving-quality-and-availability-post-abortion-care-humanitarian-crisis)

Ray-Bennett, N.S., Corsel, D.M. and Goswami, N. 2019. *RHCC: Facilitating Opportunities for Reproductive Health Care during a Flood in Bangladesh*. IPPF Publication: London. [ippf.org/sites/default/files/201904/IPPF%20Innovation%20Policy%20Brief%20PAC.pdf](http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/201904/IPPF%20Innovation%20Policy%20Brief%20PAC.pdf)

Ray-Bennett, N.S., Corsel, D.M. and Goswami, N. 2019. *RHCC: Improving the Quality of Post Abortion Care during Floods in Belkuchi, Bangladesh*. IPPF Publication: London. [ippf.org/sites/default/files/20104/IPPF%20Innovation%20Policy%20Brief%20RHCC%20Approach\\_0.pdf](http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/20104/IPPF%20Innovation%20Policy%20Brief%20RHCC%20Approach_0.pdf)

Ray-Bennett, N.S., Corsel, D.M. and Goswami, N. 2019. *What do I do If I experience Complications After Receiving Post Abortion Care*, IEC Poster, IPPF Publication: London. (English and Bengali).

[ippf.org/sites/default/files/201904/IPPF%20Innovation%20Policy%20Brief%20PAC.pdf](http://ippf.org/sites/default/files/201904/IPPF%20Innovation%20Policy%20Brief%20PAC.pdf)

**6. Systems Failure Approach (2018):** The research monograph *Avoidable Deaths* presents systems failure as an analytical tool to explain why deaths occur in disasters and how they may be reduced. The systems failure approach demonstrates that deaths in disasters are

socio-technical failures, and that it is by rectifying systems failures and promoting systems alignment that deaths can be prevented.

#### **Publications:**

Coetzee, J. and McLeod, L. (2022) 'The Key Role of Women in Preventing Disaster Related Avoidable Deaths', *Intersectionality of Women Led Disaster Preparedness and Resilience*, 197: Southasiadisasters.net. [reliefweb.int/report/india/intersectionality-women-led-disaster-preparedness-and-resilience-southasiadisastersnet](https://reliefweb.int/report/india/intersectionality-women-led-disaster-preparedness-and-resilience-southasiadisastersnet)

Ray-Bennett, N.S. and Shiroshita, H. 2019. Disasters, Deaths and the Sendai Framework's Target One: A Case for Systems Failure in Hiroshima Landslide 2014, Japan. *Disaster Prevention and Management*, 28 (6): 764-785 [doi.org/10.1108/DPM-09-2019-0302](https://doi.org/10.1108/DPM-09-2019-0302)

Ray-Bennett, N.S. and Shiroshita, H. 2019. Disasters, Deaths and the Sendai Framework's Target One: A Case for Systems Failure in Hiroshima Landslide 2014, Japan. Contributing Paper to *Global Assessment Report (GAR) 2019*. [preventionweb.net/files/66627\\_f424finalnibeditas.raybennettdisast.pdf](https://preventionweb.net/files/66627_f424finalnibeditas.raybennettdisast.pdf)

Ray-Bennett, N.S. 2018. *Avoidable Deaths: A Systems Failure Approach to Disaster Risk Management*. Springer Nature: Switzerland. Environmental Hazard Series. [link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-66951-9](https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-66951-9)

Ray-Bennett, N.S. 2017. Disasters, Deaths and the Sendai Goal One: Lessons from Odisha, India. *World Development*. 103(2018): 27-39. [doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.10.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2017.10.003)

Ray-Bennett, N.S. 2016. Learning from Deaths in Disasters: The Case of Odisha, India. MEI Middle East-Asia Project (MAP) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief: Rising to the Challenge? *MAP Bulletin*. [mei.edu/content/map/learning-deaths-disasters-case-odishaindia](https://mei.edu/content/map/learning-deaths-disasters-case-odishaindia)

**Activity 5: Strengthen connections between disaster responders, through leveraging existing and promoting novel networking platforms.**

***Projects that aim to promote novel networking platform/s***

**Exploring the Feasibility and Value of Pioneering Partnerships to Reduce Avoidable Snakebite Deaths in India** (January - August 2023): The Avoidable Snakebite Deaths Project is led by Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett in collaboration with 14 collaborating organisations: University of Leicester, PeerConnect, Disaster Management Advice and Training Consulting KG, Kansai University, Sheffield University, All India Institute of Disaster Management, Orissa State Volunteers Social Worker's Association, Tata Steel, Kalahandi University, Doers, Zoological Survey of India, Indian Council of Medical Research, Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Research in Tribal Health, Demow Rural Community Health Centre, Snake Helpline and All India Institute of Medical Science.

The project was successfully concluded on 31 August 2023 and ADN gained new collaborators from nine institutions (Ophirex, Inc., Climate Resilient Observing-Systems Promotion Council, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Premium Serums, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust and Centre for Herpetology, Himachal Pradesh State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, EMRI Green Health Services, and Bongaigaon Civil Hospital) and two independent snake rescuers.

This project led to the formation of an Avoidable Snakebite Deaths WhatsApp group of 50+ cross-sectoral technical experts. Through this, we have accrued reliable sources of information from our stakeholders, which has been published on our website as a Repository of Snakebite Information. This page is regularly updated. This project also led to the launching of the Case Station for Avoidable Snakebite Deaths.

**Case Station for Avoidable Snakebite Deaths (CaSA)** (September 2023 - Present): The ADN India Hub launched the Case Station for Avoidable Snakebite Deaths (CaSA) in Burujhari village of Ganjam District in Odisha, India on 19 September 2023. The CaSA exists to promote a social learning laboratory at the village level; foster village-level communities of practice (aka local level action network (LAN)) to find solutions at scale; and develop the capacity of primary and secondary responders to reduce avoidable snakebite deaths.

Since the launch event, there have been five key activities: i. IAD4AD Field Visit (13 March 2024), ii. Health Outreach: Dissemination of Findings (Avoidable Snakebite Deaths in India) (14 – 20 March 2024), iii. Awareness Raising Outreach Workshops on Avoidable Snakebite Deaths for Higher Secondary Schools (10 – 13 April 2024), iv. recruitment of LAN Ambassadors (10 – 13 April 2024), and v. forging local collaborations with Fakir Mohan University (Dept. Population Studies), Berhampur University (Centre of Excellence on Climate Change and Disaster Resilience (CECCDR)) and Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti (BGVS) (1-31 May 2024).

**Figure 4: Photo of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Material at the CaSA Launch Event**



**Projects that aim to leverage existing networking platform/s**

**Leading Edge Programme - United Nations Office for the Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)** (2024): On 8 May 2024, ADN gained membership with UNOCHA's Networks and Partnerships Group. ADN's membership is coordinated by Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett and ADN Advisory Board Member Professor Alois Hirschmugl from the Disaster Management Assistance Team. From 2025 onwards, individuals and organisations will be able to organise sessions at the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week under the ambit of ADN in Geneva in person or virtually.

**HEUREKA Project – Civil Protection Knowledge Partnership Middle East** (2022): This network is led by ADN Advisory Board Member, Professor Alois Hirschmugl (Disaster Management Assistance Team) and Organisational Partner, Dr. Albrecht Beck (Prepared International) in the Middle East. ADN is a member of HEUREKA.

**Eastern Belt Network-India** (2020 – 2024): This network-building project is led by Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett, Mr. Alex Skinner, and ADN's Future Leaders, Srashta Chowdhury (University of North Bengal), Rwitambhara Kashyap (Tata Institute of Social Sciences—Assam), Biswajit Paul (University of North Bengal), and Meharaj Bano (Vellore Institute of Technology). This project's first phase included mapping the Eastern Belt higher education institutions that offer risk, crisis, disaster management, and disaster deaths programmes. The report for the first phase is slated to release on 5 August 2024.



### ***Disaster Response***

On 14 July 2024, Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett, facilitated by the ADN Regional Coordinator, Mr. Snehendu Koner, submitted a letter to the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Ms. Mamata Banerjee with an appeal to consider taking the necessary steps to establish manufacturing units for anti-snake venom (AVS) and increase access to this standard medical care so that lives can be saved in the state of West Bengal.

This monsoon season has recorded a high number of snakebites in West Bengal.

**Activity 6: Nurture future leaders for avoidable deaths and improve their leadership and employability skills, through expert mentoring and engaging Interns for activities related to 1-5.**

### **Leaders for avoidable deaths**

Leaders for avoidable deaths are of two types: Junior Champions (10-17 years old) and Future Leaders (18 years plus). They join ADN as interns. The aims of this scheme are: i) to promote social consciousness amongst leaders for avoidable deaths by involving them in various disaster risk reduction, health and development projects, knowledge exchanges and engagement activities; ii) to equip them with confidence, knowledge, experience and belief that they can be agents for change, and that they can make the planet a better place to live; and iii) to give opportunities to the youths and leaders (current and future) in relation to activity (i) especially from socio-economically challenged circumstances.

### **Junior Champions**

#### **Junior Champions in Hama Elementary School, Japan** (April 2013 - Present):

On 7 July 2023, international delegates from Taiwan visited the Junior Champions at Hama Elementary School in Izumiotsu to play 12 disaster risk reduction games developed by the children under the guidance of Dr. Hideyuki Shiroshita.

During the academic year 2024, the Junior Champions produced two short films called 'Dream: Cherish the time you have now' and 'That day was different from usual: Important eraser' to reduce avoidable deaths from tsunami.

On 11 January 2024, international delegates and pupils from Taiwan visited the Junior Champions at Hama Elementary School in Izumiotsu to exchange their knowledge about disaster risk reduction. The Junior Champions screened their short films for international visitors.

On 25 March 2024, to mark the ADN's Global Campaign, the Junior Champions also co-hosted a DRR film screening event for the citizens of Izumiotsu city.

#### **ADN Junior Champion Magazine (ISSN 2759-0380)**

(August 2023 – Present):

Master Arkoneil Ghosh (Founding Editor) and Miss Prarthona Datta (Deputy Editor) developed the first issue of the Magazine entitled 'Listening to children's experiences in the latest floods in India.' The ADN Junior Champion Magazine was launched on 13 October 2023 at Kalahandi University in Odisha, hosted by Dr. Madhulika Sahoo, Director of Student Welfare at Kalahandi University and Editorial Manager at ADN.



**Figure 5: Front Cover of Magazine's first issue**

**Future Leaders** (August 2023 – July 2024):

The Interns (see **Table 2: List of Future Leader Interns**) worked on the following projects, events and publications during their internship periods:

**Knowledge Exchange Events** (August 2023 -July 2024):

Led by Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett, Ms. Lauren MacLeod and Dr. Nimra I. Choudhary, Ms. Kelly N. Litsoung assisted with the organisation and facilitation of two Special Sessions and one side events at an international conference. Kelly participated in meetings with collaborators and speakers, prepared event materials and conducted Impact, Q&A/Chat and Registration Coordinators roles during the events. Kelly has now graduated from her internship and is starting her voluntary role in the Core Team as Knowledge-Exchange Event Coordinator. Ms. Anushka Koner supported the Special Session events through graphic design activities and translating articles from Bengali to English for the next issue of the Junior Champion Magazine. Dr Mohammed Maryam Samaila contributed by handling the social media pages of ADN.

**Case Station for Avoidable Snakebite Deaths (CaSA)** (November 2023 – July 2024): Mr. Shafkat Hossain assisted with the project proposal for CRODA Foundation for CaSA.

**Global Campaign: IAD4AD** (January – March 2024): Ms. Darshanika D. Arambegedara and Ms. Ayesha Butt supported the development of the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Social Media Campaign on 13 avoidable deaths.

**ADN Newsletter (ISSN 2435-2608)** (November 2023): Ms. Lauren MacLeod and Ms. Darshanika D. Arambegedara contributed to writing the fifth issue of the Newsletter.

## Activity 7: Publishing Newsletter and Bulletins

Two Bulletins and one Newsletter were published from August 2023 to July 2024:

- Avoidable Deaths Network (2024). *ADN Summer-Winter Bulletin*. Available at: [avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ADN-Bulletin-Spring-Winter-2024.pdf](https://avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ADN-Bulletin-Spring-Winter-2024.pdf)
- Avoidable Deaths Network (2024). *ADN Winter-Spring Bulletin*. Available at: [avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ADN-Bulletin-Winter-Spring-2024-corrected-edition.pdf](https://avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/ADN-Bulletin-Winter-Spring-2024-corrected-edition.pdf)

## Activity 8: Actively soliciting and securing private and public funds to promote the above activities.

The details of successful grant awards (including contract research, research consultancy) for the period August 2023 – July 2024 follow:

- Project Title: *Identifying Gaps in Drowning Data Collection in Low-and Middle-Income Countries and the Actors Addressing Them*. Principal Investigator: Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett. Funder: Royal National Lifeboat Institution. August 2023 – June 2024.
- Project Title: *Prototyping Facility and Crisis Reproductive Health Kits in Bangladesh*. Funder: Economic Social Research Council [ES/X004732/1] Collaborators: Reproductive Health Services Training and Education Program (RHSTEP), Data Management Aid, Bangladesh (DMA), Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Government of Bangladesh. August 2023- July 2024.
- Project Title: *Prototyping Facility and Crisis Reproductive Health Kits in Bangladesh*. Funder: Economic Social Research Council – Commercialisation. March – September 2024.

### **Unsuccessful Grants**

- None

### **Unsuccessful Public Engagement Bids**

- None

## PROJECTS: AT A GLANCE

From 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024, the ADN team has been delivering seven projects. Three projects have been concluded, four are [ongoing](#). **Table 9** shows details of the projects.

**Table 9: 2023 – 2024 Projects**

#	Dates	Project Title	Project Aim/s	Status
1	September 2023 – October 2024	<a href="#">Prototyping Facility and Crisis Reproductive Health Kits in Bangladesh</a>	To prototype the Facility and Mobile (renamed from Crisis) Reproductive Health Kits and develop manuals and instruction guidelines for service providers to administer the Kits; and explore commercial viability of these Kits.	Ongoing.
2	August 2023 – August 2024	<a href="#">Identifying Gaps in Drowning Data Collection in Low-and Middle-Income Countries and the Actors Addressing Them</a>	<p>To study how drowning data has been collected in LMIC settings, identifying the challenges and opportunities of the processes employed; and which organisations or individuals' work has identified challenges and opportunities in using verbal autopsy, to collect context-specific and modifiable risk factors for injury deaths in LMIC settings.</p> <p>To foster partnerships for collaboration towards supporting the development of a full project proposal on establishing a minimum dataset for identifying modifiable risk factors for drowning for high-risk groups.</p>	<p>End of the project report submitted to the funder Royal National Lifeboat Institution.</p> <p>Preparation for a journal article submission is ongoing.</p>
3	January 2023 – Ongoing	<a href="#">Global Campaign: International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths</a>	<p>To raise visibility of disaster deaths, especially indirect disaster deaths and missing persons and capture impact on the lives and livelihoods of family members; to promote the slogan 'Disaster Deaths Are Avoidable'.</p> <p>This global campaign will be celebrated annually on 12 March, with the aim reducing the number of lives from disasters and valuing the saved lives.</p>	Ongoing.
4	July 2022 – June 2023	<a href="#">Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Remote and Hard to Reach (H2R) Areas of Bangladesh</a>	To increase access to SRH services for menstrual regulation and post abortion care in disaster prone H2R health facilities of Bangladesh.	Complete. Article published in the International Journal for Disaster Risk Science.

5	2020 – ongoing	<a href="#">School Pupils in Osaka are Champions for Avoidable Deaths from Tsunamis</a>	To reduce avoidable tsunami deaths by engaging with school pupils and “at risk” community, raise awareness on tsunami prediction, and create a culture of preparedness by producing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, magazines and continuous exercises and drills.	Ongoing.
6	April 2020 – July 2024	<a href="#">Eastern Belt Network – India</a>	To identify and map the number of colleges and universities that offer programmes related to risk, crisis, disaster management, development, and avoidable deaths in the 10 eastern states of India and explore the feasibility of developing a network for avoidable deaths, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.	Complete. Report to be released on 5 August 2024.
7	April 2020 – ongoing	<a href="#">Avoidable Deaths from the Effect of the COVID-19 and Lockdown in India</a>	To study the number of avoidable deaths from the effect of COVID-19 and economic lockdown using the novel Avoidable Deaths Framework (ADF).	Accepted for publication for Springer Nature.

## PUBLISHED OUTPUTS

Below is a small selection of peer-reviewed publications by ADN's Core Team and Regional Coordinators in Bangladesh, Canada, Sri Lanka, India, Japan, Uganda, and the UK.

### **Journal Articles (selective)**

Datta, R. and Kairy, B. (2024) 'Decolonizing Climate Change Adaptations from Indigenous Perspectives: Learning Reflections from Munda Indigenous Communities, Coastal Areas in Bangladesh', *Sustainability*, 16 (2): 769. Available at: [doi.org/10.3390/su16020769](https://doi.org/10.3390/su16020769)

Ekezie, W., Hopwood, E., Czyznikowska, B., Weidman, S., Mackintosh, N., Curtis, F. (2024) 'Perinatal health outcomes of women from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities: A systematic review', *Midwifery*, 129: 103910. Available at: [doi.org/10.1016/j.midw.2023.103910](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.midw.2023.103910)

Haseen, F., Hedayet, H., Nazneen, S. Akter, N., Haney, U., Chowdhury, M.S.A., Khan, M.S.R., Rahman, A.G.M.M., Nazma Siddika Begum, N.S., Mahmud, M.S.H., Islam, S.S. (2024) 'Gender lens review of adolescent health care services: a mixed methods study in Bangladesh.', *Journal of Global Health Reports*, 8:e2024005. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.29392/001c.92507>

Ghosh, A. Dutta, K. (2024) 'Health threats of climate change: from intersectional analysis to justice-based radicalism', *Ecology and Society*, 29 (2): 15. Available at: [doi.org/10.5751/ES-14045-290215](https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-14045-290215)

Shiroshita, H., Jayaratne, R. and Kitagawa K. (2024) 'Integrating Communities' Perspectives in Understanding Disaster Risk'. *Natural Hazards*, 120, no. 9: 8263–82. Available at: [doi.org/10.1007/s11069-024-06452-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11069-024-06452-0)

### **Books**

Muthukrishnan, R. and Datta, R. (2024). *Indigenous Practice and Community-Led Climate Change Solutions: The Application of Traditional Cosmic Knowledge Systems*. London: Routledge.

### **Reports**

MacLeod, L., Umar, A.O., Ray-Bennett, N.S., Shiroshita, H., Andrew, P.F., Akter, F., Malik, I., Dueheney, Z., Tahir, A., Koner, S., Bhardwaj, A., Ekezie, W. (2024) *Highlights: International Awareness Day For Avoidable Deaths (IAD4AD) 2024 Global Campaign*. UK and Japan: Avoidable Deaths Network Publication. Available at: [iad4ad.avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/HIGHLIGHTS-OF-IAD4AD-2024-Report.pdf](https://avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/HIGHLIGHTS-OF-IAD4AD-2024-Report.pdf)

Ray-Bennett, N.S., MacLeod, L. (2023) *Proceedings: Case Station for Avoidable Snakebite Deaths Launch Event*. UK and Japan: Avoidable Deaths Network Publication. Available at: [avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CaSA-Launch-Proceedings-.pdf](https://avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CaSA-Launch-Proceedings-.pdf)

### **Leaflets**

MacLeod, L. Ray-Bennett, N.S. (2024) *Project Highlight: Awareness Raising Outreach Workshops on Avoidable Snakebite Deaths for Higher Secondary Schools in Ganjam, Odisha, India*. UK and Japan: Avoidable Deaths Network Publication. Available at: [avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/IEF-Fellowship-Highlight-Final-27.05.24.pdf](https://avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/IEF-Fellowship-Highlight-Final-27.05.24.pdf)

Ray-Bennett, N.S. MacLeod, L. (2024) *Project Highlight: Exploring the Feasibility and Value of Pioneering Partnerships to Reduce Avoidable Snakebite Deaths in India*. UK and Japan:

Avoidable Deaths Network Publication. Available at: [avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/3-page-highlight.pdf](https://avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/3-page-highlight.pdf)

MacLeod, L. Ray-Bennett, N.S. (2024) *Event Highlight: Case Station for Avoidable Snakebite Deaths (CaSA)*. UK and Japan: Avoidable Deaths Network Publication. Available at: [avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CaSA-Highlight.pdf](https://avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CaSA-Highlight.pdf)

### **Posters**

Avoidable Deaths Network. (2023) *Avoidable Deaths Network's Achievements and Highlights January – December 2023*. UK and Japan: Avoidable Deaths Network Publication. Available at: [avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2023-Achievements-Poster-768x1920.jpeg](https://avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2023-Achievements-Poster-768x1920.jpeg)

Dissanayake, L. Ray-Bennett, N.S. Ekezie, W. MacLeod, L. Mecrow, T. Saunders, C. Sindall, B. Oporia, F. Rahman, A. (2024) *How drowning data is collected in low- and middle-income countries: a scoping review*. Avoidable Deaths Network, University of Leicester UK. Available at: [avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Drowning-data-collection-A-Scoping-Review.pdf](https://avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Drowning-data-collection-A-Scoping-Review.pdf)

Ekezie, W., Igein, B., Adeyeye, O., Varughese, J., Srinivasan, V., Dahiru, H., Dahiru, Z., Alam, S., Neha., Kirubakaran, R. (2024) *Top 10 Avoidable Deaths in the UK*. UK: Centre for Health and Society, Aston University. Available at: [iad4ad.avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/CHS-Student-Hub-Final-Poster.pdf](https://iad4ad.avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/CHS-Student-Hub-Final-Poster.pdf)

MacLeod, L., Ray-Bennett, N.S., Arienta, F. (2024) *Information, Education and Communication (IEC) of Snakes and Climate Change*. Avoidable Deaths Network, University of Leicester UK. Available at: [avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/English-Information-Education-and-Communication-Of-Snakes-And-Climate-Change-1.pdf](https://avoidable-deaths.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/English-Information-Education-and-Communication-Of-Snakes-And-Climate-Change-1.pdf)

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### **Magazines**

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## CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

### Invited keynote addresses/lectures/speeches

- Dr. Hideyuki Shiroshita delivered a lecture on 'Disaster Education: The Importance of Education for DRR Performance' at FY2024 Decade-Training for School Teachers, organised by Osaka Prefectural Education Board, Online, on 19 April 2024.
- Dr. Hideyuki Shiroshita delivered a lecture on 'Revisiting School Education for Disaster Risk Reduction' at FY2023 Leadership Council of Junior Red Cross, organised by Aichi Prefecture Branch, Japanese Red Cross Societies, Nagoya Hall on 19 January 2024.
- Dr. Nibedita Ray-Bennett delivered a keynote speech entitled 'Why snakebite deaths are avoidable deaths: Introduction to the concept of avoidable deaths' for a knowledge exchange event for the Art of Living Organisation on 17 January 2024.
- Dr Hideyuki Shiroshita and Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett presented "Snakebites: Causes of Avoidable Indirect Disaster Deaths" at the Integrated Disaster Risk Management (IDRIM) Task Force Implementation Gap Seminar on 8 December 2023.

### Press, Media and Impact

Between 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024, ADN was featured in 12 press articles and two videos, reaching audiences in Belize, India, the UK, and Worldwide.

#### Press

Down To Earth. (2023) 'UK university academic is lending expertise to cut India's snakebite deaths', *Down To Earth*. Available at: [downtoearth.org.in/health/uk-university-academic-is-lending-expertise-to-cut-india-s-snakebite-deaths-93076](https://downtoearth.org.in/health/uk-university-academic-is-lending-expertise-to-cut-india-s-snakebite-deaths-93076)

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Odiya Daily Dharitri. (2024) ସାପକାମୁଡ଼ା ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ରୋକିବାକୁ ସଚେତନତା, Odiya Daily Dharitri. Available at: [iad4ad.avoidable-deaths.net/press/](https://iad4ad.avoidable-deaths.net/press/)

PreventionWeb. (2024) 'Announcement of IAD4AD India 2024', PreventionWeb. Available at: [preventionweb.net/event/announcement-iad4ad-india-2024](https://preventionweb.net/event/announcement-iad4ad-india-2024)

UNICEF. (2024) Galen University and UNICEF Belize Forge Strategic Partnership Collaboration includes the Launch of the ADN Galen University, Belize Chapter, *UNICEF*. Available at: [unicef.org/belize/press-releases/galen-university-and-unicef-belize-forge-strategic-partnership](https://unicef.org/belize/press-releases/galen-university-and-unicef-belize-forge-strategic-partnership)

University of Leicester. (2023) 'Leicester expert leads fight to cut India's annual toll of 50,000 snakebite deaths', *University of Leicester*. Available at: [le.ac.uk/news/2023/november/india-snakes](https://le.ac.uk/news/2023/november/india-snakes)

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Yengkhom, S. (2023) Kolkata Durga Puja pandals to feature displays on preventing avoidable deaths, *The Times of India*. Available at: [timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/kolkata-durga-puja-pandals-to-feature-displays-on-preventing-avoidable-deaths/articleshow/104560110.cms](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/kolkata-durga-puja-pandals-to-feature-displays-on-preventing-avoidable-deaths/articleshow/104560110.cms)

### **Media**

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## ANNEX 1: LIST OF OUR ORGANISATIONAL PARTNERS

Number	Date of Joining	Name	Country
1	12 March 2019	India	All India Disaster Mitigation Institute
2	12 March 2019	India	Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association
3	12 March 2019	Egypt, India and Myanmar	MARS Practitioners Network: Mainstreaming Adaptation, Resilience and Sustainability into Development and daily life
4	12 March 2019	Belize	Right Insights
5	12 March 2019	Thailand	Equal Asia Foundation
6	19 March 2019	India	Doers
7	5 April 2019	Uganda	Africa Disaster Reduction Research and Emergency Missions [ADRREM] (Uganda)
8	2 May 2019	Uganda	Transformative Projects Services Ltd
9	8 November 2019	Bangladesh	Data Management Aid
10	18 December 2019	India	Resilience Innovation Knowledge Academy
11	26 December 2019	India	Confederation of Risk Reduction Professionals
12	14 January 2020	Belize	Right Insights
13	28 September 2020	Uganda	SAF (Shine Africa Foundation)-Teso
14	19 November 2020	Pakistan	Center for Disaster Management, University of Management and Technology
15	1 December 2020	India	Alchemist Research and Data Analysis
16	13 January 2021	Nigeria	Disaster Alert
17	22 January 2021	India	Pearlss 4 Development
18	5 February 2021	Nigeria	Decapolis Community Development Centers
19	10 December 2021	Austria	Disaster Management, Advice and Training (DMAT) Consulting KG
20	10 December 2021	Germany	Prepared International (PPI)
21	12 March 2022	India	Project DEFY- DISPECS (Disaster Prepared Community Spaces)

## **ANNEX 2: TESTIMONIALS**

### ***Junior Champions***

#### **Anuskha Koner**

*I am from Kolkata, India, and I am passionate about disaster risk management and deeply committed to contributing to society. In October 2023, I joined the Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN) as a Junior Champion and Co-Editor of Junior Champions Magazine Issue 2.*

*Working closely with the incredibly skilled Master Arkoneil Ghosh, we turned well-written articles into a beautifully organized magazine. The articles were collected, translated, edited, proofread and drafted. Although there were many steps, seeing everything fit together like puzzle pieces proved highly fulfilling.*

*Aside from the magazine, I designed and produced the ADN's Season's Greeting card, flyers, posters, and banners for IAD4AD and Knowledge Exchange Special Sessions. These tasks effectively channelled my passion for creative design, and with Dr. Nibedita's expert advice and a keen eye for detail, I generated high-quality materials.*

*I have consistently attended weekly and monthly meetings, gaining excellent knowledge and a broader world perspective by listening to and witnessing the members' diligent work. The members' devotion and skills have been an incredible source of inspiration, helping me improve personally over the past few months.*

*My experience with ADN has been immensely rewarding. I believe that ADN is making a significant difference in the world, and I am eager to take on more responsibilities in the coming years and contribute actively to the Network's mission.*

*ADN has given me valuable skills and knowledge, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a meaningful and impactful organisation.*

#### **Arkoneil Ghosh**

*At just 10 years old, staring out at the maze of narrow alleyways and makeshift shelters in Dharavi, Mumbai, a disquieting realization tugged at me. This was not just a backdrop for a school robotics project focused on sanitation; it was a living, breathing reality for countless people. That day, amidst the whirring gears and flashing lights of our robots, a different kind of spark ignited within me - a burning desire to fight for a world where such struggles would not be the norm. This fire led me straight to the Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN), a community dedicated to the very cause that now consumed my thoughts. Now, I am 15 years old, leading the Junior Champion Magazine, which represents the unheard voices of the children living in the frontline with the impact of climate change and other adversities. This marks a milestone of 5 years. Is one to celebrate.*

*The fight against preventable tragedies would not stay silent. My voice joined the chorus, taking the form of regular articles raising awareness. In 2022, the fight became more visual. I*

created a hard-hitting poster to combat drowning deaths, followed by another addressing the silent threat of snakebites. These were not just images; they were calls to action.

Little did I know, my journey led me far beyond the familiar. In 2023, I was on an aeroplane to Japan, visiting Osaka, representing my journey at the International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths (IAD4AD). Sharing my experiences and the network's mission on a global platform ignited a new passion – to ensure everyone has a voice in this fight.

Recognition followed. I was entrusted with the role of administrator for IAD4AD – a testament to the impact my journey had made. But the year was not over yet. July 2023 saw the birth of the "Junior Champion Magazine" – a platform for children's voices on disaster risk reduction. The Magazine was launched on the UN's International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and the event was hosted by the Vice Chancellor of Kalahandi University in Odisha.

2024 brought me back to Odisha to revisit the IAD4AD stage. But now, it was not just my own story I shared. It was a story of collective action, voices rising in unison, demanding a world free from preventable tragedies. The journey continues, with every article, every poster, every child's voice in the magazine, adding a brick to the foundation of a safer world.

**Figure 6: Photo of Arkoneil at the ADN Junior Magazine Launch event at Kalahandi University**



## **Future Leader/s**

### **Marina Yagi**

During my nine-month internship at Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN) – Japan from June 2023 to March 2024, I had an amazing learning experience, and prepared me for my first employment with the company right now. Staying in India, even for a few weeks, is a very valuable experience. The food, temperature, and lifestyle were completely different, but strangely enough, I never wanted to return to Japan. In fact, I came to think that it was interesting, and I wanted to know more about India. I attended the International Women's Day celebration, observed the kind of life local women lead, took part in the ADN's Global Campaign and snakebite outreach activities, and planted mangrove samplings on the coast of the Bay of Bengal on behalf of the ADN Presidents.

*The internship has been an essential part of my personal and professional growth, giving me valuable insights into Indian culture and the Indian way of living. It is entirely different from the world I had seen on TV, and the people there were very warm and kind.*

**Figure 7: Photo of Marina Yagi celebrating International Women's Day and IAD4AD with a mangrove plantation**

*My trip to India has helped me in my current job. I have been selling products to India as an overseas sales representative since April this year. In addition to product knowledge, knowing Indian culture at the local place and their value can be a tip for sales. I know many co-workers around me are having difficulty understanding this, but I am not like that.*

*I believe that my desire to work with the country of India would not have been possible without my experience at ADN, and I would not have been able to make the decision to do so. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude once again to ADN.*

