

## **Promising Results for the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation on its 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary**

The Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation, whose main priority is to save lives by fighting against drowning, has achieved encouraging results after three years of existence:

- More than 92,500 people, of which 91,000 children, have benefited from its help
- 102 projects have been developed in 27 countries (\*)

The Foundation's mission is to raise awareness of the dangers of water, to teach children preventive measures and to teach them to swim.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that drowning claimed the lives of 372,000 people worldwide in 2012 (\*\*), which represents 42 people per hour. It was also determined that drowning kills more children than tuberculosis or measles.

When drownings are not fatal, they can cause severe after effects, mainly neurological.

This past November in Malaysia the WHO participated in the World Conference on Drowning Prevention and took the opportunity to remind all attendees of several very simple drowning prevention measures that can be taken.

Always watching your children in and around the water, teaching them first aid and how to swim, and installing barriers around pools would drastically reduce the number of deaths. Furthermore, studying the development of national drowning prevention plans is highly recommended, and better yet, should be put into practice.

HSH Princess Charlene moreover declared: "By joining forces, sharing experiences and resources, we will succeed in saving lives through international cooperation in the fight against drowning, a terrible, yet silent, killer."

(\*): South Africa, Australia, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, France, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Monaco, Morocco, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Dominican Republic, Senegal, Sudan, Serbia, Tanzania, Thailand, USA, Zimbabwe.

(\*\*): Copied with permission from the publisher - Fact sheet N°347, April 2014, published by the World Health Organization

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs347/fr/>

In order to fight this scourge, the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation has many "Learn to Swim" and "Water Safety" programmes implemented worldwide.

The "Sport & Education" programme uses sporting activities as tools to contribute to the welfare and development of all children regardless of their origins and circumstances. This program also allows, through international sporting events or exchanges, to open up to and learn about other cultures and realities.

Sports, education, self-respect, respect for others and friendship are the many great values the Foundation will continue to bring forward in 2016.

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