



South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)

SAARC Apex Body

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SAARC SECRETARIAT

January – December, 2014

Submitted
on
30 January, 2015

A. Introduction

SAIEVAC is the South Asian response to the global call by the UN Secretary General to end Violence Against Children in 2006. SAIEVAC, formerly SAF, was launched as an outcome of the regional consultation that took place in Islamabad, Pakistan, in May 2005, as part of the UN Global Study on Violence Against Children by the Governments and the children from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Since 2010 SAIEVAC, the SAARC Apex body driven by the commitment of South Asian governments, has been formally functioning with its regional secretariat in Kathmandu. SAIEVAC engages with a wide-range of stakeholders including children, INGOs, UN Agencies and civil society in an innovative and collaborative manner to achieve greater impact for children across the region. The Regional SAIEVAC Secretariat is responsible for managing the programmatic interventions and managerial aspects of all the initiatives under SAIEVAC

B. Summary of Major Activities [January – December, 2014]

S. No.	Activity	Venue	Date	Funding Source
1.	Collaboration with Peace Gong	Delhi, India	25 September - 31 December, 2014 (Contract)	Plan International-MCA Program
2.	Publication of South Asian Edition of 'Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting'	Kathmandu, Nepal	31 December, 2014	SACG – Save the Children
3.	Adaption of a Tele-Film on Positive Discipline	Kathmandu, Nepal	31 December, 2014	SACG – Save the Children
4.	2 nd Regional Consultation on Human Resource Development Strategy on Child Protection and Violence against Children (SAIEVAC Academy)	Pokhara, Nepal	24 – 26 December, 2014	SAARC Development Fund
5.	SAIEVAC – SAARCLAW Meeting	New Delhi, India	19 – 20 December, 2014	Plan International-MCA Program
6.	Dialogue to Explore Convergence: SAIEVAC & the Regional Initiative for South Asian Human Rights Mechanism	New Delhi, India	18 December, 2014	SACG – Save the Children
7.	Consultation of the Expert Committee – Central Monastic Body, Bhutan and Study Visit of Monastic Representatives from Nepal	Thimphu, Bhutan	11 – 14 December, 2014	SACG – Save the Children
8.	Joint Review of NACG Targets	Colombo, Sri Lanka	7 December, 2014	Plan International Inc. ARO
9.	4 th Technical Consultation on Stepping up Protection of Children with Disabilities in South Asia	Colombo, Sri Lanka	5 – 6 December, 2014	SACG – Save the Children Plan International Inc. ARO SAARC Development Fund

				UNICEF Terre des homes
10.	Publication and Launching of the Legal Status Report on Corporal Punishment	Colombo, Sri Lanka	5 December, 2014	SACG – Save the Children
11.	Regional Children’s Consultation on Stepping up Protection of Children with Disabilities in South Asia	Colombo, Sri Lanka	3 – 4 December, 2014	SACG – Save the Children Plan International Inc. ARO SAARC Development Fund UNICEF Terre des homes
12.	Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and The Pacific	Bangkok, Thailand	24 – 28 November, 2014	Plan International- MCA Program
13.	Peoples’ SAARC Conference	Kathmandu, Nepal	22 – 24 November, 2014	Plan International- MCA Program
14.	Consultation with the South Asian Association of Child Helplines [SAACH] on Data Sharing	Kathmandu, Nepal	8 – 9 November, 2014	SACG – Save the Children
15.	Regional Convening on Using Law to Promote Accountability to End Child Marriage		6 – 7 November, 2014	Center for Reproductive Rights United Nations Population Fund
16.	Uniform Case Management System (UCMS Meeting)	Delhi, India	2 - 4 November, 2014	Plan International- MCA Program
17.	Finalization of Generic Guidelines for Child Participation	Kathmandu, Nepal	31 October, 2014	SAARC Development Fund SACG
18.	Regional Parliamentarians Meeting on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls	Siem Reap, Cambodia	24 – 25 October, 2014	Plan International- MCA Program
19.	Support to Pakistan Mechanism for the Orientation on Positive Discipline	Islamabad, Pakistan	29 – 20 September, 2014	SACG – Save the Children
20.	Joint International Symposium on Ending Corporal Punishment	Nagoya, Japan	15 September, 2014	SACG – Save the Children
21.	Support to Nepal Mechanism for Launching National Campaign against Corporal Punishment	Kathmandu, Nepal	14 September, 2014	SACG – Save the Children
22.	NACG Strategic Meeting, India	Delhi, India	1 September 2014	Plan International- MCA Program
23.	SAIEVAC’s 5 th Governing Board Meeting	Dhaka, Bangladesh	19 – 21 August, 2014	Plan International- MCA Program,

				International Labour Organisation
24.	National Consultation Meeting, Dhaka	Dhaka, Bangladesh	12 August 2014	Plan International-MCA Program
25.	Orientation on Positive Discipline and Consultation of the Expert Committee on Child Protection of the Central Monastic Body of Bhutan	Paro, Bhutan	15 – 17 July, 2014	SACG – Save the Children
26.	Regional Consultation on Human Resource Development Strategy on Child Protection and Violence against Children (SAIEVAC Academy)	Thimphu, Bhutan	26 – 28 June, 2014	SAARC Development Fund
27.	4 th NACG (National Action and Co-ordinating Group against Violence against Children) Meeting	Negombo, Sri Lanka	17 – 18 June, 2014	Plan International Inc. ARO
28.	Regional Kick-off Meeting on 'Mapping of Service Providers' of the Missing Child Alert (MCA) Project	Colombo, Sri Lanka	14 - 15 June, 2014	Plan International-MCA Program
29.	Expert Group Meeting to finalize the Regional Action Plan and Implementation Strategy to End Child Marriage in South Asia	Kathmandu, Nepal	28 – 29 May, 2014	Plan International Inc. ARO
30.	SAIEVAC – SAACH (South Asian Association of Child Helplines) Consultation	Kathmandu, Nepal	25 – 27 May, 2014	Plan International-MCA Program
31.	Workshop of the Experts on the Legal Status of Corporal Punishment	Kathmandu, Nepal	23 – 24 May, 2014	SACG – Save the Children
32.	Documentation of the Child Protection System of the Central Monastic Body	Thimphu, Bhutan	5 – 7 May, 2014	SACG – Save the Children
33.	Regional Workshop on Synchronization of Project Activities	Dhaka, Bangladesh	23 - 25 April, 2014	Plan International-MCA Program
34.	Regional Advocacy & Communication Planning Workshop	Islamabad, Pakistan	25 – 28 March 2014	SAARC Development Fund
35.	Support to Pakistan Mechanism to Launch National Campaign against Corporal Punishment	Islamabad, Pakistan	27 March 2014	SACG – Save the Children

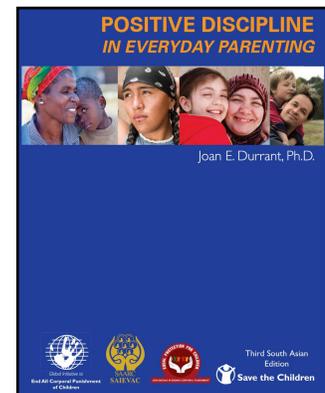
C. Brief Description of the Major Initiatives

1. Collaboration with Peace Gong

SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat has entered into an agreement with the Peace Gong – the global children’s newspaper which brings together the children from different parts of the world. The partnership is aimed at supporting the Peace Gong to publish special editions of the children’s newspaper on issues relating to violence against children in the region. The main objective of the collaboration is to support media literacy among children and train them to examine and analyze how information is sought, reported and presented to the media and other channels of communication, and lobby for change to end Violence against children in South Asia with a special attention to the issue of missing children and trafficking.

2. *Publication of South Asian Edition of ‘Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting’*

The third edition of the book ‘Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting’ [author: Joan E. Durrant, Ph.D.] was adapted and reprinted for the use by SAIEVAC’s national mechanisms in South Asia. Certain changes were made in the book to ensure sensitivity to some cultural concerns in South Asia. New example related to a common situation experienced by many South Asian parents was also incorporated.



3. *Adaption of a Tele-Film on Positive Discipline*

SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat has recompiled a tele-film aimed at raising awareness on the harm of corporal punishment and the understanding of positive discipline in schools with English subtitles. The tele-film was developed by SAIEVAC’s national mechanism and partners in Nepal.



Permission was obtained from the copyright holder of the tele-film for SAIEVAC to recompile the video with English subtitles and redistribute the copy of the video with the subtitles. The dialogues used in the tele-film were translated from Nepali to English and incorporated in the video file. Copies of the tele-film have been produced in DVDs for the use of SAIEVAC’s national mechanisms. The video will also be uploaded to the video sharing websites for the use by others.

4. *2nd Regional Consultation on Human Resource Development Strategy on Child Protection and Violence against Children (SAIEVAC Academy)*

SAIEVAC’s human resources development strategy on child protection has made certain progress. The member states have identified the major capacity building needs and priorities of the professionals working with children in the respective countries. Some standardized and recognized in-country trainings and human resources development programs have been mapped along with the existing training manuals and resources. Such training programs will be developed as regional capacity building initiatives to include the professionals from other member states. A roster of experts on the issues relating to child protection has been prepared by identifying experts from the member states. The 2nd Regional Consultation on the Human Resources Development Strategy on Child Protection and Ending Violence against Children (SAIEVAC Academy), held in Pokhara, Nepal from 24th to 26th December, 2014 resulted in a framework of action to map/identify existing research work, documentation, best practices, surveys, etc. related to child protection initiatives in the region. The consultation also reviewed the draft framework of SAIEVAC Management Information System [SMIS] particularly the

category of data and information to be housed in the SMIS portal and the process of data sharing/collection and use from the national mechanisms.

5. SAIEVAC – SAARCLAW Meeting

The SAIEVAC – SAARCLAW Meeting (Pre-SAARCLAW Conference) was held in New Delhi, India from 19th to 20th December to review the recommendations of the 12th SAARCLAW Conference and the Thimphu Declaration of the 9th SAARC Chief Justices Conference and identify and finalize common areas for action. The meeting also discussed and agreed to organized SAARCLAW – SAIEVAC Consultation on Missing Children and Cross border Trafficking. The scope of collaboration between SAIEVAC and SAARCLAW for the 13th SAARCLAW Conference and the 10th SAARC Chief Justices Conference were discussed and endorsed by the representatives from SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat and the Executive Committee Members of SAARCLAW.

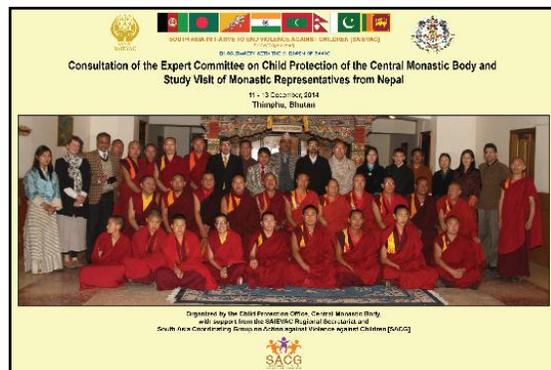
6. Dialogue to Explore Convergence: SAIEVAC & the Regional Initiative for South Asian Human Rights Mechanism

The Task Force Members of the Regional Initiative for South Asian Human Rights Mechanism were called for a joint session with SAIEVAC on 18th December, 2014 in New Delhi, India. The major objective of the meeting was to explore options and strategies for incorporating the issue of corporal punishment and other forms of violence against children in the works and priorities of the Regional Initiative for South Asian Human Rights Mechanism. It was noted that the works of RI-SAHRM human rights agenda should be visible and grounded on specific issues. The meeting agreed that the RI-SAHRM can provide a human rights cover for the work of SAIEVAC while SAIEVAC can extend the linkages with national mechanisms to the Regional Initiative. It was also held that if the Regional Initiative undertakes certain thematic priorities such as addressing violence against children, SAIEVAC can engage in regular collaboration with the Regional Initiative. South Asia does not have a regional human rights mechanism with a mandate to monitor and enforce human rights instruments. It was thus considered necessary to initiate a movement to establish regional human rights mechanism with a comprehensive regional legal framework, human rights monitoring and enforcement institutions, as well as technical support institutions to promote the understanding of and compliance with human rights obligations.



The meeting concluded with a decision for partnership between SAIEVAC and the RI-SAHRM on the issues of child rights, particularly the actions aimed at addressing violence against children. The Plan of Action adopted by the meeting also enlists the follow-up of the People’s SAARC Declaration with the SAARC Secretariat. The Task Force members and representatives from Afghanistan, Bhutan, India, Maldives and Nepal along with the representatives from SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat and FORUM-ASIA participated in the meeting. The ‘Regional Initiative for South Asian Human Rights Mechanism’ is a network of organizations and individuals which aims to create an environment conducive to the establishment of a South Asian Human Rights Mechanism. A separate report details the proceedings and outcomes of the meeting.

7. Consultation of the Expert Committee – Central Monastic Body, Bhutan and Study Visit of Monastic Representatives from Nepal



SAIEVAC has been supporting the Central Monastic Body of Bhutan to establish and strengthen a child protection system within the monastic institutions with particular focus on ending corporal punishment and promoting positive discipline techniques. A follow-up consultation with the Expert Committees on Child Protection of the Central Monastic Body was organized together with a study visit of the monastic representatives from Nepal to study the child protection initiatives in the monastic institutions in Bhutan from 11th to 14th December, 2014 in Thimphu, Bhutan. The Consultation of the Expert Committee prepared a Framework of Action for the Child Care and Protection Office, Central Monastic Body for the next few years and finalized the work-plan for the first year. The meeting also reviewed the recommendations of the previous consultation (held in Paro) and assessed the progress with regard to the finalization of child protection organizational structure and initiation of child protection programs. A total of 41 participants including the Expert Committee Members and other authorities from the Central Monastic Body and SAIEVAC's national mechanism in Bhutan participated in the consultation.

The monastic representatives from Nepal also visited Bhutan and had an interaction with the Expert Committee Members on Child Protection of the Central Monastic Body, Bhutan. The sharing of experiences and learning encouraged the child protection initiatives in monastic institutions in Bhutan and Nepal. The monastic delegates from Nepal also visited the monastic institutions to observe and understand the child protection initiatives in the religious institutions in Bhutan. The 10-member delegation from Nepal was composed of the executive members of Nepal Buddhist Federation representing different Buddhist religious institutions along with the representatives from the Central Child Welfare Board of Nepal and SAIEVAC's partners. It has been reported that Nepal Buddhist Federation has been engaging in discussions to advance child protection within the monastic institutions in Nepal. A separate report details the proceedings and outcomes of the consultation.

8. Joint Review of NACG Targets

The SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat organized the Review of NACG Targets in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 7th December 2014. The Review's overall aim was to report on and review the progress made by the NACGs against the milestones set for NACGs during the 3rd NACG Regional Consultation (December 2013, Colombo, Sri Lanka) and the 4th NACG Meeting (June 2014, Negombo, Sri Lanka).

The NACG representatives from the member states reported on the targets set for 2014 which focused on the finalization of the ToR for the NACG; documentation of the mission, goal, structure, membership and action plan of the NACGs; identification of the core group and focal point to spearhead children's participation in the NACG, identification of appropriate communications mechanisms and definition of the role of UN/INGOs within the NACGs. Following the country NACG presentations, discussions were held and certain decisions were adopted with regard to the reactivation of a common communication platform (using Google Group), development of common identify for NACGs (such as logos and visibility materials), need of Terms of Reference for the Civil Society Representative to the SAIEVAC Governing Board, submission of narrative report on the status of NACGs, date and venue for the next NACG Consultation, and some other issues. A total of 50 participants representing NACGs from the 8 SAARC member states, the SAIEVAC Governing Board Members, SAIEVAC National Coordinators, Child Governing Board Members and Observers, SACG Representatives and the team members from the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat participated in the meeting.

9. 4th Technical Consultation on Stepping up Protection of Children with Disabilities in South Asia

The 4th Technical Consultation on Stepping up Protection of Children with Disabilities in South Asia was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 5th to 6th December, 2014. The consultation noted the challenges, factors causing disabilities and the existing situation of the children with disabilities together with the existing barriers as well as some emerging good practices in ensuring protection of the children with

disabilities in the respective countries as documented in the national consultations. Three technical papers: 'Rights of Children with Disabilities to protection: International Perspective', 'Children with Disability and Corporal Punishment', 'Children with Disability – Existing legal and policy environment in South Asia Region' were presented. Group discussions explored and discussed on the legal and policy environment for ensuring protection of children with disability, children with disability in Institutional care settings including schools and family settings, and protection and participation rights of children with disabilities within the SAIEVAC Framework. After deliberating extensively on the different agenda items tabled for its consideration, which included technical discussion papers, children's recommendations as well as reports on the thematic areas from the 8 Member State, the consultation adopted certain recommendations for stepping up protection of children with disabilities in South Asia.

Approximately 70 delegates attended the Consultation which included SAIEVAC Governing Board Members, SAIEVAC National Coordinators, SAIEVAC's Child Governing Board Members and Observers, child representatives, representatives from government's focal agencies for disabilities, Chairs/Co-Chairs or representatives of NACGs, representatives from Civil Society Organizations, representatives from SAARC Secretariat, SACG, and SAARC Development Fund.

10. Publication and Launching of the Legal Status Report on Corporal Punishment

The report 'Prohibition of Corporal Punishment of Children in South Asia: Progress and Proposals for Reform' was published and launched in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 5th December, 2014 on the occasion of the 4th Technical Consultation on Stepping Up Protection of Children with Disabilities in South Asia. The launching ceremony was attended by the senior politicians and bureaucrats from Sri Lanka, SAIEVAC's national mechanisms from all eight countries as well as the representatives from other partners and stakeholders including the SAARC Secretariat, SAARC Development Fund, South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children [SACG] and the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children. Children's representatives from South Asia also participated in the event. Some updates were incorporate in the report before printing. The report identifies and discusses the legal provisions of the SAIEVAC member states relating to corporal punishment. The report highlights the provisions that authorize or provide defense for corporal punishment and recommends specific legal provisions to ensure explicit corporal punishment of children in all settings including home, school, penal institutions, alternative care and workplace. The information in the report serves as a tool for advocating legal reform to end corporal punishment.



11. Regional Children's Consultation on Stepping up Protection of Children with Disabilities in South Asia

The SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat organized the Regional Children's Consultation on "Stepping up Protection of Children with Disabilities in South Asia" in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 3-4 December 2014. The Consultation was hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka. 26 child delegates elected by their peers during the preparatory consultations held in the 8 countries



took part in the Regional Consultation. Selected members from the SACG, National Actions and Coordination Group against Violence against Children (NACG) in Sri Lanka and SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat (SRS) facilitated the sessions of the Regional Consultation. The two days consultation provided an opportunity for the child delegates to share the outcomes from their national consultations. Based on the outcomes of the national consultations, the child delegates explored several issues affecting children with disabilities in the 8 countries in the SAARC Region. Children also identified the existing good practices that should be further strengthened in all the countries. Having identified various issues affecting Children with Disabilities in the 8 countries, the consultation put forward 12 overarching recommendations to be presented to the governments and other stakeholders during the 4th Technical Consultation. A separate report details the proceedings and outcomes of the Consultation.

12. People's SAARC Conference

SAIEVAC regional mechanism highlighted its key concerns in the People's SAARC Regional Convergence on 22nd November, 2014 in Kathmandu. A presentation on the ongoing regional works against violence against children in South Asia was made with the focus on addressing corporal punishment, missing children and trafficking, and child marriage. The recommendations made by the children during Children's Regional Consultation held in Thimphu, Bhutan in September, 2013 as well as the recommendations adopted by SAIEVAC's 3rd Technical Consultation on Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children were reinforced. The MCA presentation highlighted the definition of trafficking and missing children and explained the three core elements of trafficking among other issues. It also provided a glimpse on trafficking and missing children in South Asia followed by SAIEVAC's work in addressing the problem of trafficking and missing children in South Asia and on how MCA project is contributing to this effort. The event reinforced the need to undertake legal reform for prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings. People's SAARC is a people to people forum in the SAARC region to enable non-government voices to come together at the regional level.

13. Consultation with the South Asian Association of Child Helplines [SAACH] on Data Sharing

A consultation with the South Asian Association of Child Helplines [SAACH] was organized from 8th to 9th November, 2014 in Kathmandu to review and discuss on the recommendations and decisions made in the previous SAIEVAC – SAACH Consultation and to share and discuss the data maintained by SAACH members with regard to the thematic priorities of SAIEVAC, particularly on corporal punishment and missing children and trafficking.



The consultation involved the sharing of country presentations from all eight SAARC member states on the status of helplines along with some data and statistics on violence against children maintained by the helplines. The consultation was also an opportunity to learn about the SAARC Toll-Free Helplines program which has the scope of strengthening the Child Helplines in the participating member states. Certain strategic options for collaboration among SAIEVAC, SAACH and SAARC Toll-Free Helplines were discussed.

SAIEVAC believes that the SAACH can be an important mechanism that can address violence against children at different levels through the services of Child Helplines in the respective countries. The consultation was built upon the prior understanding and agreements between SAIEVAC and SAACH. The 3rd Regional Consultation of the National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against

Children (NACG) held in Colombo in December 2013 had recommended that the Helpline Members of SAACH who are already members of NACGs or government mechanisms, further explore the possibility to customizing the generation and analysis of data and information to synchronize with the SAIEVAC agenda. The SAIEVAC – SAACH Consultation held in May, 2014 in Kathmandu had made a decision to collaborate in sourcing and analyzing data and information from the helplines.

14. Regional Convening on Using Law to Promote Accountability to End Child Marriage

SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat in collaboration with the Center for Reproductive Rights organized the Regional Convening on Using Law to Promote Accountability to End Child Marriage in Kathmandu from 6th to 7th November, 2014. The Convening considered a number of technical presentations and discussions on the human rights imperative to end child marriage, South Asian governments' global efforts to eliminate child marriage, progress and achievements of parliamentarians in addressing child marriage through laws and policies in South Asia, a critical review of laws and policies in child marriage in South Asia, progress in tackling child marriage in Asia: UNFPA's experience, Regional Action Plan and Implementation Framework to End Child Marriage in South Asia, strengthening national government mechanisms to address child marriage in South Asia, legal issues in relation to child marriage: perspectives of civil society on opportunities for strengthening accountability, child marriage and gender inequality, reproductive health implications of child marriage, role of South Asian Association of Child Helplines in addressing child marriage, and the role of national human rights institutions in supporting national and regional efforts to end child marriage. The Convening concluded with the adoption of 12-point Kathmandu Call for Action to End Child Marriage in South Asia on 7th November, 2014.

15. Uniform Case Management System (UCMS Meeting)

The workshop with potential early adopters of UCMS under the MCA project was undertaken with the following objectives:

- To initiate a dialogue on the challenges in the repatriation process and the utility of UCMS as a tool to streamline and expedite the process
- Discussion for the purposes of capturing steps, procedures and documentation on repatriation on both sides of the border.
- To obtain a formal buy-in from the participants as first adopters and users of the iterative UCMS
- Gathering insights from the participating early adopter entities;
- To finalize a list of attributes for the UCMS, to be incorporated into the proposed tool in a phased approach;
- To agree upon a tentative roadmap of UCMS design and development with specific roles of the participating institutions.

16. Finalization of Generic Guidelines for Child Participation

SAIEVAC has revised, finalized and adopted generic guidelines for the participation of children in different national or regional consultations. The guidelines include: Guidelines for Chaperons accompanying children and Consent Form; Guidelines for the Selection of Chaperons; Guidelines for Translators; Child Protection Minimum Standards; General Guidelines on Media Activities with Children; General Code of Conduct for Consultation with Children. The guidelines have also been shared with the national mechanisms.

17. Regional Parliamentarians Meeting on Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls

Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Director General of SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat, attended the Regional Parliamentarians Meeting on prevention of Violence against Women and Girls in Cambodia. The work of SAIEVAC and the issues of missing children in the forum was introduced in the meeting. He emphasized the need to systematize birth registration, data collection and tracing of missing children and lobbied for

these issues to be a major agenda for the Ministerial Meeting on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics to be held in Bangkok as a follow up to the parliamentarians meeting.

18. Support to Pakistan Mechanism for the Orientation on Positive Discipline

As part of the national campaign against corporal punishment in Pakistan, the Pakistan mechanism organized an orientation on Positive Discipline to 32 actors from the public sector, civil society organizations and academic institutes working in education sector in Pakistan from 29th to 30th September, 2014 in Islamabad. SAIEVAC Secretariat, through the support of its partners, helped the Pakistan mechanism to identify a local facilitator familiar with SAIEVAC's approach to positive discipline. The orientation focused on sensitizing the participants on the negative consequences of corporal punishment, Pakistan's human rights obligation to end corporal punishment, and the techniques of positive discipline. A detailed report of the orientation is being documented by the Pakistan mechanism.

19. Joint International Symposium on Ending Corporal Punishment

SAIEVAC, together with Save the Children Japan, and other partner organizations organized a joint symposium on ending corporal punishment of children to prevent violence and abuse during the International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect organized by International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) in Nagoya, Japan on 15th September, 2014. A report was presented by SAIEVAC on its experience from the regional campaign against corporal punishment in South Asia. SAIEVAC's approach to a regional campaign against corporal punishment in South Asia along with the lessons learnt were shared with the participants from different parts of the world. SAIEVAC also had a representation in a panel discussion on how ending corporal punishment of children effectively contributes to child abuse prevention. Certain questions from the participants regarding the regional campaign in South Asia were also addressed.

SAIEVAC representatives also participated and contributed in the workshops and symposiums relating to ending corporal punishment and promotion of positive discipline. The congress was an opportunity to learn about positive parenting programs in other countries and specific approaches in addressing corporal punishment in schools. The Director General and the Campaign Coordinator – Corporal Punishment from SAIEVAC had participated in the Congress.

20. Support to Nepal Mechanism for Launching National Campaign against Corporal Punishment

After Bangladesh and Pakistan, Nepal became the third country in the SAARC region to launch National Campaign against Corporal Punishment of children. The campaign was launched as the main theme of the National Children's Day Celebration that was graced by Honorable Prakash Man Singh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Federal Affairs and Local Governance on 14th September 2014 in Kathmandu. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare announced the launch of the national campaign in collaboration with the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children [SAIEVAC], the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children [SACG] and the National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Children [NACG]-Nepal.

The campaign was officially launched by releasing a booklet entitled "National Campaign against Corporal Punishment of Children in Nepal, 2014", which introduces the campaign, outlines an action plan for the campaign and also presents the responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Corporal Punishment in Nepali.

The campaign is in line with SAIEVAC's Regional Campaign against Corporal Punishment of Children and has the following aims:

- Achieve legal reform for prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings and ensure equal protection for children under the law

- Raise awareness on the harmful consequences of corporal punishment of children
- Build capacity of the relevant actors on the use of positive discipline techniques and foster non-violent discipline methods among parents, teachers, child care workers, social workers, and other adults

21. NACG Strategic Meeting, India

NACG (National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Children) is one of SAIEVAC's mechanisms that involve civil society actors with the aim of bridging the work committed and achieved at the grass root with policies of the government. The Strategic meeting of NACG in India was held to include the issue of missing children and trafficking in their national work agenda and to make this theme a part of their ongoing dialogue.

22. SAIEVAC's 5th Governing Board Meeting

The 5th Governing Board Meeting of SAIEVAC was held from the 19th to 21st August 2014 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was attended by all the Governing Board Members except for Pakistan and Sri Lanka who were represented by their respective SAIEVAC Coordinators. The Civil Society Observer from Afghanistan could not attend due to certain procedural issues. In keeping with the decisions of the 3rd Governing Board Meeting and further reinforced by the 4th Governing Board Meeting, the 5th Governing Board Meeting was also attended by all the SAIEVAC National Coordinators in their capacity as advisors to the Governing Board Members of the Respective Member States. The meeting discussed and adopted certain decisions with regard to the participation of SAIEVAC Coordinators as advisors to the Governing Board Members, timeframe for the participation of Civil Society Observers to the Governing Board, promoting children's representation in the SAIEVAC Governing Board and participation of children in SAIEVAC mechanisms, support for the Missing Child Alert project by the governing mechanisms of the participating member states, institutionalization of the NACGs, collaboration with the South Asian Association of Child Helplines (SAACH), launching national campaigns against corporal punishment in all member states, mapping of positive care practices, finalization of the desk review of faith based initiatives, finalization of Regional Plan of Action to End Child Marriage, SAIEVAC Academy, Child Labor Project, 4th Technical Consultation, implementation of the SDF project, and some other issues.

23. National Consultation Meeting, Dhaka

The Convention was jointly organized by Plan International Bangladesh and Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Government of Bangladesh. The key objective of the workshop was to collectively endorse the proposed draft Terms of Reference for the National Technical Advisory Group (NTAG) and to develop way forward for the development of technological breakthrough of the Missing Child Alert System.

24. Orientation on Positive Discipline and Consultation of the Expert Committee on Child Protection of the Central Monastic Body of Bhutan

The Central Monastic Body of Bhutan has issued guidelines to prohibit the use of corporal punishment and promote alternative forms of discipline in the Monastic Schools in Bhutan. Reviewing the impact of the Implementation of the guidelines, the challenges and lessons learnt is important to strengthen and sustain the efforts aimed at ending corporal punishment and also to establish a success story on the religious initiative to prohibit corporal punishment. The review will also serve to strengthen the child protection system in the monastic institutions that educate a large number of children in Bhutan. It is also necessary to support for developing the knowledge and skills of the Expert Committee Members on the harmful consequences of corporal punishment and outlook towards positive discipline in order to sustain and strengthen the religious initiative to end corporal punishment.

In this regard, a consultation was carried out by calling a meeting of the Expert Committee on Child Protection, Central Monastic Body of Bhutan from 15th to 17th July, 2014. The consultation was jointly organized by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat, the Child Protection Office of the Central Monastic Body, and UNICEF, Bhutan. Expert Committee of the Central Monastic Body shared their observations, experiences and challenges in the child protection system of the Monastic Body. Discussions were held to finalize the Terms of Reference for the Expert Committee Members for the protection of children from all forms of violence in the monastic institutions. The strengths and areas for improvements in the Child Protection System of the Central Monastic Body of Bhutan along with the organizations structure for more efficient child protection system were discussed. The Monitoring Mechanism for Child Protection in the Monastic System along with the past experiences, lessons and challenges were assessed. Similarly, priority actions or way forward for the future to end Corporal Punishment in the monastic institutions were also identified. Specific sessions were dedicated to introduce the concept and approaches of positive discipline to support for developing the knowledge and skills of the Expert Committee Members on the harmful consequences of corporal punishment and outlook towards positive discipline. A separate report of the consultation details the proceedings and outcomes of the consultation.

25. Regional Consultation on Human Resource Development Strategy on Child Protection and Violence against Children (SAIEVAC Academy)

The SAIEVAC Secretariat organized a Regional Consultation on Human Resource Development Strategy on Child Protection and Violence against Children (SAIEVAC Academy) from 26th to 28th June 2014 in Thimphu, Bhutan. SAIEVAC Academy is envisioned as a means to bringing together existing resources and identifying or developing new ones contributing to cross-country learning and exchange. Through a gradually phased plan and mutually supportive approach which includes exchange and opportunity for increased dialogue, the “Academy” will serve as a resource hub for regional study, training or advocacy, and as a knowledge management center for cross-country exchange and learning, for ending violence against children. The consultation deliberated on how SAIEVAC in collaboration with leading academic institutions across the region and beyond can undertake human resources development in order to further advance child protection training and capacity building initiatives. The consultation reached to a consensus to partnership with regional academic institutions having expertise in child protection related academic works, trainings and research.

Presentations and briefings from institutions / organizations across the region and beyond described successful strategies, capacity building and academic courses at varying levels aiming to build skills for multiple stakeholders and participant groups. These existing opportunities helped to create a foundation for both the mapping exercise and identification of regional experts who will further contribute towards and provide direct support to the planned SAIEVAC Academy and those accessing services from the wider network. 25 academicians, human resources professionals, trainers and child rights advocates (from governments, universities and academic institutions, civil society and other international agencies) and 2 child representatives participated in the consultation.

26. 4th NACG (National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Children) Regional Meeting

The 4th Regional Consultation of the National Action and Coordinating Groups Against Violence Against Children (NACG) was convened in Negombo, Sri Lanka from 17th to 18th June, 2014. The consultation reviewed the progress made by the NACGs against the milestones set for the NACGs for 2014 in the previous consultation. The consultation also discussed the existing and emerging challenges in the institutionalization process of the NACGs, including the role of the UN/INGO partners and identified certain strategic steps. A common communication strategy was proposed and launched for the communication between the NACGs, SACG and SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat.

27. Regional Kick-off Meeting on 'Mapping of Service Providers' of the Missing Child Alert (MCA) Project

The Kick off Meeting of the service providers, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 14th to 15th June, 2014 was based on the following objectives:

- To develop collective consensus on broad methodology, tools and approach to implement an assignment on mapping of service providers
- To develop clarity on web-based database of service providers and its relevance with Uniform Case Management Tool
- To identify few organizations where Uniform Case Management tools will be implemented as pilot field test
- To endorse the road map suggested by International Solution Group

28. Expert Group Meeting to finalize the Regional Action Plan and Implementation Strategy to End Child Marriage in South Asia

SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat organized an Expert Group Meeting to finalize the Regional Action Plan and Implementation Strategy to End Child Marriage in South Asia in Kathmandu from 28th to 29th May, 2014. Sharing of ongoing initiatives for addressing child marriage in South Asia was held. The meeting revisited the draft Regional Action Plan to end Child Marriage in South Asia (2015 – 2018) that was drafted through a series of technical meetings and consultations with representatives of SAARC Secretariat, SAARC member states, civil society organizations, regional experts, regional development partners and other experts. Group sessions reviewed the Regional Action Plan by categorizing the contents into the components dealing with (1) effective enactment, enforcement and use of national policy and legal instruments to increase the minimum age of marriage for (both boys and) girls to 18; (2) improved equal access to quality primary and secondary education; (3) increased mobilization of girls, boys, parents and leaders to change discriminatory gender norms; (4) increased prevention of child marriage by addressing its root causes, including violence against girls and women and creating alternative social, economic and civic opportunities for girls; (5) enhanced support of girls who are already married; and (6) improved evidence, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and program support. Following the group sessions, the respective components of the revised plan were presented, discussed and finalized.

29. SAIEVAC – SAACH (South Asian Association of Child Helplines) Consultation

The SAIEVAC - SAACH Consultation was convened from the 25th to 27th May 2014 in Kathmandu. The consultation brought together SAACH representatives from all SAARC Member States along with relevant national, regional and international state and non-state actors working in the area of child protection to establish a partnership between SAACH and SAIEVAC and further, strengthen coordinated and collaborative effort to create a more robust response system in addressing the issues of Violence against Children in the region. SAIEVAC and SAACH agreed to continue to engage together through follow up consultations and joint activities to fulfill complementary activities and in pursuing priority areas for intervention including the collaboration for sourcing and analyzing data and information from helplines relating to child protection.

30. Workshop of the Experts on the Legal Status of Corporal Punishment

A workshop of the experts to review of the legal status report on corporal punishment in South Asia and recommend model laws for explicit prohibition of corporal punishment for SAARC Member States was organized in collaboration with SAARCLAW in Kathmandu on 23 - 24 May, 2014. Experts from the Global Initiative to End Corporal Punishment, SAARCLAW, South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children (SACG), National Mechanism in Nepal as well as SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat participated in the workshop.

The Workshop reviewed the laws and instruments relating to corporal punishment in SAARC member states in order to develop an updated legal status report on corporal punishment. The experts assessed the progress made in prohibiting corporal punishment in the region since 2011 and concluded that there are several opportunities for legal reform in the region to ensure explicit prohibition of corporal punishment. It was also highlighted that SAIEVAC mechanisms can play active roles to incorporate the right language in the bills under progress to ensure explicit prohibition of all corporal punishment in all settings with the support of SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat. The workshop also developed country specific recommendations of model laws for explicit prohibition of all corporal punishment in the member states. A separate report is being prepared based on the outcomes of the workshop.

31. Documentation of the Child Protection System of the Central Monastic Body

A Consultation on Child Protection System of the Central Monastic Body was organized in collaboration with the Child Protection Office of the Central Monastic Body and the National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC), Royal Government of Bhutan on 5 – 7 May, 2014 in Thimphu, Bhutan. The consultation was organized to discuss and document the child protection system in the central Monastic Body of Bhutan with specific reference to the protection of children from corporal punishment. Discussions were held to explore the monitoring mechanism for child protection in the Monastic System along with the challenges and lessons learnt. The consultation was also effective in identifying and adopting the alternative forms of discipline and priority actions for the future to end corporal punishment. All the eleven Expert Committee members and representatives on Child Protection of the Central Monastic Body and representatives from the National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC), Bhutan SAIEVAC Mechanism, participated and shared a situational update, experiences, progress, lessons and challenges confronted by the initiative. The Consultation also allowed an opportunity for the expert committee members to discuss and agree upon the child protection system particularly the terms of reference for the expert committee members. A separate report of the consultation has been prepared.

32. Regional Workshop on Synchronization of Project Activities

The Regional workshop in Dhaka was held with a view to synchronizing the set of objectives and activities of MCA project at the regional and three country levels. The workshop was organized as a follow up action to major recommendation of the 6th Steering Committee Meeting held in Kathmandu in March 2014. The workshop aimed at developing a comprehensive uniform program log-frame that can govern all MCA activities and can also be used as monitoring tool. In order to develop a comprehensive log-frame acceptable to all, Plan MCA teams, partners and associates from three countries were present and participated in the consultation.

33. Regional Advocacy and Communication Planning Workshop

SAIEVAC's Regional Advocacy and Communication Planning Workshop held in Islamabad, Pakistan during 25 – 28 March, 2014 supported the national mechanisms to prepare the Advocacy and Communication Plans centered on thematic issues/problems, established as priorities by the concerned member states. The workshop aimed to adopt a unified Advocacy and Communication Strategy by SAIEVAC's national mechanisms to address the key priority issues relating to violence against children that require strategic advocacy and communications interventions. The workshop resulted in a roadmap for the SAIEVAC National Mechanisms to advocate and communicate with the SAARC Governments, collaborating partners and National Mechanisms so as to build a collective concern for policy changes, through sharing of key information and messages for the protection of children from violence.

34. Support to Pakistan Mechanism to Launch National Campaign against Corporal Punishment

The Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights launched the National Campaign against the Corporal Punishment of Children in Pakistan on 27th March 2014 in Islamabad with

the support of SAIEVAC. Children’s representative from Pakistan broke a stick as a symbolic end to the use of corporal punishment against children in the country. The child representative said “...on behalf of the children of Pakistan, I have the pleasure of breaking the last stick to mark the end of corporal punishment...” Support was provided to the Pakistan mechanism to redefine the campaign objectives and activities; design posters calling for ending corporal punishment in different settings; and develop brochures that introduced the campaign in Urdu as well as English.

The campaign is in line with SAIEVAC’s Regional Campaign against Corporal Punishment of Children and aims to achieve the followings:

- Bring together concerned actors to take necessary actions on enacting & encompassing legislations with explicit prohibition of corporal punishment of children in all settings.
- Build capacities of authorities, civil society, children and other stakeholders on positive parenting, teaching, caring and appropriate implementation of the legal reforms needed.
- Raise awareness around harmful consequences of corporal punishment on children's development at community, sub-regional and national levels.

D. SAIEVAC MECHANISM (Office Bearers)

a) SAIEVAC Governing Board Member And SAIEVAC National Coordinators

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India	Yet to be nominated	SAIEVAC Governing Board Member		Mr. Vivek Joshi JS Recently Transferred and replacement yet to be appointed
	Mr. Anand Prakash	SAIEVAC Coordinator	<p>Ministry of Women and Child Development Government of India Shastri Bhawan New Delhi - 110001 Tel:91-1123381654</p>	anand.prakash62@nic.in
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	Ms. Aishath Sadhyqa	SAIEVAC Coordinator	<p>Senior Social Service Officer Ministry of Law and Gender Huravee Building, Ameer Ahmed Magu, Male', Republic of Maldives Phone: 3013017 , Mobile: 7922511</p>	aishath.sadhyqa@gmail.com
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b) National Action Coordinating Group (NACG) Representatives: (On Rotation from Member States)

Country	Name	Position in SAIEVAC Mechanism	Address	Email Address
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Bangladesh	Mr. A.K.M. Masud Ali	NACG Representative	Executive Director INCIDIN Bangladesh 9/11 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh Tel#+8802-81298733	akmmasuda@yahoo.com

c) Child Board Members and Observers: (On Rotation from Member States)

Country	Name	Position in SAIEVAC Mechanism
Afghanistan	Ms. Nabila Noori	Child Governing Board Member
Bangladesh	Master Mamun Bokaul	Child Governing Board Member
Bhutan	Master Bhim Prasad	Child Observer
India	Master Anmol Mittal	Child Observer