



South Asia Initiative To End Violence Against Children [SAIEVAC]

“IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE CHILDREN OF SAARC”



**Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Asia
(2015-2018)**

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children
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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms:

AFPPD	-	Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development
NACG	-	National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Children
NHRC	-	National Human Rights Commission
SAARCLAW	-	South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation in Law
SACG	-	South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children
SAIEVAC	-	South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children
SAIEVAC GB	-	SAIEVAC Governing Board
SDF	-	SAARC Development Fund
SHRC	-	South Asia Human Rights Commission
SRS	-	SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat

Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in South Asia (2015-2018)

Overall Objective: (Original) To delay the age of marriage for girls in at least four countries in South Asia by 2018.

Other option: *To raise the age of marriage to 18 for both boys and girls delaying early marriage in at least four countries in South Asia by 2018.*

Expected Outcome: 1	Identified Activities	Regional/National Strategic Actions	Timeline	Key Partners	Indicators
<p>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.</p>	<p>1.1 Regional review of legislation relating to the girl child and child marriage in South Asia aligned with constitutional and international legal standards</p>	<p>1.1.1 Commission review study to regional research institutions. The review will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying gaps between international instruments and national legal frameworks such as in legal age for marriage; laws on marriage and birth registration; age of sexual consent; eliminating unreasonable legal requirements for formally ending marriage • Identifying discrepancies in the definitions in legal provisions and implementation status of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “marriage voidance” - “marital rape” - “parental consent” - “punishment and minimum punishment” - “reporting and response mechanisms” - State “due diligence” for standard of establishing liability • Identifying legal and social obstacles faced by girls who seek the enforcement of national laws on child marriage prevention or prohibition and legal remedies. • Identifying provisions that provide access to remedies for those who 	<p>January – September 2015</p>	<p>SRS SAARCLAW AFPPD SACG NACG</p>	<p>1. # of States where 18 is the legal age of marriage for both boys and girls 2. # of States that actively enforce legislation banning forced and child marriage 3. # of States where birth registration is compulsory and free of cost and can be done by mothers 4. # of States where marriage registration is compulsory and free of cost 5. # of States which have defined an age for sexual consent that does not discriminate between boys and girls. 6. Establishment of a regional parliamentary caucus on child rights 7. Establishment of regional forum of</p>

		<p>are about to get married and who leave the marriage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying good legal provisions and practices <p>1.1.2 As part of the review develop an effective law against child marriage</p>			human rights institutions in South Asia in ending child marriage
	1.2 Undertake an assessment of the status of births and marriage registration in South Asia	1.2.1 The assessment study should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on the implementation status of the Regional Action Plan (2012) on birth registration prepared during UNESCAP regional meeting in December 2012 held in Bangkok: Quantitative and qualitative data/information on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandate of birth registration including mother's name Mandate of marriage registration Provision of free registration Provision of registration including only by mothers Status of infrastructure for birth registration Existing monitoring and reporting (M&R) mechanism 	January – September 2015	SRS SAIEVAC National Chapters with respective NACGs	
	1.3 Regional workshop / consultation on legislation relating to the girl child and child marriage and on the status of births and marriage registration in South Asia (linked with 1.1 and 1.2)	1.3.1 Present the findings and recommendations of the regional review of legislation stated in 1.1 above and the assessment report on birth and marriage registration stated in 1.2 above. 1.3.2 Formulation of a time-bound, results oriented action plan	October – December 2015 January - March 2016	SRS SAIEVAC GB members National coordinators NACGs SAARCLAW AFPPD SACG	
	1.4 Support countries to harmonize national	1.4.1 Support member states to establish and enforce 18 years as the minimum	Ongoing process	SRS SAIEVAC GB	

	legal frameworks - legislation and customary laws - with constitutional and international legal standards	1.4.2 age of marriage for girls in their legislative framework Organize country-level workshops for law enforcement officials / agencies , judiciary, key ministries and Parliamentarians to discuss their roles in prevention, investigation and prosecution of child marriage		members National coordinators NACG SAARCLAW AFPPD SACG	
	1.5 Support the participation of parliamentary caucus on child rights in SAIEVAC regional and national forums	1.5.1 Establishment / strengthening of a regional parliamentary caucus on child rights. 1.5.2 Establishment / strengthening of the existing national caucuses on child rights	June – December 2014 January – July 2015	SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat & AFPPD SAIEVAC national chapters	
	1.6 Convene a regional forum of human rights institutions in South Asia to strategize their role in ending child marriage	1.6.1 Regional meeting of human rights institutions on child marriage to be held after completion of the review (see 1.1) and assessment (see 1.2)	January - March 2016	NHRC Commissions, SAARCLAW, SAIEVAC, SAHR mechanism, Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions	
Expected Outcome: 2	Identified Activities	Regional/National Strategic Actions	Timeline	Key Partners	Indicators
Improved equal access to quality education, particularly secondary education.	2.1 Review of education policies and budgets of member States	2.1.1 Commissioning of regional review to a regional research institute. This will include a review of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative and qualitative data/information Curriculum in terms of gender 	Review in second half 2015	NACG SRS SAIEVAC national chapters NACGs	1. # of member States has equal access to quality education 2. # of member States that have free and

		<p>sensitive, non-biased, objective and scientifically accurate empowering comprehensive sexuality education and child rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School environments for enabling gender responsiveness • Formal or alternative education opportunity to already married girls • ‘Good practices’ suitable for regional replication related to keeping girls in school and to reintegrating them in school who are forced to drop out owing to marriage and/or child birth suitable 		SACG	compulsory education. 2
	2.2 Include girls' education issues in SAIEVAC technical consultations	2.2.1 Report the findings of the regional review in the SAIEVAC technical consultation following the review 2.2.2 Chart out strategic actions for girl in enrolling, being retained, and completing secondary education	First quarter of 2016		
Expected Outcome: 3	Identified Activities	Regional/National Strategic Actions	Timeline	Key Partners	Indicators
Increased mobilization of girls, boys, parents, media, religious and community leaders to change discriminatory gender norms.	3.1 Develop a social mobilization guideline toolkit with a focus on addressing child marriage	3.1.1 Mapping of what tools are available. 3.1.2 Designate a SAIEVAC-affiliated nodal academic institution where SAIEVAC academic studies, research and training are housed 3.1.3 Set up a “SAIEVAC Regional Research and Training Unit” pooling regional expertise on gender, child development, human rights and social work; and house in the SAIEVAC-affiliated nodal academic institution 3.1.4 Commissioning the devising of social mobilization toolkit and ToTs to “SAIEVAC Regional Research and Training Unit” 3.1.5 Prepare tailor-made Social Mobilization	One Year	SRS SAIEVAC national chapters SDF NACG SACG AFPPD	1. # of awareness raising campaigns in each country addressing causes and consequences of early marriage 2. # of States where religious leaders are involved in the regional network for girls' rights. 3. # of religious leaders that make public statements

		<p>Training Toolkits for various stakeholders such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentarians including political representatives from national to provincial levels, • Government agencies, (identify the associated departments e.g., local governance personnel, health post personnel, etc.) • Law enforcing agencies, • Faith-based organizations and religious leaders, • Community based organizations, • school teachers, • Adolescent and youth of both genders, • Men and boys engage alliance, • Media network, • Poverty alleviation agents (e.g. GO and NGO poverty alleviation programme/project implementers at the local level) • Child Protection Units <p>3.1.6 Publication of the SAIEVAC Social Mobilization Toolkits in English language</p> <p>3.1.7 Regularization of regional ToTs and certification by SAIEVAC-affiliated nodal academic institution</p> <p>3.1.8 Establish SAIEVAC- Academic and Training Information System at SAIEVAC-affiliated nodal and national academic institutions and link with SAIEVAC Management Information System in coordination with SAIEVAC-affiliated nodal academic institution and SAIEVAC country chapters</p>			<p>against early marriage and encourage change in discriminatory gender / social norms.</p> <p>4. # of press releases, TV and radio programmes supporting change in discriminatory gender norms</p> <p>5. # of States where parliamentarian are involved in the regional network for girls' rights.</p> <p>6. # of States where Community leaders are involved in the regional network for girls' rights.</p> <p>7. Social Mobilization Toolkit and ToT kit.</p> <p>8. # of participants in the harmful practices consultation, by country and by type.</p>
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	3.2 Organize consultations on draft toolkit	3.2.1 Organize inter-country consultative workshops to share and develop understanding on the draft toolkits and seek feedback	May-June 2015		
	3.3 Implementation of the SAIEVAC social mobilization tool kit	3.3.1 Designate SAIEVAC-affiliated national academic institutions and link with SAIEVAC-affiliated nodal academic institution 3.3.2 Translation of the SAIEVAC Social Mobilization Training Toolkits in national languages (more than one national language if necessary) 3.3.3 ToTs to the national level trainers (preferably to school teachers) and certification by SAIEVAC-affiliated national academic institutions 3.3.4 Training of various stakeholders 3.3.5 Social mobilization at the community level	September 2015 onwards (rolling bases)		
	3.4 Develop partnerships with religious leaders: - Set up a regional network of religious leaders engaged for changing discriminatory gender norms and ending child marriages	3.4.1 Organize and facilitate dialogue among religious leaders, policymakers and children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a regional consultation with political leaders, corporate, religious leaders and children • -Technical consultation on harmful practices 3.4.2 Capacity building of religious leaders and faith based organizations including or integrating human rights standards in their advocacy through SAIEVAC Social Mobilization Training 3.4.3 Capacity building of the Parliamentary Caucus through SAIEVAC Social Mobilization Training 3.4.4 Monitoring of the Social Mobilization Training (of religious leaders) through media monitoring - TV, radio, print	Post April 2015		

		media, social media (Facebook, Twitter) and monitoring of religious sermons and rituals			
	3.5 Develop partnerships with CBOs: - Set up a regional network for changing discriminatory gender norms and ending child marriages	3.5.1 Organize and facilitate dialogue with community representatives through regional consultations 3.5.2 Capacity building of CBO representatives through SAIEVAC Social Mobilization Training	Post April 2015		
	3.6 Regional children consultation	3.6.1 National consultation to identify national issues and adopting national declaration with a focus to end child marriage 3.6.2 Regional consultation for sharing of national declarations and adopting a regional declaration with a focus to end child marriage 3.6.3 Facilitate girls vulnerable to child marriage, girls already married and women married as girls to participate and voice their concerns in national and regional children's consultations	Post April 2015		
	3.7 Develop partnerships with media coalitions/networks and support media to raise awareness and advocate for girls rights/publicize delaying marriage for girls	3.7.1 Support/establish regional media coalition for children's rights 3.7.2 Strengthen capacities of the media coalition to cover the issues of child marriage and gender / social norms via SAIEVAC Social Mobilization Training 3.7.3 Organize and facilitate press conferences and other media activities related to delaying marriage for girls 3.7.4 Media monitoring on child marriage issues - TV, radio, print media	Post April 2015		

	3.8 Create and strengthening community based child protection mechanisms to strengthen prevention, reporting and response at national level	3.8.1 Create and strengthen Municipality Ward or Village Ward level “Child Protection Forum “ comprising of GO-CSO alliances 3.8.2 Build capacity of Child Protection Forum including on existing laws and legal mechanisms via the SAIEVAC Social Mobilization Training	Post April 2015		
	3.9 Create links with projects/initiatives like Missing Child Alert (MCA) Project	3.9.1 Link qualitative and quantitative data for review and studies from MCA and establish Tracking Systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • child trafficking in the name of marriage • occurrences of child marriages during emergencies and post emergencies • - child marriage by taking into another country 	2015		
	3.10 Regional consultation/workshop on practices that are harmful to children, addressing in particular child marriage	3.10.1 SAIEVAC Regional Research and Training Expert Group to facilitate the workshop on methodology of mapping harmful practices and development of monitoring toolkits 3.10.2 National mapping of the practices harmful to children, addressing particularly the child marriage by SAIEVAC-affiliated nodal and national academic institutions, and partner agencies	Post June 2015		
Expected Outcome: 4	Identified Activities	Regional/National Strategic Actions	Timeline	Key Partners	Indicators
Increased prevention of child marriage by addressing its root causes and creating alternative social,	4.1 Coalition/Network with GOs, NGOs and the private sector working for poverty alleviation	4.1.1 National Stakeholder Consultation on ending child marriage by means of poverty alleviation; with participants comprising of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finance ministries, • ministries of poverty alleviation, 	2015	SAIEVAC national chapters NACG SACG	1.Establishment of coalition/Network with GOs, NGOs and the private sector working for poverty alleviation

<p>economic and civic opportunities for girls.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ministries of economic and/or local development, • ministries of agriculture • ministries of industries and commerce • micro-finance institutions, • skill development training institutes, • micro-enterprise agencies, • private sector banks, entrepreneurs and business-houses • federations/chambers of industries and commerce <p>4.4.2 Joint national commitment statement to “End Child Marriage as Corporate Social Responsibility” and charting out ways and means</p>			<p>2. # of States that have economic and social policies in place that address prevention of child marriage</p>
<p>Expected Outcome: 5</p>	<p>Identified Activities</p>	<p>Regional/National Strategic Actions</p>	<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Key partners</p>	<p>Indicators</p>
<p>New and existing evidence collected on status of married girls below 18 years, and on good program practices to address their needs</p>	<p>5.1 Gather new and existing evidence on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self initiated marriages - Trafficking for marriage - Honour killing - Dowry - Cross-country marriages of girls 	<p>5.1.1 Regional mapping of geographic areas with high child marriage prevalence in the Region</p> <p>5.1.2 Secondary data identification and analysis</p> <p>5.1.3 Regional research on the impact of post emergency on child marriage</p> <p>5.1.4 Monitor and assess harmful practices associated with child marriage, including new and emerging forms such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self initiated marriages • Trafficking for marriage • Honour killing • Dowry • Cross-country marriages of girls by taking the child to another country <p>5.2.1 Identify, collect, document and</p>	<p>January – September 2015</p> <p>January –</p>	<p>SAIEVAC national chapters NACG SACG</p>	<p>1. # of States where civil society implements initiatives to change gender norms.</p> <p>2. # of organizations to which successful strategies for working for gender equitable norms with men and boys have been disseminated</p>

	5.2 Identify good practices amongst programs that address this population	disseminate: - good practices and successful stories of improved equal access to education - minimum standards for schools supporting girls education from South Asian countries (i.e. curricula reforms/non gender-biased curricula, school environment, incentives for girls education) - awareness raising tools and successful country experiences on mobilization and social/gender norms change - successful communication messages, approaches and tools - successful stories/good practices on interventions for married girls	September 2016		
Expected Outcome:6	Identified Activities	Regional/National Strategic Actions	Timeline	Key Partners	Indicators
Enhanced advocacy to mobilize action and support for girls who are already married (through options for schooling, sexual and reproductive health information and services, including HIV prevention, livelihoods skills and recourse from violence in the home).	6.1 Advocate at governmental, non-governmental and private sector level for enhanced support of girls who are already married in key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education (continual and remedial) - Sexual & Reproductive health information and services - Skills and employment - Prevention and redressing violence 	6.1.1 Bring new and existing evidence together on the issue vis a vis these issues 6.1.2 Using evidence advocate to relevant actors within the Government, CSO, Donors, other networks 6.1.3 Develop a plan of action to address the issues with the identified actors 6.1.4 Advocate for strategies within the legal framework to make laws and judiciary conducive to enable this process	On going process	SRS SAIEVAC National Mechanism NACG SACG Private Sectors	# of States with programmes and policies supporting the rights of girls that are already married
	6.2 Advocate for voidance	6.2.1 Identify strategies to educate			

	of marriage as a recourse from violence against already married girls	communities about the Laws and the use of voidance of marriage as a recourse			
Expected Outcome: 7	Identified Activities	Regional/National Strategic Actions	Timeline	Key Partners	Indicators
Improved monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of programs to end child marriage in South Asia.	7.1 Establish an interactive SAIEVAC Management Information System	7.1.1 Support the operationalization of the SAIEVAC Management Information System Framework through the SAIEVAC country chapters	Dec. 2015	SRS SAIEVAC National Mechanism NACG SACG Private Sectors	1. Existence of a regional mapping of child marriage high prevalence areas including 8 countries 2. SAIEVAC regional and national plans and programmes are in line with lessons learned from research and monitoring findings, successful approaches disseminated and M&E findings 3. # of regional annual reports completed 4. # of SAIEVAC regional and country chapters implementing SAIEVAC MIS 5. Final evaluation
	7.2 Regular programme monitoring and review by SAIEVAC	7.2.1 Via the SAIEVAC MIS unit			
	7.3 Support national mechanisms to implement the agreed regional work plan and monitor it as per agreed indicators	7.3.1 Capacity building of national mechanisms in monitoring and reporting the regional work plan and use of SAIEVAC MIS via the SAIEVAC Research and Training Unit housed in SAIEVAC-affiliated nodal academic institution	Post June 2015		
	7.4 Conduct final evaluation of RAP to end child marriage in South Asia	7.4.1 Commission an independent evaluation	Last quarter of 2018		