



"IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE CHILDREN OF SAARC"

**3rd Regional Consultation
of
The National Action and Coordinating Group Against Violence Against Children
(NACG)
18-19 December 2013, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Recommendations of the 3rd NACG Consultation

The SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat with support of the SACG and funded by Plan is organizing the 3rd NACG Consultation hosted by the National Child Protection Authority, which is the lead agency for SAIEVAC in Sri Lanka from the 18-19 December 2013.

The 3rd NACG was organized with the following objectives:

1. To assess progress on the decisions, recommendations of the 2nd NACG held in Male' in April 2013;
2. To review and re-energize the institutionalization process of the NACGs in the different Member States;
3. Create focus on the role of the NACGs in expanding the mission of SAIEVAC through different issue based actions;
4. To discuss key focus areas for 2014 based on the decisions arrived at during the 3rd Technical Consultation and the 4th GB Meeting in Bhutan, and
5. Bring NACGs and Coordinators up to date with the MCA project activities

The 3rd NACG was attended by the National Coordinators (or representatives), the Chair and Co-Chairs of the NACG, Representative of the SAACH and relevant SACG agencies.

The 3rd NACG Consultation after 2 days of productive deliberations concluded with the following recommendations.

1. Noting with satisfaction the Report of the Follow Up Actions taken on the Recommendations of the 2nd NACG Consultation, the Meeting recommended that there is a need to reinforce/prioritize the strengthening and institutionalization of the NACGs, particular since so much time and effort has been already invested in the last 2 years;
2. Reviewing the recommendations of the Children's Preparatory Meeting, the 3rd Technical Consultation on Harmful Practices and the 4th GB Meeting, recommended that:
 - a. The SRS document the actionstaken or the process of operationalization of the different recommendations that has been tabled through the many important SAIEVAC Events that has taken place till date so that there is a clear evidence of progress being made in moving the VaC agenda forward while at the sometimeprovide an opportunity to map the recommendations with the aim to prioritizethem for further action;
 - b. In keeping with the decisionarrived at during the 3rd GB Meeting, the future GB Meetings consider the inclusion of the SAIEVAC Coordinators in the GB Meeting since they have the ultimate responsibility of followingthrough the recommendations/decisions of the GB Meeting;
 - c. The SRS as a priority action streamline/institute the communication framework within the SAIEVAC mechanism to ensure that decisions taken and the follow through actions including the need for increasing coordination are properly notified or communicated uniformly and in time;

- d. The SRS and the SAIEVAC Government mechanisms need to strategize how to strengthen and sustain the link and the collaboration with the NACGs given that the NACGs form the platform to move the whole national VaC agenda forward;
 - e. The SAIEVAC Government mechanisms find opportunities to mainstream support and collaboration with NACGs into the government plans and programmes;
 - f. The SRS and the NACGs in collaboration with the SACG undertake dedicated actions to set the National and Children Regional Participation Forums. In this direction the National mechanisms also find opportunities to map the existing Children's Participation Forums to achieve a meaningful national forum.
3. Noting with appreciation the presentation made on SAACH, the Meeting recommended that:
 - a. Continued efforts be made to coordinate with SAACH in strengthening the response system for VaC as well as generating appropriate data and information for more effective delivery of services;
 - b. The Helpline Members of SAACH who are already members of NACG or Government mechanisms, further explore the possibility to customizing the generation and analysis of data and information to synchronize with the SAIEVAC agenda.
 4. Taking due consideration of the progress reported by different NACGs since the 2nd NACG and also taking cognizance of the varying degrees of progress in the different Member States, recommended that:
 - a. Define a clear and time bound action plan with proper reporting mechanism for the NACGs to build on the existing work/activities;
 - b. In every country a clear documentation of progress and challenges be undertaken so as to ensure more meaningful assessment of the status;
 - c. The NACGs in collaboration with the Government Mechanisms, SACG and the SRS explore putting in place a proper communication strategy to strengthen the coordination challenges;
 5. Following the presentation on the proposed 4th Technical Consultation on 'Children with Disabilities' and the discussions that ensued thereafter, the meeting recommended that:
 - a. The final theme and the key objectives will be defined by the SRS in consultation with the relevant SACG agencies and circulated to the Member States;
 - b. All the Member States will undertake a Mapping of country situation on children with disabilities using the guidelines which will be provided by the SRS which will be finally compiled to put together the Background document for the Consultation;
 - c. The SRS and the SAIEVAC National mechanisms to ensure that composition of the participants to the Technical Consultation will consist of relevant governmental and related agencies as well;
 - d. The process of children's participation in the national preparations and the Regional level in relation to the 4th TC will be determined by the SRS through the involvement of the SACG Child participation group and the NACG Child Participation Focal Points;
 - e. The SRS to explore possibilities to link with existing Regional Networks of Children with Disabilities if any to find opportunities for collaboration for the 4th TC and beyond;
 - f. The SRS will as endorsed zoom in on the 3rd week of June 2014 to host the 4th TC; and
 - g. The Host country as offered will be Pakistan as the first choice and Maldives and Sri Lanka will be alternate options to host the 4th Technical Consultation.

6. On the finalization of the 'Desk Review of the Faith Based Leaders', the SRS will immediately circulate the draft with a set of guiding points for the National mechanisms to undertake their inputs. The National mechanisms will also be provided a timeframe of end February to complete their exercise and revert back to the SRS.
7. The 3rd NACG Consultation noted that the SAAGN (South Asia Alliance of Grassroots NGOs) presents a potential mechanism for SAIEVAC and NACGs to link with since it not only presents opportunities to expand collaboration with the wider grassroots agencies but also since the SAAGN has adopted the same SAIEVAC thematic areas. The Meeting therefore recommends that the SRS and SAAGN while exploring more meaningful collaboration, also make efforts to streamline information sharing with the SAIEVAC National Mechanisms.
8. The Meeting endorsed that the Advocacy and Communication Strategy is work in progress and provides room for further refinement as well as expanding further to include specific needs for advocacy and communication.
9. The Meeting also took note the SRS will soon circulate the Concept Note and Programme for convening the Regional Advocacy and Communication Workshop which is offered to be hosted by Pakistan mechanism.
10. The Meeting also noted with satisfaction the progress being made in the area of MCA Project and directed the SRS to circulate the SAARCLAW Declaration and the Thimphu Declaration of the 9th SAARC Chief Justices' Conference so that the National Mechanisms can use it to further their agenda.
11. The Meeting taking note of the progress achieved by the NACGs since the 1st NACG to the 3rd NACG endorsed that the NACGs now need to demonstrate tangible achievement in 2014. To this effect the Meeting agreed to achieve the following targets and for which the a proper timeline will be set by the SRS:
 - a) Finalise/endorse the ToR
 - b) Do a write up that covers mission, goals, structure, membership, Action Plans,
 - c) Map out children's participation forums at the national level,
 - d) Identify a core group of organisations (members) to spearhead children's participation within the NACG including a Focal Person,
 - e) Identifying an appropriate communications mechanism for ongoing communications and exchanges
 - f) Defining the UN/INGOs' role within NACGs.

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