



South Asia Initiative To End Violence Against Children [SAIEVAC]

“In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC”



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



Expert Group Meeting to Finalize the Regional Action Plan and Implementation Strategy to End Child Marriage

28 - 29 May, 2014
Kathmandu, Nepal



Organised by SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat in partnership with PLAN ARO and MAMTA-Health Institute for Mother and Child in India (Member of IWG/NACG India), a total of 24 Expert Group delegates participated in the Expert Group Meeting to finalize the Regional Action Plan and Implementation Strategy to End Child Marriage in South Asia. The meeting was inaugurated by the Chief Guest H.E Nilam K.C. (Khadka), Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal.

Against the backdrop of SAARC Social Charter-2004 highlighting the need to eliminate child/early marriage, child marriage as one of the five key thematic priorities of SAIEVAC comes out of the fact that child marriage is still widespread in South Asia with 46 per cent of young women reportedly being married before the age of 18. Child marriage rates in South Asia are the second highest in the world behind only to West Africa.

The Regional Action Plan is a direct outcome of the “Regional Meeting to Review Commitments and Actions for the Girl Child and to develop the Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage” organized by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat (SRS) in December 2012 in Kathmandu in collaboration with SAARC Secretariat, UNICEF ROSA and UNFPA Regional Office including delegates from Member States, regional experts and representatives of civil society organizations.

The objectives of the expert group meeting were to review and finalize the Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage in the South Asia within the six given outcomes, to review and finalize the implementation framework to ensure an effective implementation of the Regional Action Plan by identifying key partners, explore opportunities and mobilize resources.

During the business sessions delegates also shared ongoing initiatives in addressing Child Marriage in South Asia. Later on, the delegates worked in groups to study the key outcomes and finalized the Regional Action Plan and Implementation Strategy to End Child Marriage in South Asia. The expert group revised strategic actions juxtaposing identified activities and provided recommendations, by linking identified activities and strategic actions to timelines and key partners for exploring opportunities of resource mobilization in relation to Regional Action Plan.

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