South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children [SAIEVAC]

SAARC Apex Body

“In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC”

BRIEFING OVERVIEW
OF
MISSING CHILD ALERT INITIATIVE AND PRODUCTS
OF
PILOT PHASE

In Partnership with Plan International

“EVERY MISSING CHILD COULD BE A LIVING STORY
OF
MODERN SLAVERY”
A. Introduction:

Missing Child Alert (MCA) is a multilateral project, jointly led by Plan International, SAIEVAC and other Partners. The project aims at developing regional cooperation and technological breakthrough to prevent and protect children from losing their contact with safe environment and to trace those who have unfortunately become victims of trafficking.

It is believed that organized response through an engagement of multiple stakeholders with use of advanced technology will facilitate creating mass awareness on the issue of missing children, aid in the tracing and interception of children that have gone missing before they end up being exploited, facilitate rescue and expedite the process of repatriation of victims, reforms and regional cooperation among member states of SAARC. The MCA is an important step to ensure that children of South Asia are safe and well protected through regional cooperation.

Being a new and ambitious concept within the region, MCA is regarded as a pilot project. The project was commenced in January 2012. The project has a long term framework which is divided into three phases:

ii) Rollout Phase (Jan 2016 – Dec. 2017) and,
iii) Scaling up Phase (Jan 2017 onwards).

Plan International partnered with various organizations to carry out research on different components of trafficking. The research “Strengthening Responses on Missing Children-Legal Review (Victim Protection for Child Survivors of Cross Border Trafficking: Bangladesh, India and Nepal)” was carried out by SAIEVAC in collaboration with SAARCLAW.

Change Mantras, another research partner conducted research on “Qualitative Research on Survivors of Cross Border Trafficking in India, Bangladesh and Nepal (July 2013-Decemeber 2014)-Disclosure- Working Title”.

Similarly International Solutions Group (ISG) conducted three consecutive studies to under “Mapping of Service Providers – Minimum Standards of post rescue care and mapping of service providers”
MCA is a technologically enabled program and in order to develop a systemic technological approach to address trafficking Plan International has partnered with DENT.

B. Products:

1. Strengthening Responses on Missing Children- Legal Review on Victim Protection for Child Survivors of Cross Border Trafficking: Bangladesh, India and Nepal - SAIEVAC-SAARCLAW/ Mapping of Legal Instruments in South Asia (to be used as an annex to the main report)

The current report has been conceptualized in partnership with the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) and aims at addressing legal reforms and supporting regional actions for protecting the rights of missing children. This review aimed to using a lens of victim protection and standards of care giving and repatriation for child survivors of cross border trafficking in the three MCA program countries, namely Bangladesh, India and Nepal. In this regard data collection focused on the existing legal provisions and policies relating to missing and trafficked children in Bangladesh, India and Nepal with a focus on provisions related to standards of care and protection through the rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation process.

2) Qualitative Research on Survivors of Cross Border Trafficking in India, Bangladesh and Nepal (July 2013-December 2014) : Disclosure- Working Title (Change Mantras)

The overall objective of the research is to explore the journey of survivors from cross-border trafficking from Nepal and Bangladesh to India in order to better understand protective and damaging mechanisms inherent to trafficking, rescue and rehabilitation.

The main objectives are:

i) To identify points of intervention to support girls whose vulnerabilities place them at a higher risk of being trafficked;

ii) To prevent child trafficking by identifying risk inducing processes within families dealing with their vulnerabilities;

iii) To develop knowledge that can sensitise vulnerable girls and girls in transit to be aware of risk of being trafficked, in order to enable them to seek help while being transported;

iv) To understand the nature of exploitation in order to identify protective factors within an exploitative system and indicators that can help shape rehabilitation post-rescue; and

v) To understand a survivor’s construction of ‘normal life’ post-rescue.
3) Development of Minimum Standard of Service Delivery for Victims of Trafficking, Mapping and Assessment of Service Providers- Service Providers Mapping Report (ISG)

The Service Provider Mapping Report provides findings from 68 interviews with different non-governmental service providers in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. If possible, this study should be read in conjunction with the “Report on Minimum, Standards, Tools and Analysis” for a better understanding of how the questionnaire that was used to collect data was developed. The process involved identification and mapping of the existing quantity and quality of services and service providers available to support victims of trafficking across the project area through onsite visits to selected agencies in each of the three countries.

The “Report on Minimum, Standards, Tools and Analysis” proposed a typology for, and tentative definitions of, minimum standards related to the provision of a range of vital services to survivors of child trafficking (hereafter called child survivors) in South Asia. It was based on a range of national and international best practices and key resources in the area of child trafficking, primarily from the South and Southeast Asian regions, but also globally where appropriate. It provided a reflection and analysis in the development of a range of standards and indicators related to these services, and presents a range of minimum standards in the provision of services to the survivors of child trafficking to facilitate a comparison of the services offered by providers in this area. The domains and indicators are intended to promote and further the consistency of monitoring efforts, and to ultimately support improvement of service delivery.

4) Service Providers Minimum Standard, Survey Tool and Analysis Plan (Prepared by: International Solutions Group ISG)

The review constitutes the primary output of Phase 1 of the Development of Minimum Standards of Service Delivery for Survivors of Trafficking, Mapping and Assessment of Service Providers project. The development of the Minimum Standards by International Solutions Group (ISG) is a key element of the Missing Child Alert (MCA), an initiative from Plan International, and will combine with a range of other sub-projects that will contribute to the MCA’s successful development and implementation. A regional initiative involving Bangladesh, India and Nepal, the overall aim of the MCA is to develop a technologically-enabled system that can facilitate tracking, tracing and repatriation of children vulnerable to or survivors of cross-border trafficking. The MCA is currently in its pilot phase and will be implemented in selected locations of each of the three countries. This review summarises comprehensive summative and formative research, and proposes a typology for, and tentative definitions of, minimum standards related to the provision of a
range of vital services to survivors of child trafficking in South Asia. It is based on a range of national and international best practices and key resources in the area of child trafficking, primarily from the South/Southeast Asian region, but also globally where appropriate. It provides a reflection and analysis in the development of a range of standards and indicators related to these services, and presents a range of minimum standards in the provision of services to the survivors of child trafficking to facilitate a comparison of the services offered by providers in this area.

5) Development of Minimum Standards of Service Delivery for Victims of Trafficking, Mapping and Assessment of Service Providers.

Part III: Resource Directory of Standard and Services to Survivors of Trafficking (ISG)

This study constitutes the primary output of Phase 2 (hereafter called the Service Provider Mapping Report) of the Development of Minimum Standards of Service Delivery for Survivors of Trafficking, Mapping and Assessment of Service Providers project. The development of the Minimum Standards by International Solutions Group (ISG) is a key element of the Missing Child Alert (MCA), an initiative from Plan International, and is being implemented as one of a range of other sub-projects that contributes to the MCA’s development and implementation.

The Service Provider Mapping Report provides findings from 68 interviews with different non-governmental service providers in Bangladesh, India and Nepal. If possible, this study should be read in conjunction with the “Report on Minimum, Standards, Tools and Analysis” for a better understanding of how the questionnaire (Annex 1) that was used to collect data was developed. The process involved identification and mapping of the existing quantity and quality of services and service providers available to support victims of trafficking across the project area through onsite visits to selected agencies in each of the three countries.

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6) DNET as a System Integrator

DNET is tasked with conducting structured studies into the existing eco-system of trafficking and designing interventions using technology as a catalyst.

Approach in building technology solutions:

It is agreed that building a comprehensive technology solution set covering all aspects of the anti-trafficking continuum, is time consuming. It requires engagement of both state and non-state actors in all three countries. Since the inception of the project, there are consistent and systematic efforts in building the MCA ecosystem engaging all actors. It has been clear that engaging non-state actors is faster. Thus, a two-prong approach has been agreed upon:

a) **Track 1:** the comprehensive approach, where a detailed technology blueprint will be prepared for all segments of anti-trafficking activities, where specific technology solutions will be offered based on study of the processes followed by both state and non-state actors.

b) **Track 2:** A fast-track approach, where a quick technology solution will be developed and deployed engaging primarily non-state actors focusing on specific segment of anti-trafficking activities.

**Track 2 and Uniform Case Management System (UCMS)**

Findings and learning’s from the exploratory phase of the project and the assessment studies carried out so far brings to the forefront the complex process and long delays in the repatriation of the victims of trafficking, rescued in India to their home countries of Bangladesh and Nepal.

The journey of a trafficking victim from the point of rescue to reintegration is fraught with delays and impacts their rehabilitation and ultimate re-integration.

Considering it as a most important segment in the whole anti-trafficking continuum, it is agreed that an intervention focusing on the repatriation, rehabilitation and re-integration segment of trafficking will be worthwhile to proceed with. Dnet under the MCA Project is in the process of designing an intervention titled “Uniform Case Management System (UCMS)” The proposed UCMS is to be fashioned as a web based tool accessible by the actors in different geographical locations to enable them to track the progress of a case from rescue to repatriation to re-integration and facilitating improved communication and co-ordination between the stakeholders. The UCMS proposes to address the segment of trafficking as depicted by the diagram below.
A Case and the Journey
(point of rescue to re-integration)

A child/woman gets rescued from the place of exploitation

Magistrate/CWC

Case Management

Process  Between Countries  Between Service Providers

Shelter home
Waiting for Repatriation

Re-Integration

Rehabilitation

Repatriation to Home Country