National Action and Coordinating Group to End Violence against Children (NACG)  

Terms of Reference

National Action and Coordinating Group to End Violence against Children (NACG) is established in each South Asia Country (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) and linkages are developed to the regional South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Women and Children (SACG). The purpose is to strengthen inter-agency work including with governments and children groups to end violence against children. NACG is composed of UN agencies, multi-lateral and bi-lateral agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations and children’s (girls and boys) and young people’s group.

Background

The “South Asia Coordinating Group against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Women in South Asia” was established in March 2004 to work towards the Mid-term Review of the Yokohama Global Commitments on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. After the Regional Consultation on Violence against Children held in May 2005, Islamabad, Pakistan, the group was renamed as “South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Women and Children (SACG)” in its meeting in June 2005 to respond to a broadened scope of issues. It was further proposed that women and children will be included within the title and scope of the Group.

Further, in the SACG Roundtable meeting in September 2009, SACG members recommended that: “Regional interagency cooperation in South Asia be reproduced at the national level in each SAARC country and promote coordination and a comprehensive mapping on the child protection work of all agencies to assess synergies, promote joint initiatives and complementarity.”

SACG is composed of regional representatives from UN agencies and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) working in South Asia. In addition, a number of organizations have Observer Status. UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia is the Chair of the SACG and Plan-International the Co-Chair for 2011-2012.

In 2010, SACG has supported the strengthening of government cooperation in the SouthAsia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), which has a Governing Board consisting of representatives from Member States (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka), civil society and children, SACG Chair, a Secretariat and a Five Year Work Plan.
NACG - Nepal

Objective:

The overall objective of the NACG-Nepal is to strengthen inter-agency work including with governments and children groups to end violence against children. The specific objectives are:

- To strengthen networking among the agencies at national level, building a national alliance to prevent, address and end violence against children.
- To promote rights based and coordinated approach to preventing violence and protecting children by strengthening national and community based protection systems at all levels.
- To engage in collaboration with global and national forums and bodies working on ending violence against children, such as the Office of the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children.
- To provide necessary technical and other support to SAIEVAC Coordinators/ Governing Board Members and other government representatives at national level in furthering the SAIEVAC agenda and in the implementation of the SAIEVAC Five Year Work Plan.
- To actively encourage and support national level inter-agency cooperation at all levels such as cooperation with and between government, UN agencies, INGO’s and civil society organisations including children and young people to ensure adequate coverage and availability of child protection services.
- To actively promote, support and strengthen the national children’s forum and cooperate with SAIEVAC in strengthening children’s participation at national and regional level.
- To actively link with the SACG at the regional level, collaborate and provide support to the regional initiatives.

Strategies

1. Support and Collaborate with the SAIEVAC Governing Board Members/Coordinator, and National SAIEVAC Mechanisms

- To provide support to SAIEVAC Governing Board Members/ Coordinators at the national level in furthering their mandate and activities and in organizing high level meetings and technical workshops.
- To collaborate and support in implementing the five year SAIEVAC Work Plan at the national level, through research, documentation, resource mobilization, sharing of best practices, capacity building and training programmes, exchange visits and any other activity as agreed between SAIEVAC Governing Board Members/SAIEVAC Coordinator at the national level and SACG Members.
• To support building linkages between SAIEVAC Governing Board Members/SAIEVAC Coordinator at the national level and regional mechanisms/entities.

2. Support the implementation of the SAIEVAC Work plan
• Governments, NACG and civil society including children will cooperate to implement the SAIEVAC Five Year Work Plan at the national level.

The overall objective of the Work Plan is to develop and strengthen National and Community based child protection systems that would effectively protect children against abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. The SAIEVAC Member States have agreed to place emphasis on certain key child protection areas (Regional Cooperation, National Strategy, Legislative Measures, Prevention, Data Collection, Professional Training and Learning, Child Care Standards, Reporting, Referral Mechanisms, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration, Justice System, Education and Awareness Raising, Child and Civil Society Participation) and issue based action (early marriage, trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation, corporal punishment and child labour). Further, each of the core areas has specific objectives and indicators to be achieved by a time period as indicated in the Work Plan.

3. Networking and capacity building
• To network among NACG members and other agencies/organizations working on violence against women, girls and boys in South Asia through regular exchange of information on best practices, programme interventions and protection strategies.
• To identify national level areas of further cooperation and coordination.
• To link up with other groups/networks such as children’s, young people’s and women’s groups.
• To regularly share information with NACG and its member agencies.
• To develop capacity to support NACG Work Plan implementation.
• To link up with the SACG Chair, collaborate and provide support for regional initiatives.

4. Advocacy on ending violence at the national level and in South Asia
• To promote policies and programmes towards ending violence, guided by a rights based and evidence-based approach with governments, SAIEVAC Governing Board Members/SAIEVAC Coordinators, I/NGOs and groups of women, children and young people.
• To support national campaigns as well as develop joint pledges for effective implementation of the regional initiatives and commitments.
• To partner with media to support preventive actions against violence against children and promoting positive awareness raising.
• To advocate for reforming laws for their effective and consistent implementation, inclusion/increase of programmes on ending violence based on the indicators developed from global/regional commitments and declarations and increased government budget allocations.

5. Building knowledge base on violence issues
• To work collectively to build evidence based information and knowledge on violence - which will provide input to the SAIEVAC thematic meetings as well as for other initiatives.
• To disseminate findings/recommendations from national reviews at national meetings/consultations.
• To establish links with universities and other academic institutions to create a knowledge base.
• To contribute to a consolidated regional resource centre on violence against children by sending regular updates and new publications to the regional SACG website.

6. Strengthening national monitoring function on violence issues
• To review the changes in trends in areas of violence against children based on indicators identified by NACG on national and regional commitments and declarations.
• To monitor the implementation and progress of global, regional and national commitments on ending violence including CRC and its Optional Protocols, CEDAW, SAARC Conventions, follow-up to the UN Study on Violence against Children and the UN Study on Violence against Women recommendations, Global Congresses a against Sexual Exploitation of Children, SAIEVAC Regional Preparatory Consultation against Sexual Exploitation of Children and SAIEVAC Regional Consultations on Violence against Children.

7. Institutionalizing child participation at National Level
• To support children’s initiatives to strengthen the SAIEVAC regional and national forum of children.
• To support meaningful participation of children in SAIEVAC work and processes.
• To build capacities of children on relevant issues.
• To promote participation of children in national campaigns and initiatives against violence against children.
• To support dissemination of child friendly version of key findings and recommendations of the regional and national review, meetings and consultations.

Membership
1. Membership is voluntary and free of cost.
2. Civil Society Networks/Coalition/Alliances working for or with children and Network of children’s group can be a Member. Development agencies (INGOs) can be a observer member
3. The members should promote a rights based approach and have a clear and demonstrated commitment towards the realization of the NACG objectives.
4. If NACG feel added value, relevant agencies will be considered as observers. Observers will not have voting rights and cannot represent the NACG in any forum/meeting.
5. All Members and Observers will abide by the guidelines and rules of the NACG.
6. The NACG will nominate a Chair and Co-Chair in a democratic and transparent manner with a two year rotation term.

Guidelines
All Members will nominate one representative who will be the Focal point responsible for following up on NACG decisions.

1. The Focal points can nominate another representative in their absence to attend meetings and events. In such cases the representative will be responsible for briefing the Focal point.
2. The Focal Points are responsible to disseminate all information and decisions made by NACG in their respective coalitions/networks/alliances/forums.
3. The Focal Points are welcome to bring more representatives to the NACG Meetings. All representatives will abide by the guidelines set by NACG.
4. All Observers can nominate one representative from their organisation and in event of his/her absence can nominate another Observer from the organisation.
5. Members are encouraged to promote NACG objectives; they can represent NACG in forums/meetings and engage in resource mobilization for NACG only if they have prior written consent and permission from the Chair of NACG.
6. NACG Members can approach Governing Board Members/Coordinators of other countries, with consent and prior permission of the respective NACG Chair and Regional SACG Chair.

Role of Chair and Co-Chair
1. The Chair and Co-Chair will be selected in the annual meeting of NACG and will be in function for 2 years.
2. The NACG will meet at least four times a year.
3. The Chair will preside over all NACG Meetings and may represent NACG at national and regional level.
4. The Chair is responsible for calling NACG Meetings, sending invitations, taking Minutes and providing information and updates to all NACG Members.
5. The Chair and Co-Chair can mutually agree to divide the tasks between them, if they find desirable. In the absence of the Chair, the Co-Chair can take the role of Chair.
6. The Chair will also be responsible to network, collaborate and be focal point for SAIEVAC Governing Board Members and Coordinators at the national level.