SOUTH ASIA FOLLOW UP REGIONAL CONSULTATION
ON
THE UN STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
Organised and Showcased by the SAIEVAC Secretariat
Hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka

POST EVENT REPORT OF THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST CORPORAL PUNISHMENT
WITH REGARD TO
THE FOLLOW UP REGIONAL CONSULTATION

26- 31 MAY, 2012
TAJ SAMUDRA I COLOMBO I SRI LANKA

ORGANIZED AND SHOWCASED BY:
THE SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (SAIEVAC) WITH
TECHNICAL SUPPORT FROM SACG TASKFORCE ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND
FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM SAVE THE CHILDREN
RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE FOLLOW UP REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE UN STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (UNVAC)

Since the UNVAC Study launch at the General Assembly in 2006, numerous efforts were made by different actors to contribute towards ending violence against children in all settings. This resulted in a number of good practices that remain to be further documented and disseminated. However, the need for an increased collaboration and strengthened action at the country level still remains. The recent report from the NGO Advisory Council for follow-up to the UN Secretary-General’s Study on Violence against Children summarizes the state of violence against children in the five years since the release of the UN Study. Although not exhaustive, the report is illustrative of the continued pervasiveness of violence in children’s lives in all settings (in fact increasing in some settings) and highlights the lack of areas of progress in protecting children.

This Consultation was to bring together relevant stakeholders in South Asia with the following overall goal and expected outcome:

- To review progress made in implementing UNVAC Study recommendations in order to strengthen measures and processes aiming at their effective realization.

THE KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Identify and review progress and gaps in the implementation of the recommendations of the UNVAC Study and the SAIEVAC workplan;
- Showcase and promote relevant good practices;
- Strengthen the ownership, accountability and commitment by South Asian governments to end violence against children.

The following additional objectives were also expected to be achieved:

- Strengthen partnerships, both from within the SAIEVAC framework and with other regional VAC platforms;
- Strengthen participation of children in their own protection;
- Support and promote the mandate of the SRSG/VAC to advance SAIEVAC agenda;
- Examine the existing national plans of action and develop a regional road map for the implementation of the recommendations of the UNVAC Study for the next five years;
- In the spirit of South-South cooperation, develop collaboration with the other regional VAC platforms (including ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, ACWC; Council of Europe, MERCOSUR, Arab League, African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child).

The regional consultation was preceded by preparatory national consultations in the eight South Asian countries. The objective was to provide a forum to discuss progress made in implementing the UNVAC Study recommendations at country level based on the responses to the Global Progress Survey and review gaps and challenges. Moreover, the national consultations was also to lead national action plans to address violence against children building on the SAIEVAC Workplan.
KEY OUTCOMES

Apart from strengthening and further stimulating various processes and partnerships as per the event objectives, the Regional Consultation resulted in the following specific outcomes:

- The South Asia Call for Action in support of joint efforts to end violence against children in South Asia.
- Outcome document in the form of a report summing up achievements, gaps and final recommendations identified during the process;
- Background document on the SAIEVAC’s transition from SAF to SAIEVAC;
- Separate Children’s report from the Two Days Children’s Consultation in a child friendly version.
- Commitment to support global efforts and progress on combating violence against children.
- Regional Campaign against Corporal Punishment launched and the national action plans on curbing corporal punishment drafted by the Member States.

IN VolVEMENT OF DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS

The primary responsibility for implementing the UNVAC Study recommendations lies with governments/States. However, the involvement of children and youth, families, civil society, agencies for development cooperation, the private sector, the media as well as other actors at the national, regional and international levels is crucial in contributing to the realization of the rights of children to be free from all forms of violence. Raising greater awareness on the findings and recommendations of the UNVAC Study among actors involved in the protection of children and with the general public remains an ongoing task and responsibility for all.

The critical role of regional organizations and institutions was highlighted by the SRSG on VAC and the Joint Statement from the High-level Round Table on the subject attests to this.

It was therefore of utmost importance to involve the representatives of the following constituencies in this important regional consultation:

- Children and young people;
- Governments;
- SAARC high-level State authorities on child protection and children’s rights (including parliamentarians and members of the relevant line ministries);
- The UN SRSG/VAC;
- Civil society organizations - members of national child rights coalitions;
- UN agencies and International Organizations;
- Members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- Regional and international child protection and child rights experts;
- Independent Child Protection and/or Human Rights Commissions;
- SACG and representatives of the other regional VAC platforms (including ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, ACWC; Council of Europe, MERCOSUR, Arab League, African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child);
- Media
REGIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

One of the highlights of the Follow up Regional Consultation on the UN Study on Violence Against Children was the Launch of the Regional Campaign Against Corporal Punishment. The campaign was an initiative in response to the call of the 2nd SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting, held in Kathmandu on the 29th October 2011 to lead a regional campaign against corporal punishment of children and ending violence against children at large. SAIEVAC’s 5 year work plan also envisions to “reinforce regional cooperation on ending corporal punishment in the region in specific, all forms of violence in genera”. It states, “By 2015, all States have identified the necessary actions and measures to prohibit all corporal punishment in all settings including law reform and are reinforcing positive parenting practices and positive classroom management programmes.”

AIM OF THE CAMPAIGN

Ending the legality, social acceptance and practice of violent punishment in South Asia, conducive to the development of a quarter of the world’s children.

TARGETED OUTCOME

1. Launch of the Regional Campaign Against Corporal Punishment;
2. National Action Plans on corporal punishment at the Member State levels drafted;
3. Initiating the national action plans and launching the campaign in all Member States

PRE, LAUNCH AND POST PHASES OF THE CAMPAIGN

1. Pre- launch: (preparatory phase)

The pre-launch period was the most crucial phase of the whole campaign event. The following publications produced to supplement and highlight the campaign were developed in close collaboration between the SAIEVAC team, Save the Children Interface and the respective firms/consultants.

Publications produced for the campaign launch:
1. Brochures and leaflets : 1000 copies each
2. Posters on 5 thematic areas : 2500 pieces in total
4. Q & A Booklet on banning corporal punishment : 500 copies
5. Banners with status of corporal punishment in each Member State: 8+1 banners
6. Backdrop banner for the exhibit corner to launch the campaign : 1 backdrop banner
7. Event banner : 2 banners
8. Website on CoP (an extension of the SAIEVAC webpage)
THE LAUNCH OF THE REGIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

With support of SACG Task Force on Corporal Punishment lead by Save the Children, SAIEVAC Secretariat launched its first ever Regional Campaign against Corporal Punishment on 28th May, 2012 in Colombo during the South Asia Regional Consultation on the Follow-up of the UN Study on Violence against Children to review progress made in implementing the UN Study recommendations in South Asian countries.

The campaign was launched by the Hon’ble Members of the dais comprising of the Hon’ble Chief Guest to the consultation, His Excellency, Minister of Child Development and Women’s Affairs (MoCDWA), Government of Sri Lanka; His Lordship, Chief Justice of Bhutan & President of SAARCLAW; Deputy Minister, (MoCDWA), H.E Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, Government of Afghanistan and the Chairperson, SAIEVAC Governing Board; Hon’ble Secretary General, SAARC Secretariat; Hon’ble Secretary, Ministry of Child Development and Women’s Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka; H.E the UNSRSG on Violence against Children; the Ambassador for Orphan Children, Government of Pakistan; General Secretary to the Parliamentarian Human Rights caucus, Government of Pakistan, CEO, SDF and Director General of SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING ON FORMULATING THE NATIONAL ACTION PLANS ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT: 31st May 2012, Gregory Hall, TajSamudra

The SAIEVAC National Coordinators, representatives of the CSOs, Child Participants and some of the INGO partners from the eight Member States participated in the half day National Planning Exercise on Corporal Punishment. The meeting was hosted by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat and co-hosted by the Ministry of Child Development and Women’s Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka and under the aegis of the SACG Taskforce on Corporal Punishment. Mr. Peter Newell, Coordinator, Global Initiative to End Corporal Punishment of Children presented an overview on the Imperatives of addressing Corporal Punishment- (presenting HR imperatives on ending Corporal Punishment): opportunities on legal & social reforms in South Asia.

With the outline of the plans presented by the facilitators, the participants dispersed into their respective groups to map out the national plans. The outcome of this exercise was then presented to the Governing Board Meeting that was being held concurrently in the next hall.

2. Post launch:

- Finalized the report on the campaign event. A copy of the Campaign report is enclosed herewith;
- Review and Finalize the National Action Plans;
- Continuously exploring with the Member States to launch the national campaign on corporal punishment and implement the national action plans.
Participants of the National Planning Meeting

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