



**South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)**  
**SAARC Apex Body**  
**“In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC”**

**REPORT**  
**OF**  
**5<sup>th</sup> GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**



19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>th</sup> August 2014  
Dhaka, Bangladesh



**Hosted by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs**  
**Government of the Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Organized by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat**  
**Supported by South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children (SACG)**

**REPORT  
OF  
5<sup>th</sup> GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**



**Hosted by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs  
Government of the Republic of Bangladesh  
Organized by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat  
Supported by South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children (SACG)**

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE NO</b>
Executive Summary .....	4
<b><u>A. Day –I : 19 August 2014</u></b>	
<b>1. Inaugural Session</b> .....	<b>9</b>
a. Opening Remarks and Introduction by the Director General, SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat.....	9
b. Opening Remarks by the Chairperson, SAIEVAC Governing Board .....	9
c. Key Note Address by he Minister, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh.....	10
<b>2. Business Session</b> .....	<b>10</b>
2.1 Adoption of the Agenda.....	10
2.2 Report on the Follow Up Actions taken on the recommendations of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting.....	10
2.3 Progress review, activities in place and way forward for the MCA Project on Missing Children and Cross Border Trafficking.....	12
2.4 Briefing on the outcome of the 4 <sup>th</sup> NACG Consultation .....	14
2.5 Briefing on the Outcome Report of the SAIEVAC – SAACH Consultation and Discussion on the collaboration with SAACH.....	15
2.6 Progress Review and Next Steps of the CoP Campaign Project.....	17
2.7 Briefing on the ‘Mapping Positive Care Practices’ .....	19
<b><u>Day – II ; 20 August 201</u></b>	
2.8 Next Steps for the documentation on Faith Based Initiatives.....	21
2.9 Briefing and Endorsement of the Draft Regional Action Plan (RAP) Child Marriage.....	21
2.10 Brief on Regional Consultation on Human Resource Development Strategy on Child Protection and Violence against Children (SAIEVAC Academy) and Next Steps.....	22
2.11 Draft proposal of the ‘Regional Strategy to End All Forms of Child Labour in South Asia’.....	23
2.12 Milestones for the 4 <sup>th</sup> TC on Stepping Up Protection of Children with Disabilities in South Asia and the Regional Child Participation Conference.....	25
2.13 Status Report on the SAIEVAC – SDF Project and the national operational plans...	25
2.14 Any other Issues.....	26
2.15 Dates and Venue for the 6 <sup>th</sup> GBM.....	26
2.16 Review and adoption of the Recommendations of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting.	26
2.17 Closing Remarks.....	30
2.18 Programme Field visit on Day 3.....	31
<b>Annexes</b> .....	<b>36</b>

## **5<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting 19-21 August 2014**

---

### **A. Executive Summary**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting (GBM) of SAIEVAC was held from the 19-21<sup>st</sup> of August 2014 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM was hosted by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, (SAIEVAC National Mechanism), Peoples Republic of Bangladesh and organized by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat with support from the SACG (PLAN MCA & ILO).

The GBM was attended by all the Governing Board Members except for Pakistan and Srilanka who were represented by their respective SAIEVAC Coordinators. The CSO GB Observer from Afghanistan could not attend due to certain procedural issues. In keeping with the decisions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> GBM and further reinforced by the 4<sup>th</sup> GBM, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM was also attended by all the SAIEVAC National Coordinators in their capacity as advisors to the GB Members of the Respective Member States.

The Inaugural Session of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM was addressed by the Chairperson of the SAIEVAC Governing Board and H.E Meher Afroze Chumki M.P, Hon'ble State Minister, Ministry of Women and Children affairs (MoWCA) delivered the key Note Address. The Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children affairs (MoWCA), Mr. AYM Golam Kibria, the Child Governing Board Member and the NACG Chairperson of Bangladesh also addressed the Session.

The Hon'ble Chief Guest also launched the SAIEVAC Biannual News Letter.

The SAIEVAC National Coordinator for Bangladesh offered the Vote of thanks.

The Business Session commenced with the review and endorsement of the agenda placed before it by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat (SRS) with minor adjustments.

The GBM after intense and elaborate deliberations on the different agenda items adopted the following recommendations.

1. Considering the Follow Up Report of the recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> GBM, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed the following:
  - a. The SAIEVAC Coordinators will attend the GBMs as Advisors to the GB Members and that while they have the right to share their views and opinions during the proceedings of the GBM, the final endorsement of the decisions will still be subject to endorsement by the GB Members;
  - b. While keeping in line with the decisions of the 4<sup>th</sup> GBM in terms of the participation of the current CSO GB Observers, it was agreed that the timeframe of the 'Observer' status will be based on the completion of the year and not on the number of GB Meetings held;

- c. While the 4<sup>th</sup> GBM had endorsed the different standards and guidelines for child participation, there was still significant room for enhancing child participation activities both at the Regional and National levels. In light of this, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed that the SAIEVAC Regional and National Mechanisms will make dedicated efforts to create proper space for children and to initiate efforts to train children to achieve meaningful participation;
  - d. Taking cognizance of the gender disparity currently being experienced in relation to children's participation and after exploring different possibilities to rectify the situation, the GBM endorsed that the rotational mechanism in place will continue and the respective Member States will bilaterally decide to select the boy or girl Child Board Member and notify the SRS;
  - e. The Meeting reinforced that the responsibility for children primarily rests on the Government Mechanisms and therefore the accountability of promoting meaningful child participation also rests with the Governments. The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM also reiterated the vital role of the NACGs/CSOs in the process so as to ensure a wider opportunity to develop children's participation in the SAIEVAC mechanisms.
2. Considering the presentation on the status and progress of the MCA Project and the activities in the pipeline, the meeting after prolonged discussions, endorsed that:
- a. The Missing children and cross border trafficking is an area that merits the highest consideration of all the Member States and therefore commits full support to the implementation of the MCA Project;
  - b. Taking cognizance of the challenges and gaps pertaining to the project framework and implementation, directs the SRS to take adequate steps to secure the ownership and participation of the Government Mechanisms to achieve successful outcomes of the Project;
  - c. The MCA Project also explore opportunities to strengthen the role of the governments in the steering the project at the Regional level as well guiding the implementation of activities at the national level;
  - d. The activities under consideration/planned for the project in the remaining phase be operationalized by linking closely with the participating Member States of Bangladesh, India and Nepal, as well as the other Member States and relevant partners.
3. Considering the report on the Outcome of the 4<sup>th</sup> NACG Meeting, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM noted that the NACG Mechanism is evolving as a very important platform to move the SAIEVAC agenda forward. In this context the Meeting after considering various decisions adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> NACG and in particular on the targets set for the institutionalisation process of the NACGs directed the SRS to ensure that:

- a. There are clear coordination mechanisms defined for the NACGs and the Government mechanisms to achieve the expected targets and outcomes;
  - b. The NACGs also strategize and create opportunities to receive meaningful support of the Governments to achieve the different targets set to be achieved by the end of 2014.
4. Considering the Outcome of the SAIEVAC - SAACH Consultation, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed the decisions arrived at the Consultation and further directs the SRS:
- a. To continue to support the helplines to create effective response mechanisms through enhanced capacity and evidence generation by following through the decisions of the consultation; and
  - b. To facilitate interface with the national helplines and the SDF LIA to promote better coordination and collaboration.
5. Endorsing the progress report on the CoP Campaign and activities planned, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM reiterated the need to launch campaigns in the remaining Member States through bilateral discussions. The GBM further directed the SRS to share the latest draft of the updated legal status report on corporal punishment in South Asia to the Member States for their consideration as soon as the report is ready.
6. Considering the briefing on the progress of the ‘Mapping Positive Care Practices’, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed that the Member States will provide necessary support to the SRS to complete the mapping activities as per plan.
7. The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM after considering the status report submitted by the SRS on the ongoing efforts pertaining to the desk review of the Faith Based Initiatives and considering the associated potential opportunities and challenges endorsed that:
- a. The SRS continue the process of exploring opportunities to finalise the desk review; and
  - b. Circulate the draft to the SAIEVAC Coordinators who will spearhead and complete the review and finalisation by taking also the view of the NACGs by the mid of November 2014.
8. Considering the Draft Regional Action Plan (RAP) on ending Child Marriage and after significant deliberations directed the SRS to ensure the following:
- a. The issue of Ombudsperson be deleted from the RAP given that there is no scope or avenue to rationalize such a position within the SAIEVAC mechanisms;
  - b. The issue of Shadow Reporting/Alternate Reports be removed out of the proposed framework since it is outside the scope of SAEVAC as an intergovernmental mechanism;
  - c. That given the significant confusion and potential duplication generated by having the RAP Framework and the Implementation Framework together, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM recommended that

the 2 documents be harmonized into one document and circulated to the SAIEVAC Mechanisms for feedback and comments by end October 14. The SRS thereafter will prepare the final draft after review by a small group of Experts for consideration of the Governing Board Members by circulation;

9. The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM considering the report of the SAIEVAC Academy (SA) Consultation, and endorsing the recommendations endorsed that the SRS will:
  - a. Undertake with the support of the SAIEVAC National mechanisms the training Needs Assessment in each Member State and match this with the existing capacity and opportunities available in the region. This will form the basis on which the next SA Consultation will be convened;
  - b. The dates and venue of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SA Consultation will be discussed bilaterally and announced.
10. Considering the proposed Child Labour Project and deliberation on the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, endorsed that the SRS circulate the draft proposal to the Member States for their review and comments. Following the feedback to be provided by end of September the SRS will compile and submit the proposal to SAIEVAC India by mid October for consideration.
11. The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM after considering the report of the Preparatory Milestones for the 4<sup>th</sup> Technical Consultation endorsed the timelines with required adjustments/amendments. The GBM further directs the SRS:
  - a. To finalize the standard for participation of children with disabilities both at the National and regional level;
  - b. The dates (3-7 Dec 14) to be finalized after Bhutan and India reconfirms their agreement by end of August and further course of action to be determined and communicated thereafter;
  - c. To confirm Srilanka as the venue and immediately submit a letter of request to the Government of Srilanka for formal approval;
  - d. To send the media information package to the Member States along with a Q&A on disability along with the Background document by end of September so as to facilitate the National level preparations. The SRS however emphasized that there will be no unauthorized and unregulated media briefings so as to prevent unilateral or personal opinions that are contrary to the SAIEVAC objectives;
  - e. The SAIEVAC mechanisms will provide relevant names of 'Experts' who could be considered for supporting the SRS in driving the theme for the Technical Consultation;

- f. The SRS and the National mechanisms to further reinforce the child participation and the selection process for the Chaperones so as to ensure that we fulfill standards put in place.
12. The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM considering the progress and challenges related to the implementation of the SDF Project endorsed that all IAs will continue to make added efforts to accelerate the implementation process so as to ensure credible progress by the end of October 2014.
13. Under the Any Other Issues agenda item, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed the following areas:
  - a. The SRS prepare a briefing paper on Foster Care System in keeping with the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Consultation on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services and table it for discussion and consideration of the 6<sup>th</sup> GBM;
  - b. The SRS to facilitate the reinforcement and strengthening of the 1098 Helpline so as to enhance the rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation of child victims across the region;
  - c. The SAIEVAC National Mechanisms create a platform for interface with children on a periodic basis. However this to be activated after the National child participation forums are created by December 2014
14. Considering the dates and venue of the 6<sup>th</sup> GBM, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed that:
  - a. The GB Members could meet for a half day following the 4<sup>th</sup> TC to take stock of progress of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM Recommendations as well as to assess the status of targets to be achieved by the NACGs by end of December 2014;
  - b. The SRS to finalize the dates and venue of the 6<sup>th</sup> GBM and communicate to the GB Members by circulation after seeking endorsement of the Chairperson



## Proceedings of the 5<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting

---

### **A. Day – I : 19 August 2014**

#### **1. Inaugural Session:**

The Inaugural Session of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM started with the **Director General of the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat** welcoming all the hon'ble delegates to the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM and to Dhaka. He expressed his deepest appreciation to H.E the Minister for kindly consenting to grace the Inaugural Session as the Chief Guest despite the huge tragedy in her family. He also outlined the objectives of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM and apprised the meeting about the additional participation of the SAIEVAC Coordinators in fulfillment of the decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> GBM. He also introduced the delegates for the benefit of the Chief Guests and those who were attending the SAIEVAC event for the first time.

**The SAIEVAC Chairperson** in her address extended a very warm welcome and sincere appreciation to the Hon'ble Minister for her most gracious presence as the Chief Guest. Extending her welcome to all the delegates to the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM she outlined the key areas of importance which the Governing Board Meeting is expected to deliberate upon and expressed her hope that the meeting will be highly successful. She also highlighted many of the initiatives undertaken by the Government of Bangladesh to address the challenges of violence against children (**Full Text at Annex 1**).

The **Child GB Member from Bangladesh** addressing the Inaugural Session expressed his happiness saying that SAIEVAC has provided the children of the countries of South Asia an important platform to share and participate meaningfully in the decision making process for ending violence against children. He thanked the government of Bangladesh and the SAIEVAC family for the support the children receive. He also expressed his hope...and request that in order to realize the objectives of children's participation and generating increased contribution from children, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM address the institution of the national and regional child participation forums as well as capacity building for child Board Members to participate more effectively.

The **CSO Board Member from Bangladesh** in his capacity as the Chairperson of the NACG Bangladesh expressed his deepest appreciation to the Government of Bangladesh and the Hon'ble Minister for kindly hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM in Dhaka. He said that the SAIEVAC mechanism has provided the most critical platform for CSOs to unite and join hands with the government institutions to drive the mission to end violence against children in south Asia. He also informed the meeting that with the dedicated leadership from the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat and collaboration with the SACG, the NACG mechanisms are becoming a reality and will be able to provide greater impetus and support to the respective governments to achieve the vision of SAIEVAC to create a safer world for children of South Asia and the world. He expressed his hope that the delegates will find time to also enjoy what Dhaka has to offer.

The **Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs**, Government of Bangladesh welcomed all the participants to the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM and said that it was a great honour to receive them in Dhaka. He said that SAIEVAC is doing wonderful work by bringing all the SAARC Governments together with children and CSOs to end violence against children. He said that SAIEVAC Bangladesh is also doing excellent work. He also expressed his hope that the honorable participants will find time to visit places of interest in Dhaka.

The **Hon'ble Chief Guest, H.E Meher Afroze Chumki M.P, Hon'ble State Minister**, Ministry of Women and Children affairs (MoWCA) initiated her address by welcoming all the participants to this most important Meeting and to Dhaka. She said that South Asia is historically connected culturally, economically and that cooperation in these areas has already reached to a noteworthy level among SAARC Countries. She said that today we stand together against all social adversity including violation of rights of women and children. H.E also highlighted many initiatives in the areas of legal and policy reform and in strengthening effective community response systems to reinforce child rights and protection. She said that the Ministry of Women & Children Affairs is committed to protect rights of children in every way. She also said that the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs will take all necessary steps to implement decision of the SAIEVAC 5<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting in Bangladesh. The hon'ble Minister concluded her address with the hope that the SAIEVAC 5<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting will develop successful strategy and regional cooperation mechanisms to address Violence Against Children for South Asia. **(Full text at Annex - 2)**

The Hon'ble Chief Guest also launched the SAIEVAC Biannual News Letter.

The **SAIEVAC National Coordinator** for Bangladesh offered the Vote of thanks.

## **2. Business Session**

### **2.1 Review and adoption of the Agenda (Annex -3 A&B)**

The Director General SRS tabled the tentative agenda of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM for the Consideration of the Meeting. The agenda was reviewed item wise and endorsed without any changes. However the meeting noted that the agenda/programme for the field visit is to be presented on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day.

### **2.2 Report on the Follow Up Actions taken on the recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting (Annex -4)**

The DG SRS presented the Follow Up Actions taken on the recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting for the consideration and further guidance of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM.

The DG initiating his presentation underlined that while the time period since the last GBM was just a little over 6 months, the SRS has made significant progress in activating many of

the recommendations and thanked all the regional partners including SACG and the SAIEVAC National mechanisms for the unstinted support extended to him and his team at the SRS. He said that except for the recommendation on the Logo for SAIEVAC, all others have been activated.

The presentation covered a recapitulation of the proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> GBM held in Bhutan following the 3<sup>rd</sup> Technical Consultation. The presentation also highlighted the recommendations achieved, under implementation/follow up and those that are yet to be activated for various reasons. Where relevant the DG highlighted those that are being re-tabled for the consideration and further guidance of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM.

The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM following the Follow Up Report expressed its satisfaction on the progress achieved so far and stated that there is definite need to enhance coordination and support of the National Mechanisms to achieve higher outputs. The meeting also stressed that there is an urgent need to reinforce the CSO and children's contribution/participation in the GB Meetings so as to ensure a uniform and collective decision making.

The following recommendations emanated out of the discussions:

- a. The SAIEVAC Coordinators will attend the GBMs as Advisors to the GB Members and that while they have the right to share their views and opinions during the proceedings of the GBM, the final endorsement of the decisions will still be subject to endorsement by the GB Members;*
- b. While keeping in line with the decisions of the 4<sup>th</sup> GBM in terms of the participation of the current CSO GB Observers, it was agreed that the timeframe of the 'Observer' status will be based on the completion of the year and not on the number of GB Meetings held;*
- c. While the 4<sup>th</sup> GBM had endorsed the different standards and guidelines for child participation, there was still significant room for enhancing child participation activities both at the Regional and National levels. In light of this, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed that the SAIEVAC Regional and National Mechanisms will make dedicated efforts to create proper space for children and to initiate efforts to train children to achieve meaningful participation;*
- d. Taking cognizance of the gender disparity currently being experienced in relation to children's participation and after exploring different possibilities to rectify the situation, the GBM endorsed that the rotational mechanism in place will continue and the respective Member States will bilaterally decide to select the boy or girl Child Board Member and notify the SRS;*
- e. The Meeting reinforced that the responsibility for children primarily rests on the Government Mechanisms and therefore the accountability of promoting meaningful child participation also rests with the Governments. The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM also reiterated the vital*

*role of the NACGs/CSOs in the process so as to ensure a wider opportunity to develop children's participation in the SAIEVAC mechanisms.*

### **2.3 Progress review, activities in place and way forward for the MCA Project on Missing Children and Cross Border Trafficking (Annex -5)**

With the clearance of the Chairperson of the Governing Board, the SRS invited Mr. Ashish Damle, Regional Project Manager, MCA, PLAN ARO to make a brief report on the progress of the Project, challenges and future plans on the Missing children and Cross Border Trafficking.

Mr. Ashish thanked the SRS and Governing Board for the opportunity to make this progress presentation and hoped that the valuable guidance of the GBM will provide critical insights and direction on moving the Project forward.

He started his presentation by introducing that the MCA Project is:

- a. A multi-lateral approach and collaboration for regional cooperation
- b. The technological solution must be based on all existing technological interventions by State and Non-State actors
- c. The intervention must comply with national and regional legal framework
- d. Multiple technologies must be used to accommodate varied range of context and problems.
- e. The intervention must cover all segments of response to combat issues of missing children and trafficking
- f. Research must be an integral component of the intervention.

As presented by him 'Missing Child Alert' is a humble beginning...

- a. To facilitate collective response to the issue of missing children and their potential linkage with cross border trafficking
- b. To complement Government efforts on search of missing children beyond boundaries and combating cross-border trafficking
- c. To strengthen Public-Private partnership and develop long term comprehensive intervention to identify missing children across region and combat cross-border trafficking
- d. To introduce 'technology' as catalyst to strengthen and accelerate multiple processes.

The presentation highlighted progress as follows:

1. Interim Technical advisory Group is formed

2. Conceptualisation process for second phase of MCA has commenced in consultation with various stakeholders
3. System Requirement Need Assessment Study (SRNAS) has commenced
4. Mapping of Service providers and development of qualitative indicators for service provision exercise has commenced
5. Data collection for research on ‘disclosure’ is completed

He concluded his presentation by outlining what MCA has to offer. If realised in its full strength MCA will be the only cross border intervention on missing children and counter trafficking that will create following opportunities:

- a. The largest live database of missing and found children in the world
- b. The only intervention holds strongest potential of rescue of victims during transit between place of origin and destination
- c. The only system having potential to process civil intelligence and create alerts in real time basis
- d. The largest and most efficient network of the service providers for victims of trafficking across the region
- e. Single reference window on the issue of human trafficking in South Asia

Following the presentation, the meeting also clarified certain aspects of the Project implementation in the 3 Member States and the need for creating better processes to reinforce ownership of the project.

The DG SRS also outlined the following additional areas under consideration for implementation:

- a. Mapping of legal instruments in collaboration with SAARCLAW;
- b. MCA Technical Advisory Group Meeting – Trilateral;
- c. Chicken Neck Conference (Cross Border Network Meeting);
- d. SAARCLAW Conference to review status of recommendations of the 12<sup>th</sup> SAARCLAW Conference and the 9<sup>th</sup> SAARC Chief Justices Conference pertaining to Missing Children and Cross Border Trafficking;
- e. Support participating national projects and partners in undertaking national level activities

The GBM after prolonged discourse endorsed the following recommendations:

- a. ***The Missing children and cross border trafficking is an area that merits the highest consideration of all the Member States and therefore commits full support to the implementation of the MCA Project;***

- b. Taking cognizance of the challenges and gaps pertaining to the project framework and implementation, directs the SRS to take adequate steps to secure the ownership and participation of the Government Mechanisms to achieve successful outcomes of the Project;*
- c. The MCA Project also explore opportunities to strengthen the role of the governments in the steering the project at the Regional level as well guiding the implementation of activities at the national level;*
- d. The activities under consideration/planned for the project in the remaining phase be operationalized by linking closely with the participating Member States of Bangladesh, India and Nepal, as well as the other Member States and relevant partners.*

#### **2.4 Briefing on the outcome of the 4<sup>th</sup> NACG Consultation**

The DG SRS presented the outcome of the 4<sup>th</sup> NACG Consultation held from the 19-21<sup>st</sup> August 2014 in Colombo.

The presentation was initiated by outlining the Objectives of the Consultation:

- Review/reaffirm the NACG targets set for 2014 during the 3<sup>rd</sup> NACG Consultation in Colombo in December 2013;
- Review existing/emerging challenges in the institutionalization process of the NACGs, including the role of the UN/INGO partners and identify strategic steps forward;
- Review the proposed common communication strategy and launch the platform; and
- Hold a tripartite dialogue on moving the common VAC agenda forward.

The presentation also covered the Outcome of the Consultation as follows:

- 1) The process of finalising the NACG structure as endorsed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> NACG Meeting and further defined in the group exercise during the 4<sup>th</sup> NACG Consultation to be completed by the end of December, 2014;
- 2) All NACGs will have resource mobilisation action plans finalised by the end of 2014;
- 3) The SRS to set up and launch the Google Group for communications with and among NACGs within two weeks from the 4<sup>th</sup> NACG Consultation to share the outcomes and recommendations;
- 4) Each NACG to identify the communication focal point.
- 5) The 4<sup>th</sup> Technical Consultation will be held from 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and Colombo, Sri Lanka.

- 6) On behalf of the SACG, Plan ARO will channel funds to 5 countries for national preparations (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). SRS will explore funding support for the other 3 countries (Afghanistan, Bhutan and Maldives).
- 7) Children's Regional Consultation will take place in India (to be confirmed) in early October. National preparations will be expedited accordingly.
- 8) Next NACG Regional Consultation will be held over 2 days to review and reflect on all recommendations of SAIEVAC consultations made so far following the 4<sup>th</sup> Technical Consultation.

Following the presentation, the GBM after discussing the need to institutionalize the NACGs with capacity to effectively drive the VaC agenda in the respective Member States and at the Regional level, endorsed the following recommendations:

- a. There are clear coordination mechanisms defined for the NACGs and the Government mechanisms to achieve the expected targets and outcomes;*
- b. The NACGs also strategize and create opportunities to receive meaningful support of the Governments to achieve the different targets set to be achieved by the end of 2014.*

## **2.5 Briefing on the Outcome Report of the SAIEVAC – SAACH Consultation and Discussion on the collaboration with SAACH**

The DG SRS initiated his presentation by contextualizing the collaboration with SAACH as follows:

- That as per the SAIEVAC's mandate and as recommended by the 4<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting held in Bhutan in 2013 under 10.2 which states 'the SRS take whatever steps essential to facilitate the Child Helpline'.
- Also that during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Consultation of the National Action and Coordinating Group Against Violence Against Children (NACG) held in Colombo in December 2013, it was recommended to coordinate with existing mechanism at regional level to create a collaborative and consolidated effort in addressing the issue of VaC, particularly, Missing Child in the SAARC Region

He also presented to the GBM the recommendations of the SAIEVAC – SAACH Consultation held in Kathmandu from the 25-27<sup>th</sup> May 2014 with the goal to establish a partnership between SAACH and SAIEVAC to further strengthen coordination and collaborative effort to create a more robust response system in addressing the issues of VaC, particularly, Missing Children in the SAARC Region.

He also apprised the GBM that the Chairperson of the Governing Board and Board Members attended the Consultation from Bhutan, India, Nepal and Maldives, besides the Coordinators from Nepal and Srilanka.

He then tabled the recommendations endorsed during the Consultation for the consideration of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM:

1. The Consultation was in full agreement that the SAACH will review its current framework and proposed governance structure to establish/institute its definitive institutional mechanism to become a full-fledged regional entity with legal status/statute. To this effect the SAACH will:
  - a) Convene its next Meeting to discuss the strategic actions to be taken;
  - b) Continue the ongoing efforts to Register SAACH in Nepal
2. SAIEVAC will provide the interim Secretariat support including coordination for SAACH. The interim period will be defined by the proposed SAACH Meeting. However the LIA of the Toll Free Helpline Project will also institute a regional coordination and support mechanism for the Helplines to ensure speedy delivery of the project objectives.
3. For establishing clear political recognition and mandate to function beyond borders, it is agreed that:
  - a) SAACH Members to hold National level consultations/advocacy to define the framework, both through existing mechanisms and reinforced through the SDF Project;
  - b) Continue to foster consensus amongst SAACH Members to have uniform toll-free number 1098, which is an important yardstick for SAACH to become politically viable and have legal standing;
  - c) In the case of Member States having multiple helplines in operation, it is was agreed that efforts will be made to get all the helplines on board and explore effective ways to move forward to serve the larger mission for children.
  - d) SAACH and LIA of SDF Toll Free Project hold a consultative Meeting to finalize the collaboration and opportunities to strengthen the SAACH Framework;
  - e) Given that the ultimate objective of the SDF Project is to have sustainable Toll Free helplines functional in all Member States, the SDF LIA is encouraged to establish a clear understanding and roadmap for the future in consultation with the different helplines



4. SAIEVAC and SAACH to continue to engage together through follow up consultations and joint activities to fulfill complementary activities and in pursuing priority areas for intervention:
  - a) Participate and contribute to taking the Missing Children and Trafficking project activities forward under the larger umbrella of child rights and ending violence against children
  - b) Collaborate in sourcing and analyzing data and information from the helplines
  
5. Given the need to create effective response systems both at the National and the regional level, SAACH, SAIEVAC and SDF LIA cooperate in identifying and executing a strategic HR Development framework for capacity building of helplines. The proposed SAACH and SDF LIA consultation devote time to define this strategy.

The GBM after considering the report of the SAIEVAC SAACH Consultation endorsed the following recommendations:

- a) *Undertake with the support of the SAIEVAC National mechanisms the training Needs Assessment in each Member State and match this with the existing capacity and opportunities available in the region. This will form the basis on which the next SA Consultation will be convened.*
  
- b) *The dates and venue of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SA Consultation will be discussed bilaterally and announced.*

## 2.6 Progress Review and Next Steps of the CoP Campaign Project

The DG SRS before presenting the current status and progress of the Corporal Punishment (CoP) Campaign revisited the Campaign Outcome urging the GBM for enhanced focus on completing the Campaigns in the remaining Member States.

### **Outcome 1:**

More countries in South Asia will institute (amendments or reformulation) anti-corporal punishment laws and/or policies to end the legality of corporal punishment & other forms of cruel or degrading punishment of children.

### **Outcome 2:**

Corporal punishment and other forms of cruel or degrading punishment of children in all settings is recognized as harmful practice and parents, caregivers & teachers adopt positive/non-violent discipline and caring practices.

He than outlined the following progress report:

### **1. Supporting and Following-Up National Campaigns against Corporal Punishment**

- National Campaign launched in Pakistan on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014
- Nepal Mechanism supported to design the National Campaign and call a meeting of the stakeholders on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2014; Campaign to be launched in September, 2014
- Discussions underway with other countries for initiating National Campaigns

### **2. Developing Knowledge and Skills on Positive Discipline**

- Regional Orientation on Positive Discipline and Legal Reform; December, 2013; Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Orientation on concept and approaches of positive discipline to the Expert Committee Members on Child Protection of the Central Monastic Body of Bhutan; 15 – 17 July 2014; Paro, Bhutan

### **3. Promoting Legal Reform to Prohibit Corporal Punishment**

- Ongoing review of legal status of corporal punishment in the member states and formulation of model laws for explicit prohibition of all corporal punishment
- Workshop of the experts to review the legal status of corporal punishment in member states; 23 – 24 May, 2014; Kathmandu, Nepal
- Legal Reform initiatives to prohibit corporal punishment being undertaken in member states

### **4. Development of Resources against Corporal Punishment**

- a) Documentation of the child protection system of the monastic body of Bhutan as an example of alternative to corporal punishment
- b) Research on ‘Prohibition to Elimination of Corporal Punishment in South Asia’
- c) Video Documentation of the Regional Campaign against Corporal Punishment and the Recommendations to End Corporal Punishment
- d) Pakistan Mechanism supported to develop Posters in local language calling for ending corporal punishment
- e) Sri Lanka Mechanism supported to develop Posters in local language calling for ending corporal punishment

### **Future Plans**

- Publication of updated legal status report on corporal punishment in South Asia

- Analysis of Data on Corporal Punishment maintained by the South Asian Association of Child Help Lines
- Workshop/Training on Legal Reform and Positive Discipline
- Session on Corporal Punishment with the Regional Initiative for South Asian Human Rights Mechanism
- Meeting of the Parliamentarian Caucus on Child Rights
- Launching and supporting national campaigns against corporal punishment in other member states
- Public Discussions and Stakeholders Meeting on issues related to legal reform to end Corporal Punishment in the Member States
- Support for regional children’s consultation and institutionalization of child participation
- Development of campaign materials

The GBM while endorsing the progress report on the CoP Campaign and activities planned reiterated the need to launch campaigns in the remaining Member States through bilateral discussions. The GBM further directed the SRS to share the latest draft of the updated legal status report on corporal punishment in South Asia to the Member States for their consideration as soon as the report is ready.

## 2.7 Briefing on the ‘Mapping Positive Care Practices’

The DG reporting on the current status of the activity also provided the GBM the background to the activity. He stated that one of the Key Outputs of the 3rd Technical Consultation on ‘Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children based on Tradition, Culture, Religion and Superstition’ endorsed by the 4<sup>th</sup> GBM:

- Documentation of regional positive caring practices for children which can build on/contribute towards addressing harmful practices and social norms including inter-generational dimensions be taken up as a priority in collaboration with the SACG and NACG agencies;

He also highlighted for the benefit of the GBM the following aspects of the harmful practices:

- **Tradition:** the transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation;
- **Culture:** the ideas, customs and social behaviour of a particular people or society;
- **Religion:** practices required or encouraged in religious texts or teaching, or believed to be so; and
- **Superstition:** widely held but irrational beliefs not based upon reason or knowledge.

He also highlighted the purpose and the anticipated outcomes of the ‘Mapping Exercise’ as follows:

- To establish or create an overview of these practices and also support the generation of preliminary recommendations related to how they might be used or applied to address or counter-balance harmful practices, which have negative consequences on children.
- The final report will contribute to increased understanding and additional learning on how to successfully address harmful practices through appreciation of and building actions or interventions upon or around local custom and traditional wisdom.
- This will also support the further strengthening of engagement by family and community members in their protection role in eliminating violence against children through innovative approaches and strategies.
- The findings and recommendations will also contribute to global learning and sharing of best practices from and across South Asia.

The progress so far was reported as follow:

- a) Discussion and signing of the Contract with the Consultant for the completion of the Exercise: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014
- b) Finalization of SAIEVAC Positive Caring Practices Mapping Exercise Proposed Methodology and Detailed Timeline: 30 April 2014
- c) Drafting a Definition / Parameters of Positive Caring Practices: May 2014
- d) Communication to SACG Chair and Co Chair on Mapping of Positive Practices for information sharing and collaboration in the Exercise: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014
- e) Information sharing and collaboration with Governing Board members and National Coordinators on moving forward on mapping of positive caring practices: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014
- f) Information sharing and collaboration with NACG Chair and Co-Chair on moving forward on mapping of positive caring practices: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014
- g) Process initiated for selecting RAs in select Member States: 14<sup>th</sup> August 2014

He also underlined that the expected timeframe for completion is end September 2014

The GBM after considering the briefing on the progress of the ‘Mapping Positive Care Practices’, endorsed that the Member States will provide necessary support to the SRS to complete the mapping activities as per plan.

## **B. Day - II : 20 August 2104**

### **2.8 Next Steps for the documentation on Faith Based Initiatives**

The DG provided the GBM an update on the long pending activity of reviewing and finalizing the ‘Desk Review of the Faith Based Initiatives’ and also outlined certain challenges faced in completing the activity.

The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM after considering the status report and considering the associated potential opportunities and challenges endorsed that:

- a) The SRS continue the process of exploring opportunities to finalise the desk review; and
- b) Circulate the draft to the SAIEVAC Coordinators who will spearhead and complete the review and finalisation by taking also the view of the NACGs by the mid of November 2014.

### **2.9 Briefing and Endorsement of the Draft Regional Action Plan (RAP) – Child Marriage**

The DG SRS presented the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on finalizing the RAP held in Kathmandu from the 28-29 May 2014.

The EGM proposed the following recommendations:

1. Effective enactment, enforcement and use of national policy and legal instruments to increase the minimum age of marriage for (both boys and) girls to 18.
2. Improved equal access to quality education, particularly secondary education
3. Increased mobilization of girls, boys, parents and community leaders to change discriminatory gender norms.
4. Increased prevention of child marriage by addressing its root causes, including violence against girls and women and creating alternative social, economic and civic opportunities for girls.
5. New and existing evidence collected on status of married girls below 18 years, and on good program practices to address their needs.
6. Enhanced advocacy to mobilize action and support for girls who are already married (through options for schooling, sexual and reproductive health information and services, including HIV prevention, livelihoods skills and recourse from violence in the home).
7. Improved monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of programs to end child marriage in South Asia.

The GBM after significant discourse on the Draft Regional Action Plan (RAP) on ending Child Marriage directed the SRS to ensure the following:

- a. The issue of Ombudsperson be deleted from the RAP given that there is no scope or avenue to rationalize such a position within the SAIEVAC mechanisms,*
- b. The issue of Shadow Reporting/Alternate Reports be removed out of the proposed framework since it is outside the scope of SAEVAC as an intergovernmental mechanism.*
- c. That given the significant confusion and potential duplication generated by having the RAP Framework and the Implementation Framework together, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM recommended that the 2 documents be harmonized into one document and circulated to the SAIEVAC Mechanisms for feedback and comments by end October 14. The SRS thereafter will prepare the final draft after review by a small group of Experts for consideration of the Governing Board Members by circulation;*

## **2.10 Brief on Regional Consultation on Human Resource Development Strategy on Child Protection and Violence against Children (SAIEVAC Academy) and Next Steps**

The DG SRS presented the report on the SAIEVAC Academy said that the 3-days Regional Consultation was hosted from the 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2014 in Thimphu, Bhutan by the NCWC, SAIEVAC National Mechanism. The Consultation was attended by a core group of 21 experts (academicians, HR professionals, trainers and child rights advocates from government, universities and academic institutes, civil society and other international agencies) from eight countries - including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

The Consultation highlights include but not limited to the following key areas:

- Presentations and briefings were provided from institutions / organizations across the region and from Thailand as well which described successful strategies, capacity building and academic courses at varying levels aiming to build skills for multiple stakeholders and participant groups.
- A mapping exercise related to opportunities and potential resources for both academic and other level training courses across the region was also completed by participants, which will be further developed for finalization during the next Consultation.
- Compiled a roster of experts and trainers related to various dimensions of child protection work for further use and sharing across the network and which will also be further evolved with review and additional input.

The Way forward so agreed during the Consultation are as follows:

- The SRS will send out an Executive Summary as soon as possible along with the ‘Mapping Framework’ and ‘List of Experts’ for additional input;
- Need for formal contact points – it was agreed that participants would serve as the formal link or contact point for sharing information and following up with respective universities or institutes or agencies;
- For the next consultative meeting, it was agreed that efforts will be made to include participation of key HR Experts/institutions from Member States who could not participate in this meeting;
- The group also discussed the possibility of one of the universities hosting the next consultation and requested those attending to consider this and that the SRS would follow-up through bilateral discussions and announce the venue in due course of time.
- Timetable for the next meeting: The group discussed consideration of the end of October or early November or mid to end December as possibilities. However the date and location will be finalized through bilateral consultations and announced in due course of time.

The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM considering the report of the SAIEVAC Academy (SA) Consultation, and endorsing the recommendations endorsed that the SRS will:

- a) Undertake with the support of the SAIEVAC National mechanisms the training Needs Assessment in each Member State and match this with the existing capacity and opportunities available in the region. This will form the basis on which the next SA Consultation will be convened.*
- b) The dates and venue of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SA Consultation will be discussed bilaterally and announced.*

## **2.11 Draft proposal of the ‘Regional Strategy to End All Forms of Child Labour in South Asia’**

The DG SRS initiated the presentation on the draft project proposal by reminding the 5th GBM about the recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> GBM as follows:

- The Board taking due consideration of the draft Child Labour Strategy tabled by the SRS and noting that the draft was prepared with the involvement of different stakeholders, directs the SRS to submit the draft to the Government of India for their guidance, feedback and consideration.
- The SRS is also directed to ensure that the progress of the finalization of the Strategy is reported to the GB in subsequent meetings.

He also introduced the Goals and Objectives of the project as follows:

1. Universal ratification of core international treaties and undertake legal/policy reform related to child labour and ensure effective implementation.
2. Support the realization of right to education and appropriate skill training.
3. Integration/mainstreaming of child labour issues into key national and regional development agendas and policies.
4. Scaling up and replication of effective re-integration and social protection schemes for children involved in or vulnerable to all forms of child labour and their families with the multi-agency coordination and a coherent system.
5. Improve knowledge and evidence based data collection on child labour in order to understand and clarify concepts / operational indicators.
6. Implementing a range of capacity development activities for specific target groups with an aim to improving, achieving and sustaining positive results at end child labour in the region;
7. Coordination, implementation and monitoring mechanisms through strengthening capacity of intuitions in support of eliminating child labour at both regional and national levels.

The Project outlines the following ‘Approach and Methodology’:

1. Desk Review and Mapping - Regional and National
2. Capacity Building of the implementing agencies - Regional and National
3. Engagement with Parliamentarians Caucus (Regional and National level)
4. Engagement with Media (Regional and National level)
5. Child Participation and Children's views in media (Regional and National level)
6. Laws and policy
  - Harmonization at the Regional level
  - Child Labour and Right to Education
  - Rescue, Reintegration and Rehabilitation (RRR) of the children
  - Standard Operating Procedures on RRR of the children
  - Optional Protocol on SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution
7. SAIEVAC Management Information System and data collection on Child Labour issues.
8. Enhancing Capacity and Human Resource Development

The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM after Considering the proposed Child Labour Project and deliberation on the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, endorsed that the SRS circulate the draft proposal to the Member States for their review and comments. Following the feedback to be provided by end of September the SRS will compile and submit the proposal to SAIEVAC India by mid October for consideration.



## **2.12 Milestones for the 4<sup>th</sup> TC on Stepping Up Protection of Children with Disabilities in South Asia and the Regional Child Participation Conference ( Annex - 6)**

The DG SRS presented a detailed timeline for staging the 4<sup>th</sup> Technical Consultation and outlined the different milestones in terms of the scope and challenges.

*The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM after considering the report of the Preparatory Milestones for the 4<sup>th</sup> TC and deliberating on the different aspect endorsed the timelines with required adjustments/amendments, which is updated and annexed to the report*

The GBM further directs the SRS:

- a. To finalize the standard for participation of children with disabilities both at the National and regional level;*
- b. The dates (3-7 Dec 14) to be finalized after Bhutan and India reconfirms their agreement by end of August and further course of action to be determined and communicated thereafter;*
- c. To confirm Srilanka as the venue and immediately submit a letter of request to the Government of Srilanka for formal approval;*
- d. To send the media information package to the Member States along with a Q&A on disability along with the Background document by end of September so as to facilitate the National level preparations. The SRS however emphasized that there will be no unauthorized and unregulated media briefings so as to prevent unilateral or personal opinions that are contrary to the SAIEVAC objectives;*
- e. The SAIEVAC mechanisms will provide relevant names of ‘Experts’ who could be considered for supporting the SRS in driving the theme for the Technical Consultation;*
- f. The SRS and the National mechanisms to further reinforce the child participation and the selection process for the Chaperones so as to ensure that we fulfill standards put in place.*

## **2.13 Status Report on the SAIEVAC – SDF Project and the national operational plans**

The DG SRS appraised the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM on the progress of the SDF Project and the decisions communicated by the SDF Secretariat in relation to the timeline of the Project. He also informed the meeting about the need to accelerate the implementation pace of the Project in order to utilize the critical resources to move the VaC agenda forward.

*The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM discussed in great detail the implementation challenges of the SDF project and reiterated that it is indeed not a very confusing and complicated project. However since the SAIEVAC Mechanisms and the MS have made commitments to implement the project to the*

*extent feasible endorsed that all IAs will continue to make added efforts to accelerate the implementation process so as to ensure credible progress by the end of October 2014.*

#### **2.14 Any other Issues:**

Under the Any Other Issues agenda item, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed the following areas:

- d. The SRS prepare a briefing paper on Foster Care System in keeping with the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Consultation on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services and table it for discussion and consideration of the 6<sup>th</sup> GBM;*
- e. The SRS to facilitate the reinforcement and strengthening of the 1098 Helpline so as to enhance the rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation of child victims across the region;*
- f. The SAIEVAC National Mechanisms create a platform for interface with children on a periodic basis. However this to be activated after the National child participation forums are created by December 2014*

#### **2.15 Dates and Venue for the 6<sup>th</sup> GBM**

Considering the dates and venue of the 6<sup>th</sup> GBM, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM after considering different options endorsed that:

- a) The GB Members could meet for a half day following the 4<sup>th</sup> TC to take stock of progress of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM Recommendations as well as to assess the status of targets to be achieved by the NACGs by end of December 2014;*
- b) The SRS to finalize the dates and venue of the 6<sup>th</sup> GBM and communicate to the GB Members by circulation after seeking endorsement of the Chairperson*

#### **2.16 Review and adoption of the Recommendations of the 5<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting**

The DG SRS presented the draft recommendations of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM for the consideration of the floor. The meeting after considering the recommendations para by para endorsed the recommendations unanimously with minor amendments both in content and language. The endorsed recommendations are as follows:

1. Considering the Follow Up Report of the recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> GBM, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed the following:
  - a. The SAIEVAC Coordinators will attend the GBMs as Advisors to the GB Members and that while they have the right to share their views and opinions during the proceedings of the GBM, the final endorsement of the decisions will still be subject to endorsement by the GB Members;

- b. While keeping in line with the decisions of the 4<sup>th</sup> GBM in terms of the participation of the current CSO GB Observers, it was agreed that the timeframe of the ‘Observer’ status will be based on the completion of the year and not on the number of GB Meetings held;
  - c. While the 4<sup>th</sup> GBM had endorsed the different standards and guidelines for child participation, there was still significant room for enhancing child participation activities both at the Regional and National levels. In light of this, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed that the SAIEVAC Regional and National Mechanisms will make dedicated efforts to create proper space for children and to initiate efforts to train children to achieve meaningful participation;
  - d. Taking cognizance of the gender disparity currently being experienced in relation to children’s participation and after exploring different possibilities to rectify the situation, the GBM endorsed that the rotational mechanism in place will continue and the respective Member States will bilaterally decide to select the boy or girl Child Board Member and notify the SRS;
  - e. The Meeting reinforced that the responsibility for children primarily rests on the Government Mechanisms and therefore the accountability of promoting meaningful child participation also rests with the Governments. The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM also reiterated the vital role of the NACGs/CSOs in the process so as to ensure a wider opportunity to develop children’s participation in the SAIEVAC mechanisms.
2. Considering the presentation on the status and progress of the MCA Project and the activities in the pipeline, the meeting after prolonged discussions, endorsed that :
- a. The Missing children and cross border trafficking is an area that merits the highest consideration of all the Member States and therefore commits full support to the implementation of the MCA Project;
  - b. Taking cognizance of the challenges and gaps pertaining to the project framework and implementation, directs the SRS to take adequate steps to secure the ownership and participation of the Government Mechanisms to achieve successful outcomes of the Project;
  - c. The MCA Project also explore opportunities to strengthen the role of the governments in the steering the project at the Regional level as well guiding the implementation of activities at the national level;
  - d. The activities under consideration/planned for the project in the remaining phase be operationalized by linking closely with the participating Member States of Bangladesh, India and Nepal, as well as the other Member States and relevant partners.

3. Considering the report on the Outcome of the 4<sup>th</sup> NACG Meeting, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM noted that the NACG Mechanism is evolving as a very important platform to move the SAIEVAC agenda forward. In this context the Meeting after considering various decisions adopted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> NACG and in particular on the targets set for the institutionalisation process of the NACGs directed the SRS to ensure that:
  - a. There are clear coordination mechanisms defined for the NACGs and the Government mechanisms to achieve the expected targets and outcomes;
  - b. The NACGs also strategize and create opportunities to receive meaningful support of the Governments to achieve the different targets set to be achieved by the end of 2014.
4. Considering the Outcome of the SAIEVAC - SAACH Consultation, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed the decisions arrived at the Consultation and further directs the SRS:
  - a. To continue to support the helplines to create effective response mechanisms through enhanced capacity and evidence generation by following through the decisions of the consultation; and
  - b. To facilitate interface with the national helplines and the SDF LIA to promote better coordination and collaboration.
5. Endorsing the progress report on the CoP Campaign and activities planned, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM reiterated the need to launch campaigns in the remaining Member States through bilateral discussions. The GBM further directed the SRS to share the latest draft of the updated legal status report on corporal punishment in South Asia to the Member States for their consideration as soon as the report is ready.
6. Considering the briefing on the progress of the 'Mapping Positive Care Practices', the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed that the Member States will provide necessary support to the SRS to complete the mapping activities as per plan.
7. The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM after considering the status report submitted by the SRS on the ongoing efforts pertaining to the desk review of the Faith Based Initiatives and considering the associated potential opportunities and challenges endorsed that:
  - a. The SRS continue the process of exploring opportunities to finalise the desk review;
  - b. Circulate the draft to the SAIEVAC Coordinators who will spearhead and complete the review and finalisation by taking also the view of the NACGs by the mid of November 2014.
8. Considering the Draft Regional Action Plan (RAP) on ending Child Marriage and after significant deliberations directed the SRS to ensure the following:

- a. The issue of Ombudsperson be deleted from the RAP given that there is no scope or avenue to rationalize such a position within the SAIEVAC mechanisms;
  - b. The issue of Shadow Reporting/Alternate Reports be removed out of the proposed framework since it is outside the scope of SAEVAC as an intergovernmental mechanism.
  - c. That given the significant confusion and potential duplication generated by having the RAP Framework and the Implementation Framework together, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM recommended that the 2 documents be harmonized into one document and circulated to the SAIEVAC Mechanisms for feedback and comments by end October 14. The SRS thereafter will prepare the final draft after review by a small group of Experts for consideration of the Governing Board Members by circulation;
9. The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM considering the report of the SAIEVAC Academy (SA) Consultation, and endorsing the recommendations endorsed that the SRS will:
- a. Undertake with the support of the SAIEVAC National mechanisms the training Needs Assessment in each Member State and match this with the existing capacity and opportunities available in the region. This will form the basis on which the next SA Consultation will be convened.
  - b. The dates and venue of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SA Consultation will be discussed bilaterally and announced.
10. Considering the proposed Child Labour Project and deliberation on the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, endorsed that the SRS circulate the draft proposal to the Member States for their review and comments. Following the feedback to be provided by end of September the SRS will compile and submit the proposal to SAIEVAC India by mid October for consideration.
11. The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM after considering the report of the Preparatory Milestones for the 4<sup>th</sup> TC, endorsed the timelines with required adjustments/amendments. The GBM further directs the SRS:
- a. To finalize the standard for participation of children with disabilities both at the National and regional level;
  - b. The dates (3-7 Dec 14) to be finalized after Bhutan and India reconfirms their agreement by end of August and further course of action to be determined and communicated thereafter;
  - c. To confirm Srilanka as the venue and immediately submit a letter of request to the Government of Srilanka for formal approval;

- d. To send the media information package to the Member States along with a Q&A on disability along with the Background document by end of September so as to facilitate the National level preparations. The SRS however emphasized that there will be no unauthorized and unregulated media briefings so as to prevent unilateral or personal opinions that are contrary to the SAIEVAC objectives;
  - e. The SAIEVAC mechanisms will provide relevant names of ‘Experts’ who could be considered for supporting the SRS in driving the theme for the Technical Consultation;
  - f. The SRS and the National mechanisms to further reinforce the child participation and the selection process for the Chaperones so as to ensure that we fulfill standards put in place.
12. The 5<sup>th</sup> GBM considering the progress and challenges related to the implementation of the SDF Project endorsed that all IAs will continue to make added efforts to accelerate the implementation process so as to ensure credible progress by the end of October 2014.
13. Under the Any Other Issues agenda item, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed the following areas:
- a. The SRS prepare a briefing paper on Foster Care System in keeping with the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Consultation on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services and table it for discussion and consideration of the 6<sup>th</sup> GBM;
  - b. The SRS to facilitate the reinforcement and strengthening of the 1098 Helpline so as to enhance the rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation of child victims across the region;
  - c. The SAIEVAC National Mechanisms create a platform for interface with children on a periodic basis. However this to be activated after the National child participation forums are created by December 2014
14. Considering the dates and venue of the 6<sup>th</sup> GBM, the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM endorsed that:
- a. The GB Members could meet for a half day following the 4<sup>th</sup> TC to take stock of progress of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM Recommendations as well as to assess the status of targets to be achieved by the NACGs by end of December 2014;
  - b. The SRS to finalize the dates and venue of the 6<sup>th</sup> GBM and communicate to the GB Members by circulation after seeking endorsement of the Chairperson

## **2.17 Closing Remarks :**

The Director General after coming to the close of the agenda items and having confirmed the satisfactory conclusion of all issues, thanked the Chairperson and the GB Members for their

crucial support and cooperation in achieving a very productive and successful GBM. He also took the opportunity to thank the Government of Bangladesh, the MoWCA, SAIEVAC Bangladesh Staff and all others who contributed to the successful hosting of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM. He also took the opportunity to extend special to the Hon'ble Minister of MoWCA for her gracious support and participation in the Inaugural Session. He extended his gratitude to the Chairperson, the National Coordinator Bangladesh and the NACG Bangladesh for their unstinted support. He also thanked all the GB Members and Coordinators for their continued support and guidance to the SRS in moving the SAIEVAC agenda forward.

The Chairperson in her closing remarks extended her appreciation to all for their cooperation and support in conducting a very successful Governing Board Meeting...( **the full text is at Annex -7**)

### **C. Day –III : 21 August 2014**

#### **2.18 Programme for the Field Visit :**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Day, the delegates to the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM had the opportunity to go on a field visit as part of the regional learning and cross sharing strategy. The Ministry of Women and Childrens Affairs as the host of the 5<sup>th</sup> GBM on the request of the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat had organized the visit to the following organizations:

##### **1. Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation (BPF)**

Founded in 1984, the Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation situated in Mirpur, Dhaka, is a child friendly and protective institutional facility for children with disabilities. Many children with disabilities are taken care and included in mainstream society through medical/clinical diagnosis of disabilities, distance training programmes, special education, pre-vocational and vocational training, crèche, community based re-habilitation (CBR), income generation programmes and inclusive employment for children and young students (18 years and above) who completes the programme at the BPF.

The Team was warmly received by children and the Executive Director of the BPF, following which a brief presentation was made by the Executive Director to the visiting SAIEVAC GB Members. The team had the opportunity to see at first hand the extent of the various disabilities confronted by children and the exemplary protection and care provided to them. The visit was indeed an eye opener to some excellent activities undertaken by BPF as a registered with Ministry of Social Welfare and NGO Affairs Bureau in collaboration with the National Action and Co-ordination Groups against Violence against Children of Bangladesh which works under the SAIEVAC National Mechanism.

The Team observed BPF to be an excellent example of an NGO working with such an array of programmes and services to children with disabilities. The visit was also perceived to be a timely reminder to all about the urgent need for stepping up protection and care for this group of children who are often unseen and neglected in the society.

## **2. Child Helpline operated by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA)**

The team was warmly received by children and the Executive Director, who also gave a brief presentation to the visiting SAIEVAC GB members. The visit was indeed an eye opener to some excellent activities spearheaded by the MOWCA and the National Action and Co-ordination Groups against Violence against Children of Bangladesh which works under the SAIEVAC National Mechanism.

During the second half of the field visit the group/members visited National Helpline Centre for Violence Against Women and Children in Bangladesh. The Helpline is a part of the Multi Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women run and supported by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

The main objective if the Helpline is to help women and children victim of violence through various provision, services and support in time of crisis. The helpline provides necessary information pertaining to legal and referral services and also victims receive counseling. The helpline also engages in rescue through their network with law enforcing agencies and other social activists.

Dr. Abul Hossain, Project Director and his team invited the group/members into their helpline center and arranged for an interactive discussion with the team in charge of overseeing the daily activities of the helpline. The group was able to see how the helpline was set, how it was operated and also ask queries with staffs who attended the calls.

The group mostly had questions on the working hours of the helpline, how the information was recorded, how situation of emergencies reported through the Helpline was responded, which other department or sector did the helpline collaborate or network with in order to respond to the emergencies and what kind of cases were mostly reported.

Dr. Abul Hossain facilitated the meeting and answered to queries along with his team member. A meeting between Dr. Abul Hossain and the Afganistan and Srilanka team was held on the sideline.

The team had arranged for a power point presentation but since there was limited time the group was not able to further engage with the team to discuss on the details of the helpline.



In order to fill in the gap of the missed opportunity of further interaction Dr Abul Hossain sent a FAQ sheet that answers a lot of queries and provides a clear picture of the activities the Helpline is engaged in.

### **Frequently Ask Questions**

**1. What is the Helpline Number?**

- 10921

**2. Is it Toll Free?**

- Yes.

**3. Is the number access from any type of phone?**

- This number is accessed both from mobile and fixed phones.

**4. Who run the Helpline?**

National Helpline Centre for Violence Against Women and Children through the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

**5. Where the National Helpline Centre for Violence Against Women and Children located?**

It is located at 8<sup>th</sup> floor of Department of Women Affairs Building, in heart of capital city Dhaka to serve the whole nation for 24 hours.

**6. How many calls are received till now?**

Up to 21st August, 2014 National Helpline Centre receive 43,472 calls.

**7. What is the mechanism for providing services by the Help line?**

National Helpline Centre is always ready to give services to the women and children victims of violence. When anyone calls to this number the skilled officers of the centre receive the calls and take details about the problem. Then they give suggestions and communicating the messages and request to the local authorities. A Committee on Violence Against Women and Children is active in all districts and sub-districts. The mandate of this committee is to prevent violence against women and children. So, after getting the message through helpline the regional and local mechanism become activated. Moreover, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed among the relevant ministries to combat violence against women and children.

**8. What is the communication process in the local level?**

Communication with local admin such as chairman of upazila and union parishadis done through mobile phone or land phone.

**9. How does the centre run for 24 hours?**

There is a duty roster system to run the helpline for 24 hours.

**10. How many calls are received in a day?**

Helpline Centre receives on an average 150 calls daily.

**11. How many calls could the centre receive at a time?**

10 calls at a time.

**12. What types of calls are attended?**

The centre attends different types of calls such as early marriage, physical assault, psychological torture, burn, harassment over phone, eve teasing/ sexual harassment, pornography, rape, marital rape, polygamy, extra marital relationship, divorce, dowry, maintenance, custody of children, kidnapping, rescue, threats, property related, betrayal, missing, trafficking.

**13. How are cases prioritized for follow up?**

Follow up of cases depends on their sensitivity.

**14. What is the duration of time to solve each case?**

It depends on the merit and category of the cases. Usually it varies from half an hour to two hours.

**15. How can one be ensured that the problem has been solved?**

Helpline calls the informer and different stakeholders whether they got their desired services or not.

**16. Whether are fake or disturbing calls put in database?**

No.

**17. What is the mechanism for providing services in the remote area?**

Helpline maintains a database of the numbers and address of different government and non-government service providers. The mechanism for providing services in the remote area is to communicate with districts and sub district women affairs officer and local administration, giving details of the problem through referral system.

**18. Are missed calls attended or not?**

This is a toll free number so that anyone can call here without any cost. In general missed calls are not attended but in case of calls repeatedly the missed calls are sometimes attended through calling back.

**19. Are documentation systems maintained?**

Helpline maintains a software system to document all the case. Service providers also maintained documentation such as when they went to stop early marriage they take sign on a paper where they committed not to do the work again. They informed helpline through mobile, email, fax etc.

**20. How do you provide instant services at night?**

Police works for 24 hours, if anyone wants police assistance then Officer in Charge of Police Station is requested to provide necessary support.