



# Children from South Asia call for better Care Standards and Child Friendly Services



**Report of the SAIEVAC Children's Consultation and the  
Technical Consultation on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services**

Kathmandu, Nepal  
on 24 – 29 September 2011

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children  
SAIEVAC 2011

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Responsibility for all opinions expressed in this report rests exclusively with the children and young people who participated in the consultation and contributed throughout the discussion sessions.

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Group Photo Of Participating Children

# FOREWORD

Dear Friends,

The child representatives from eight SAARC countries met together in Kathmandu, from 25th – 29th September 2011, to discuss Care Standards and Child Friendly Services for children. All the children have actively contributed on the issue, as this was a valuable forum for the children to independently share views and experiences at the regional level. All participating children have also been involved in the preparatory sessions during the home-country consultation in their respective countries.

The 2nd SAIEVAC Children's Consultation on Child Friendly Services and Care Standards was also another step in the global movement to end violence against children. The successful outcome of this meeting was due to the joint efforts of participants from the different countries. This has been excellent opportunity for us to learn and share the good practices that each country is undertaking to strengthen care standards and child friendly services in all settings.

This consultation has helped us to know about the situation of children in other countries in South Asia. The place around us

seems beautiful, but the violations of children start from family, community, schools and other places of supposed security, like protection homes.

In this regional consultation, we have made recommendations on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services. We have presented our recommendations before the representatives of the governments of the eight SAARC countries during the Technical Consultation. The representatives of the Technical Consultation then incorporated our recommendations into the larger recommendations and were later handed over to the SAIEVAC Governing Board, of which we are Child Representatives.

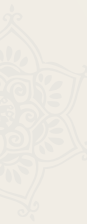
Everyone in SAIEVAC has helped us a lot during this period. As we are the present Governing Board Members representing children from the region till the end of this term, the child representatives for the next term also have been selected by the children during the consultation. We wish them good luck and hope that they will work more effectively with support from all of us. We are also very happy to have led several of the sessions during the children's consultation, which remained very inspiring – thank you to all for this wonderful opportunity! We would also like to highlight here the tremendous role of the SAIEVAC Secretariat in supporting children and youth participation, without which the participation of children and young people in this important regional event would not have been meaningful and successful. The dissemination of timely information and relevant documents, including child protection framework and logistics notes as well as immediate support and follow-up, have all been clearly visible through numbers of email exchanges and communication. All this has had a lot to do with achieving the objectives and outcomes of the regional consultation.

On behalf all the participating children and as Child Representatives to the Governing Board of SAIEVAC, we are pleased to present you this report which summarises all our discussion and recommendations that we have developed and presented to the governments of SAARC countries. We very much look forward to being in regular contact with you, and please share this report with your friends, parents, teachers and the governments in your country so that all of us are actively involved in ensuring greater care and protection services for children in the region.

With all good wishes,  
Ugyen Dema Dorji and Rakesh Shaw  
Child Representatives  
SAIEVAC Governing Board



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



From Islamabad in 2005 to Kathmandu in 2011, from aspirations and commitments made in the Islamabad Declaration to the path breaking steps during the 3rd Ministerial Meeting in June 2010 and the historical milestones achieved by becoming a SAARC Apex Body in Nov 2011, SAIEVAC has indeed come a long way.

As a humble member of the pioneering team I have had the privilege of being involved with every children consultation of Violence Against Children and today I am also honored to be leading the SAIEVAC process as its Director General. In this capacity and as a firm believer in the wisdom of children in charting out their own dedicated path for a better world for themselves, I thank all those children who contributed to this process over the years and especially the children leaders who made this a meaningful journey for SAIEVAC.

SAIEVAC has since 2010 organized two Regional Children's Consultations under the able guidance and technical expertise of the SAIEVAC Child and Youth Participation Working Group supported by the SACG. These consultations were the culmination of the National Children's Consultations in the Member States supported by the National Agencies working for child rights. I take this opportunity to express my most sincere and deepest appreciation to all those organizations and individuals who made this happen.

I may also mention here that while SAIEVAC propagates five thematic areas in its mission to end violence against children, the key cross cutting theme is child participation. To this effect, SAIEVAC with support of its working group is documenting the process being followed in our work in this area and we hope to be able to create a standard for such activities in the future work of SAIEVAC.

Dr. Rinchen Chopel  
Director General  
SAIEVAC Secretariat

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## What is in this report?

Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) provides children with the right to meaningful participation in all matters related to their lives. In addition, Articles 13, 14, 15 and 17 reaffirm Child Participation by granting the right to access to information, to association, and the freedom of thought and expression.

The UNCRC emphasizes that children are active citizens who have the right to express their views and be heard in all matters concerning them and that their opinions should be given due weight in accordance with their capacity and maturity. It also recognises the potential of children to enrich decision-making processes, to share perspectives and to participate as citizens and actors of change. The practical meaning of children's right to participation must be considered in each and every matter concerning children.<sup>1</sup>

Child Participation has been an integral part of SAF/SAIEVAC from its formation. Children from South Asia actively

participated in the Regional Consultation on Violence against Children, Islamabad, 2006, a preparatory meeting for World Congress III, Kathmandu, 2008 and in the World Congress III, Brazil, 2008.

Additionally, child representatives from all SAARC countries participated in a regional consultation held in Kathmandu from the 21st to 23rd of June 2010, where they discussed child protection issues in their respective countries and made key recommendations to Governments of South Asia. The children decided to work closely with representatives in the Governing Board and SAIEVAC Coordinators so that their recommendations would be implemented and they could continue to input into SAIEVAC processes.

SAIEVAC is a unique regional initiative wherein governments of the SAARC countries have come together and committed to address violence against children in the South Asia Region. SAIEVAC presents an opportunity to institutionalise child participation and ensure children are part of formal decision making processes for the first time in South Asian history.

Similarly, from the 25th until the 27th of September, 2011, children and adolescents from South Asia came together to discuss and to give recommendations to SAIEVAC on the topic of care standards for children and child friendly services. Child representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka discussed the importance of parental and familial care as well as alternative forms of care. They also generated their own definitions of what child friendly services mean to them. These definitions and recommendations were shared with adults at the Technical Consultation on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services held during 27th - 29th of September. The children participated actively and contributed significantly to the Technical Consultation working on par with adults. This report also includes an overview of children's feedback to the Global Progress Survey on Violence Against children, though they had only a very brief opportunity to engage in this important exercise due to limited time frame. The full responses will hopefully be provided at a later stage of the ongoing process. The report also briefly covers participation of Child Representatives at the 2nd SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Right-to-Participation.pdf>, FACT SHEET: The right to participation

# What is SAIEVAC?

The SAIEVAC journey began in May, 2005 when the South Asia Forum for Ending Violence Against Children (SAF) was established after a regional consultation in Islamabad, Pakistan. SAF gave children, governments and other adults the opportunity to meet regularly and assess the progress of everyone's work to end violence against children in this region. The South Asia Coordinating Group on Action Against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG) was formed in 2004 and committed itself to support SAF. In June, 2010, all South Asian governments decided to change the SAF to the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). They took recommendations from children as well as adults working in the area of child protection from around the region, developed a 5-year Workplan and shared it during a Ministerial Meeting during which SAIEVAC was officially inaugurated. With this change from SAF to SAIEVAC, the institutional foundation was also changed to a Governing Board with representatives from the governments of the South Asian countries, children, Civil Society Organizations and the SACG. In addition, it is built on a framework with broad children's participation and the NACGs (National Action and Coordination Group Against Violence Against Women and Children) and has regular Governing Board Meetings and Technical Consultations based on the Five Year Workplan.

SAIEVAC held its first Governing Board Meeting in November, 2010, in Kathmandu, where the SAIEVAC Secretariat was established. SAIEVAC is currently in the process of becoming part of a larger South Asian network called South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). SAIEVAC believes that children should have national children's networks to make recommendations regularly to governments in their home countries. These networks in each country have chosen a boy and girl to represent them regionally as Child Representatives to the SAIEVAC Governing Board.

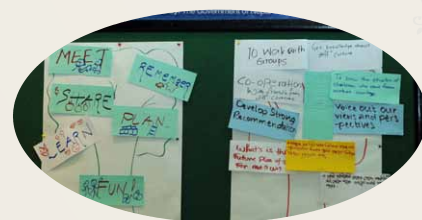
Through the formation of SAIEVAC, governments have reemphasised their commitment to paying more attention to acts of violence against children and SAIEVAC has lots of activities lined up in place to help make South Asia a violence-free region for children. SAIEVAC strongly believes that children's input and involvement are valuable to making any campaign against violence against children successful and actively encourages children's participation in every area, and at every level.

# Objectives and Expectations

In the beginning, children shared their understanding of the purpose and objectives of the consultation. There were a total of 20 children from across South Asian countries including Child Representatives to the SAIEVAC Governing Board. The regional consultation was held at Grand Hotel in Kathmandu and was mostly facilitated by children with support from the adults, experts on the technical agendas and SACG Member Agencies. The venue chosen for the consultation was in a peaceful environment with adequate safety and protection measures in place.

## Why am I here?

- **Meet** our friends from different countries
- **Remember** previous activities done by SAIEVAC
- **Share** our experiences with our new friends
- **Learn** about standards of care and child friendly services
- **Plan** what steps we want to take in the future
- **Have fun!**



After looking at the objectives, we then discussed within our country groups the expectations we have from the consultation. Together, all of us came up with the following expectations.

## What do I want?

- **Cooperate** with friends from different countries
- **Gain knowledge** about different cultures
- **To work together** to end violence against children
- **To learn experiences** of children from different countries
- **Learn** about the **child standards** in other countries and learn how to improve what already exists
- **Develop strong recommendations** to share with the SAIEVAC Governing Board
- **Discuss the future plans** of SAIEVAC for children
- **Share our experiences** and find solutions to take back to our countries



## Reflection on the National Consultations

Prior to participating in the Regional Children's Consultation, all national child representatives participated at the National Consultations in each of the SAARC countries.<sup>2</sup> During the national consultations, children worked together with other children from their countries and gathered ideas and suggestions for better care standards and child friendly services and turned them into concrete recommendations to take to the regional children's consultation. At the regional consultation, the participating children shared their feelings about experiences from home as illustrated below.

"The national children's consultation was a great way for us to meet children from around our country, to make friends with them and to have a great time."

"After sharing with other children, I realized I wasn't the only one facing problems. Many children in my country are going through common problems related to violence."

"The consultation was beneficial because it made us aware about legal systems to help and protect us."

"The national consultation was a learning experience for the children and a very good opportunity for us to express our views and opinions."

"Overall, we learned a lot about the lives of other children whose lives are much harsher than our own and we were able to collaborate on trying to find a solution."

"It was an opportunity for us to share the experiences and efforts made by children from different districts in different sectors of child rights and it was a remarkable learning experience for us."

## Brief Overview of National Consultations

Child participation is one of the key components of the SAIEVAC. In preparation for the SAIEVAC Regional Children and Technical Consultation on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services, held in Kathmandu on September 25 -29, children's consultation were organised at the national level in all SAARC countries.

One boy and one girl were selected from each country (except the host country of Nepal, which designated two boys and two girls) through the national consultations, and these youth representatives participated in the SAIEVAC Regional Children's Consultation and in the Technical Consultation. The group included new child participants to the SAIEVAC regional event as well as two Child Representatives to the SAIEVAC Governing Board, who had been in the previous consultation.

A draft agenda for the national consultation was developed and shared to the focal organisation in each country leading the home-country consultation by the SAIEVAC Secretariat Working Group on CYP. This agenda was further revised and adapted to suit the local context, primarily focusing on the key agenda items incorporating most of the technical sessions so as to fully prepare children prior to their participation at the regional consultation.

The children also discussed extensively on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services and came up with country-level definitions that were presented at the regional event.

The national children's consultations also resulted in children's recommendations on care standards and child-

<sup>2</sup> except Bhutan where a Children's National Consultation will take place after the Technical Consultation

friendly services and alternative care, which were shared at the regional children's consultation.

Children felt the consultation helped them to broaden their

understanding and knowledge on care standards and child-friendly services and to identify themselves as young social activists, able to bring change at national and community levels.



## Building a Regional Children's Forum

The second children's regional consultation included new participants as well as two Child Representatives to the SAIEVAC Governing Board who had been to the previous consultation. They shared how difficult their experience of maintaining a network and keeping in touch with children from all over the region had been. They felt a need to build a regional children's forum on violence against children and took the opportunity provided by the consultation to brainstorm on the need of the forum and how they intend to go about giving it shape.

### Why are we doing it?

- To stand against violence affecting children
- To secure child rights and create a child-friendly environment
- To stop child abuse and violation
- To raise the voice of children
- To reduce instances of violence against children
- To be able to solve problems
- To address child abuse issues
- To ensure the national level commitment to stop violence against children
- To improve regional coordination to end violence against children
- Because children feel that their rights are being violated
- To create an atmosphere where people from different countries and cultures can come together and find ways of preventing the common issues of violence against children
- For a better future for our country and region

### What do we want to focus on?

- Corporal punishment, as it is increasing day by day
- Influence governments to protect children
- Raise awareness on child protection
- Share our experiences
- Write articles
- Make other children aware of violence against children.
- Education, health, security and nutritious food for children
- Make sure children are able to practice what they have learnt and are seen as young activists irrespective of their background



### Who should be involved?

- Teachers (who are responsible for corporal punishment)
- School management committees
- Child protection professionals
- Parliamentarians
- Adults
- Child with special needs
- Street children, disabled children, students, minority group children
- Children who live with and without family
- Government, society people, family, children and other stakeholders
- UN agencies
- Law enforces
- Social workers
- Children themselves

### Where should it happen?

- In our own countries as well as regionally
- At child care institutions
- Within families
- At schools
- In our communities
- Places where it can gain more attention from children and youth (schools, institutions)

### When and how often? (as suggested by children when and how they could meet)

- At least once a year
- Twice in a year
- On a regular basis
- As frequently as possible
- Every November 11, world day of prevention of abuse and violence against children

### How to do it?

- For regular communication, we can use Facebook
- Activities like street plays, workshops, trainings, home to home awareness
- By sharing, coordination and ensuring participation
- Create platforms for children to voice their concerns
- Bring all involved in working against VAC by taking initiative
- Every country can take a turn
- Use technology to arrange regional conferences





# Promoting and Strengthening Parental Care

As part of the consultation and as shared during the interactive sessions, children learned about the importance of promoting parental care to prevent and respond to unnecessary separation and violence against children. They discussed about how not having adequate care and a family environment while growing up can cause lasting social and emotional damage on children.

In particular, children talked about the harm caused by institutional care. All participants felt that institutional care must be the last resort adopted when all other forms of care are not possible. While for many children, being placed in institutional care is not an option, they came to know that there are children, especially in South Asian countries, that get separated from parents who are still alive.

The children brainstormed on the reasons why they are separated from parents and ways in which they can be reconnected with them. They also shared their views on what can be done to strengthen the care children get from parents.



## Reasons for separation from parents

- **Child Marriage** - When they are married as children.
- **Runaways**- Escaping because they cannot tolerate abuse.
- **Trafficking** - When trafficked children are rescued by NGOs and police and the family members do not accept

their children.

- **Orphaned** - When a parent dies.
- **Conflict** - Children lose their parents due to civil wars and armed conflicts
- **Natural disasters** – The destruction caused by such disasters can leave families broken.
- **Child sexual abuse** - When children are sexually abused and not accepted by parents.
- **Poverty** - Due to financial constraints, parents do not have the ability to take care of their children.
- **Disowned** - Sometimes parents don't want to look after their children. When children become physically or mentally challenged, parents see children as a burden and abandon them.
- **Imprisoned Parents** – Children have to support themselves when their parents are in jail.
- **Lack of parenting skills** – Lack of capacity or lack of sensitivity of the family.
- **Family disintegration** – Behaviour problems, lack of trust, abuse and neglect in family.
- **Cultural, traditional practices** – This includes practices such as child marriage in Nepal that are harmful for children's psychological wellbeing.

Eventually, the children also learned different ways to help separated children. The importance of preserving the family was shared. Rather than sending children to institutions or foster homes, families must be strengthened so that parents can support their children better. Raising awareness of children's rights and child protection issues among

children, families and others concerned is vital to providing safe living environments for children. Children should especially be made aware about their rights, feel empowered, and participate more in this area. Solving this problem will require help from social workers as well as the community, and it will be important to take legal measures as well as initiate national and global campaigns, such as child Helplines and Hotlines to reach out to the children.

In addition to this and during the discussion session, children shared their perspective on how they as children can be helped. They felt that living with parents and having family ties can be crucial in children's growth and development. They learn family values and how to take care of themselves and their siblings by being with parents. It is parents who can understand their children most; learning comes from family first. Being with their families gives them emotional as well as psychological strength. When children are separated from parents and live in institutions, they become more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

# Defining Child Friendly Services

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international law that was ratified by all countries. It says that children have a fundamental right to be protected and live in an environment free from all forms of violence, neglect, abuse or exploitation. It is also the duty of the government to ensure that children are protected.

When children are victims of violence, they experience a lot of pain. They must be allowed to talk about the pain and must be listened to by adults. This is an essential way to start the healing process. During the session, the children also discussed the most important people or adults in their community who they can approach when faced with such violence. They felt that it would be best to talk with the person they trust the most with their problems. Hence, children came up with a list of people whom they would like to speak to and also gave their reasons for choosing them.

PEOPLE	REASONS FOR TRUSTING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mother</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Because she always sees her children as the most important, is always available, and will give importance to what we say. She shares in our happiness and sorrow, giving us confidence that she will be able to find the solution to any problem.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cousins and friends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Because they are of the same age, they can understand our problems better, and it is easier to confide in them.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child Clubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ They will provide an effective way for us to solve our problems and introduce us to other people who can help us.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People who have had similar experiences in the past</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Because they have been in the same shoes, they will be sensitive; understand and empathise with us; and be willing to help.</li> </ul>

Overall, children decided that it is important for the people whom they approach to be loving and caring, people they trust, people who are willing to listen to them and believe in what they say and, most importantly, people who are non-judgmental and respect their privacy.

After children have expressed themselves to trusted adults, these adults must refer them to relevant services. These services take different forms in different countries or communities where children live. Adults working in these services are responsible for listening to them and caring until they have recovered or are returned to their families. Children, therefore, tried to identify the people and institutions in their community that are responsible for taking care of children when and if they become victims of violence:

- Media
- Drop in centres
- Parents
- Government bodies and authorities
- Protection homes
- Rehabilitation centres
- Hospitals
- Teachers and school administration
- Healthcare workers
- Counsellors and child psychiatrists
- Non-governmental organizations
- Police
- Community based organizations
- Juvenile justice centres

"If I find children who are violated in my society, community or country, I will take him or her to a social organization that works for the welfare of children and takes special care of them so that they feel like they are living with their biological family."

-Child participant from Nepal



# Final Children's Definition of Child Friendly Services

- Services that are in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and international and national laws.
- Services in the best interest of every child for their survival and development that are non-discriminatory and accessible.
- Services in which children can participate and be involved in decision making.
- Those that ensure safety, security and confidentiality so that all children can feel loved, protected, respected and recognised.



up with a set of recommendations for alternative care of such children.

Recommendations made by children for alternative care

1. **Prevention** – enable families to care and provide for their children so that there is no unnecessary separation (livelihoods, awareness programs, etc.)
2. For **emergencies** – set up “temporary shelter homes” based on best practices and guidelines
3. Promote **foster care** and **kinship care** for children in need of alternative care
4. **Adoptions** of children should follow guidelines and principles based on the best interest of the children
5. **Temporary care** should be in the custody of trusted adults and child-friendly temporary care institutions
6. Promote, develop and strengthen community based care and protection mechanisms
7. Maintain institutions that are based on **minimum standard of care guidelines** and ensure that there are proper care plans for each child

One group even suggested that all institutions should be closed and family based alternative care support and care mechanisms strengthened and developed.

## Understanding Alternative Forms of Care

All children are not fortunate to have or live with their parents, and they need alternative forms of care. Many are sent to orphanages, foster homes, extended families and some may even end up on the streets. The children concluded that all children need to be with family in order to receive the emotional support they need for their growth. When this is not possible, adults, institutions, the community as well as other children need to ensure that they are well taken care of. With this interactive discussion, children came





# Care Standards and Child Friendly Services

One of the main aims of the Regional Children's Consultation was to come up with recommendations from children on how care standards and child friendly services should be developed. Children devoted a lot of their time sharing recommendations they had brought from their national consultations as discussed and shared by child representatives from their respective countries. They had group discussions on the importance of each recommendation and tried to prioritise those they felt were essential to be shared with adults at the Technical Consultation. Below are the recommendations that they selected to share.

## Recommendations on Child-friendly Services

- Children should be provided with counselling and guidance services to enable them to make the right decisions and know what they are doing.
- Children should be protected from victimisation by media and any other forms of publicity to respect their privacy and confidentiality and also to make them feel safe and secure.
- Their voice should be heard as well as respected, and their problems should be looked into and so that long lasting happiness is ensured.
- There should be proper and protected recreation services, which can serve as a place of enjoyment without any threat to children.
- The education system should be child-friendly, and there should be a different curriculum for physically and mentally challenged children, free of corporal punishment, that engages in joyful teaching and learning methods.

## Recommendations on Child Care Standards

- Children participate in the decision making process.

- Recurrent training and education for parents, caregivers and a regulatory body to monitor the quality of care services.
- Well-defined care plan for each and every child under institutional care.
- An emergency health service should be available for all children at all times, especially for disabled children and during emergencies, such as natural disasters.
- Ensuring equality and non-discrimination for all children.

## Working with the Media

During the consultation, children were also given the opportunity to interact with the media from Nepal in a press conference. A panel of speakers representing all eight participant countries stood before the press in order to inform the media and attend to their queries. During this interaction, children debriefed the media about the consultation and urged them to give more focus on children and their concerns in their publications. They also requested media to give more publicity to the activities of SAIEVAC in order to help it reach out to more children.

During this media event, children also described the process undertaken for organising the national consultations in each country and the selection of children, including outcomes of the regional children's consultation and the recommendations developed by them.



# Child Representatives to the SAIEVAC Governing Board as Observers

SAIEVAC, founded in 2010, is still a very young organisation with much to learn, and it wants to incorporate as much of children's views as possible in order to make it as child friendly and suited to the real needs of children as possible. There have been two child representatives within its Governing Board since the very beginning, and they have truly enabled the voice of children to be heard in matters that relate directly to children.

In addition to the existing child representatives, the SAIEVAC Governing Board has invited the presence of two more children as Observers to the board. This will ensure that children's voices are represented more strongly within the Governing Board.

Every year, children from all eight countries will elect two children as Observers who will, in their second year of tenure, become full-fledged members of the SAIEVAC Governing Board. Having child representatives attend the Governing Board Meetings as Observers will enable them to have an increased understanding about SAIEVAC and will help them participate more fully when they become active Members.

After a closed election, two participants (one male and one female) were elected as child Observers for the coming year. They are **Gokul Pandey** (Nepal) and **W. D. Rashmi Vidyani Wijesinghe** (Sri Lanka).

Both observers expressed their gratitude for being chosen for the responsibility and promised to effectively represent the participants present as well as all the children of South Asia in the SAIEVAC Governing Board.



# Using Social Media

Using information technology and social media was recognised as an important way for children to stay connected with each other and with SAIEVAC after the consultation. So, they talked about the advantages as well as disadvantages of using these resources. Children learned that since networking sites are a social space, it is better to avoid detailed personal information but instead to share experiences, give voices to issues and provide personal insights. The importance of children's safety online was also highlighted, and children learned that they need to spread greater awareness about the threats that exist online as a way to protect themselves.

Together, they tried to formulate ways in which children can use social media in order to stay connected with other children in the eight countries and to spread word about SAIEVAC within their community.

Currently, the official SAIEVAC website [www.saievac.info](http://www.saievac.info) is also in the process of creating an online forum for children from all over South Asia to come together to fight against violence against children by having a separate page for children. It is hoped that this webpage for children will provide an exchange platform for children in the region toward creating a child-friendly component of the website. There is also a Facebook Group created by child representatives from the June 2010 consultation called "Regional Children's Forum on Ending Violence against Children in South Asia." They want to make sure that this group will be an effective way of sharing news and information on SAIEVAC activities. Children also want to help it become the ideal place for their peers from all over the region to share ideas and stories as well as to be able to report instances of violence.

## How do children want the SAIEVAC website and Facebook Group to be designed?

- Always updated on the current situation of SAIEVAC
- A place where all children are able to express their feelings and issues
- Child-friendly with photos and videos of SAIEVAC related events
- Easy language style and child-friendly information



- Regular updates on the website
- Contain information about SAIEVAC's work, its importance and its future plans
- Greater involvement of children

## How do children want to contribute and be involved?

- "I want to express my views and create awareness, also raise and talk about the issues which exist in my country. Moreover, I would like to share my views with children from other countries."
- "We would like to participate through sharing case studies, good practices, incidents that happened to us. This will help others to be aware and others can learn from us. We can also learn from others."
- "We'll participate by posting the minutes of consultation, and any interesting article about violence against children."
- "By uploading pictures regarding violence against children."
- "I'll post the work updates I'll be doing after I return to my village. I'll share the achievement I've made after creating awareness programs."

Children also felt the need to prioritise other children who do not have access to the Internet to make sure they are well-informed about SAIEVAC's activities and are able to make contributions. They felt that they can use traditional media as well as child clubs in order to share and collect information. Children should also be able to send their stories directly by post to the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat so that they can be posted on the website. It will also be possible for these children to share with adults or other child representatives who can help them to post online.

## Participation in the Technical Consultation

One of the main aims of the Regional Children's Consultation was to gather recommendations from children from all the South Asian countries and pass them on to the second Technical Consultation during the 27-29th September, 2011. Participants at the Technical Consultation would then incorporate the children's recommendations into the final recommendations they were giving to the SAIEVAC Governing Board.

Children expressed excitement at the opportunity to participate in the Technical Consultation. They sat along with the National Coordinators and other representatives from their countries and participated throughout the Technical Consultation.

Many of them presented their viewpoints during the consultation. They were treated equally important as adults and were listened to in a respectful manner. The Director General of SAIEVAC promised them that he would take all their concerns to the Governing Board as well as to relevant government authorities.

During the opening session, children made a presentation at the Technical Consultation where they shared the definition of child-friendly services that they had created during the Children's Consultation. On the second day of the Technical Consultation, they shared the recommendations children had prepared during the Children's Consultation on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services and were received with applause.

In discussions during the Technical Consultation, some of the child participants shared additional recommendations to the adult participants. One of the recommendations was to create a child friendly SAIEVAC logo that would help children identify SAIEVAC and relate to it more easily. Another recommendation was to have child focal points in each country so that the child representatives to the Governing Board would be better informed about the status and activities of children in each country and could ensure greater participation. Children were encouraged to share these recommendations directly with the Governing Board Meeting through the Child Representatives.



# Updates on the Work Done by Child Representatives to the SAIEVAC Governing Board (as shared directly)

After being elected as child representatives to the Governing Board in 2010, Ugyen Dema Dorji from Bhutan and Rakesh Shaw from India have continued to participate in SAIEVAC's efforts to end violence against children. Along with participating

in the 1st Governing Board Meeting, Ugyen and Rakesh also participated in the Children's Consultation for the First Governing Board Meeting and the Legal Reform Workshop. In addition to this, both child representatives have made significant contribution in

spreading the word about SAIEVAC in their countries. Here is what they had to say about their work and experiences.



Ugyen Dema Dorji  
Bhutan

"In the past year, I have been trying my best to spread awareness about violence against children in different schools. I have told the students about their rights and about what SAIEVAC is doing for them. I have also asked them what they feel about SAIEVAC and what message they would like me to take to it.

I have also been working on facilitating the online forum we have on Facebook. I post work updates from SAIEVAC

so that other children from South Asia are aware about SAIEVAC and give their feedback. However, because of a lack of enough know-how, I have faced technical problems.

My experience of this one year in SAIEVAC has also been challenged by problems in communication. Neither of the child representatives had much networking with the SAIEVAC Secretariat, although in the past months, communication has improved. Strong networking and improved communication is essential to making sure that we're able to make the best of what SAIEVAC has to offer us.

Let me also take this opportunity to share a wonderful experience that I have been able to gain during the YPP (Youth Partnership Project) Youth Festival in Kathmandu during April 2011 where I was also invited as one of the key youth participants and panellists representing SAIEVAC along with the SAIEVAC National Coordinators from three South Asian countries. The topic that I had as a panellist was on 'Role of Media in Preventing CSEC' and was a huge learning experience for me. I would really like to thank ECPAT International for this opportunity and to see how it actively promotes child and youth participation.

I am sad to say that I am not in connection with the children from last June's consultation. Had I been, I would have been able to give you a more comprehensive feedback of what is happening in the entire region. I therefore request the new members to strengthen the group on Facebook and contribute to building the network. Please put forward your concerns in this group so that the new child representatives to the Governing Board can effectively carry your messages to the concerned parties. I also request all the chaperons and national coordinators to help us in building this group. We've discovered from our previous experience that building rapport with each other is very important. All mechanisms fail when adults and children or the children among themselves do not want to keep in touch with each other."



**Rakesh Shaw**  
India

"During the 1st Governing Board Meeting, we put the recommendations made in the June 2010 Children's Consultation before the board. After going back to India, I visited schools, drop-in-centers, attended meetings and workshops where I shared information about SAIEVAC.

Although we've done a lot this past year, I feel like we couldn't do as much as we would have liked to. Especially in terms of

staying in touch with other child representatives at the previous Children's Consultation; we were unable to know the problems that others are facing or the transformations taking place.

I would request all the new participants to build a strong network with an effective communication system so that even if all the eight countries aren't represented on the board, the child representatives to the Governing Board can collect everyone's challenges and pass on their recommendations to the Governing Board Members.

As a YPP (Youth Partnership Project) youth from India of ECPAT International and implemented by Sanlaap India, I also continue to be actively involved in carrying out various community awareness campaigns and youth-led Micro Projects. During such occasion, I also continue to share about the work of SAIEVAC as the biggest children's regional forum in South Asia. Recently and along with Ugyen, I also had participated and led many of the workshop sessions during the YPP Youth Festival including presenting on 'Reaching out to most at-risk youth' as a panellist. It is indeed very inspiring to be in such greater roles and to continue working for and with children and young people."

## Follow up at National and Regional Levels

After having had such a wonderful sharing and learning experience at the regional children's consultation, children felt the need to discuss how they want to carry forward SAIEVAC's objectives after going back to their own countries.

### National level

- I will tell people from the media and the people in my country will watch television and find out.

AFGANISAN



### Regional level

- I will share the message of SAIEVAC through social networks like Facebook and also learn more about the children of South Asia
- I will maintain communication through Facebook, inform about my own experiences and come to know what is happening in other countries.

BANGLADESH

### National level

- I will share about SAIEVAC with my friends, family members, relatives, teachers, NGO representatives and make sure that they share with others too.
- When I go back, I will talk about SAIEVAC in my school and drop-in centre.
- I will also tell about SAIEVAC to DIC representative and will request him/her to give the message to other NGOs so that they can share it at different trainings.



### Regional level

- Organise a meeting in school telling them what I learned from SAIEVAC.
- Make videos of me sharing my learnings and posting them on Youtube.
- Use my youth network (DAISAN) to convey the information to the children of Bhutan in terms of ending violence against children.

BHUTAN

### National level

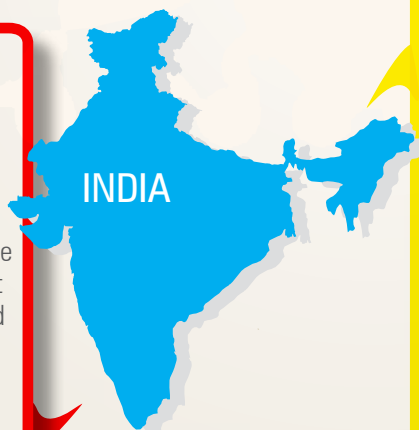
- Write about my experiences in the media and share about it through radio broadcasts and television shows.
- Design and distribute pamphlets.
- Create awareness on SAIEVAC in different schools and institutions.





### Regional level

- I'll let other countries know what the situation in my country is through the Internet so that they can also be aware of what's happening in the entire region.
- I'll find out about the situation in the eight countries on violence and put that in front of the Governing Board of SAIEVAC.
- I will find out what all eight countries are doing for children and will put pressure on the government to do that in my country too.



### National level

- I will report any instance of violence in schools, drop-in centres and the community to protest and raise awareness.
- Through the NGOs in my country, I'll spread all my learnings to the maximum number of children in order to create awareness.
- I will coordinate with the NGOs working with children and tell them about SAIEVAC and through them will do advocacy to the government on creating better care system for children.



### Regional level

- Have connections with other representatives of children from other countries and share our ideas and experiences.
- We can also assist INGOs working against violence against children in conducting surveys and studies in this area.
- Develop country level materials to raise the voice of children in our country at a regional level.

## MALDIVES



### National level

- Help the NGOs and CSOs working for a better future for us.
- Assist the government to conduct activities under the SAIEVAC work plan.
- Create Awareness about SAIEVAC among children of our country by forming a group of children who work against violence against children.



### Regional level

- The number of children representing each country should increase.
- We should encourage children to participate to reduce violence against children as much as possible.
- There should be the formulation of central committee at international level and sub-committees in each nation.
- I will share the update of SAIEVAC on Facebook and through other forms of communication.

NEPAL

### National level

- Child participation should be increased and they should be involved in awareness raising activities from schools to the community level.
- We should make publicity and awareness about SAIEVAC in the whole country.
- Children from each district should get participation in the national level children's related programs.
- National and international media should publicise the issues related to children by collecting relevant news.
- There should be more publicity about SAIEVAC in all districts of the country and increased awareness to end violence against children.



### National level

- Awareness to children at schools, children centres, our communities.
- Meetings with organisations to arrange the events for the community related to preventing child violence.
- Meeting with social welfare department and giving awareness to them.
- Raising awareness in Madrassas.

PAKISTAN





SRI LANKA

### Regional level

- Help in SAIEVAC programs.
- Have continuous contact with the SAIEVAC Secretariat and SAIEVAC related organisations.

### National level

- We have already organised a special meeting of the Sri Lanka group who participated in SAIEVAC in Colombo during 10-11th October to decide what we are going to do about implementing the aims of SAIEVAC.





# Global Survey on Violence against Children 2011

At the beginning of the consultation, children were sent a welcome video message by Marta Santos Pais, UN Secretary General Special Representative on Violence Against Children, where she invited them to participate in the Global Survey on Violence Against Children. The child friendly version of the survey has extensive information on the 12 suggestions that the UN made to governments five years ago. Since it is believed that the government is important in making decisions that affect the lives of children, the participating children took some time to think about how far they have taken into account the 12 suggestions and what more governments can do to help protect children from violence. Even though they weren't able to look at the entire survey and answer all the questions, they prepared their responses on some of the recommendations to Marta so that she can understand the children's perspectives from South Asia.



As explained above, this exercise on children's feedback to the Global Progress Survey on Violence Against children was a very brief session due to the limited time available, and children could not get engaged meaningfully. It is hoped that the full responses will be provided during the ongoing process that is being followed-up at the national level in each country.

## 2nd SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting, 2011

### General Overview

The 2nd SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting was held between the 29th and 30th of September, 2011, in Kathmandu. The meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Dan Bahadur Choudhari (Kurmi), Honorable Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal. Ms. Ugyen Dema Dorji, child representative to the Governing Board, also gave a speech where she expressed her excitement at participating in yet another Governing Board Meeting, which has been a thrilling experience providing great learning. She said that her role this past year has been a lot of fun to fulfil but is also full of responsibilities. She promised to share with the Governing Board messages from child representatives from around South Asia and welcomed the child observers to be part of this year's Governing Board Meeting.

This year, the additional presence of two children as child observers into the Governing Board has brought a lot of joy to all the children. The child observers have been elected by the child participants present at this year's Regional Children's Consultation and will ultimately take over as full-fledged members in the subsequent year. This will ensure increased participation of children in the SAIEVAC system and will enable the Governing Board to better understand the situation and concerns of children from the region.

The 2nd SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting had a strong agenda and included a progress report on the recommendations of the 1st Governing Board Meeting. It also reviewed and endorsed the report of the

1st Technical Workshop on Legal Reform which had included a children's consultation as well.

The Governing Board decided on a Follow Up of the Regional Consultation on Violence Against Children which is tentatively scheduled to take place in May, 2012, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. There was a consensus amongst the Board Members that the

next consultation should be based on the theme of increasing children's participation in initiatives against violence against children and within the SAIEVAC mechanism.

The Governing Board was also informed about the agenda SAIEVAC has proposed to initiate in the coming year. This includes the End Corporal Punishment Campaign to be initiated across South Asia to prevent instances of corporal punishment in schools. SAIEVAC will also be undertaking an assessment to see how child-friendly the South Asian governments are.

Information about the Global Progress Survey on Violence Against Children to which children had already given their responses was shared with the Governing Board. They were encouraged to take the Survey back to their countries to get the respective ministries to send feedback to the UN Secretary General Special Representative as well.

Many members expressed their concerns for child safety while children use online media and social networking sites to talk about sensitive issues like violence against themselves or their peers. During the consultations, many children shared their experiences of being harassed by the media. They also pointed out that the media needs to be sensitised and trained to interact with children while reporting news on sensitive topics relating to children.



## Children's Concerns

Child representatives to the Governing Board shared concerns that were raised during the Children's Consultation as well as the Technical Consultation. They shared their desire to have child focal points from each country so that the Child Representatives to the Governing Board would be in touch with the situation of children across the South Asian region. They also decided that this was better than having a separate children's board with representatives from each country within SAIEVAC.

## Evaluation and Feedback

What children were thinking about by the end of the consultation?

"It is important to work in the community and district level for better coordination among the child clubs and adult representatives to reduce violence against children."

"At the end of the consultation, I think that I have to play a vital role in our country to reduce violence against children. Now, it is my responsibility."

"I feel good because I will be able to make others in my country aware about what I have learnt here."

Children also gave their feedback regarding the consultation:

"Some sessions were too long and a little difficult to understand. It would be better to consider children and make them child-friendly and have recreation during breaks."

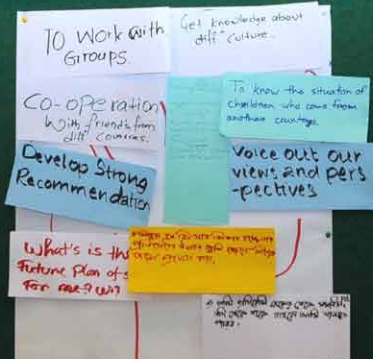
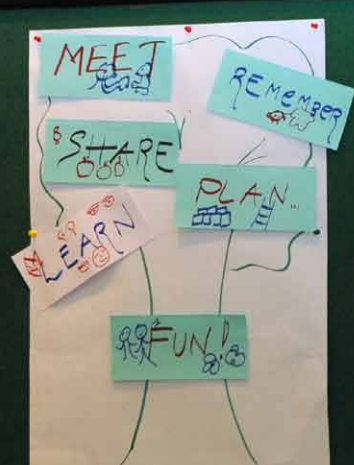
"This type of consultation should be continued twice a year for better understanding of our situation and for better coordination."

### SAIEVAC Children's Consultation on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services

25-26 September, 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal

Co-hosted by: The Government of Nepal

Supported by: South Asia Coordinating Group on Action Against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG)





# Annex 1

## Definitions

**NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation** A non-governmental organisation (NGO) is any organisation which does not have profit as its aim and is organised on a local or national level. NGOs are driven by a common idea/theme/interest. NGOs perform a variety of service and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to Governments, advocating and monitoring policies and encourage political participation through provision of information. Some are organised around specific issues, such as child rights. They can also help monitor and implement international agreements such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**INGO – International Non-Governmental Organisation** An INGO is an international non-governmental organisation that was not created by an international treaty (like UN Bodies). They may focus on a specific set of issues, like child rights, and work similarly to a NGO, but on a global scale.

**SAARC – South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation** SAARC was established in 1985 and provides an opportunity for people of South Asia to come together in the spirit of friendship, trust and understanding. It tries to speed up economic and social development for South Asia Countries. SAARC Countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

**SACG – South Asian Coordinating Group on Action Against Violence Against Women and Children** SACG is a group in which regional INGOs and UN Agencies work together to support government and children to take action to end violence against children. These organisations cooperate so that they can have a bigger impact for children across South Asia.

**SAF – South Asian Forum for ending violence against children** SAF was established in 2001 at the regional consultation for the UN Study on Violence, which took place in Pakistan. SAF had representation from all eight Governments in South Asia. However, now its name has been changed to SAIEVAC.

**SAIEVAC – South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children** SAIEVAC is a regional initiative which has representation from all Government's in South Asia, children, civil society and SACG. It works so that all children, girls and boys, throughout South Asia enjoy their right to an environment free from violence, abuse, neglect, and discrimination. SAIEVAC is a follow-up to SAF.

**UN Study on Violence** – In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly asked the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) for an official study on violence against children. This Study looks at the problem of violence against children across the world and would examine ideas on what could be done about it. The Study is based on the legal obligation that states have the duty to protect children from violence. That right is in Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. All South Asian countries and most other countries in the world have signed and committed themselves to this UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which addresses nearly every aspect of children and adolescents' lives. You can read more about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at: <http://www.unicef.org/magic/briefing/uncorc.html>

## Annex 2

### Transcript of Marta Santos Pais' (UNSG Special Representative on Violence against Children) video message to children

Dear Friends,

I am very pleased to send you my very warm greetings! I want to congratulate you for the critical work you are promoting as SAIEVAC child representatives, and also in your communities, in your countries and across the South Asian region.

I wanted to come to Kathmandu and meet you in person, like last year; but unfortunately other meetings here in New York made it impossible for me to travel.

Nonetheless, I remain very committed to learning about your discussions and recommendations, and very interested in benefiting from your wise advice. You will address many important topics, including child-friendly services, standards of care, and regional communication and advocacy by young people; your perspectives and suggestions will be of critical relevance for my mandate.

As Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, I firmly believe in the importance of a strong partnership with children and young people. **Nobody knows the reality of young people better than young people themselves, and your involvement is fundamental to change the world and put a stop to all forms of violence against children!!**

As you know, children witness violence and endure physical, emotional and sexual abuse every day. Children fear reporting, worried they will not be believed or may suffer reprisals or stigmatisation when they speak up. They also do not know where to go or whom to call to benefit from counselling and support.

This is why I am strongly committed to help develop in all countries **safe, child sensitive and accessible counselling, complaints and reporting mechanisms on violence against children**; mechanisms children can genuinely trust; and before whom they can tell their stories, without fear or publicity, punishment or reprisal.

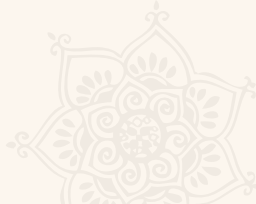
I understand that you will be discussing among yourselves what child friendly services mean and I look very much forward to your feedback on this issue too.

The participation of children in decisions affecting their lives is a fundamental right that the Convention on the Rights of the Child has proclaimed. The UN Study on Violence against Children reaffirmed this principle and became the **first United Nations official document developed with the collaboration of children and young people**.

Children participated actively in national, regional and international consultations; they contributed to the development of key advocacy messages, and they influenced the content of the report and the shape of its recommendations. With children's support, a child friendly version of the Study was also developed and is being used in many countries as a critical tool to prevent and address violence against children.

Child participation remains an essential and strategic dimension to help countries make the right choices to address violence. That is why I am committed to bring your views and experiences everywhere, including to UN meetings; and I am determined to urge everyone to make strong commitments to involve young people in decisions aiming at the elimination of all forms of violence against children.

Child participation is gaining increasing importance at all levels. Last July, in New York, the **High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Youth** reaffirmed the importance of protecting young people from all forms of violence, and reiterated that the full and effective participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes is a key element to



achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

**As formal members of the SAIEVAC structure, you are showing the way to other young people in other regions.**

Now, dear friends, I would like to seek your support in one important task: my Office has just launched a **Global Survey** to assess progress made by all nations in protecting children from all forms of violence; we want to find out about promising initiatives and good practices; and to identify significant successes that can help to boost efforts to secure children's safety and protection, everywhere and at all times.

I will report about the results of this survey in 2012 before the General Assembly of the United Nations. This way, countries across regions will have an opportunity to learn about these findings and feel encouraged to replicate them and accelerate progress in putting an end to violence.

In this process, I am very committed to collecting information from young people themselves. You, **as SAIEVAC Child Representatives, are the first group of young people from whom I am asking for inputs to this survey.**

Friends and colleagues from Plan International and Save the Children are supporting this effort and stand ready to work with you, to listen to your perspectives and benefit from your views and advice.

I hope you will be willing to join in this effort! Your comments and feedback will be truly important!

Your meeting in Kathmandu will be a very special occasion to discuss the survey and, based on your views and suggestions, we will be able to work with children in other regions. I want to thank you in advance for your decisive role in making this survey a great success!

Dear friends, I will continue to learn from your work, and join hands together with you to advance implementation of the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children, and the objectives of SAIEVAC in your respective countries.

I encourage you to be in contact with me and my Office - through our website or through Facebook where you can find me and send me your messages and critical suggestions.

I look forward to keeping in close contact with you!

I wish you a very successful meeting in Kathmandu and send you my very best regards!

Link to the Youtube video message [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F\\_IOXQRlaTk&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_IOXQRlaTk&feature=related)



## Annex 3

### Output of Session on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services

#### Synthesis of recommendations for Child Friendly Services

- The child feels that he/she is free, safe and protected (7)
- Children need to be protected from being victimised by media (15)
- Confidentiality and privacy should be ensured (1)
- Effective use of toll-free hotlines (1)
- Regular counselling and guidance services at community level (4)
- Availability of age-appropriate, child-friendly materials taking into consideration special needs (2)
- Review or reform child protection laws considering community solidarity (0)
- Children should be provided with counselling to enable them to make right decisions and know what they are doing (20)
- Suitable curriculum and activities in schools, very significant yet simple for the minds of children (6)
- Their voice should be heard as well as respected and their long-lasting happiness ensured (17)
- Monitor the minimum standards of care in shelter homes, institutions and orphanages as prescribed in Juvenile Justice by concerned ministries and government officials (4)
- Court, police, and administration proceedings should be more sensitive toward needs of children (children who have been raped or trafficked) (4)
- Children should have the freedom to express their wants, feelings and problems (3)
- Education system should be child-friendly with absence of corporal punishment and engaging in joyful teaching and learning methods (6)
- Proper and protected recreation services (8)
- Develop community-based child protection system (2)

#### Synthesis of recommendations for Child Care Standards:

- Regulatory body to monitor the quality of the care services (6)
- Well defined care plan for each and every child in the institutions (8)
- Effective integration and referral system among the institutions (4)
- Recurrent training and orientation for caregivers (6)
- Well-defined care plan for each and every child in the institutions (8)
- Systematic parental education in place (6)
- Society will be child-marriage-free (6)
- Protection mechanism for child on national level (3)
- Develop policies and strategies in alignment with UNCRC (4)
- Hygiene experts should check the sanitation conditions in schools and shelter homes (1)
- A rescue team should be responsible for rescuing disabled kids during disasters (8)
- Economic conditions of families under BPL should be improved through ensuring implementation and schemes that guarantees work and livelihood (3)
- Families with children with mental retardation or other forms of mental and physical challenges should be identified and supported in childcare (5)
- Local health centre systems should be strengthened and local health care professionals should be able to identify and respond to cases of child abuse (physical and mental) (4)
- There should be guarantees for children's rights to appropriate and adequate care and protection (5)
- Government should make action-based laws regarding family planning (5)
- There should be children participation in decision making (12)
- Non discriminatory environment for boys and girls should be maintained (10)
- Disabled schools and foster homes should ensure that the kids eat nutritious food (2)

## Annex 4

### Q & A Session after Updates on the Work Done by SAIEVAC Governing Board Members

Did you know about SAIEVAC before joining and will you keep in touch or be involved even after stepping down from the board?

Ugyen Dema Dorji

"I didn't know anything about SAIEVAC before coming to the National Consultation in June of last year. It seemed like SAIEVAC wasn't very popular amongst the children and many of you also probably didn't know about it before attending the national consultation yourselves. After being in the SAIEVAC Governing Board and participating in numerous children's consultations, it will be difficult to leave. I will, however, be facilitating more workshops on the theme of violence against children and will also keep posting on the online regional children's forum on Facebook. I will also be readily available to SAIEVAC as a resource person whenever they need someone to help in organizing these kinds of national and regional consultations. I do not intend to lose contact with SAIEVAC as one of my ambitions has become to become the Director General of SAIEVAC."

Rakesh Shaw

"Maybe we will not be able to participate directly in SAIEVAC activities after leaving the Governing Board, but still I will be part of the Facebook group that already exists. I will always get to know of the latest updates and activities of SAIEVAC and what the other Governing Board Members are doing and I intend to give my comments over there. And I'm quite sure SAIEVAC will always listen to us even if we are no longer on the Governing Board."

## Annex 5

### Responses of children to the Global Survey on Violence Against Children 2011

1. Government should take stronger action against violence against children (Sri Lanka)
  - a. Formulation of laws
  - b. Having a child help line (1098)
  - c. Having a network of officers to intervene in children's cases
  - d. Police desk for women and children
2. Government should make all violence against children prohibited by the law (Afghanistan and Nepal)
  - a. What do you think is happening?
    - i. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child laws of 1989 and National Children's Acts
    - ii. Statement has been signed by three ministries to ban violence in schools
    - iii. Politicians are also positive
    - iv. Government is positive and all are ready to start work (SAIEVAC)
  - b. What do you think can be done?
    - i. The people who kidnap and rape children are punished
    - ii. In the new constitution developing process of Nepal, child protection policy should be ensured
    - iii. The basic rights of children should be protected
    - iv. International laws should be followed
3. Governments should pay more attention to making sure that violence against children doesn't happen in the first place (Sri Lanka)
  - a. Awareness programs
  - b. Having various children associations
  - c. Rehabilitation for street children
4. Governments should give out clear messages that violence against children is never allowed, and that everyone should learn how to behave with each other without using violence (Pakistan)
  - a. What do you think is happening?
    - i. In one district of Pakistan, a campaign with the name of 'No Violence Only Love' is in process with school children
  - b. What should be done?
    - i. The campaign should focus on all the countries including children out of school
    - ii. Be practical
    - iii. Must be monitored by the government (regularly)
    - iv. There is need to develop parental skills on how to deal with children (ensured by government)
    - v. The curriculum of teachers should include more and practical lessons on how to behave with children (Ensured by the government's education department)
5. People who are with children should learn how to stop violence themselves
  - a. What do you think is happening?
    - i. Most teachers do not follow the training they receive on how to behave with children from teacher training
  - b. What should be done?
    - i. Most of the NGO (Non Government Organisations) people know through trainings
    - ii. Teachers and ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme) workers should undergo trainings and be brought under strict regulations



6. Governments should help and support children who have suffered from violence (Maldives)

- a. In Maldives, children can seek help in the following ways
  - i. They can call the child helpline (1412)
  - ii. They can go to the police
  - iii. School counsellor
  - iv. Department of Gender and Social Protection Services
  - v. Juvenile Justice Unit
- b. Who usually helps children?
  - i. The governments and Non Government Organizations
  - ii. They do not get proper help that they need from the government due to insufficient number of workers, budget and the flawed system
  - iii. Parliament and politicians (decision makers) aren't sensitive enough.
- c. Types of services received by children
  - i. Counselling
  - ii. Psycho-social support
  - iii. Emergency protection services
  - iv. Social protection

7. Children should be able to express their views (Bhutan and Afghanistan)


- a. What do you think is happening?
  - i. Youth forums volunteer services in Non Government Organisations
  - ii. Radio programs
  - iii. Youth shows through media
  - iv. Teen magazines
  - v. Children groups in a very low stage/state
- b. What should be done?
  - i. Child club
  - ii. Promotion of more youth consultation forums
  - iii. More panel discussions, so that youth voices can be heard
  - iv. Children should be able to express their views
  - v. More events at national level to organize to ban violence against children at various levels and settings

8. Governments should make it easy for anyone to report violence against children (Bhutan)

- a. What do you think is happening?
  - i. School peers counsellors
  - ii. Police (113)
- b. What should be done?
  - i. Toll-free line for children
  - ii. Professional child specialists
  - iii. Advocacy programs on child friendly services for victims of violence

9. Government should make sure that anyone who is violent against children is punished. (Maldives)

- a. Do they take it seriously?
  - i. There is an article (A.35) in the Constitution which bans all kinds of abuse to children and the articles allow strict punishment on such offenders.
- b. Does the government share information with the public?
  - i. In the past few months the government has started to share information, such as creating awareness programs for students in schools. We support this idea.
  - ii. The punishment for sexual abuse is very strict. However, the community is still unaware about these issues and more can be done in schools to promote rights of children and to protect them from violence.

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10. Governments should think about the different ways violence happens to girls and boys (Pakistan)
- Government should design activities in a gender-sensitive manner to stop violence.
  - Many of the NGOs, INGOs and other members of civil society are working to stop violence against girls and boys in their respective locations; the government should adopt those projects in their regular programs.
  - Government should provide child-friendly reproductive and sexual health services for girls and boys with guidance and counselling.
  - Government needs to revise the law of marriage, as the age of consent is 16 for girls and 18 for boys, when boys and girls are still very young. This can still constitute child marriage even though it isn't legally considered so.
  - Government should provide equal opportunities to girls and boys for recreational activities (as in our country boys have a lot of options but girls don't).
  - Plan Pakistan is running a campaign "Because I am a Girl." The government should adopt these types of campaigns and make it part of regular programs.
11. Governments should collect and find out more information about violence against children (Bangladesh)
- What do you think is happening?
    - Government has had meetings with children where we have shared our feelings.
  - What should be done?
    - We have not seen much initiative from the government level but NGOs have been more active. The government should follow the NGOs and conduct surveys.

## Annex 6

### Consultation Final Draft Agenda



### SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

Regional Children's Consultation and Participation to the Technical Consultation on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services,  
25 – 29 September, 2011

Time	Activity/Session
24 <sup>th</sup> Sept Arrival of children/chaperons	Airport pick-up arrangement with the hotel Room Allocation Welcome at the Hotel by Children from host country Nepal
18:30	Meeting at the Hall for all children/chaperones Registration of the participants
18:30 – 20:00	Introduction and Briefing session with the children / chaperons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme briefing</li> <li>• Welcome remarks from the SAIEVAC DG</li> <li>• Welcome remarks from the SACG Chair</li> <li>• Briefing on the roles and responsibilities of the children</li> <li>• Protection briefing for children/chaperons including security briefing including from the hotel</li> <li>• Formation of different children groups like recreation/cultural group, report writing, photo/video, press etc.</li> <li>• Meeting with the chaperons and girl and boy participants</li> <li>• Together with orientation to children on using Flip Ata video camera by UNICEF Nepal Country Office ((children interviewing adults and their peers etc.)</li> </ul>
20:00 – 21:00	Welcome Dinner



Regional Children's Consultation and Participation to the Technical Consultation on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services,  
25 – 29 September, 2011

Time	Session
08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast Meeting of the facilitators
09:00 – 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectives of the Regional Children's Consultation</li> <li>• Sharing of the Agenda and Outcomes</li> <li>• Overview of the Technical Consultation Agenda</li> <li>• Sharing expectations</li> <li>• Overview of SAIEVAC and participation of children in it</li> <li>• Briefing on the Governing Board and children's participation in it</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:30	TEA/COFFEE BREAK Video show on the children's consultation of June 2010
11:30 – 13:00	Children from each country give a short overview/summary of the National Consultation held in each country and present Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• where and when the national consultations happened</li> <li>• how many children participated and the role of the children</li> <li>• how they feel and like/sharing experiences</li> <li>• can be with pictures/art work or using a flip chart or on a PPT</li> <li>• including presenting 'Recommendations' developed at the national consultation</li> </ul>
13:00– 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:30	Regional Children's Forum on Violence Against Children – how children see it (their opinions and ideas)
15:00 – 16:30 With TEA/COFFEE	Promoting and strengthening parental care to prevent and respond to violence against children and unnecessary family separation
16:30 – 17:00	Children develop their own banner in plain white clothes reflecting the consultation through their creativity and art work
17:00 – 17:15	EVALUATION/Wrap-up of the Day
17:15 – 19:30	Social Activity
20:30: - 21:00	DINNER

Time	Session
08:00 – 09:00	Breakfast Meeting of the facilitators
09:00 – 10:30	Children present the outcomes of the National Consultation on 'Care standards and child friendly services' and prioritize/plan what and how they can contribute during the parallel country group work during the technical session
10:30 – 11:00	TEA with Live Puppetry Show/Performance by the children and youth group involved in YPP Programme of Nepal
11:00 – 12:30	Group work defining the criteria for 'child friendly services' and come up with a regional overview/definition of it to present at the technical session ALSO SELECT TWO CHILDREN WHO WILL MAKE THE PRESENTATION AT THE TC SESSION
12:00 – 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 – 14:30	Children briefly share views/understanding on Alternative forms of care - models of family based alternative care, kinship/foster care in South Asia Plan for their participation and contribution during the parallel country group work at the technical consultation
14:30 – 15:00	Reviewing/Discussion on the 'Children's Recommendations' made during the June 2010 Children Consultation and Ministerial Meeting in Kathmandu and revisit another Regional Consultation during September 2010
15:00 – 15:15	TEA/COFFEE BREAK Orientation to Ugyen/Rakesh for media briefing – child representatives to the SAIEVAC GB
15:15 – 16:00	Collate 'Recommendations' from the National Consultations (as presented above) on each topic above into regional level recommendations to be presented at the Technical Consultation
16:00 – 17:00	Media briefing by the selected children
17:00 – 17:30	Selection of two child representatives to the SAIEVAC Governing Board as Observers In the same session, work with the existing child representatives to the Governing Board to develop/prepare presentation for the opening session at the Technical Consultation EVALUATION/Closing Group Photo
17:30 – 19:30	Recreation and Social Activity
19:30 – 20:30	Closing and presenting of gift/souvenir etc. to children/chaperons  Debriefing of the Facilitators and the CPFs
20:30 – 21:00	Dinner and Rest

## SAIEVAC TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON CARE STANDARDS AND CHILD FRIENDLY SERVICES

27-29th, September, Participation of Children

Time	Activity/Session
08:15 – 09:15	Registration Children exhibit their materials and art-work
09:15 – 11:20	All children attend the opening session, introduction and other presentations with coffee break in between
11:20 – 11:40	Presentation by Child Representative of SAIEVAC Governing Board including on the 'Children's Recommendations' made during the June 2010 Children Consultation and Ministerial Meeting in Kathmandu (as prepared during the preparatory session on the 26 <sup>th</sup> above – 20 minutes)
11:40 – 12:10	Children participate in Q & A and plenary discussion on regional overview on care standards and child friendly services in SA
12:10 – 13:30	<u>Parallel Session:</u> Discussion/Sharing on the UN Global Progress Survey on Violence against children 2011 and how children could contribute to the Global Survey – child friendly version
13:30 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 - 14:40	Children participate in Q & A, plenary discussion on the main reflections and recommendations after the paper presentations on community based prevention and response by Turid and social protection from Bangladesh by Rose Anne
14:40 – 16:15	Children participate on the session 'Care Standards and Child Friendly Services' Share their views and outcomes of the preparatory session of the 26 <sup>th</sup> Children present regional definition developed on 'child friendly services' at 14:40 – 16:00 (20 minutes)
16:15 – 16:30	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
16:30 – 17:00 (will attend partially)	Children participate in parallel country group works to identify country gaps, opportunities and recommendations on rights based care standards and child friendly services
17:30 – 20:30	National cultural dancing party for all children– or it could be a free style party for them to celebrate their gathering



Time	Activity/Session
09:00 – 09:30	Children participate at the recap of Day I and review of daily agenda
09:30 – 11:00	Children participate in the plenary presentation on care standards and child friendly service
11:00 – 11:20	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
11:20 – 12:30	Children participate in the country presentation on alternative care and Q & A session
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 - 14:30	<p><u>Parallel session</u> on revisiting by children on how they can actively participate within SAIEVAC and see what mechanisms can be developed for them to communicate with each both at national and at the regional levels – also could use the interactive and online communication tools, including the one that has been already established in 2010 during the consultation.</p> <p>Discussion on the follow-up and how children could contribute to the national level mechanism (CSOs/ NACG) and their role.</p>
16:30 – 16:50	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
16.50 – 17:30	<p><u>Parallel session</u>: Sharing of work-update by two Child Representatives to the SAIEVAC Governing Board (Ugyen and Rakesh)</p> <p>Also the children from SAIEVAC develop a paragraph as recommendation for the UN General Assembly.</p>
17:30 – 19:30	Recreation and Social Activity

Time	Activity/Session
09:00 – 09:30	Children participate at the recap of Day I and review of daily agenda
09:30 – 09:45	Children present their recommendations
09:45 – 11:15	Children participate in the group work on developing recommendations on care standards and child friendly services for the SAIEVAC Governing Board
11:15 – 11:30	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
11:30 – 12:30	Children participate in the plenary session on endorsing the recommendations for the SAIEVAC Governing Board
12:30 – 13:00	Recap and Closure
13:00	LUNCH
15:30 onwards	Continue cultural performances and talent show for children

## Annex 7

### Media Coverage:

#### “SAARC Asian Children Meeting.”

Available at <http://www.rss.com.np/index.php?id=6786> (National news agency on 27th September 2011)  
Short interview of Bimol Bhetwal by Radio Sagarmatha on 27th September 2011 at 2:00pm on the Regional Children's Consultation

#### “Regional kids meet,”

The Kathmandu Post, 27th September 2011  
Kantipur TV- 25 min interview with SAIEVAC DG on 28th September 2011

#### “Care standards and child friendly services,”

Republica, 28 September 2011. Available at: [http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=36608#](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=36608#)

<http://nagarikplus.nagariknews.com/component/flippingbook/book/716-nagarik-01-oct-2011/2-nagarik.html>  
News coverage by Mountain TV at 8:00 pm news on 26th September, 2011



## Annex 8

### Participants' List

No.	NAME	COUNTRY	
CHILDREN			
1	Lailuma	AFGHANISTAN	
2	Anamullah	AFGHANISTAN	
3	Amana	BANGLADESH	
4	Sifat	BANGLADESH	
5	Rajesh	BHUTAN	
6	Kuru	BHUTAN	
7	Ugyan	BHUTAN	
8	Santwana	INDIA	
9	Rakesh	INDIA	
10	Dipu	INDIA	
11	Aishath	MALDIVES	
12	Mohamed	MALDIVES	
13	Gokul	NEPAL	
14	Satya	NEPAL	
15	Sarita	NEPAL	
16	Mahima	NEPAL	
17	Noman	PAKISTAN	
18	Mala	PAKISTAN	
19	Wijesinghe	SRI LANKA	
20	Badurdeen	SRI LANKA	
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