

South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children (SACG)

Terms of Reference

The South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children (SACG) is an inter-agency group of United Nations (UN) agencies, International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs) and other actors engaged in child rights and protection at the regional level in South Asia.

The list of SACG's Members and Observers and SACG Focal Points is attached in "Annex-1".

I. Vision

SACG's vision is that all children in South Asia enjoy their right to protection from all forms of violence in all settings.

II. Mission

To work together with the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), the National Action and Coordinating Groups against Violence against Children (NACGs), children and young people and other stake-holders to end all forms of violence against children in South Asia, focusing on advocacy, institutional strengthening and technical support.

III. Objectives

- To strengthen networking and collaboration among the SACG member agencies.
- To promote a rights-based and coordinated approach to the strengthening of national child protection systems, including community-based child protection mechanisms.
- To exchange knowledge and collaborate with other regional and global fora and bodies working on ending violence against children in South Asia and in other regions of the world.
- To contribute to the implementation of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) Five Year work plan (2011-2016) and support the SAIEVAC Secretariat.
- To support national action and coordinating groups on violence against children (NACGs), including civil society in South Asia.
- To encourage and advocate for national level inter-agency and multi-stakeholder cooperation at all levels.
- To support the strengthening and the institutionalization of civil society and children's participation at national and regional levels.

IV. Strategies

1. Networking, coordination and capacity building.
2. Building knowledge base on violence against children in South Asia.
3. Evidence-based advocacy to end violence against children in South Asia.
4. Support and collaborate with SAIEVAC.
5. Support and institutionalize child participation.
6. Strengthening regional monitoring function on violence against children in South Asia.

V. Membership and Observer Status

1. SACG provides the opportunity for Membership and Observer Status to those UN, bi-lateral, multi-lateral agencies, INGOs who have a rights-based approach to ending violence

against children and strengthening child protection and that have a South Asia focus and presence.

2. While there is no membership fee, agencies are encouraged to invest staff and other resources towards meeting the goals of SACG.
3. Members have voting rights, though consensus is the preferred working method.
4. Observers will not have voting rights and cannot represent SACG in any forum/meeting.
5. All Members and Observers are expected to comply with these ToR.

VI. Guidelines

1. SACG Members commit to participate regularly and actively in SACG meetings, and in engaging and contributing to SACG activities.
2. SACG Members are encouraged to engage in resource mobilization for SACG activities following consultation with the SACG Chair and other concerned members.
3. SACG Members or Observers conducting bilateral initiatives with SAIEVAC are expected to inform the SACG Chair and other SACG members as soon as possible and keep SACG updated.
4. Each Member Agency designates one official each as its representative to SACG and this representative serves in the capacity of SACG Focal Point. Members timely and proactively inform the SACG Chair and co-Chair about the changes that may occur in their SACG Focal Point or in their contact details.
5. In the absence of the designated Focal Point or Observer, the agency can identify another official to participate in the meetings and events. In such cases, the participating official will be responsible for briefing her/his agency Focal Point.
6. As may be necessary, by virtue of the meeting agenda or other circumstances, the Focal Point or Observers can request SACG to invite other officials to specific SACG meetings as Observers or for technical presentations and discussions.
7. SACG Focal Points can represent SACG in fora/meetings on endorsement (in writing) of the SACG Chair.
8. SACG logo can be used only on endorsement (in writing) of the SACG Chair.

VII. Chair and Co-Chair

1. The SACG is chaired with a two year rotation term by a Chair and co-Chair, nominated through a democratic and transparent process.
2. Chair and Co-chair are selected in the last SACG meeting of every second year.
3. The Chair presides over all SACG Meetings and may represent SACG in all relevant fora/meetings. In the absence of the Chair, the Co-Chair, with consent of the Chair, can take on this role.
4. The Chair is responsible for calling SACG Meetings, sending invitations, taking minutes and providing information and updates to all SACG Members.
5. The Chair and Co-chair are responsible to organize annual SACG planning and review meetings.
6. The Chair is responsible for sharing with new SACG members and observers the SACG ToR, the list of SACG agencies with their contacts and any eventual agreement and action plan which might be in force at the time of the new agency joining.
7. The Chair is responsible to network, collaborate and be focal point for the SAIEVAC Secretariat, SAARC, the Office of UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children and other regional and global mechanisms / entities.

8. The Chair is responsible to communicate regularly with NACGs, including civil society and update them on SACG activities.
9. The Chair and Co-Chair can mutually agree to divide the tasks between them, if they find desirable.

SACG history

The South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children was established in March 2004 as “South Asia Coordinating Group against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Women in South Asia” to work towards the Mid-term Review of the Yokohama Global Commitments on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. In its meeting held in June 2005, after the Regional Consultation on Violence against Children of Islamabad, Pakistan, the group was renamed as “South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Women and Children (SACG)” to reflect its broadened scope.

Between 2005 and 2012 SACG has been playing various roles: coordinator and networker; initiator and mobilizer; evidence builder on violence against children; advocate; organizer of events; representative at child protection global and regional events; institutional builder; financial supporter both as a fundraiser and “financial supporter” for child protection initiatives. However, the major role of SACG has been to support the strengthening of government cooperation in the South Asia Forum (SAF)/ South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), in partnership with children and civil society organizations (CSOs). SACG has contributed to the establishment of SAIEVAC and to many of its major achievements.

Given the important steps forward, in March 2012, SACG, embarked on a visioning retreat, to reflect on its historical evolution and on its collaborative relation with SAIEVAC. As a result, a vision for the group was developed and the group changed its name to “South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Children”, to better reflect its vision and main focus on children. These ToR were amended to reflect the decisions taken during that retreat.

Last amendment: 26 September 2012

Annexes

Annex 1: List of SACG Members and Observers

Annex 2: Proposed activities to implement the SACG strategies

Annex 1: List of SACG MEMBER AGENCIES

1 JULY 2014

www.linkedin.com/in/sacgvac/

SACG Member Agencies

SACG CHAIR

1. **International Labour Organization (ILO)**
Represented by Decent Work Technical Support Team (DWT) for South Asia (New Delhi, India)

SACG CO-CHAIR

2. **World Vision International Asia Pacific Regional Office**
Represented by South Asia and Regional Pacific Office (Bangkok, Thailand)

3. **Child Helpline International**

4. **ECPAT International**
Represented by ECPAT Office in Bangkok (Thailand)

5. **Plan International**
Represented by Plan Asia Regional Office (Bangkok, Thailand)

6. **Save the Children**
Represented by South Asia Representation (Kathmandu, Nepal)

7. **SOS Children's Villages International**
Represented by Continental Office for Asia (Faridabad, India)

8. **Terre des homes**
Represented by the Tdh Regional (Asia) Office (Colombo, Sri Lanka)

9. **UNICEF**
Represented by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROSA) (Kathmandu, Nepal)

10. **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**
Represented by the Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA), (New Delhi, India)

11. **United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA**
Represented by the Sub-Regional Office for South Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)

SACG Associate Agencies

1. **Centre for Reproductive Rights**, Represented by CRR Office, Kathmandu, Nepal

2. **Planète Enfants**, Represented by PE Office, Kathmandu, Nepal

3. **UNESCO**, Represented by Cluster Office (South Asia), New Delhi

SACG Partner Agencies

1. **South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) – SAARC Apex Body**
Represented by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat (Kathmandu, Nepal)

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Proposed activities to implement the SACG strategies

Strategy 1: Networking, coordination and capacity building

- To regularly exchange information among SACG members and other agencies/organizations working on violence against children in South Asia on good practices, programmes and strategies.
- To hold regular periodic meetings among SACG agencies to update each other on child protection interventions; to plan, coordinate and implement common activities and to reciprocally inform each other on the follow up status on decisions taken during previous meetings.
- To use the NICT to facilitate participation by members traveling or based in countries others than the one where the meetings are held.
- To communicate regularly with NACGs, update them on SACG activities and encourage and support them to collaborate with SAIEVAC.
- To collaborate with and support other global and regional fora and bodies working on ending violence against children, key among these being SAARC and the Office of the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children and to exchange information and experiences with similar regional bodies in other regions, key among them being the Working group on violence against children in South East Asia.
- To link up with the South Asia Representative to the NGO Advisory Council to follow-up on the UN Study on Violence against Children.

Strategy 2: Building knowledge base on violence against children in South Asia

- To work collectively and with academic and research institutes, to build evidence on violence against children, which will provide input to the SAIEVAC thematic meetings as well as for other regional initiatives.
- To disseminate findings/recommendations from regional reviews at regional meetings/consultations.
- To share and disseminate among members findings of studies conducted or supported by SACG agencies.
- To create a repository of available resources on violence against children and list the key documents on the SACG website.

Strategy 3: Evidence-based advocacy to end violence against children in South Asia

- To promote policies and programmes towards ending violence against children, guided by a rights-based and evidence-based approach, with governments, SAIEVAC, SAARC, INGOs, UN agencies and civil society.
- To support campaigns as well as develop joint pledges for effective implementation of the regional initiatives and commitments.
- To advocate for reforming laws and for their effective and consistent implementation, for increased government budget allocations to child protection and for initiatives on ending violence against children based on the indicators developed from global/regional commitments and declarations.

- To partner with media to support preventive actions against violence against children and promote positive awareness-raising through development education.
- To advocate and improve visibility of child protection issues in South Asia by setting up and regularly updating the SACG website, posting information from SACG and its member agencies.

Strategy 4: Support and collaborate with SAIEVAC

- To contribute to and support the implementation of the five year SAIEVAC work plan, through research, documentation, resource mobilization, fund raising, sharing of good practices, capacity building, technical assistance and any other activity as agreed between SAIEVAC and SACG Members.¹
- To support the SAIEVAC Secretariat in strengthening its capacities and furthering its mandate and activities.
- To provide support to the SAIEVAC Secretariat in organizing high level meetings and technical consultations and workshops on child protection and to participate in them as resource persons.
- To support building linkages between the SAIEVAC Secretariat and other regional, global and national mechanisms / entities working on violence against children, key among them being the NACGs, SAARC and the Office of the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children.

Strategy 5: Support and institutionalize child participation

- To link up with and support children's and young people's groups.
- To promote and support frameworks for child participation and practice standards.
- To support SAIEVAC to establish a regional children's forum on violence against children.
- To strengthen children's capacities for meaningful participation.
- To support child participation building on existing opportunities such as: existing groups in the countries; previous experiences; commitment and expertise of SACG organizations on child participation; SACG capacity to mobilize SACG country offices and available tools.

Strategy 6: Strengthening regional monitoring function on violence against children in South Asia

- To support SAIEVAC Secretariat and the SAARC countries in the implementation of their commitments on the various areas and issues covered by the SAIEVAC work plan.
- To support SAIEVAC to hold periodic meetings and learning reviews to present and discuss progress and main achievements on violence against children at country and regional level.
- To review the changes in trends in areas of violence against children based on indicators identified by SACG members on global and regional commitments and declarations.
- To support SAIEVAC in monitoring the implementation and progress of global and regional commitments on ending violence against children including the CRC and its Optional Protocols,

¹ SACG cooperates with the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), the National Action and Coordinating Groups against Violence against Children (NACGs), children and young people and other stake-holders to implement the five year SAIEVAC work plan (2011-2016). The overall objective of the work plan is to develop and strengthen national child protection systems and community-based mechanisms to effectively protect children against violence. With this work plan the SAIEVAC Member States have agreed to place emphasis on certain identified core child protection areas (Regional Cooperation, National Strategy, Legislative Measures, Prevention, Data Collection, Professional Training and Learning, Child Care Standards, Reporting, Referral Mechanisms, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration, Justice System, Education and Awareness Raising, Child and Civil Society Participation) and issue- based actions (early marriage, trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation, corporal punishment and child labour). Further, specific objectives and indicators to be achieved by a time period are indicated for each of the core areas in the work plan.

CEDAW, ILO Convention 182, ILO Convention 138, SAARC Conventions, the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children, of Regional and Technical Consultations on Violence against Children, Global Congresses and regional consultations on Sexual Exploitation of Children.

Last amendment: 17 September 2012