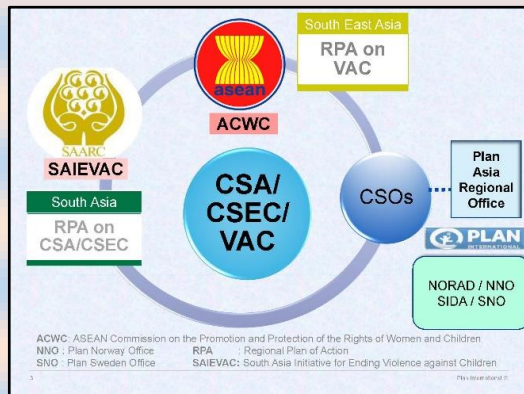


Increased Accountability of ASEAN and SAARC for The Realization of Children’s Right to Protection 2015-2019

About the Project:

Plan International Asia Regional Office (Plan ARO) has been supporting Civil Society Actors across Asia - Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia) and National Coalition for Children as Zones of Peace and Child Protection (CZOP) on behalf of all National Action and Coordinating Groups against Violence against Children (NACGs) – in their strategic advocacy efforts to **“Increase the Accountability of ASEAN and SAARC for the Realization of Children’s Right to Protection”**. Two regional bodies for collaboration are the key targets of these advocacy efforts: the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** and **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**. The expected outcome of the Project is to make changes in ASEAN and SAARC policies on Child Protection. More specifically, the advocacy efforts focus on **Violence against Children (VAC)** in South-East Asia and on **Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)** and **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)** in South Asia. Strengthening capacities of Civil Society Actors and their advocacy are envisaged as key supporting strategies to reach the Project goal. The Project is currently funded by **NORAD** and **SIDA**, for the period **2015-2019**.

This Project is being implemented in total of **18 countries**, 10 in South East Asia and 8 in South Asia. Over the five years, the CSO actors will actively engage with the country representatives of ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), and South Asia Initiative for Ending Violence against Children (SAIEVAC), to lobby and advocate ASEAN and SAARC respectively.

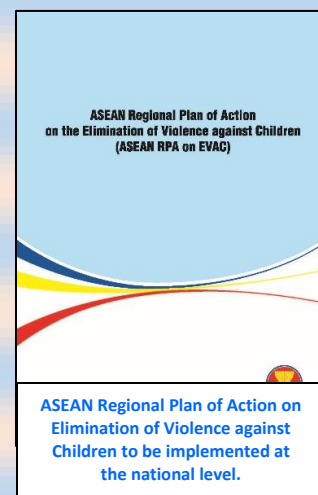


Specific objectives of the Project envisage to:

- increase the capacity of CRC Asia and NACGs to advocate for improved Child Protection policies and programmes of ASEAN and SAARC in line with UNCRC and its Optional Protocols (OPs);
- influence ACWC and related ASEAN sectorial bodies to strengthen policies and programmes that promote child rights, gender justice and protect children from violence;
- reinforce the alignment of the SAARC environment with the UNCRC and its OPs to CSA / CSEC.

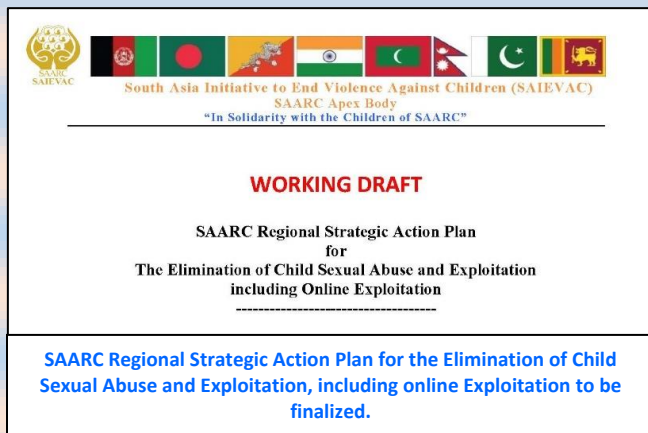
Key activities and achievements:

A number of activities have been conducted so far, including a range of consultative meetings, capacity building workshops, policy forums, dialogues with Governments, Children’s Assembly, publication development and distribution etc. **Plan ARO** is providing capacity strengthening for the Project implementing partners. Comprehensive trainings on Advocacy Strategizing, Disability Inclusion in Child Protection and Advancing Gender Equality have been successfully delivered between 2015 and 2017, with more than 100 participants from 35 organisations participating in. The key CSO actors have gained the opportunity to communicate and make a stronger connection and closer collaboration to advocate for a greater impact on Child Protection.



CRC Asia, together with its member organisations, actively advocated ACWC, ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and National Human Right Commissioners together with technical support from United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, for the implementation and nationalisation of **Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Children (RAP on EVAC) at the national level.**

Awareness raising plays a prominent role in this Project. Publications and materials produced in consultation with children and young people are available on the CRC Asia’s website, while a fully dedicated Project website provides detail insights into all the outcomes and updates at www.civilsocietyasia.org.



NACGs have equally made major steps in advocating SAARC through its Apex Body SAIEVAC on the development of the **SAARC Regional Strategic Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, including online Exploitation.** Two youth ambassadors were elected amongst the youth representatives during the Children’s Consultation, to ensure youth voices are integrated in the SAARC Regional Strategic Action Plan.

Way Forward: the Project retains its main focus on building the momentum for the implementation of ASEAN RAP on EVAC at the national level (in ASEAN) and the finalisation of the SAARC Regional Strategic Action Plan (in SAARC). A Children’s Assembly will be organised to identify and agree on a Charter of Demands against CSA/CSEC and will be presented to the SAARC Member States in the next SAARC Submit. CRC Asia will also invite children and youth to attend ASEAN Children’s Network gathering to continue its influence on EVAC with ASEAN countries.



ENGAGEMENTS WITH ASEAN: National Consultation of the ACWC with CSOs on the Implementation of the ASEAN RPAs on EVAW and EVAC

19 December 2016 | Yangon, Myanmar



CSO CONSULTATION: SAARC Regional Strategic Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, including online Exploitation

19-20 October 2016 | Bangkok



For more information, please visit Project website:

<http://www.civilsocietyasia.org/>