Chapter 3: Strategic Objectives

By 2015, Governments of South Asia will have reached the objectives and measured progress through the use of the indicators below. Progress on output indicators will be reported on an annual basis and submitted to the SAIEVAC Secretariat and Board.

3.1 Objective 1: REGIONAL COOPERATION
Member States will exchange experiences and good practices, provide each other mutual assistance, facilitate implementation of regional agreements and coordinate and cooperate to capitalize on the experiences of States to end violence throughout the South Asian Region. **Indicators:**

- # of technical meetings organized by SAIEVAC to support States
- # of meetings organized by SAIEVAC to share experiences and best practice throughout the region
- # of reports and publications produced on experiences and best practices
- # of technical papers and recommendations made to SAARC

3.2 Objective 2: NATIONAL STRATEGY
By 2015, All States have developed and started implementing a comprehensive national strategy, policy, or plan of action on violence against children which is integrated into the national planning process with realistic and time-bound targets, adequate resources and is coordinated and monitored by a nodal agency that has the human and financial capacity to involve multiple sectors. **Indicators:**

- By 2011, # of States that have developed and adopted a national plan of action to end violence against children that specifies the role of each ministry at every level of government and identifies and secures adequate resources for implementation, has time bound realistic targets
- By 2011, # of States with a nodal agency with primary responsibility for the protection of children against violence which has assumed a key coordinating and monitoring role including budgeting and allocation of resources
- # of states with adequate funding and human resources to implement the national strategy and plan of action
3.3 Objective 3: LEGISLATIVE MEASURES
By 2015, all States have developed and are enforcing national legislative measures to prevent, prohibit and eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings including in the families, in schools, in communities, workplaces, institutions and emergency situations and brought national laws, bylaws, policies, regulations, plans and programmes in line with the UNCRC and other International and Regional legal instruments and agreements.

Indicators:

• # of States conducting a consolidated review which identifies gaps and proposes recommendations on national policies, legislations and practices to address violence

• # of States who have adopted legislation to end all forms of violence against children in all settings including prohibiting all forms of sexual violence and abuse, corruption of children and solicitation of children for sexual purposes, prohibiting corporal punishment and all other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of children, both physical and psychological, prohibiting all harmful traditional and customary practices, such as early and forced marriage, honour killings and bondage, prohibiting exposure of children to violent and harmful content, irrespective of its origin and through any medium, prohibiting female feticide and child sacrifices and prohibiting all forms of exploitation of children through the use of new technologies.

• # of States who are enforcing legislation that bans violence against children

• # of States where perpetrators are held accountable in a court of law for their crimes and punished according to law and in the best interests of the child

• # of States where national laws obligate the respect of the right of the child to be heard and to attribute due weight to children’s views

• # of States where birth registration is mandatory and free of cost and can be done by mothers

• # of States that have free and compulsory education

3.4 Objective 4: PREVENTION
By 2015, all States have measures in place to prevent all forms of violence against children in all settings, which address underlying causes as well as more immediate risk and protective factors

Indicators

• # of States that have mechanisms in place to identify risk factors as well as children and families at risk

• # of States that have allocated adequate resources to address risk factors in order to prevent violence against children

• # of States that have legislation and policies in place that address gender and other inequalities such as those based upon national or social origin, language, religion, and ability/disability or # of States that are implementing legislation and policies that address gender and other inequalities
• # of States that have economic and social policies in place that address poverty or # of States that are implementing economic and social policies that address poverty

• # of States that promote social norms which do not condone violence against children and which promote non-violent values

3.5 Objective 5: DATA COLLECTION
By 2015, all States have developed and started implementing systematic national research and consolidated data collection, analysis, and dissemination systems disaggregated by sex, race, language, religion, caste, class, disability or other status, national or social origin, to inform evidence-based effective action, mobilize adequate resources and assess progress achieved.

Indicators

• # of States who have established national databases with data collection systems at local, district and national level which include children’s births and deaths, children entering or leaving institutions, on persons convicted of violent offenses against children and other child protection issues

• # of States who have carried out baseline interview studies with representative groups of children, parents and other caregivers to identify the experience of children of all forms of violence

• # of States who are collecting quantitative and qualitative data on the length and outcomes of judicial proceedings involving children are collected

• # of States who have agreed regional standards for data collection to ensure comparability of data

3.6 Objective 6: PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND LEARNING
By 2015, all States have built the capacity of all professionals who work with or for children (for example social workers, counselors, foster carers, police officers, lawyers, judges, teachers, health care professionals, school principles, youth works, people employed by detention facilities and child-care institutions, immigration and humanitarian workers, government officials/policy makers, etc.) to improve prevention, detection and response.

Indicators:

• # of States with regular in-service training on child protection is in place for all government employees working for and with children such as Ministry officials both national, high-level managers, police, health care professional, lawyers, teachers, care-givers working in state institutions, public information and media specialists, export and import officials, army and border security forces etc.

• # of States that provide short training on prevention and response to all forms of violence against children for politicians, members of parliament and other non-government policy and decision-makers and private sector including Chambers of commerce etc

• # of States with national curriculum regulations for relevant professions should include compulsory, ongoing training on prevention, identification, assessment and reporting of violence against children and the protection and continuity of care to children

• # of States with Bachelor’s of Social Work or Master’s of Social Work programmes
3.7 Objective 7: CHILD CARE STANDARDS
By 2015, All States have developed standards for all caregivers of children and for alternative care options such as community-based care and regulations for institutions, services and facilities for the care, education and protection of children which entails proper case management and regular and independent monitoring.

**Indicators:**

- # of States with regulations and standards in place for institutions, services and facilities for the care, education and protection of children including special education, pre-school and crèche facilities
- # of States annually monitoring all institutions, services and facilities including obtaining feedback from children getting services or living in the institutions
- # of social workers, psychosocial counselors, doctors, nurses, police, judicial officers, caregivers trained in case management
- # of juvenile detention centres operating in each State
- # of institutions, services and facilities who adopt Codes of Good Conduct incorporating the prohibition, prevention and rejection of all forms of violence against children and reporting obligations
- # of States that ensure the supervision of the safety, well-being and development of any child placed in alternative care and the regular review of the care arrangement provided

3.8 Objective 8: REPORTING
By 2015, all States have ensured that all professionals working with or for children (including those working for the State) who suspect acts of violence have been committed against a child are required by law to report the crime. Institutions or facilities in contact with children should be required to investigate allegations quickly and fully. Reporting systems should be safe, well publicized, confidential, accessible and child friendly, allowing children, their representatives and others to report violence against children.

**Indicators:**

- # of States with mandatory reporting systems in place
- # of States with a national toll-free child helpline
- # of States with victim and witness support programmes in place to ensure privacy and confidentiality is maintained
3.9 Objective 9: Referral Mechanisms
By 2015, all States have clearly defined procedures for the referral of child victims of violence and the modalities for inter-agency cooperation (that is between social services, education, health, police, prosecution authorities, voluntary and private agencies) following an assessment of the specific circumstances of each particular victim, given due weight to his/her views, and when it is in the best interest of the child also to her/his parents’ or guardians’ views.

Indicators:

• # of States with procedures in place for the referral of child victims

• # of States with procedures to assess child victims without delay

• # of States with advocacy and support services to encourage children to speak to relevant authorities about their experience of violence

• # of states with trained Best Interest Determents (BID) committees established

• # of individual cases reported and actions taken to respond to the child victim by individual countries

3.10 Objective 10: Recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration
By 2015, all States have taken all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and rehabilitation of child victims and witnesses of violence and their families if necessary, without delay and in an environment that fosters children’s health, self-respect and dignity.

Indicators:

• # of States with accessible, child-friendly and universal recovery and reintegration services including legal, health and social services, are provided to all child victims of violence

• # of States with services which follow a multidisciplinary and multi-agency approach

3.11 Objective 11: THE JUSTICE SYSTEM
By 2015, all States have judicial systems that pursue the best interests of the child and respect the rights of the child including the child’s right to protection from violence.

Indicators:

• # of States with child friendly judicial systems which protect the privacy of children when necessary

• # of States who expedite judicial proceedings involving children

• # of States with free legal aid provided to child victims, witnesses and perpetrators of violence
• # of States with a minimum age of criminal responsibility set at a minimum of 12 years

• # of States with alternatives to institutional care for child perpetrators

• # of states that have social workers and case workers to support with judicial enquiries and enforcement agencies.

3.12 Objective 12: EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING
By 2015, all States have made information on the rights of the child and child protection widely known to both adults and children through awareness raising, public information and media campaigns. Additionally, South Asian governments focus campaigns to address specific national issues (such as early marriage, corporal punishment), breakdown misconceptions and change societal behaviour.

Indicators:

• # of awareness raising campaigns in each country addressing causes and consequences of early marriage, corporal punishment, sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking and child labour

• # of awareness raising campaigns conducted to educate parents, caregivers and communities on positive discipline techniques, non-violent values and the consequences of corporal punishment

• # of awareness public education campaigns which teach caregivers how to give care

3.13 Objective 13: CHILD AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
By 2015, all States support the meaningful and active participation of civil society, children, and young people so that they can prevent and monitor violence against children, make recommendations to end violence against children and be involved in decision-making processes for actions to end violence against children.

Indicators:

• SAIEVAC establishes one regional forum for children’s participation

• # of States with a national forum for children’s participation

• # of States with national forum for civil society participation

• # of states that have established awards, recognition and prizes for pioneers, leaders and child rights activists including children