

***South Asia Regional Initiative/Equity Support Program
(SARI/Equity)***

***End of Project Report
August 2003 – September 2006***



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South Asia Regional Initiative/Equity Support Program (SARI/Equity)

End of Project Report August 2003 – September 2006

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
A. REGIONAL PROGRAM.....	4
1. <i>Regional Action Forum Mechanisms – Facts and Figures</i>	4
2. <i>Regional Grants Program – Process, Facts and Figures</i>	9
B. INDIA-SPECIFIC GRANT PROGRAMS	15
1. <i>INL Grants</i>	15
2. <i>Mumbai Victim Protection and Goa Anti Sex Tourism/Pedophilia Projects</i>	17
C. SERVICE PROVISION BY SARI/EQUITY AND SUB-GRANTEES	19
1. <i>Guide to Replicable Approaches</i>	19
2. <i>Fellowships</i>	20
3. <i>Website</i>	20
D. MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.....	21
1. <i>Staffing</i>	21
2. <i>Implementing Partners</i>	21
3. <i>Monitoring and Evaluation</i>	22
E. SARI/EQUITY - SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES OF A REGIONAL PROGRAM	23

SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL INITIATIVE/EQUITY SUPPORT PROGRAM

END OF PROJECT REPORT

PERIOD: AUGUST 2003 – SEPTEMBER 2006

Introduction

Building and strengthening local capacity in South Asian countries effectively to address trafficking and violence against women has been the guiding principle of the SARI/Equity Program from its inception to its conclusion. Initiatives and actions were based on the collective wisdom of, and the needs expressed by, civil society organizations, academics, judges, government representatives, IGOs and regional institutions whose advice and cooperation was sought throughout the Program and most particularly since March 2004 when over 50 experts met in New Delhi for a strategic brainstorming session. An Advisory Council—with expertise representative of the region—provided valuable inputs. Achievements in the Program’s focus areas—within the short period of its existence and covering up to six countries—are manifest and will be highlighted throughout this Report, adding to what already has been indicated in the Quarterly Reports of the past year.

In line with the overall parameters of the initial Program document, SARI/Equity’s support focused on: (i) reducing trafficking; (ii) improving the implementation of legal norms and policies; (iii) fostering safe migration; and (iv) raising the standards of care for survivors of trafficking and violence. It did so mainly through:

- Strengthening networks, networking, and cooperation within and across borders;
- Identifying and encouraging the replication of effective approaches/good practices; and
- Enhancing knowledge and skills.

Major tools were:

- Regional Action Forum (RAF) mechanisms;
- Small grants programs;
- Fellowship awards;
- Operational and action-oriented research;
- Technical support;
- Program website that served as a platform for sharing “products”, events, and partners’ successes.

Despite its short existence as a regional program, SARI/Equity’s achievements in a “nutshell” include:

- Tangible interest in the region and beyond to sustain or establish RAF mechanisms;
- Bonding across borders between grantees for future project collaboration;
- Enhanced project capacity of NGOs from “outside the normal circuit” of donor funding;
- Quality products – unique in the region and of timely relevance; and
- SARI/Equity’s website to continue “beyond the Program’s” existence.

The SARI/Equity Team is hopeful that its 597 partners—direct and indirect; RAF-focused; and INL/GTIP or regional grant-related—will continue to work for the benefit of vulnerable groups and individuals with their own resources and with outside support, if and whenever required. The SARI/Equity Team is gratified to note that its partners regarded it as a trusted facilitator of knowledge flow and a provider of advice. “You have given us a face,” added one of them.

A. Regional Program

SARI/Equity was conceived as a regional program with small grants and regional workshop/meeting components. This initial design developed into a sprawling network of regional platforms for initiatives and actions as well as grant-awarded projects that focused on “discovering” new methods and tools across borders; on replicating good practices or approaches of civil society organizations in another country; and on strengthening the nascent region-wide networks of like-minded organizations. India-specific projects—INL/GTIP funded and added to the SARI/Equity Program during its first year of existence through awards by USAID—provided for a range of anti-trafficking activities that either preceded “region-focused” grant activities and thus served as a “learning experience” or piloted a set of care activities likely to become a model for future replication elsewhere in the region. Their “added value” is uncontested. SARI/Equity interacted on an almost daily basis—by e-mail, telephone, and on site visits—with 84 RAF partners, 481 “regional” grantees and their associates, and 32 INL/GTIP funded India-specific grantees. This continuous “human” contact created a feeling of belonging to SARI/Equity, so often expressed by partners throughout the region.

1. Regional Action Forum Mechanisms – Facts and Figures

The Strategic Planning Workshop (New Delhi, March 2004), attended by over 50 eminent scholars and professionals in the fields of migration, law and justice, and care of survivors, marked the beginning of the RAF process in three SARI/Equity focus areas: (i) Improving the Implementation of Laws; (ii) Strengthening the Care of Survivors/Victims; and (iii) Fostering Safe Migration. NGOs, academic institutions, governments, UN organizations, and donors put together an extensive list of issues of concern to, and in, the region that needed to be addressed urgently. Established soon thereafter, and meeting at periodic intervals since May 2004, the Forums and their national “extensions” (National Core Groups) generated a web of activities—from operational research at the country level to the finalization of “products” at the regional level and implementation at both national and regional levels.

- RAF mechanisms and processes have been considered as a “one of its kind initiative” for bringing together prominent experts from the region to act coherently and cohesively on anti-trafficking and safe migration issues, with due attention to the need for improving the application and implementation of legal standards and norms.
- RAFs played a unique role in addressing trafficking and unsafe migration issues in a holistic manner—usually through parallel streams of concepts and activities.
- The seven Regional Products developed within the three RAFs have often been identified as “essential in fostering equity for women and children.” The two Regional Protocols on victims’ rights and protection and care and support for survivors are considered to be the “first of a kind.”

- Initiation of a timely constructive dialogue with the SAARC Secretariat at the highest levels by RAF Members, Grantees, and SARI/Equity.
- A “web” of consultations with government ministries and departments; and non-governmental organisations in all SARI/Equity countries sparked actions, commitments and promises in respect of the application/adoption of the Regional Products that will have to be followed up “beyond SARI/Equity” for maximum impact.
- A six-member Core Group from within the RAF membership prepared a “Concept Note on a Future RAF Mechanism and Structure” for wider discussion among the totality of the RAF membership and for funding purposes. SARI/Equity welcomes the prospect that the process will continue in one way or another and that a UN agency will serve as a conduit of funds for a small secretariat that will carry forward the directives, wishes, and agreed activities of the joint RAF membership.

Membership¹

As unique policy platforms comprised of experts from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (the two latter in respect of Safe Migration) the Regional Action Forum Membership consisted of:

- Governments (7): the Ministry of Labor and Transportation, Nepal; Bureau of Foreign Employment, Sri Lanka; Central Child Welfare Board, Nepal; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan.
- Judiciary/Law Enforcement (6): Former Attorney General of Bangladesh; Deputy Attorney General of Bangladesh; Former Chief Justice of India; Judges and Lawyers, Supreme Courts of Nepal and India.
- National Human Rights Commissions (2): Nepal, Sri Lanka.
- NGOs/IGOs (41): Heads of organizations that are recognized experts in the region.
- Academics (7): University of Colombo, Sri Lanka; University of Delhi, India; Rabindra Bharati University, India; Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India; University of Dhaka, Bangladesh; Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan; Tribhuvan University, Nepal.

As extensions of the RAFs at the country level, National Core Groups (NCGs) carried out operational research, and called for workshops and consultations to push the RAF agenda forward. In addition to the RAF membership, the NCGs comprised representatives from:

- Government (2): District Administration Office and Central Child Welfare Board, Nepal.
- Judiciary/Law Enforcement (3): Supreme Court Judge and Deputy Attorney General, Nepal.
- NGOs (16): Heads of Organizations.
- Academics (3): University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Working Sessions²

- **Nine Regional Action Forum Meetings** (three of each Forum throughout the period 2004-2006) to agree on priority issues for action, to review and finalize agreed “products,” and encourage their dissemination/application.
- A **Joint Regional Action Forum Meeting** of representatives from the Law, Care of Survivors, and Safe Migration Forums to take stock of work accomplished since the

¹ Contact addresses for RAF and NCG Members are available on the AED-SARI/Equity website (www.sariq.org)

² Reports/summary proceedings are available on the AED-SARI/Equity website.

inception of the RAFs and to discuss the possible benefits and shape of a continued Regional Action Forum mechanism and processes “beyond SARI/Equity.”

- **Four Regional Sub-Group Meetings** to finalize the Regional Victim Witness Protection Protocol, the Regional Minimum Standards Protocol, a Regional Safe Migration Toolkit, and a Regional Safe Migration Policy, respectively.
- **National Core Group Meetings** to undertake/initiate activities agreed in National Action Plans, organized by the SAP offices in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka and by SARI/Equity in India.
- **Workshops** on “Implementing Policy Change” and “Social Marketing Strategies” for the Regional Action Forum Membership (Law and Care of Survivors) facilitated by the President of MSI and a Senior Consultant/Journalist, respectively on innovative “market-oriented” ways of approaching stakeholders and “selling” social products.

Regional Products³ :

- **Victim Witness Protection Protocol** including a one-pager on the Protocol and seven Regional Versions translated into Bangla, Hindi, Marathi, Nepali, Sinhala, Tamil and Telugu.
- **Protocol on Minimum Standards of Care and Support** for the Victims of Trafficking and Other Forms of Violence including a one-pager on the Protocol and seven Regional Versions translated into Bangla, Hindi, Marathi, Nepali, Sinhala, Tamil and Telugu.
- **Handbook for Practitioners** on the Regional Minimum Standards Protocol and its Hindi translated version.
- **Resource Book on Livelihood Options** for Survivors of Trafficking and Other Forms of Violence.
- **Compilation of 50 Progressive Landmark Judgments** from South Asia.
- **Policy for Ensuring Safe Labor Migration** within and beyond South Asia.
- **Mass Awareness Toolkit** on Safe Migration.

Products are widely acknowledged as being of high quality, unique, timely and beneficial: (i) Victim Witness and Minimum Standards Protocols: “No other such comprehensive protocols” exist at the moment, neither in South Asia nor in South East Asia. (ii) The Regional Policy on Safe Migration has become a “benchmark” for drafting national policies addressing the nexus between unsafe migration and trafficking. (iii) Judges from the region have sent appreciative messages to SARI/Equity agreeing to apply the progressive judgments in their respective areas of work. (iv) International organizations including the UN consider the “Regional Products” valuable in their advocacy and capacity building programs [For example, UNDP Colombo (regional) shared the Resource Book on Livelihood Options with civil society partners in South East Asia, particularly in the Greater Mekong Sub-region]. Similarly, UNODC has made extensive use of the landmark judgments and the two protocols in training programs with law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in India.

Dissemination of Products

More than 9,000 hard copies and 2,000 CD-ROMs have been disseminated to multiple stakeholders by way of personalized letters; in consultations and meetings by grantees, RAF

³ The Regional Products in English and in the regional languages are available on the AED-SARI/Equity website.

members and partner organizations; and personal visits by SARI/Equity team members. The list of recipients includes:

- SAARC Secretariat and Country Directors
- Ministries: External Affairs, Constitutional Reforms, Law and Justice, Home Affairs, Women & Child Development & Social Welfare; Labor; and Overseas and Employment
- State Departments of Women and Child Development and Directorate of Social Welfare in the case of India
- District Administrative Officials and representatives of Local Self- Governance
- Human Rights Commissions and Women's Commissions
- Judiciary: Supreme Court; High Court; Appellate Court; and District Court Judges; Law Commissions; Chief Justices of Supreme Courts and the High Courts; Attorneys General
- Bar Councils and Associations
- Law Enforcement Agencies: Police; Lawyers and Public Prosecutors
- Libraries: Supreme Court; High Court and Lower Court Libraries; Law Colleges and Universities
- Law Students and Professors
- National/State Judicial Academies
- NGOs and INGOs
- UN Agencies: UNDP; UNIFEM and UNODC
- Global Commission on International Migration
- UN Representative on Migration
- Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants
- Media

National/ State Consultations

- Seven National Consultations (four in Nepal and three in Sri Lanka) for the dissemination and adoption/application of the Regional Protocols and the Regional Resource Book on Livelihood Options with representatives from Ministries of Women and Child Development; the Judiciary; Law Commissions; Human Rights Commissions; Police; Advocates; UN Agencies; Superintendents of government, and NGO-run Shelter Homes; and the media.
- One National and 14 State Level Consultations in India on the Regional Protocols and the Resource Book (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Orissa, West Bengal and the North-Eastern States including Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura). Key stakeholders at those consultations included Departments of Women and Child Development, Social Welfare, and Social Defense; State Human Rights Commissions; Child Welfare Committees; State Women's Commissions; NGOs; Law Enforcement Agencies; the Judiciary; and the Media. These consultations were organized on behalf of SARI/Equity by RAF members in partnership with local NGOs (some of them also being SARI/Equity grantees) or in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development, in the case of Maharashtra and West Bengal.
- Four National Consultations on the Regional Safe Migration Policy—one each in four SARI/Equity countries—with key officials from the Ministries of Foreign Employment and Foreign Affairs (Sri Lanka); Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (Bangladesh); Ministry of State for Labor and Transport (Nepal); Ministries of External

Affairs, Home Affairs, Labor, Overseas Indian Affairs, and Women and Child Development (India); NGOs; INGOs; IGOs; academia, trade unions; media, and NCG Members.

Impact, Trends and Promises

The RAF process has been instrumental in creating a “dynamic network” of professionals and experts from within the South Asian Region. The provisions of the two Protocols, the Policy Framework for Safe Migration, the guidelines for replication from the Resource Book on Livelihood Options, and the Progressive Landmark Judgments are being widely discussed, used, and integrated in the programs and services by multi-stakeholders including government ministries and departments, civil society organizations, government and private shelter homes, law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, and academia. The two Protocols are used as “monitoring tools” in government and NGO-run shelter homes in many states of India. A Safe Migration Policy is being drafted by Inter-Ministerial Committees in Nepal and Sri Lanka based on the Regional Safe Migration Policy Framework. Various advocacy initiatives have been undertaken at the national and regional level by RAF/NCG members—jointly or individually. Linkages between and among RAF members and SARI/Equity grantees have been facilitated and strengthened during that process. Details on “Trends of Impact” have been documented by SARI/Equity in order to provide a **guide for follow up “beyond SARI/Equity” (See Annex 1 to this Report).**

Additional Initiatives of Relevance

- The National Judicial Academy, Nepal, supported by SARI/Equity, organized two Trainings of Trainers (ToTs) to constitute a “pool” of senior judges, attorneys, and judicial officers who would undertake the training of peers on issues of gender and violence against women and children using thereby the two Regional Protocols. NJA also conducted a three-day training on gender justice for 20 newly appointed district judges which served at the same time as a “test” for the newly acquired skills of the participants at the two earlier ToTs.
- A Conference on the Migration/Trafficking Nexus, convened by SARI/Equity with UNIFEM and IOM in Dhaka to stimulate dialogue and commitments for action on these issues in the region, was to promote understanding of the magnitude, dimensions, causes, and consequences of trafficking and migration within South Asia, explore the ambiguities in the migration-trafficking nexus, identify the gaps in and components of strategies/practices/interventions in migration and counter-trafficking activities, create a model for integrating a gender sensitive human rights approach in all trafficking and migration programs, and develop an action plan for implementation.

Sustainability of the Regional Action Forum Process

A six-member Working Group was established from within the Joint RAF membership to develop a Concept Note for wider discussion and approval by the three Forums for funding purposes. (Dr. Nimalka Fernando, Sri Lanka—Convener of the Group; Mr. Shahidul Haque, Bangladesh; Mr. Ganesh Gurung, Nepal; Dr. Asha Bajpai, India; Dr. Sunitha Krishnan, India; Dr. Aliya Khan, Pakistan—Members of the Group)

At a meeting organized by SARI/Equity on 8 August 2006 at its office in New Delhi, the working group finalized the Concept Note developed with SARI/Equity’s technical and substantive support. It is understood that UNODC will, with the support of USAID, continue to

sponsor an RAF mechanism and process, under the guidance of the core group. (See Annex 2 for the Concept Note.)

Unfinished Tasks with Future Potential

In addition to pursuing the fullest possible implementation and application of the seven Products throughout the region based on the trends and promises made during the relatively short but intense dissemination period, some actions—initiated by the Forums—have remained unfinished due to lack of time and clear focus by the RAFs, in particular:

The Regional Training Guidelines on Violence against Women and Children for Law Enforcement Agencies and Judicial Officers. Though progress has been made and efforts of the three regional coordinators and the regional editor have been much appreciated, it may be indicated to review the purpose of such guidelines, the type of end-users they are meant for, and their potential regional applicability before finalizing for publication the three parts of the Guidelines (General, Police, Judiciary).

2. Regional Grants Program⁴ – Process, Facts and Figures

Although the outreach of the regional and India-specific grants programs was different, basic features—the focus on victim protection and prevention of victimization—were common to both. Experience in implementing both types of grants showed that synergies between the two programs were manifold: (i) learning from the difficulties encountered in obtaining results-oriented project proposals from INL grantees positively influenced the conception and support provided to regional grantees; (ii) India-specific grant projects led to the successful application by a number of INL grantees for regional SARI/Equity awards which facilitated their outreach and enriched their learning experiences “across borders”; (iii) INL/GTIP grantees benefited from the RAF products in their project activities; and (iv) some grantees even organized consultations on the dissemination and application of those products to a wider group of government, civil society, and policy makers. The Report deals with the Regional and India-specific grant projects separately but, in view of the above, linkages between the two have been highlighted whenever indicated.

Grant-making Process

Following the Strategic Agenda meeting in March 2004 that sparked many ideas of what kind of grants should be part of the program, three types were proposed to USAID: discovery, networking and advocacy, and replication of demonstrated models.

- Discovery Grants: To investigate models implemented successfully by other organizations within the region, senior NGO staff was to be provided with the opportunity to benefit from observing “hands-on” the work of the mentor organization.
- Replication/Scale up Grants: To assess the suitability and adaptability of a tested model of another organization for implementation.

⁴ Contact addresses for Regional Grantees are available on the AED-SARI/Equity website (www.sariq.org)

- Networking Grants: To strengthen existing and emerging networks within the region “across SARI/Equity focus areas.”

Templates for Fixed Obligation Grants (FOGs) and Standard Grants based on those developed for the INL grants were approved by the USAID Contracting Officer during the first quarter of 2004. The Program was officially launched on 30 June 2004. Nine orientation workshops in the four SARI/Equity countries were conducted with the purpose of familiarizing NGOs with the grants program and procedures and to answer queries of potential applicants. In India, orientation workshops were held in Mumbai, Kolkata, Lucknow, Bangalore and Delhi.

The application procedure for the “first batch of grants” was open to an unlimited number of local NGOs in a two-step process:

(i) NGOs were requested to submit a concept paper outlining basic ideas and indicating their organizational capacity. Although a “rolling process” was foreseen in principle, awarding the majority of the funds as quickly as possible was regarded as highly desirable by SARI/Equity in order to impact on the focus areas of its Program. Following an initial review by the SARI/Q team in Delhi and a further review by its Advisory Council, SARI/Equity—based on the combined scores of the reviewers—made the final determination of who should be eligible to be part of the second stage of the award process.

(ii) South Asia Partnership (SAP) with support from SARI/Equity was requested to provide technical assistance to NGOs within their respective countries, in areas such as developing activity plans, establishing an evaluation mechanism and a detailed budget. SAP Program Officers received a one-day orientation on developing “stage II applications” in order to be able to advise potential grantees in the preparation of the project document. This procedure proved less effective than envisaged and SARI/Equity took over, electronically or physically. Based on 128 applications 14 grants were awarded after careful scrutiny: three Discovery, eight Replication and three Networking grants.

It was obvious from the majority of applications that NGOs’ thinking was not automatically “regional” and special efforts by the SARI/Equity team, supported by the CTO and USAID Missions in the four countries, were required to help applicant NGOs include regional perspectives in their proposals.

Based on lessons learned from the first batch of grants, the second batch of grants, Network and Replication Grants, was selected from applications that were sought from a ‘closed universe’ in the first and the third quarter 2005, respectively. Four Network grants and 13 grants for “Good Practices”/“Replicable Approaches” were finally awarded following advice from the SARI/Equity Advisory Council, USAID, and SAP offices in the region.

Achievements

The great achievement of the regional grants program that altogether covered 37 projects—many of them with ramifications in more than one country and implemented with more than one partner - consisted in bringing people together, providing opportunities to learn from each other and work together. In illustration of the above the following may serve as examples:

“Bringing People Together”

Events

- In the final phase of the SARI/Equity Program a Project Partners’ meeting (Colombo, July 2006) gathered 30 organizations/grantees to share project experiences; showcase successes; analyze project impact; discuss the benefits of using RAF products; examine challenges in implementing their projects; and relate their experiences with replicating “good practices”/“approaches.” This interaction “face to face” was much welcomed and helped partners across borders but with the same focus of action to identify linkages and collaborative efforts “beyond SARI/Equity”
- To dispel misunderstandings between the media and civil society about their respective roles in “social issue reporting” over thirty participants from the media and SARI/Equity’s NGO partners in six countries met (Colombo, December 2005) to jointly address their mutual grievances and misconceptions; to undertake joint reporting and to arrive at a more systematic collaboration that resulted, in effect, in many instances in the publication of informed newspaper articles on SARI/Equity focus areas. Comments by a participant: *“This (workshop) was one of its kind where NGOs and Media together, critically yet positively, gave tips and feedback to each other.”*
- To provide a space for reflection on innovative “business” approaches to social issues, 22 members of 14 partner organizations in the region under the guidance of a “business” facilitator gained insights into new marketing methods for their “social/rights” products.

In view of the shortness of time and severe budget cuts at the beginning of 2006, follow up actions by the SARI/Equity Team—although a necessary component of any project/event—could not be undertaken in order to maximize and sustain the impact of the promising initiatives and initial results.

“Providing Opportunities to Learn From Each Other”

Exposure/Discovery Visits

Discovery, Replication, and other regional grants (with provision for exposure visits to organizations in other countries) “obliged” partners to visit and learn from others in the region and made available, particularly to “young” organizations, “experienced” mentor organizations—a search which SARI/Equity facilitated. Some illustrative comments on such learning experiences are given below:

- ACD, Bangladesh, after a visit to Sri Lanka: *“ACD is interested in incorporating the holistic community approach of SARVODAYA in its own community work.”*
- Youth Action Nepal, an organization of committed youths, after a visit to the Migrant Services Centre, Sri Lanka: *“The action plan of Youth Action Nepal is based on the learning experience of our study visit to Migrant Service Centre (MSC) and a number of other relevant organizations and their activities for safe migration in Sri Lanka.” “Organizing returnee female migrant workers as seen in MSC’s work will be an effective tool to fight for their rights and influencing other potential female migrant workers for safe migration”.*
- CeLLRd, a Nepali organization with a legal focus, after a visit to ODANADI, a victim protection and trafficking prevention-oriented organization in Mysore, India: *“If the organization is able to strengthen the self esteem of the survivors just like ODANADI is doing it, this will not only help in their reintegration but also provide a dignified platform for them in the community.”*
- VHAT, Tripura, India, after a visit to Women in Need (WIN), Sri Lanka to observe the functioning of short stay homes: *“Working with government hospitals for holistic service provision to victims of violence is a new idea for us. The collaborative effort of WIN with local police stations for counseling to settle disputes was really inspiring.”*
- Shakti Shalini, a legal and economic empowerment NGO in India, after observing a Gender Equality and Justice inter-action program by Pro Public for Judges and Public Prosecutors in Nepal: *“These kinds of interactions will go a long way in changing the mindsets of Judges and Public Prosecutors and making them more gender sensitive. With the larger goal of achieving gender justice in our societies, these kinds of information exchanges and discussion workshops with judiciary and legal fraternity are invaluable.”*
- ATSEC Bangladesh, after a visit to study the fledgling Mumbai Victim Registry: *“The Secured Victim Registry System has the potential to be applied as an integrated tool for tracking victims of trafficking, from rescue to service delivery and finally to their re-integration into society. The study team members owe it to... SARI/Equity for providing this exposure of first hand experience on technical issues like the Secured Victim Registry System”.*

“Facilitating the Establishment of Working Relationships”

- To provide just one example of many similar working relationships: SARI/Equity’s familiarity with the availability of specific “expertise” among the many partners in the region led to CAP, India, joining with ACILS, Sri Lanka, WARBE, Bangladesh and NIDS, Nepal in a regional project of re-training and re-deployment of garment workers—a relationship based on the partners’ specific but complementary expertise that was promising.

“Including NGOs Never Before Part of a Grants Process”

Receiving a grant from SARI/Equity helped to gain “recognition” in the wider NGO and donor community, build confidence and skills of young NGOs to seek further donor support “beyond SARI/Equity”:

- While in existence as a network before SARI/Equity, ATSEC West Bengal became operational with SARI/Equity support, using individual network members’ “value added” in the grant project’s joint action in respect of awareness and advocacy campaigns at the community and government level at the West Bengal/Bangladesh border. This efficient cooperation with tangible results led the network to receiving further funds under the UNDP/TAHA project.
- The South Asia Study Centre (SASC) with SARI/Equity’s grant (its first ever) established itself at six Indo-Nepal border points filling a void that had existed for a long time: *“The Nepali migrants traveling to India do not have adequate information regarding their working and living conditions in India.... when they reach India and have to face difficulties, their dreams are shattered; many even face psychological problems.”* Subsequently, commonality of interests prompted SASC and ACILS to cooperate “beyond SARI/Equity.”

“Replicating with Imagination”

Based on five “Good Practice” models (*“Mock Trials to Prepare Victims for Testimony in Court; Direct Community Access to the Legal System through Paralegal Services; Young People Act to Prevent Trafficking; Child to Child Anti-trafficking Initiatives; Turn Border Town Rickshaws into Anti-Trafficking Alert Vehicles”*) 13 awards to NGOs in the region sparked creative ways of transforming the models that were applied in other parts of South Asia, taking into account local needs and circumstances. For example, STOP, India; Nari Unnayan Shakti (NUS), Bangladesh; and Legal Aid and Consultancy Center (LACC), Nepal, replicated the Sri Lankan Mock Trials model in three different ways that proved effective in their results.

- **STOP:** Providing victims with a choice of roles within the larger parameters of the trial proceedings (e.g. as observer; judge, witness or perpetrator), leaving the role of the victim to be play-acted by someone else. Once comfortable with the process in playing other roles, the victim most often than not agreed to play her own role.
- **NUS’s:** Publicizing the benefits of mock trials for victim protection with concerned stakeholders such as the police, prosecutors, media and community leaders led to considerable interest and media coverage.
- **LACC:** Popularizing the concept in rural areas through radio and the print media led in a short period of time to 22 cases relating to violence against women being won in the courts as a result of testimonies provided by victims who had undergone mock trial sessions (with real judges, real lawyers and “close to reality” simulation of the court room setting). Many organizations in Nepal have requested LACC’s help. Popular demand for continuing mock trial sessions is rising and LACC is seeking funds “beyond SARI/Equity.”

“Expanding Networks”

Support to organizations such as NNAGT, VHAT, ATSEC India, SASC and Manav Seva Sansthan included components of “local” network membership expansion and/or of establishing new country chapters in “a regional context”. The latter refers in particular to the loose regional ATSEC alliance of three country chapters that was increased to five including Pakistan and Sri Lanka and to the establishment of a regional structure with a Charter and a rotating Regional Secretariat.

“Strengthening Networks’ Institutional Capacity”

- Network assessment workshops for the benefit of VHAT, NNAGT, Manav Seva, SASC, ATSEC Bangladesh. and Nepal to:
 - Articulate desired impact;
 - Identify dimensions of the network that needed capacity building to effectively achieve desired results; and
 - Develop a capacity building plan; a strategy for collaboration; and a timeline for implementing activities
- Individualized support at the initial stage of the grant proposal process strengthened the participatory process. One-day sessions included:
 - Basics of Design, Monitoring and Evaluation;
 - Preparation of project summaries based on a results framework; and
 - A detailed implementation plan including an activity schedule, milestones, projected targets and a monitoring & evaluation plan.

Trends of Impact

Although results are clearly visible within each project and sometimes compounded by results of similar projects located in the region, the impact of “awareness raising and advocacy efforts”, of “legal training and simulation of legal proceedings”, of “child-to-child and youth-to-youth communication”—to provide just a few examples of grant project activities—would require a longer time span, more sustained networking and continued support in order to produce a “snow ball effect” in the region. Notwithstanding, some examples of trends under the three categories are given below:

“Awareness raising and Advocacy”

Involving rickshaw drivers in transit and source areas of trafficking in information campaigns (distributing stickers, watching out for unusual movements and events) proved highly participatory and created a “sense of responsibility” among the rickshaw drivers/owners that helped identify potential trafficking cases in time on the Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Nepal borders (Bhorouka, West Bengal; Rights Jessore, Bangladesh; Bhoomika Vihar, Bihar). In a similar campaign at the Indo-Bangladesh border addressing the issue of “missing children,” involving communities in awareness raising programs, the population of South 24 Parganas has started to address the issue in a new perspective and complaints are lodged for missing children at the police station as probable cases of trafficking (Bhorouka, West Bengal).

“Legal Training and Simulation of Legal Proceedings”

While interactive programs on gender and justice in Nepal inspired judges to issue favorable judgments in respect of the citizenship of children from the Badi community (sex workers), women’s property rights and their right to go abroad; and mock trial sessions in the region induced the delivery of justice against the perpetrators of violence against women, these successful activities would have to be continued in a systematic manner and possibly expanded in order to have a more tangible impact on the whole region. However, this is a promising beginning!

“Child to Child Communication”

Various efforts in the region to encourage child-to-child communication took off very well and showed positive results. Comic books about the evils of trafficking such as ICWO’s book entitled “The Escape” which was based on a similar initiative of Him Rights, Nepal, were widely appreciated. Their impact on the prevention of trafficking and violence will still have to be measured over time. Children’s Development Banks, Children’s Newspapers, Children’s Parliamentary sessions, the establishment of Children’s Clubs—all project activities under SARI/Equity’s regional grants program—no doubt have contributed to raising awareness and knowledge levels about trafficking, unsafe migration, sexual abuse etc. in communities. Much still needs to be done to sustain them. **(For a complete list of Regional Grants and Key Results see Annex 3 to the Report.)**

B. India-Specific Grant Programs⁵

1. INL Grants

INL funds for India-based anti-trafficking grants, channeled from the State Department through USAID to AED, were administered and monitored by SARI/Equity. Although the transfer agreement only stipulated management of the grants “in accordance with the law” and the provision of information as and when requested by the Department of State, SARI/Equity’s review of grantees’ proposals made an assessment of their institutional capacity, and provision of technical assistance to address deficiencies in their proposals imperative. Grant activities proved directly relevant to the SARI/Equity agenda and some grantees participated both in the Regional Grants Program⁶ and the Regional Action Forum mechanisms to mutual benefit. Initial apprehension by the grantees about funding and process gave way to excellent cooperation (99% of grantees reacted positively to the process adopted by AED.)

SARI/Equity began to award grants under the INL scheme from April 2004 onwards. Three grants [Odanadi, Prerana, and Ramola Bhar Charitable Trust (STOP)] were delayed in their operations due to requests for vehicles for which waiver requests had to be submitted to USAID; two other grantees (Apne Aap and ATSEC West Bengal) experienced initial difficulties because of the required FCRA clearance. By July 2004, however, all the 12 grants had commenced.

⁵ Contact addresses for INL and GTIP Grantees are available on the AED-SARI/Equity website (www.sariq.org)

⁶ Five INL Grantees (Bhoomika Vihar; HELP; STOP; Shakti Shalini; and Center for Social Research) were also awarded regional grants.

Later on in the process, SARI/Equity's efforts to link India-specific grants with regional grants were received favorably. Those alliances benefited not only the respective organizations but also the communities with whom they worked, sometimes on both sides of the border and beyond.

SARI/Equity's experience in managing the INL Grants was rewarding since in many ways these grants set the stage for the design of regional anti-trafficking projects and the building of organizations' institutional capacities through timely technical assistance and infrastructural support.

Process

Start-up workshops for all grantees (in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata) were organized by SARI/Equity with the objective of providing guidance on program and financial management of USAID grants; other details of the grant agreements; on drafting activity schedules which included a Performance Monitoring Plan for the life of the project. Feedback was positive. Dr. Neelam Gorhe from Stree Adhar Kendra, Mrs. Sudha Tiwari, Shakti Shalini, Mr. Arun Kumar of Bhoomika Vihar, and Dr. Roma Debabrata of Ramola Bhar Charitable Trust (STOP) went on record to appreciate the assistance received from SARI/Equity.

Activities

Activities were vast in scope and diverse in nature—assistance to trafficking survivors in short-stay shelter homes; provision of sustainable livelihood training; linkages across borders (Nepal and Bangladesh) in repatriating women and girls; identifying potential trafficking victims; training police and vigilance committees; running advocacy campaigns destined for the public or tailored to the needs of the local police and administration.

Timely Actions with Results

In pooling the expertise of nine organizations forming part of the ATSEC West Bengal network, strong linkages across all levels of government ranging from state to village level could be established in a time and work effective manner, thereby reaching the most vulnerable districts of West Bengal.

Filling a gap in vigilance and supportive care at the Indo-Nepal border, Bhoomika Vihar (Bihar) established vigilance centers with the possibility of immediate counseling by trained staff of women/girls coming across the border to India. Excellent contacts of trust with the border police facilitated their tasks.

Pinpointing the plight of victims in dealing with the police based on gender studies in two Indian states (Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan) CSR prepared a Manual for Trainers of mid and lower level police personnel focusing on those issues. Presented to and appreciated by senior police officials in New Delhi, the Manual's practical use in trainings still needs to be identified "beyond SARI/Equity." **(For a complete list of INL Grants and Key Results see Annex 4 to this Report.)**

2. Mumbai Victim Protection and Goa Anti Sex Tourism/Pedophilia Projects

Mumbai

Reducing trafficking and sexual exploitation and minimizing the adverse impact of these practices on women and children was the prime objective with which SARI/Equity embarked on the Mumbai Victim Protection Project. The project was unique in many ways: in its holistic multidisciplinary service provision to survivors of trafficking and violence in shelter homes over a period of twenty months; its close interaction with government departments and shelter home staff; its integrated case management and establishment of an electronic victim registry.

Process

SARI/Equity's consultations with organizations most likely to participate in the project resulted in a strategy based on the strengths of each participating NGO with respect to service delivery in shelter homes. The ensuing city-wide effort of a consortium of five NGOs and civil society institutions resulted in tangible improvements in the services to women and child survivors. Since a comprehensive service delivery is linked in many ways to effective prosecution, trends of increases in arrests and prosecutions can already be observed. The program has also significantly changed the outlook of NGOs accustomed to working in isolation. Viewing this pilot as a catalyst for change, NGOs such as Oasis and Save the Children India have already committed to **replicating this model** in Bangalore and Goa. In a meeting at the end of the project in August 2006, partners vowed to continue the "integrated management processes" beyond SARI/Equity.

Activities

A Baseline Study of the **College of Social Work** on shelter home services in Mumbai set the stage for the consortium's interventions and prompted in particular the inclusion of health service delivery which was found badly wanting. Two Knowledge–Attitude–Practices (KAP) studies in the shelter homes; a training manual for shelter home staff with subsequent trainings; the placement of senior social work students in the shelter homes; a process document detailing the activities under the various components of the project were among the "added value" provided by the College.

The vocational training of rescued girls, residents in shelter homes, by **Child And Police (CAP)** whose expertise until then had focused on training youth from the poorest segments of the population encountered difficulties at times due to the special psychological frame of mind of trafficking victims; residential restrictions of movement; the need for keeping the origin of the girls confidential for the employer; and unforeseen repatriation of the girls to other states in India or across borders. Notwithstanding the above and being a learning experience both for the service provider and the shelter homes, 195 girls across seven shelter homes received employable skills. (SARI/Equity expresses the hope that the vocational training with a focus on employability of victims/survivors will be pursued "beyond SARI/Equity".)

A psychosocial counseling package and psychosocial package for victims of trafficking prepared by **Prerana** was applied in the shelter homes where 190 rescued minor girls and adult women were provided with psychosocial counseling services individually or in groups. Prerana conducted 11 life skills education sessions complementing those undertaken by Save The Children India and coordinated preparations for the operationalization of, and initial inputs into, an electronic Victim Registry with support from all partners. Prerana will continue data entry “beyond SARI/Equity.” It should be noted that the Department for Women and Child Development of Maharashtra indicated its interest in taking charge of that Registry—a matter which may need follow up. SARI/Equity believes that only ownership by the government in the long run can ensure completeness of data entry and the cooperation of the police in securing fingerprinting of the victims instead of divulging their identities in photographic inclusions

Oasis India Foundation carried out an assessment of healthcare services and living conditions in shelter homes, which helped in shaping the kind of needed health interventions. It provided a diagnostic “health check” protocol for newly arrived residents to six participating homes and a “three bed acute care center” for in-house management of illnesses in an independent facility.

Save the Children India managed two components of the integrated service provision (educational skills and upgrading the shelter home environment; and legal services). The organization’s activities included: preparation of a Training Manual on Literacy, Numeracy, and Life Skills for trafficked survivors (disseminated in August 2006); provision of educational (formal and non formal) opportunities to trafficked survivors in shelter homes; physical / infrastructural developments in two government homes—implemented with adjustments since a new government home under the SWADHAR scheme was in the planning stage of construction to which service provision and residents of the other government shelters would be moved in due course. As planned, STCI established a model shelter for trafficked survivors. Its legal services were extended to 74 girls residing in government and non-government homes based on referrals by the homes. A dual approach of group and individual counseling was used. STCI has lodged complaints against 43 traffickers and brothel keepers; prompted the arrest of eight accused; assisted victims in property recovery and helped the police in identification and arrest operations.

During SARI/Equity’s “closure” visit in August 2006, **shelter home staff** (eight shelters were part of the pilot) was highly appreciative of the integrated efforts deployed by the SARI/Equity consortium. This had helped in maximizing the benefit of the assistance to rescued girls and to avoid duplication almost entirely. Information flow between NGOs and shelter homes was regarded as being excellent. Although their request that the project continue for at least three more years to institutionalize processes and bring about long-lasting benefits could for obvious reasons not be heeded to, it is SARI/Equity’s sincere hope that successor organizations will favorably consider this request.

Goa

The Goa project was a relatively modest addition to a much larger project by UNIFEM, under the same donor funds. It had two distinct objectives: to support activities aimed at the better protection of children against violence, pedophilia, and trafficking; and to enhance effective implementation of provisions of the Goa Children’s Protection Act. The two SARI/Equity partners in these efforts were **Child Rights Goa (CRG)** and **Childline**.

Professor Harendra de Silva, ex-chairperson of the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) Sri Lanka, provided valuable inputs into CRG’s multidisciplinary approach to the protection of children. Additionally, in order to refine their knowledge concerning the NCPA “on the spot”, the Case Coordinator and Director of CRG visited the NCPA as well as the organizations PEACE and Don Bosco in Sri Lanka to learn more about child protection mechanisms. Government/NGO cooperation in bringing pedophiles to justice was also part of that “exposure” visit.

A case analysis of prosecutions of pedophiles and sex offenders undertaken by **CRG Goa** assisted CRG and other NGOs in identifying factors that facilitated effective prosecution and would help to sensitize the police and the judiciary. The establishment of Beach Nodal Centers, the distribution of deterrent messages, the placement of posters at the beaches and the airport during the tourist season resulted in the reporting of 40 cases of pedophilia. CRG will expand its services during the next tourist season to five more beach areas. CRG’s presence on the beaches led to children/beach vendors to be included in the organization’s non formal education classes held near the beaches.

To improve connectivity among NGOs and thus service provision in Goa for the benefit of abused children in need, **Childline India Foundation** developed a Resource Directory of Non Governmental Organizations working in Goa. Childline’s agent in North Goa, Don Bosco, also received two two-wheelers and mobile phones to speed up interventions with children in need.

Achieving tangible results in the short period of project duration had been a constant challenge for the organizations.

C. Service Provision by SARI/Equity and Sub-Grantees

1. Guide to Replicable Approaches

Closely linked to the Grants Program, both Regional and India-specific, was the development of a ***Guide to Replicable Approaches***. Based on materials collected in four South Asian countries by a team of researchers “in-country” and in Delhi, under the direction of AED’s partner Management Systems International (MSI), the Guide contains 18 “Approaches” successfully used by 38 organizations/entities—both government and non-government and including 17 SARI/Equity grantees. “Replicable Approaches” in the Guide have been categorized under the following headings:

- Prevention of Cross-Border Trafficking;
- Rapid Documentation of Trafficked and Other Missing Minors;
- Victim Witness Protection;
- Cross-Border Rescue and Repatriation;
- Support to Returnee Migrants.

Although the Guide has been widely disseminated it would require persistent follow up and a small grants program to encourage replication of the Approaches contained therein on a wider scale.

2. Fellowships

The Program provided civil society professionals from the region with an opportunity to work on an action-oriented research project for a period of 4-6 months, based in the SARI/Equity office in New Delhi, India. Four fellowships (see topics below) were awarded through a competitive application process in the SARI/Equity countries to fellows from Bangladesh, India; and Nepal. While the program benefited young professionals in obtaining a “regional exposure” and broadened their “regional perspective,” it also contributed to strengthening the working relationships between SARI/Equity and NGOs in the region.

- **Effectiveness of Community Theater in Addressing Issues of Violence against Women in Bangladesh and India** (Bangladesh) exploring the use of theatre media as an effective tool for raising awareness on the issues of violence against women.
- **Demand Side of Trafficking** (India) indicates behavior patterns of “users of sexual services” that are strongly influenced by the traditional/stereotyped thinking of males and females in society. The heightened demand for young girls appears also to be strongly induced by brothel owners, pimps and traffickers for whom young girls are bigger “money makers.”
- **Cross Border Networking for Repatriation** (India) surveys the functioning of cross border networks for repatriation and provides recommendations for: a) effective networking among NGOs and other stakeholders for the rehabilitation of victims and b) mechanisms for increased participation of grass-root level NGO partners in the networks for formulating and monitoring region-specific rehabilitation programs.
- **Multiple Vulnerabilities of Dalit Women** (Nepal) investigates the extent to which Dalit women, compared to women of other communities, experience violence and the linkage of such violence to the dual vulnerability of Dalit women to trafficking and unsafe migration.

3. Website

The SARI/Equity website developed from being a general information portal with announcements of grants and fellowship programs (including downloadable application forms and procedures) into an interactive gateway for information-sharing on activities and programs conducted by SARI/Equity and its many partners in the region. Examples of sections on the website:

- Success Stories by grantees and RAF partners highlighting impacts of grants and programs on the lives of victims/ survivors of violence and encouraging similar action.
- Nine Products of SARI/Equity and the Regional Action Forums on Law, Care of Survivors and Safe Migration in English and in downloadable format - in addition to the proceedings of the various RAF meetings and national consultations. Two Regional Protocols in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Sinhala, Nepalese, and Bangla in addition to English.
- The regional and national consultations on the dissemination and adoption/application of the Regional Minimum Standards Protocol; Victim Witness Protection Protocol; and the Resource Book on Livelihood Options – for information and follow up.
- Media coverage of events and corresponding link ups to texts.

The website will continue to be functional “beyond SARI/Equity,” being linked to AED’s website in Washington D.C.

D. Management and Administration

1. Staffing

At its full operational strength, the SARI/Equity team in Delhi consisted of 15 professionals, two office assistants and one driver. In addition to Indian nationals, the staff component included at the start of the project a Nepali national, and during its second year a Bangladeshi citizen. MSI, a sub-contractor to AED, held three positions (Senior Program, Program, and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer).

The regional perspective of the program was strengthened through the incorporation into the SARI/Equity team of Fellows from Nepal and Bangladesh for a limited period of time—up to six months—as well as in the second half of the project through full-time Program Officers under the supervision of the Executive Directors of SAP Offices in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka but with job descriptions and tasks outlined by SARI/Equity after the initial agreement with SAP International expired in May 2005.

High turn-over of staff, a common occurrence in the region, did not disrupt the ever increasing operational activities of SARI/Equity since (i) core positions remained relatively stable and (ii) newly arrived colleagues in substantive positions blended in very easily and with competence. The institutional memory was affected only to a minor extent.

The unexpected budget cuts in the beginning of 2006 which entailed personnel cuts, particularly on the part of MSI, did not unduly disrupt the ever increasing outputs and quality of the SARI/Equity Program owing to the dedication of the remaining core staff.

2. Implementing Partners

Management Systems International

In addition to providing inputs into the SARI/Equity Program at the start up of the project, MSI through a team of seven core researchers in Delhi with 19 temporary consultants in the four SARI/Equity focus countries undertook the task of compiling and sifting through information regarding good practices/replicable approaches in the areas of Victim Witness Protection, Prevention of Cross Border Trafficking, Rapid Documentation of Missing Women and Girls likely of having been trafficked, Rescue and Repatriation Across Borders and Support to Returnee Migrants. The team conducted electronic research, telephone interviews and visited potential sources of good practices; they provided a vast array of information before concluding their activities at the end of January 2006, due to the unexpected budget cuts by the donor agency. Additionally and as a consequence of the budget cuts, the three MSI staff positions were terminated by MSI at the end of March 2006, with consultancies being offered by AED to the affected individuals to preserve the continuity of the SARI/Equity program in many sectors. Well

appreciated training on Implementing Policy Change through innovative methods and reflection was provided by the president of MSI to the members of the Law Forum in July 2005.

South Asia Partnership

The initial agreement with SAP International was not renewed at the end of the first year of its existence since developments in the SARI/Equity Program made it highly desirable and important for the SARI/Equity team to work directly with the SAPs in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka while taking direct responsibility for the India component in the absence of a national SAP. The arrangements through which Executive Directors (25 per cent of their time) and one Program Officer (full time) functioned as the logistical and organizational support arms of SARI/Equity for events in each of the three countries worked out well. At the conclusion of the SARI/Equity Program the SAPs agreed that their relationship with SARI/Equity had improved their knowledge base in the areas of anti-trafficking and safe migration and had enlarged their circle of contacts in the country—both of which they were determined to use for the benefit of their current and future projects funded by other donors.

IREX

A relatively small fund had been set aside for IREX's activities. Thus, IREX consultants on Media and NGOs, respectively, facilitated a regional workshop in Colombo in December 2005 that in a unique manner brought together journalists and NGOs at the same table. Its results were promising and indicated the beginning of a strengthened and much better understood cooperation between media and civil society. Systematic follow up efforts in individual countries however were cut short due to the severe budget restrictions the SARI/Equity Program had to face in the beginning of 2006.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

Requested by USAID, SARI/Equity contributed to the establishment of indicators for components directly relevant to the SARI/Equity Program.

Additionally, SARI/Equity activities were regularly monitored by the CTO at USAID Delhi and her/his advice sought and provided—on grants and RAF membership in particular.

The following reports were submitted to USAID New Delhi through AED Headquarters:

- Quarterly Reports (11)
- Annual Reports (3)
- Workplans (4, including one revision)
- PMP Reports (2) including one target revision
- End-of-Project Report

Two Reviews of the SARI/Equity Program by the USAID Management Team including the USAID Missions in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka and at the second Review the USAID Regional Office in Bangkok were held in November 2004 and December 2005, respectively.

E. SARI/Equity - Successes and Challenges of a Regional Program

Successes

- Establishment of a loose but effective regional mechanism (RAFs/NCGs) with a membership founded on the expertise of individuals with a “support (power) base” backing them (heads of NGOs, academics-universities, heads of research institutes, government officials);
- Rapid identification of concerns and needs for priority action common to South Asia countries;
- Multiplier effect of actions, products and experiences in view of common programmatic areas, needs and interests;
- Products deriving from the regional process are “needed” and applicable with little modification and adjustment in all SARI/Equity countries;
- No need for “parallel” work on common problems particularly when (i) uniformity in outlook and application is beneficial to the protection and social, economic, political development of vulnerable groups throughout the region; and (ii) unity of action vis-à-vis countries outside South Asia is important;
- Grantees in individual countries benefit from a regional approach – being exposed to partners in other parts of the region and to their approaches and actions on similar issues that can serve as test cases/models;
- Networking becomes a necessary by-product of a regional perspective (“similarity of concerns”);
- Regional processes such as those created within SAARC (Anti-Trafficking Convention, Social Charter, SAFTA) can be influenced more effectively and positively if certain issues have already been examined at the regional level by an “outside” forum with the “weight of unanimity of purpose of action;” and
- The cost-benefit ratio in respect of a regional program is higher than in respect of a multiplication of individual country programs concerning the same issues/tasks.

Challenges

- A regional program requires time for listening to “voices” from within several countries; for conceiving the appropriate mechanism that is suitable and committed to action; and for obtaining maximum impact in each country. (A five-year program at the minimum was suggested by many partners.);

- A continuous exhortation, follow up, alertness to complicating circumstances and events in individual countries under a regional program;
- A mechanism with a “regional overview” suitable to serve as prompter, adviser, monitor and facilitator of information as well as institutional memory;
- In-country programs under a regional program should, ideally, be funded by country-specific USAID Missions who would be closely roped into the implementation/application of regionally conceived products, and support NGOs participating in the regional process and undertaking operational research in-country or testing models of successful approaches or good practices from other countries. This would also contribute to a sustainability of action and increased ownership “sentiment” of donor agencies for regional programs.

Annex 1

Regional Action Forum Products Impact and Promises

A Guide to Follow-Up Action

A. Consultations for the Dissemination and Adoption/Application of:

- i. Regional Minimum Standards Protocol**
- ii. Regional Victim Witness Protection Protocol**
- iii. Regional Resource Book on Livelihood Options**

Date and Place	Organizing Partners	Target Stakeholders	Outcome
INDIA			
19/11/05 New Delhi	SARI/Equity	Government Departments including the Law Commission; NGOs; Academia; and Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An “Advocacy Core Group” including RAF members and SARI/Equity Grantees to carry out advocacy initiatives throughout the country for the adoption/application of the two Regional Protocols. • Members (Pravin Patkar, Indrani Sinha and K.V. Stanly) of the Advocacy Core Group, convened consultations covering Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Orissa, and Kerela for dissemination and adoption/application of the two Protocols and the Regional Resource Book (as indicated below). • The two Regional Protocols were presented at the “Central Advisory Committee for Combating Child Prostitution” set up to monitor anti-trafficking initiatives in India and attended by all State Secretaries of the Department of Women and Child Development; State Directors of Social Welfare and the State Commissioners of Police. • Subsequently, copies of the two protocols were dispatched individually to the state secretaries of the Department of Women and Child Development and Directors of the Directorate of Social Welfare. As a result the Haryana Home Department directed the state police to “strictly” apply the RVWPP in the state.
17 to 18/04/06 Guwahati [Assam,	SANLAAP/ IMPULSE	Department of Women and Child Development and Child Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Post SARI/Equity” training of care providers on the two regional protocols (including the handbook for practitioners) in each of the seven states in the North East to be undertaken by SANLAAP.

Date and Place	Organizing Partners	Target Stakeholders	Outcome
Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur]		Committee; Law Enforcement Agencies; NGOs; and Media	
17 to 18/04/06 Hyderabad	PRERANA/HELP	Government departments; Law Enforcement Agencies; NGOs; and Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Post SARI/Equity” district level training workshops in respect of the two protocols to be undertaken by HELP with government officials and NGOs.
28 to 29/04/06 Chennai	ODANADI/Just Trust	Government departments; Law Enforcement Agencies; Judiciary; NGOs; and Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Trust to continue to use the two protocols in trainings of sub-inspectors of the state police and railway police in Tamil Nadu.
29 to 30/04/06 Ahmedabad	PRERANA/Sneh-Prayas	Government departments; Law Enforcement Agencies; NGOs; and Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Women and Child Development of Gujarat committed to establishing a Guidance & Monitoring Committees to supervise the quality of care and support services in the state shelter homes.
5 to 6/05/06 Raipur	PRERANA/Catholic Relief Services, Chattisgarh	Government departments; Law Enforcement Agencies; and NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A “District Level Anti-Trafficking Committee” to be established under the Chairmanship of the District Collector and including representatives from the Department of Women and Child Welfare; Police; Judiciary; and NGOs.
5 to 6/05/06 Mysore	ODANADI	Government departments; Law Enforcement Agencies; state run Shelter Homes; NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice A.V. Chandrashekhar - Member Secretary, Karnataka State Legal Aid - requested ODANADI to send the two protocols to relevant state departments to ensure their effective implementation in the state.
24/05/06 Bhopal	PRERANA/AARA MBH	Department of Women and Child Development; Senior Police Officials; NGOs; Academics; and Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A ‘Task Force’ entitled IMPACT (Interlink Madhya Pradesh Against Trafficking) has been established with AARAMBH as the Secretariat to act as a pressure and guidance group for the protection of victims and to review the functioning, quality and infrastructure of shelter homes in the state.
18 to 19/06/06	SANLAAP/	Department of Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard of shelter homes in the state to be reviewed and a report with

Date and Place	Organizing Partners	Target Stakeholders	Outcome
Patna	Bhoomika Vihar	Welfare; Juvenile Justice Board; state legislative assembly; State Human Rights Commission; NGOs/INGOs; and Media.	recommendations – based on the provisions of the Minimum Standards Protocol - to be presented to the Department of Social Welfare by Bhoomika Vihar.
22/06/06 Jaipur	PRERANA/Institute of Health Management Research / Catholic Relief Services	Department of Women and Child Development; State Human Rights Commission; NGOs and INGOs; lawyers and advocates; students; and the Media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Human Rights Commission committed to facilitate adoption of the two protocols in Rajasthan. • The Department of Women and Child Development committed to making efforts, at the government level, to incorporate the protocols into existing anti-trafficking programs and to get them implemented as widely as possible
26/06/06 Mumbai	PRERANA/ Department of Women and Child Development	DWCD; state run shelter homes; State Women’s Commission; and NGOs/INGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Task Force (including Sr. Cicily- St. Catherine’s Home, Andheri; Ms. Ujwala; Kadrekar - State Commission for Women; Ms. Seema Kinikar - NAD, Solapur; Ad. Milind Babar - Lok Vikas Samajik Sanstha, Nasik; Ms. Neeru Sharma - Resource Centre, Deonar Special Home; and Mr. Pravin Patkar - PRERANA) was established to carry out advocacy efforts throughout Maharashtra. • Subsequently a meeting with members of the State Child Welfare Committee was organized by PRERANA in partnership with the Maharashtra Commission for Women - with support from SARI/Equity.
11 to 12/07/06 Kolkata	SANLAAP/ Department of Women and Child Development, West Bengal	Department of Women and Child Development; Director of the Social Welfare Department; Superintendents of government-run Shelter Homes and NGOS; and Media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The superintendents and staff of the government shelter homes to be trained on the provisions of the two protocols. • A policy for the care and protection of victims/survivors, based on the two protocols, in coordination with the Department of Women and Child Development and the Director of the Social Welfare Department. (Follow up SANLAAP)
19 to 20/07/06 Bhubaneshwar	SANLAAP/ CYSD/ NAWO	Department of Women and Child Development; superintendents of government run shelter homes; State police; state legislative assembly;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Protocols-based training of shelter home staff – government and non-government – to be conducted by NAWO and CYSD. • Participating organizations to draw up livelihood programs in their shelter homes, with a focus on the programs and guidelines provided in the Regional Resource Book on Livelihood Options.

Date and Place	Organizing Partners	Target Stakeholders	Outcome
		NGOs; and Media.	
31/07 to 1/08 Jharkhand	SANLAAP / JATN	Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare; NGOs; police officials; and lawyers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three tier training on the two protocols to be organized by JATN in collaboration with SANLAAP for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police Lawyers and public prosecutors Shelter home staff
11/08/06 Mumbai	PRERANA/ Maharashtra Commission for Women	Members of the Child Welfare Committees from Mumbai and districts (Jalgaon., Kolhapur, Parbhani, Latur, Pune, Ahmednagar and Thane)	<p>(This was a follow up meeting to the Maharashtra Consultation on 26 June 2006.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the CWC to be trained in relevant provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act; sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act as well as corresponding directives and good practices to be better equipped for the application of the two Regional Protocols. The two Protocols to be translated into Marathi for wider dissemination and implementation.
NEPAL			
9/03/06 Kathmandu	NNAGT/SAP-Nepal	NGOs with shelter homes for survivors/victims of violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating NGOs to apply the Minimum Standards Protocol in their shelter homes and assess the impact in a given period of time. ABC-Nepal, SAATHI are already applying parts of the Minimum Standards Protocol in their shelter homes.
6/07/06 Kathmandu	NNAGT/SAP-Nepal	Joint Secretaries of Ministries and Leaders of main Political Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Meeting with the Task Force on Trafficking in Persons under the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare to be convened on 24 August to review in detail the two protocols with a view to drafting an Act on Victim Care and Protection in Nepal.
SRI LANKA			
12/12/05 Colombo	NCG/SAP-Sri Lanka	Ministries of Children's Development and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Social Services and Social Welfare in collaboration with the National Core Group of RAF agreed to field-test the Minimum Standards Protocol in Colombo

Date and Place	Organizing Partners	Target Stakeholders	Outcome
		Women's Empowerment; Urban Development and Water Supply; Social Services and Social Welfare; Children's Secretariat, Women's Bureau; Department of Probation and Child Care Services; Acting Director General – SAARC; Children and Women's Bureau, Sri Lanka Police; Prisons Department; Human Rights Commission; and Attorney General's Department	and districts of Sri Lanka by training “social service officers” recruited by the Ministry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Core Group in collaboration with the School of Social Services to conduct the trainings with a focus on the provisions of the Minimum Standards Protocol. • The Ministry of Children's Development and Women's Empowerment and the Ministry of Social Services & Social Welfare to conduct the trainings as a step towards endorsing the Regional Protocol. • The National Core Group with support from SAP Sri Lanka plans to seek funds for the training of the “social service officials”.
31/01/06 Colombo	NCG/SAP – Sri Lanka	Senior Child Rights Probation Officers (CRPOs) and Provincial Commissioners of the eight provinces; National Commissioner General and Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Probation and Child Care Services; Secretaries to the Ministries of Social Services and Social Welfare and Children's Development and Women's Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Child Care Officials under the Department of Probation and Child Care Service to be trained on the two protocols.
7/03/06 Colombo	NCG/SAP – Sri Lanka	NGOs and INGOs involved in institutional care and support of survivors/victims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs agreed to apply the Minimum Standards Protocol in their shelter homes. • The organizations to hold periodic meetings to review the “do-able” standards and plan future actions on the application of provisions that needed additional resources.

B. Consultations on Elements of a Regional Safe Migration Policy

Date	Organizing Partners	Target Stakeholders	Outcome
BANGLADESH			
7/05/06 Dhaka	IOM/SAP - Bangladesh	Government; NGOs, and other civil society organizations; State Minister, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Acting Foreign Secretary, and Director General, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgment of the need for a Regional Framework for a Safe Labour Migration Policy • Announcement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the expected signing off by the Prime Minister of the Foreign Employment Policy
INDIA			
3/08/06 New Delhi	SARI/Equity/NCG/ ILO	Ministries of Home Affairs; Overseas Indian Affairs; Women and Child Development; Social Justice and Empowerment; and Labour and Employment; National Commission for Women; Trade Unions; NGOs; and Media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue needs to continue under the suggested lead of ILO. • The Regional Policy to serve as guideline for developing a national framework for a safe migration policy.
NEPAL			
8/07/06 Kathmandu	NIDS/SAP-Nepal	Ministries, National Assembly and Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister of State for Labor and Transport indicated that a new act would be put in place to manage the foreign employment process and that the government had recently formed a committee under the leadership of the Director General of the Labor department to formulate that act.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister requested a meeting where the committee could be briefed in detail about the Regional Safe Migration Policy while drafting the new law.
SRI LANKA			
27/04/06 Colombo	NCG/SAP – Sri Lanka	Secretaries of the Ministries (Foreign Employment and Promotions and Foreign Affairs), NGOs, INGOs, an IGO, and the Media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inter-ministerial round table meeting –with key ministers – to address safe migration in a concerted manner. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current models of employment contracts to include more stringent provisions ensuring safe migration and return in line with provisions in the Regional Safe Migration Policy. Ministry of Labour and ILO, in their collaborative efforts towards the formulation of a National Policy, to refer to the Regional Safe Migration Policy.

C. Actions initiated by SARI/Equity Partners and the SARI/Equity Team with regard to various Regional Products

Specifics of the Action Initiated	Initiated by	Outcome
BANGLADESH		
The Regional Victim Witness Protection Protocol was shared with the Inter-Ministerial Committee (Ministries of Law; Home Affairs; and Women and Child Development)	Two RAF members – the Deputy Attorney General and the former Attorney General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RAF members have been asked to prepare a draft Act for the Inter-Ministerial Committee for their consideration in the process of enacting a Law on Victim/ Witness Protection in Bangladesh
Application of the Regional Resource Book by RAF members’ organizations in Bangladesh.	BRAC and WARBE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BRAC with its partners to adopt some of the learnings/guidelines in the Regional Resource Book in respect of future livelihoods projects WARBE has been using the Resource Book as a guideline for setting up livelihood programs for survivors.
Application of the Regional Minimum Standards Protocol in the shelter homes run by RAF members’ organizations.	BNWLA / DAM / ACD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisions of the protocol tested in the shelter homes and “do-able” provisions reviewed.

<p>The Compilation of Landmark Judgments “personally” shared with the Chief Justice of Bangladesh.</p>	<p>Chief of Party, SARI/Equity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chief Justice to share the compilation with the Appellate and High Court judges for information sharing and use in court cases.
<p>INDIA</p>		
<p>SARI/Equity grantees actively disseminated the two protocols among their partners.</p>	<p>ODANADI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions of the Victim Witness Protection Protocol and the Minimum Standards placed on record by Just Trust (SARI/Equity grantee’s partner in Chennai) in a petition to the Metropolitan Magistrate requesting separation of the “accused” from the “victim” in one of the trafficking case. • Subsequently, the Chennai Metropolitan Magistrate decided to carry out a needs assessment of the vigilance homes for the care of victims/survivors of trafficking/violence based on the Regional Minimum Standards Protocol.
<p>NEPAL</p>		
<p>Series of Workshops on “Gender Equality and Justice”- based on the two protocols and the landmark judgments - organized by a SARI/Equity grantee for trial and district court judges; district attorneys; and public prosecutors:</p>	<p>Pro Public under a SARI/Equity grant in coordination with the Supreme Court, Attorney General’s Office, Judicial Council Secretariat and National Judicial Academy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant positive changes in the attitude of judges and in the judgments delivered: • Pro Public lawyers used the protocols and the Landmark Judgments for pleading cases in the courts.
<p>Landmark Judgments shared among Supreme Court and High Court Judges of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan during a workshop on “Judicial Education on Equality Issues in South Asia” organised by a SARI/Equity grantee with support from an external source.</p>	<p>Pro Public supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIDA, New Delhi, requested copies of the Compilation of Landmark Judgments upon instruction from CIDA Headquarters for use by the Canadian Judges in cases relating to violence against women.
<p>The Regional Victim /Witness Protocol regularly used in mock trial sessions for victims of violence under a SARI/Equity</p>	<p>LACC – SARI/Equity grantee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 cases relating to violence against women were successfully concluded in court after victims had undergone mock trial sessions.

grant activity		
Regional Product-(Landmark Judgments and the two protocols) based Trainings of Trainers for senior judges, attorneys, and judicial officers by the National Judicial Academy of Nepal	National Judicial Academy with support from SARI/Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A “resource pool” of trainers on gender justice has Been formed. • As a follow up of the TOTs, the trained participants ”to “test” their newly acquired skills” conducted trainings on gender justice for newly appointed 20 district judges (17-20 August 2006).
SRI LANKA		
Dissemination and Application of the Landmark Judgments by SARI/Equity grantees.	WIN - SARI/Equity grantee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organization’s lawyers are using the Landmark Judgments as precedents/references while defending victims of violence in the courts. • Students at the University of Colombo are using the compilation in their comparative law studies.
Advocacy for the adoption of the Regional Victim/Witness Protection Protocol	National Core Group Members of the RAF on Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts towards the adoption of the Protocol as law of the land; steps initiated under the lead of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs - moving through the Ministry of Justice, the Chief Justice, the Bar Association and the Colombo Law Society. (The Ministry of Finance’s approval is still awaited.)

Annex 2

Concept Note

South Asia

Joint Regional Action Forum on Trafficking in Persons and Safe Migration

A. Background

Based on the needs voiced by experts from South Asia, the South Asian Regional Initiative for the Protection of Women and Children (SARI/Equity) - a program funded by USAID and implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED) – in 2004 initiated activities in three core areas: Policy and Legislative Change and Improvement in the Implementation of Laws; Strengthening the Care and Support for Victims/Survivors of Trafficking and Violence; and Fostering Safe Migration. The SARI/Equity Program eventually facilitated the creation of three Regional Action Forums (RAFTs) which became unique platforms for dialogue, collaboration, and the development of specific “Products”/ Outcomes of priority concern in the region. This Process has grown exponentially into a web of actions undertaken by the Forum membership – individual experts often backed by their respective organizations – both at the regional/national and policy/grass roots levels. The RAFTs are currently comprised of experts from:

- Government (7)
- Judiciary/Law Enforcement (6)
- International Organization (1)
- National Human Rights Commissions (2)
- NGOs – Heads of organization (41)
- Academics (7)

and are part of, and complemented in certain activities by, a larger group of individuals and organizations with specific expertise at the national level - the National Core Groups. RAFTs and their activities have reached out into Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka with Pakistan and Afghanistan having been associated with activities in the area of safe migration.

B. Review of the RAFT Process

I. Accomplishments

The RAFT Processes and Mechanisms are major components of the SARI/Equity Program. They have led to an active discourse on various multi-dimensional issues within the:

1. RAFT for Improving the Implementation of Laws
2. RAFT for Strengthening the Care of Survivors/Victims
3. RAFT for Fostering Safe Migration

and beyond.

Activities

- Nine RAFT meetings throughout the period 2004-2006 to agree on priority issues for action, to review and finalize agreed “products”/outcomes and encourage their dissemination/application. A Joint RAFT Meeting comprising representatives from the three RAFTs to share the achievements of each Forum and to work out plans for future sustainability. A ‘Working Group’ for developing a concept note on future RAFT structures and mechanism was formed at this Meeting. (*See annex 1 for composition and ToRs*).
- Four Regional Sub-Group Meetings to finalize the Victim Witness Protection Protocol, the Protocol on Minimum Standards for the Care and Support of Victims of Trafficking; a Regional Safe Migration Toolkit and a Regional Safe Migration Policy, respectively.

- Regular National Core Group Meetings of the Forums in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India to implement action plans agreed at the regional level..
- Two interactive workshops on “Implementing Policy Change” and “Social Marketing Strategies” for the RAF membership.
- Regular contacts between RAF members/SARI/Equity and the SAARC Secretariat including its Secretary General and Director for Social Affairs which provided an opportunity to share various “products”/outcomes including the Victim Witness Protection Protocol, the Minimum Standards of Care and Support for Victims of Trafficking, and the Regional Policy on Safe Migration.
- A Conference on the Migration/Trafficking Nexus organized in Dhaka by SARI/Equity together with UNIFEM and IOM to enhance understanding of the concepts and issues related to migration and trafficking at the regional level.

Products

- Regional Victim Witness Protection Protocol (also translated in Bangla, Hindi, Nepalese, Tamil, Telugu, Sinhalese)
- Compilation of Progressive Landmark Judgments (50) from South Asia
- Regional Protocol on “Minimum Standards of Care and Support for the Victims of Trafficking and Other Forms of Violence” (also translated in Bangla, Hindi, Nepalese, Tamil, Telugu, Sinhalese) and a Handbook for Practitioners to facilitate easy implementation and application of the Protocol.
- Regional Resource Book on Livelihood Options for Survivors of Trafficking and Other Forms of Violence
- Regional Policy for Ensuring Safe Labor Migration Within and Beyond South Asia
- Regional Mass Awareness Toolkit on Safe Migration
- Regional Training Guidelines for Law Enforcement Agencies on Violence

Sharing and Dissemination

Systematic campaign with RAF support

- A consistent and systematic dissemination drive with accompanying appeals to test, pilot and apply/integrate these outcome documents has been initiated in the region. The “Products” including the two Regional Protocols; Resource Book on Livelihood Options; Regional Safe Migration Policy; and the compilation of Landmark Judgments were disseminated through consultations; meetings; and individual mail to partners; relevant government ministries, departments and officials; NGOs; IGOs; law enforcement agencies; judiciary; and media. Copies of the CD-ROM including all SARI/Equity publications have also been disseminated simultaneously to ensure the widest possible outreach. Without being exhaustive the following paragraphs describe dissemination efforts and results:
 - Five National Consultations (one each in India and Nepal and three in Sri Lanka) with NGOs, GOs, INGOs, Law Enforcement Agencies and the Judiciary to share the Victim Witness Protection and Minimum Standards for the Care and Support of Victims. Ten State Level Consultations in India with local NGOs, CBOs and Government State Departments to share the two Protocols. Inter-ministerial committees/task forces in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka are reviewing the possibility of having the Protocols passed into law – following national consultations on the subject.
 - Four National Consultations with Government Representatives, Civil Society, Academia and Media to share the Regional Safe Migration Policy and feasibility of establishing a ‘Regional Network of Government Representatives’ (one each in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka). These consultations generated interest among key stakeholders including government officials. Consequently, drafting National Safe Migration Policies in Sri Lanka and Nepal guided by members of the NCG based on the Regional Policy Framework is underway.

- Civil society organizations in Bangladesh (such as BNWLA, DAM, ACD) are applying provisions of the Minimum Standards Protocol in their respective shelter homes. ABC Nepal and SAATHI have started applying the Minimum Standards in their shelter homes. Field testing of sections of the Protocols occurs in NGO partners' shelter homes. The Ministry of Social Services and Social Welfare in Sri Lanka in collaboration with the National Core Group has agreed to field-test the Minimum Standards Protocol in selected districts by training "social service officers" of the Ministry.
- The Home Department of Haryana, India, has issued a directive for "strict" application of the Regional Victim Witness Protection Protocol by the State Police and to report periodically to the Home Department on application
- The National Judicial Academy, Nepal, supported by SARI/Equity, has constituted a pool of 40 trainers for law enforcement personnel on the issues of gender and violence against women and children using in its curriculum the two Regional Protocols.
- The Regional HIV and Development Program (UNDP, Colombo) has agreed to share the Resource Book on Livelihood Options with counterparts in South East Asia, particularly in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. Reference is made to the Minimum Standards Protocol in an ILO/TICSA draft entitled "Child-friendly standards and guidelines for the recovery and reintegration of the survivors of children trafficking".

Linkages between RAFs and Grass Roots Organizations

Inter-actions between RAFs and local grass roots organizations including SARI/Equity grantees have been innovative. The duality of being RAF members and recipients of a SARI/Equity grant has in many instances made this inter-action more productive. Considerable interest has also been voiced recently by many SARI/Equity grantees in becoming part of any future RAF mechanism.)

Examples of such nascent interactive process:

- Pro Public, Nepal, uses the Victim Witness Protection Protocol in interaction programs for judges and public prosecutors. Additionally, SARI/Equity publications were disseminated in a CIDA supported "Regional Workshop on Gender Justice" organized by Pro Public for Supreme Court and High Court judges from Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. CIDA since then requested the landmark Judgments for their trainings.
- CSR (Center for Social Research, India) uses the "Regional Victim Witness Protection Protocol" and the "Minimum Standards for the Care of Survivors" in national awareness raising consultations on the implementation of the SAARC Anti-Trafficking Convention as well as in the formulation of a lobbying document/regional action plan on the same subject for presentation to the SAARC Secretariat and National Governments (through Nodal points and networks).
- The Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees (WARBE) was inspired in its documentary-drama Shuvojatra, which targets potential migrants and provides easily digestible information on "safe migration", by the RAF on Fostering Safe Migration of which its Director is a member.
- The South Asia Study Centre (SASC) will be using the Regional Mass Awareness Toolkit of Safe Migration instead of developing its own in its interaction with the "safe migration network" the organization has been tasked to strengthen across the India/Nepal border. It also has linked up with another SARI/Equity grantee – ACILS.

SARI/Equity Website: A Portal for RAF Activities and Products

- Downloadable copies of all RAF Products in English and in regional languages (see "SARI/Equity Documents" section)
- Latest information on RAF members, products and workshop proceedings (see "Programs" Section)
- Announcements/highlights of events by partners and SARI/Equity

II. Success, Strength, Limitation and Potential

The RAFs – an innovative, dynamic and action-oriented component of the SARI/Equity Program - had been conceptualized by AED with the advice of experts from the region (March 2004). The need for a “regional space” to discuss and act upon the sensitive issues of human trafficking and safe migration, thereby covering a wide spectrum of actions from prevention to protection to advocacy and policy formulation including improved legal action for the benefit of victims/witnesses, had been strongly felt for sometime. The Forums, in their periodic meetings, activated the strength of members/partners both at the national and regional level and turned into strong platforms for advocacy and policy change within and across borders as well as across and beyond the region. Although in the past, some initiatives had been undertaken by organizations or individuals to form regional networks, they had been limited in scope and geographical coverage and did not arrive at the level of productive and sustained forums. SARI/Equity filled the gap by establishing the three RAFs. Since cross-border issues cannot be effectively addressed by individual countries, either at government or civil society level, the emergence of RAFs dealing with trafficking and migration and legal implementation issues was a realistic response. Among the activities of the SARI/Equity Program, the RAFs together with an extensive Regional Grants Program were the strongest and most successful “pillars” in terms of outreach, outcome, long-term impact and sustainability. The three RAFs eventually evolved into a regional consultative process (RCP)¹ followed by action at the national and regional level.

In their relatively short period of existence, the RAF processes/mechanisms have become a phenomenon of success in the anti-trafficking world of South Asia – with their limitations as well as their great potential. The table below is illustrative in this regard

Characteristics/ Indicators	Strengths and Limitations	Potential
Informality	The process offers an informal environment of ‘expertise’. Its outcomes/“products” are non-binding.	Continued process with a neutral and informal space for dialogue and the development of new non-binding instruments. The process could be broadened and deepened.
Purpose/Focus	“Product” centric in its first phase (two years).	Could evolve and develop into a dynamic forum for reaching common understandings, share information, address problems.
Openness	Open in discussions – expert quality of participants.	Evolve into a an ever more open forum involving government and civil society mechanisms
Efficiency	Fairly efficient	More efficient management of the process by forum members (citizens’ forum)
Ownership	Supported and facilitated by SARI/Equity. Its technical support occurred within the ambit of its focus areas and the guidance of the forums in the development of “products”. Ownership for “products” was often limited to membership in a forum.	Ownership based on a broad membership with corresponding strong technical support systems – a possible development in the future.
Synergies	Synergies among the three RAFs	Increased planning of synergies -

¹ Regional Consultative Process (RCPs) are informal groups made up of representatives of government, NGOs, civil society and international organizations. These groups come together informally and non-binding dialogue and information exchange on population movement issues of common interest and concerns. RCPs have emerged outside of traditional institutional structures, and represent some of the most important bottom-up migration management measures. (Michele Klein Solomon, “International Migration Management through Inter-State Consultative Mechanisms”, a paper presented at the UN Expert’s Group meeting on International Migration and Development, New York, July 2005)

	were limited due to time constraints of the SARI/Equity project	converging in purpose, scope and focus.
Capacity building efforts	Limited number of activities to enhance the capacity of forum members (two workshops on Implementing Policy Change conducted for two RAFs in 2005).	Focused knowledge exchange, resources if needed, to be made available to build members' capacity
Membership	Mainly civil society and a few representatives from academia and government, as proposed by USAID	"Free" membership based on certain criteria. Broader and more effective participation including of government representatives.
Secretariat	One common secretariat (SARI/Equity) with different staff for each forum	One secretariat for each of the forums

C. Sustaining the Positive Momentum – The Action Plan

The SARI/Equity Program which has supported the RAF processes, products and events from their inception will end in September 2006. As demonstrated above, the process of (i) identifying issues, acting on policy and product elaboration and (ii) undertaking focused consultation, dissemination, application and integration of policies, products at the national level from government to grass roots through National Core Groups and SARI/Equity Grantees has yielded some positive results - sparking action and commitments to action that will have to be closely supported and followed up in the future. Additionally, newly emerging issues for the region may best be discussed and acted upon within the Regional Action Forum process; current grantees, other NGOs with a regional/cross-border focus may wish to be drawn into the process to foster synergies and actions at the national level and in some instances at the regional (SAARC) level; and government representatives may be keen to join owing to the increasing number of endeavors requiring civil society/government ownership of RAF generated products and actions.

It is proposed that for the 12 months starting October 2006 a Plan of Action to continue the RAF Processes/Mechanisms be endorsed – (i) ensuring continued integration of RAF “Products”/Outcomes into laws, rules and regulations; practices of NGOs and shelter homes; work methods of the police, judges, prosecutors and lawyers as well as the curriculums of law enforcement agencies and universities and other relevant institutions; livelihood programs of the private and government sectors; and (ii) securing a broad based participation in the process focusing on the national/grass roots level adherence but also widening participation to government representatives; (iii) supporting essential activities in the region through a small grants program and pilot projects; and (iv) designing a three-year program with a widened focus and activities and an assured donor consortium that would be operational in September/October 2007

I. Proposed Mechanism/Structure and Membership

1. Participating Countries

Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (during year 1), eventually to be enlarged to include Afghanistan

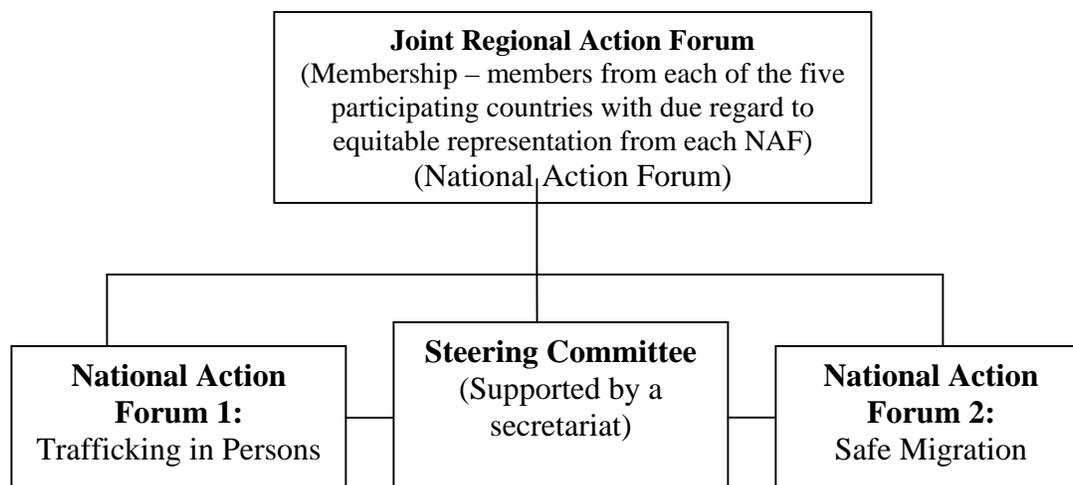
2. Objectives

The key objectives of the One Year Period from October 2006 to September 2007 will be:

- Working towards building a minimum common understanding on trafficking in persons, safe migration, multiple vulnerabilities and human security in South Asia.
- Take the necessary actions to complete the “follow up” tasks with respect to integration/incorporation of RAF “Products” in national legislation and practices – based on the outcomes of National Consultations and other events.
- Put in place the mechanisms and structures of the five National Action Forums/ currently: National Core Groups (NAFS/NCGS); the Joint Regional Action Forum (JRAF); and the Steering Committee (SC).

- Promoting cooperation among the civil society members and building synergies with other regional networks.
- Advocacy with policy planners, policy makers, law makers including governments
- Contributing to the capacity enhancement of all stakeholders
- Agree on structures, action plans and budgets for the three-year period starting October 2007 to September 2010 and undertake fundraising activities for the purpose.
- Put in place the three-year program on 1 October 2007

3. Structure and Membership



National Action Forums

National Forums may increase their membership if required (representatives of government departments; non-government organizations working in the areas of safe migration and trafficking, violence against women, vulnerabilities, human security and legal strategies) taking into account the existing expertise of SARI/Equity project partners (grantees) who are not part of the RAF process. It is proposed that two **National Action Forums (NAFs), i.e. Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Safe Migration (SM)**, will continue to function in each of the five countries. It is also proposed to merge the existing Law Forum - both its membership and tasks - into NAF-TIP and NAF-SM respectively. This would allow to mainstream aspects such as legal reforms, legal advocacy, legal capacity building and legal aid pertaining to both trafficking in persons and safe migration and to address them in a coherent manner.

Joint Regional Action Forum

The activities and programs of the NAFs will be coordinated at the regional level by the **Joint Regional Action Forum (JRAF)**. The JRAF could be composed of representatives from the NAFs. It is suggested that two-three representatives from each of the NAFs be nominated to the JRAF.

Steering Committee

A **Steering Committee (SC)** consisting of 10 members will be formed from among the JRAF members through a representative process. It is proposed that the existing working group members may be included in the SC together with other members from the JRAF. The SC could be supported by a small two member SECRETARIAT. The SC will support the JRAF and take the responsibility of linking up with the National Forums on a regular basis. It will also undertake fundraising activities for the JRAF and NAF process/mechanism. The SC will regularly interact with the Secretariat which shall report to it.

Secretariat

It was proposed that the Secretariat may be located in Colombo facilitated by Asia Committee of International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR-Asia). The secretariat would comprise a Program Coordinator and an Admin/Finance Officer. Some basic infrastructure/equipment may be requested from SARI/Equity.

4. Scope

NAF 1: Trafficking in Persons (TIP)

- Policy Advocacy
- Law reforms, legal Advocacy, capacity building and legal aid
- Multiple vulnerabilities – gender violence, disaster, conflict etc.
- Prevention
- Care and Support
- Protection
- Victim Witness Protection
- Prosecution
- Rescue, Restoration/Reintegration, Repatriation, Rehabilitation
- Health and HIV/AIDS
- Bi-lateral and multilateral arrangements

NAF 2: Safe Migration

- Policy Advocacy
- Law reforms, legal Advocacy, capacity building and legal aid
- Promoting safe mobility
- Livelihood
- Multiple vulnerabilities – gender violence, disaster, conflict etc.
- Rights of migrants
- Health and HIV/AIDS
- Care and Support
- Safe return and reintegration
- Bi-lateral and multilateral arrangements

II. Proposed Activities

The main focus of the JRAF and NAFs is on building greater conceptual clarity on issues of violence against women, trafficking, HIV, safe migration, other human security and vulnerability issues and their interfaces to promote a minimum common understanding on various issues in South Asia.

1. Continued Product Application/Integration in the Region

(through the JRAF in cooperation with the NAFs):

- Follow up on commitments made at national consultations or otherwise by stakeholders
- Joint advocacy for “products” as required – particularly by mobilizing policy makers and implementing agencies/organizations.
- Coordinated use of “Regional Products”- for example:
 - Regional Resource Book on Livelihood Options in conjunction with: two Regional Protocols as “Victim Protection/Rehabilitation tools”
 - Regional Mass Awareness Toolkit in the promotion and creation of livelihood programs in major source areas
- Coordinated advocacy efforts for all regional products (underlining their inter-linkages).
- Support in capacity building of law making, law enforcement and implementing agencies.

- Support in capacity building to government and non government organizations and media at all levels – regional, national, grassroots – for the effective application of “products”. –
- Regional “product-specific” sub-group meetings and national action if necessary to expedite the integration of RAF “products” into the legal and social systems of the South Asian countries.
- Translation of “products” for ease of application (Mass Awareness Toolkit, Safe Migration Policy, Training Guidelines for the Judiciary and the Police; Replicable Approaches)
- Updating of Landmark Judgments
- Follow up actions requiring disbursement of funds for test projects – livelihoods, shelter homes, Regional ATSEC and national Chapter activities, follow up/strengthening of national mechanisms in implementation of the SAARC Anti-Trafficking Convention; Media/NGO workshops in follow up to the (regional) Colombo meeting
- Continuing Media Training and strengthening media networks

2. Broader Regional Agenda

- Advocate with SAARC (Secretariat, Individual Member States and SAARC Mechanisms, e.g. Technical Committees; Secretary level Meetings; Summit) for the use of the two existing RAF Protocols (Victim Witness Protection Protocol and Minimum Standards Protocol) and the Regional Safe Migration Policy in fleshing out the Anti-Trafficking Convention and the Social Charter. Identify possibilities for future status within SAARC
- Draw synergy with other regional networks such as ATSEC, SAPAT.
- Developing a policy document on human security and multiple vulnerabilities to facilitate a common minimum understanding

3. Linkages with SARI/Equity Grant Projects

- Current SARI/Equity grantees with established expertise in the focus areas should be part of the JRAF and NAF process.
- Grantees to be involved in the JRAF through a Sharing Process - a sharing document (one pager) would be prepared and circulated to Grantees followed by a discourse electronically and inviting involvement of Grantees into the JRAF Process through informed consent.
- Capacity Building of the Grantees interested in joining the Forums on issues and ‘Products’ developed.
- Increased application of “products” by Grantees and RAF Members as “role models” for others within their organizational structures and mandates

III. Proposed Timetable (October 2006 – September 2007)

1. National Level Activities

(i) **NAFs:** The existing National Core Groups would be transformed/expanded into NAFs. This process would start immediately and be further refined in the second longer-term period. Each forum should agree on the number of members depending on expertise and activities. They would report to the JRAF and be in continued contact with the Secretariat.

(ii) **Follow up Activities – in pursuance of current efforts (see above)** (Reports by the NAFs and the Secretariat to the JRAF)

(iii) **Identification of New/Adjusted Focus Areas** (Relevant suggestions emanating from the NAFs for discussion by the SC and decision by the JRAF for incorporation in the Three-Year Plan for 2007 -2010).

(iv) **Meetings:** NAFs would meet regularly or whenever so required but at least every two months to plan and execute the action plans agreed upon. Inter-NAF Meetings should be organized for information sharing and joint action at least three times a year.

2. Regional level Activities

(i.) **Joint Regional Action Forum:** The representation from the NAFs in the JRAF could be agreed upon by the membership of the NAFs.

- **Activities/Meetings:** The JRAF would meet once a year as a regional policy platform for sharing experiences; discussing priorities in the region and agreeing on action. During the first year of existence it would have to approve the Three-Year Plan and Budget (the latter for fundraising by JRAF)
- **Name of the Forum:** to be agreed upon in December 2006/January 2007

(ii) **Steering Committee:** The membership could be based upon proposals by the National Action Forums/Core Groups taking their suggestions from the composition of the (Joint) Regional Action Forum and the current membership of the Steering Committee. An equitable distribution of expertise, geographical and focus areas should be kept in mind.

- **Initiating and discussing the Three-Year Project Proposal** (to be presented to the Joint Regional Action Forum for approval)
- **Meetings** (twice a year – November/December 2006 & February/March 2007)

IV. Funding Requirements

- a) National Action Forums/their eventual sub-group meetings
- b) Steering Committee: One Meetings (November/December 06 and February/March 07)
- c) Joint Regional Action Forum: One Meeting (March 2007)
- d) Provisional Secretariat (Program Coordinator and Admin/finance officer)
- e) Secretariat Expenses (including premises, movables, salaries, consultancy, travel)
- f) Execution and implementation of the proposed activities

Prepared on August 8, 2006 Working Group Meeting

Annex 3

REGIONAL GRANTS

SRI LANKA

- **International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination And Racism - Asia Committee (IMADR Asia)**

Grant Results: 600 individuals from various migrants' services organizations (NGO workers, trade union members, local authorities, private agents, provincial council members) were sensitized in respect of migration policies, labor laws, UN conventions and psycho-social aspects/consequences of migration. Ten Citizens' Commissions in several districts were organized as platforms for migrant workers to voice complaints (exploitation; lack of compensation/remuneration). Based on information received from the Citizens' Commissions, remedial action was proposed to the Sri Lankan Bureau of Foreign Employment and three cases on compensation filed in court on behalf of migrants.

- **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**

Grant Results: In order to ensure the legal protection of children in state homes throughout Sri Lanka, HRC (with 10 regional offices) trained State Officers in rights-based approaches and how in practice to ensure the best interests of the child.

- **Solidarity Center (ACILS)**

Grant Results: Lobbying with government officials in South Asia for an improved policy environment and law enforcement to more effectively combat "trafficking in the process of migration" in Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal. In a series of meetings in each of the five countries issues such as Bilateral Agreements and Support Services, Advocacy with Government and the media were discussed. In two regional meetings were convened - one for media personnel on their role in networking across the region and the other one with government officials on regional networking concerning bilateral agreements and victim support services. An e-list serve ("Trafficking News") was established by media personnel for improved coordination and communication. 134 individuals from 87 organizations in five countries received training on systems for documenting human rights abuses and trafficking cases.

- **Women in Need (WIN)**

Grant Results: The legal aid organization provided quality services to over 25,000 victims of violence through Crisis/One Stop Crisis Centers (some situated in government hospitals) in five different locations throughout the country; additionally it imparted civil society "grass roots" training in five provinces to improve the knowledge of legal provisions related to violence against women, particularly domestic violence. WIN lawyers filed a landmark case in court to obtain the first ever Protection Order in the country under the new Prevention of Domestic Violence Act.

An exposure visit by two WIN members familiarized them with modalities employed in legal counseling centers in the region (e.g. Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA)).

- **Don Bosco Technical Centre**

Grant Results: Young boys and girls from poor fishing families, vulnerable to trafficking into the sex trade or drug peddling on and around Negombo beach because of ignorance and the lure of easy money, were

provided with shelter, basic educational and vocational skills and when necessary with psycho-social counseling. 60 boys completed training in carpentry/three wheeler maintenance and are now gainfully employed. 22 girls are gainfully employed after receiving training in computers/electronics/baking. Following the tsunami disaster the SARI/Equity project was “stretched” to include needy children and families made homeless by the disaster in an effort to prevent trafficking and pedophilia.

INDIA

- **Voluntary Health Association of Tripura (VHAT)**

Grant Results: As an active social agent in the area – spearheading ATSEC Tripura (whose membership increased during the duration of the project from 9 to 29) and operating CHILDLINE in Agartala – VHAT was well suited and effective in carrying out sensitization programs for law enforcement personnel and civil society on the need for legal and social support systems for young girls and boys vulnerable/at risk of violence and trafficking – a serious threat to the state with a long common border with Bangladesh. Its short stay home for children established with SARI/Equity’s help is the only one of its kind at the border. An exposure visit of two staff members to a Short Stay Home of WIN in Colombo provided them with cross border experience.

- **ATSEC India (Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children)**

Grant Results: ATSEC built the capacity of its original member chapters (19), established an additional eight in the south and northeast of India during the grant period to bring the total membership to 27; improved co-ordination and information sharing mechanisms and devised rules of procedures for the better functioning of the chapters. Under the SARI/Equity grant, the country chapter network expanded to five chapters including Sri Lanka and Pakistan

- **Centre for Social Research**

Grant Results: As a leading women’s institution in the region, CSR initiated timely dialogues with key stakeholders in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka to formulate Action Plans for the domestic implementation of the SAARC Anti-Trafficking Convention and its operationalization at the regional level. Owing to the short duration of the grant activity, follow up action vis-à-vis SAARC states and the Secretariat proved difficult but would be highly indicated in order to continue the civil society movement in the region.

- **Manav Seva Sansthan “SEVA”**

Grant Results: Strengthened communication among grassroots NGOs in nine districts (5 in India and 4 in Nepal) on human trafficking between India and Nepal; increased anti-trafficking activities at the source, transit and destination - having effectively used for that purpose local government and community systems. (360 members of village committees were sensitized and received orientation on anti-trafficking issues in the cross border areas of India and Nepal.

A telephone helpline set up under SARI/Equity that can be accessed both in Nepal and India by women in distress is increasingly resorted to.

- **South Asia Study Centre (SASC)**

Grant Results: Youth activists and researchers from India and Nepal are focusing on the welfare of migrant labor and interact closely with labor migrants and domestic workers – being one of the few organizations for migrant Nepalese in India. SARI/Equity helped strengthen the network through needs assessment and

support to six safe migration border check points at the Indo-Nepal border. SASC has teamed up with ACILS through SARI/Equity facilitation and uses the Mass Awareness Toolkit on Safe Migration.

- **Child and Police (CAP)**

Grant Results: Through the provision of learning and income-generating opportunities for children and youth at risk in Tamil Nadu (migrant population), Siliguri (border area in West Bengal) and in Andhra Pradesh – in and around Hyderabad – CAP enabled 1,345 individuals at risk to have access to sustainable livelihoods. In collaboration with Prajwala, Hyderabad, 40 rescued trafficking victims of an older age group - and thus difficult to place - were trained and their subsequent employment ensured.

- **Butterflies**

Grant Results: Setting up of a South Asian Child Journalist Forum in India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; issuance of The South Asia Children's Times in all regional languages; strengthening eight Children's Development Banks and establishing two to encourage the habit of saving and economic empowerment of disadvantaged young girls and boys. Through SARI/Equity's initiative and support Butterflies tied up with Equal Access to train street children in radio programming and broadcasting; and to equip them with facilities to undertake broadcast programs on issues concerning their own lives.

- **Jan Jagran Sansthan**

Grant Results: The border districts of the Champaran region in Bihar are highly trafficking prone. Since public transport is the only means of conveyance the need for stakeholders (i.e. truck, bus, auto, jeep, taxis and rickshaw owners) to be sensitized to the dangers of trafficking was acute. Painting relevant messages on rickshaws, jeeps and other modes of transport plying along the border proved to be highly popular and rather successful.

- **STOP**

Grant Results: STOP innovatively and successfully applied the "Mock Trial" model to provide assistance to 16 trafficking survivors. An accused in one of the cases has already been sentenced based on evidence given in court by two survivors. (See also the body of the Report.)

- **Bhoomika Vihar**

Grant Results: 40 rickshaws at the Indo-Nepal border were painted with anti-trafficking messages and rickshaw pullers oriented on the importance and role of those messages in an anti-trafficking campaign. Confidential information provided by "trained" rickshaw pullers helped counselors to identify several trafficking cases in time.

- **Bhoruka Public Welfare Trust**

Grant Results: In view of the high incidence of trafficking of girls and women in "24 Parganas", a source district in West Bengal with little awareness of the dangers of trafficking and a border area with Bangladesh, communities – at all levels – were sensitized to effectively address this problem by painting anti-trafficking messages on different modes of local transport. 11,000 of those messages were printed as stickers, posters and sun shades for rickshaws.

- **Shakti Shalini**

Grant Results: Empowerment of women in developing and making use of their paralegal capacity to undertake legal literacy initiatives in slum and migrant communities – encouraging women and community members to come forward with trafficking and violence cases and to alert the police and social support systems. The model applied by the organization in expanding on a method followed in Nepal by CeLRRd is highly popular and many organizations have requested Shakti Shalini to also include their staff in paralegal trainings. 150 law students and 350 men and women from slum communities have thus far received such training.

- **Indian Community Welfare Organization (ICWO)**

Grant Results: Child-to-child anti-trafficking campaigns proved effective and gained popularity among sex workers whose children were included in the organization's activities. A comic book with the purpose of educating children about the dangers of trafficking was well received by the target groups. It was the product of a cross country adaptation of a comic book of Him Rights in Nepal. ICWO printed and distributed 4,000 copies to participants in the Children's Parliament and to NGOs working on anti-trafficking issues.

- **HELP**

Grant Results: Focusing on long-term social change within the context of organized prostitution in the red-light areas of Coastal Andhra Pradesh, the organization undertook awareness raising campaigns to improve legal knowledge on the measures that can be taken against trafficking networks and focused on community mobilization. 469 individuals belonging to 90 communities received training as paralegal counselors.

- **Mahita**

Grant Results: Mahita's staff of social scientists who focus on the urban slum areas in and around Hyderabad, with SARI/Equity support, established children's clubs – with a membership of 2,262 - and child protection committees in 60 slums also providing livelihood training to young women and using methods of theater play and interaction by youth to sensitize other youth or community members including their own families to the problems of child marriages, trafficking of young girls and child sexual abuse. Mahita also published a comic book highlighting issues of violence against women and girls.

NEPAL

- **National Network against Girl Trafficking (NNAGT)**

Grant Results: The project aimed at strengthening the informal networking between NNAGT and groups in India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to facilitate cross border rehabilitation and repatriation of victims/survivors of trafficking. While this part of the project was not entirely successful – owing to internal organizational problems – exposure visits to Bangladesh were highly appreciated by network members. The project's further objective to increase network membership (from 64 to 89 organizations in 32 districts); strengthen the internal structure of the domestic network and create network nodal points in the various regions of Nepal for purposes of better information sharing and collaboration was quite successful notwithstanding the internal political difficulties at the time of the project.

- **Forum for Protection of Public Interest (Pro Public)**

Grant Results: The organization scaled up its activities in gender sensitization of judges and public prosecutors. 75 judges and 75 public prosecutors were covered by the project. Three gender-

positive/sensitive judgments were delivered by judges participating in the program. While the organization was determined to – and did - locate “informed” observers to be present at court hearings of cases of violence and trafficking where trainee judges and prosecutors were involved, the closure of the project did not make it possible to ascertain the full impact of the gender training on the justice system.

- **Center for Legal Research and Resource Development (CeLRRd)**

Grant Results: To "strengthen communities in the prevention of trafficking through empowerment and mobilization", many communities in the far western region of Nepal which is particularly prone to trafficking and unsafe migration movements were provided with knowledge and institutional mechanisms to prevent young girls from being gender-stereotyped and sexually exploited (commercially). Village development committees, school teachers and community leaders formed part of that mechanism - being trained and sensitized in respect of surveillance activities in their respective professional areas.

- **Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre (LACC)**

Grant Results: As an organization providing legal aid to victims of violence in Nepal, LACC adopted the “Mock Trial” model to be able to better assist their clientele. As of now, 22 cases have been won in court after victims underwent mock trial proceedings. (See also the body of the Report.)

BANGLADESH

- **Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees (WARBE)**

Grant Results: As a grassroots community based organization of migrant workers WARBE worked with 3,000 families to increase their awareness of safe migration procedures and on hazards of irregular migration. Skill-based training on livelihood options for families of migrant workers abroad or returnee migrants in need of employable skills led to the production of marketable goods which in turn led to the formation of three cooperatives to market the products.

An exposure visit of two WARBE members to the Migrant Services Centre in Sri Lanka to learn about other assistance programs for returnee migrants in reintegrating within their communities, particularly savings and self-employment programs and relationships with Banks, Trade Unions and NGOs was highly appreciated and its learnings applied in Bangladesh.

- **ATSEC Bangladesh**

Grant Results: ATSEC Bangladesh with a membership of over 400 NGOs in 20 districts was tasked under the project to develop rules and procedures for a Regional ATSEC structure that would enhance the network’s advocacy capacities. Membership expansion in the Bangladeshi and Nepal chapters as part of the SARI/Equity project was achieved – particularly in reviving the Maiti-led Nepali ATSEC Chapter. The new regional ATSEC charter was signed by all country chapters.

- **Dhaka Ahsania Mission**

Grant Results: DAM compiled a manual for the professional development of psycho-social care providers in Bangladesh and West Bengal (India). They worked closely with the Regional Action Forum on Strengthening the Care of Survivors and have pre-tested their manual with organizations both in India and Bangladesh.

- **Association for Community Development (ACD)**

Grant Results: Being a grassroots organization, ACD realized the need to develop the skills and to stimulate “anti-trafficking activism” among adolescent girls in border belt areas to prevent trafficking. Creating alternative livelihood options for those adolescent girls was an important part of the program. Replicating some of its learning from a Discovery grant earlier received from SARI/Equity and eager to adjust the “Bhoruka Model” to their own needs, ACD focused on the capacity building of adolescents in anti trafficking activities, their skills and knowledge in an “organized manner”. Thus adolescents groups were formed and empowered to propagate anti-trafficking messages as well as encouraged and supported to establish livelihoods suited to their local setting. To that effect, 140 adolescents received training in agriculture, poultry, fisheries and livestock.

- **Nari Unnayan Shakti (NUS)**

Grant Results: NUS extensively propagated the “Mock Trial” model with community leaders, lawyers, police, media and prosecutors. Mock Trial sessions were conducted to help 20 survivors of child sexual abuse. Trauma counseling was provided to 29 women. The media were highly interested in the proceedings and 154 media persons attended six of the Mock Trial workshops.

- **Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts (BITA)**

Grant Results: The southern part of Bangladesh, especially the Chittagong Area, having been identified as one of the trafficking prone areas of the country, was the organization’s focus of action in developing leadership skills and anti-trafficking activism among youth. Youth groups with BITA’s help established “watch-dog committees” along the border districts which were sensitized in anti-trafficking issues.

- **Rights Jessore**

Grant Results: Mainly working in the southern border districts of Bangladesh, the organization targeted NGO leaders, teachers, local professional groups such as lawyers, journalists and health professionals, law enforcement agents, local elected officials, local administration at district, thana and union level and women activists. It encouraged efforts to paint anti-trafficking messages on modes of transport and organized sensitization meetings with government officials, law enforcement agencies, immigration officials, journalists and representatives on both sides of the Indo-Bangladesh border.

Discovery Grants

ACD, Bangladesh

Helping Hand, Nepal

Youth Action, Nepal

Nepal National Depressed Social Welfare Organization, Nepal

Central Himalayan Environment Association, India

Dr. Shambhunath Singh Research Foundation, India

Annex 4

INDIA-SPECIFIC GRANTS

INL¹

- **Apne Aap Women Worldwide**

Grant Results: With the final objective of preventing inter-generational trafficking of women and girls for prostitution, Apne Aap undertook under the grant to initiate community based programs in Maharashtra, West Bengal, Delhi, and Bihar. Activities ranged from gaining the trust of community leaders to enable the organization to establish “meeting points” in vulnerable locations to training mothers and children in advocacy and education/vocational skills to prevent them from turning/re-turning to prostitution for economic sustainability.

- **Bhoomika Vihar**

Grant Results: Based in Bihar and deploying efforts to reduce cross border trafficking from Nepal to India, the organization mobilized community stake-holders to address trafficking, to counsel and alert girls in border areas to the dangers of trafficking, and provide multi-disciplinary services to rescued girls.

- **Center for Social Research (Gender Training Institute)**

Grant Results: Needs assessments in two states of India about vulnerable women and girls, adverse circumstances in their regard and how to address them; promotion of networking (i) to strengthen designs and methodologies for training and (ii) improve the capacities of Police Training Colleges and local NGOs on violence against women and trafficking; and the publication of a Manual for Trainers of lower and mid-level police were part of the activities deployed by the organization. (See also the body of the Report and the organization’s activities under a SARI/Equity regional “Networking” grant.)

- **Environment and Health Development Centre**

Grant Results: Working to stem trafficking in persons in the Indo Bangladesh border areas of West Bengal by intercepting potential victims before they are trafficked, rescuing victims, mostly with the help of border community stake-holders who were targeted for mobilization with the purpose of actively addressing trafficking issues of everyday concern to them was highly successful.

- **HELP**

Grant Results: To prevent/reduce child trafficking and second generation trafficking in Andhra Pradesh, the organization provided vulnerable girls and boys over the age of 15 with occupational skills.

- **Madras Christian Council of Social Services**

Grant Results: Working with other NGOs in the anti-trafficking community to reduce the incidence of trafficking in women and children in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, by identifying women and children for rescue and rehabilitation led to the successful rescue and integration of 75 per cent of identified victims

¹ All GTIP Grants and activities under the Mumbai and Goa Projects are dealt with in the Report

- **Odanadi Seva Samsthe**

Grant Results: Involved in both dismantling organized trafficking networks and in providing support services to rescued girl victims, the organization conducted inter-district trainings in Karnataka to increase awareness on trafficking issues among officials and community members at all levels, and provided young girls/victims of trafficking with multidisciplinary services that would facilitate their reintegration and rehabilitation. (See also the body of the Report.)

- **Prerana**

Grant Results: Coordinating the activities of NACSET - a Network Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation & Trafficking in India – through its Anti Trafficking Center in Mumbai, the organization enhanced the capacities of the Center which enabled the latter to strengthen its coordinating functions in respect of anti-trafficking interventions, of developing and disseminating a protocol on psychosocial counseling, and enhancing a wider understanding of community-based good practices in post rescue operations and for the reintegration of victims.

- **Shakti Shalini**

Grant Results: To address violence against women in Delhi the organization trained Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and established a One-stop Crisis Intervention Center to effectively address the multi-disciplinary needs of survivors. Socio-economic empowerment was on the top of the organization's "preventive" agenda. (See also its activities under a SARI/Equity regional "Replication" grant.)

- **STOP/Ramola Bhar Charitable Trust**

Grant Results: Empowering vulnerable and trafficked women and children through the provision of multidisciplinary services; awareness raising on issues such as health, education, and legal rights; and increasing gender sensitivity throughout the communities in and around Delhi which were particularly high density "source and transit" areas for trafficking was very well received by communities and authorities alike. (STOP also received a regional "Replication" grant.)

- **Stree Adhar Kendra**

Grant Results: Training of legal professionals, counselors, local officials and law enforcement personnel on violence and gender issues and awareness in and around Pune and other locations in Maharashtra; counseling women and children/ victims of violence; and the establishment of a Women's Resource Center in Mumbai were among the successfully concluded activities of the organization.

- **ATSEC West Bengal – through Women's Interlink Foundation**

Grant Results: The group under the leadership of Women's Interlink raised effectively awareness and the sensitivity level of the cross border (India-Bangladesh) communities about trafficking and sexual exploitation of adolescent girls and children through counseling, training, and dissemination of information.