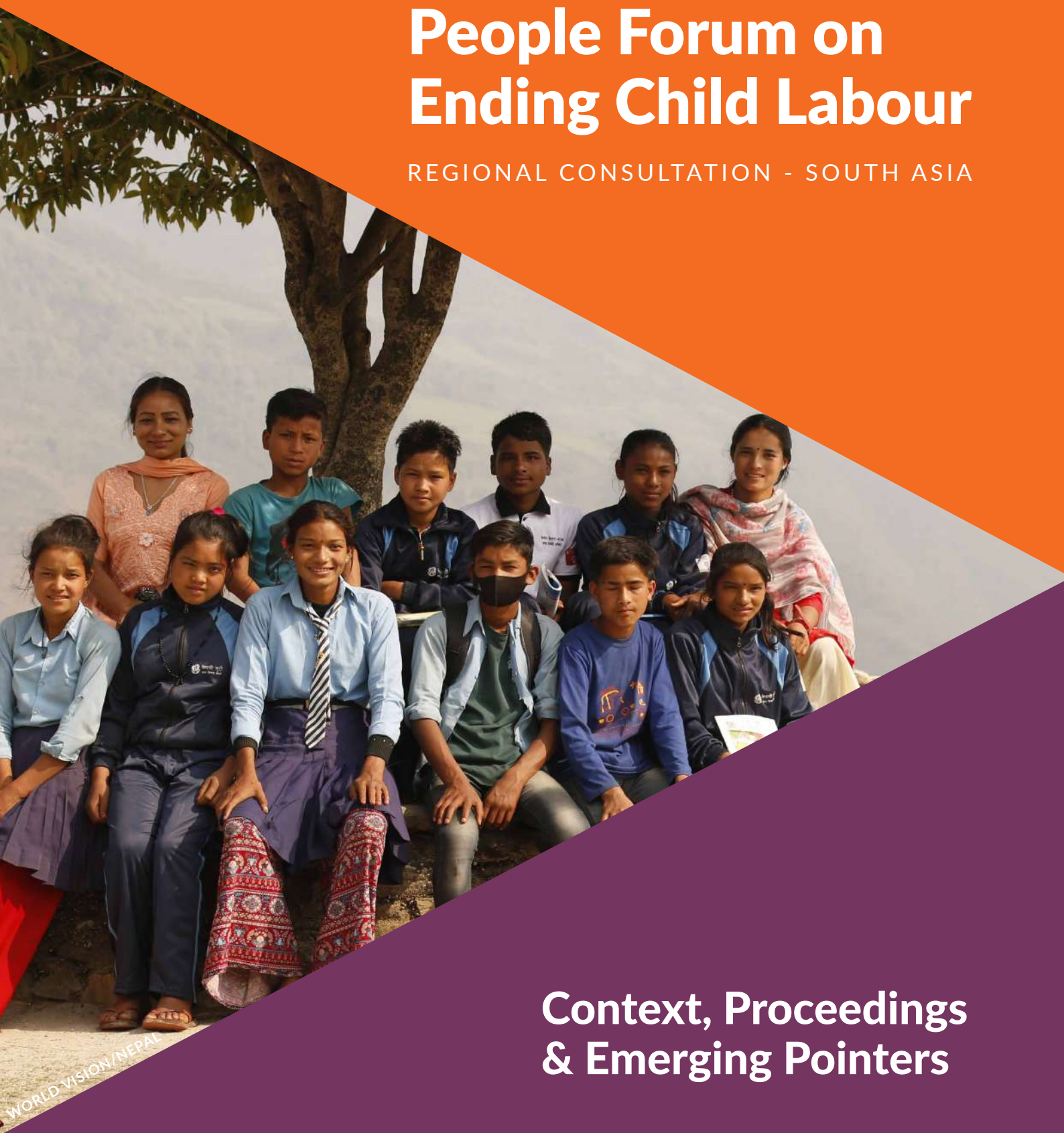


Children and Young People Forum on Ending Child Labour

REGIONAL CONSULTATION - SOUTH ASIA



Context, Proceedings & Emerging Pointers



In partnership with



International
Labour
Organization





WORLD VISION/SRI LANKA

August 2022

Lead Consultant

Nikhil Raj, Ph.D. (Economics)

Team Members

Ms. Roopashree Shanker & Ms. Prasoon Singh



TABLE OF CONTENTS

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS	04
01 Ending Child Labour: the Durban Declaration	06
02 Towards a Regional Action Plan for South Asia	07
03 Regional Consultation 2022: Perspectives of Partners	08
04 Voices and Choices of Children and Young Leaders	09
A) Results from the Registration Survey	09
B) Pointers from group discussions among CAYP	10
1) Improved access to education as the central agenda for action	10
2) Social protection as a critical pathway	11
3) From communications to Adoption of Strategies	11
4) Integrating the role of young persons in the framework for elimination of child labour	11
5) Effective government and civil society organisations partnerships and their respective roles	13
05 Emerging Pathways: at a glance	14
06 Annexures	15
A) Agenda for the Consultation	15
B) List of Participants	16
C) Glimpses from the consultation	18

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Improved access to education as the central agenda for action

Access to quality education including secondary education, educational resources, career guidance, and vocational education can play a central role in enabling children to complete their education. This will enable to equip them with relevant livelihood skills that can lead them to meaningful work opportunities in the future, while protecting them from hazardous or unsafe work conditions). Providing quality education is a key role for governments, ensuring everyone has access to education even in remote areas, including specific vulnerable groups such as children with disabilities. Additionally, governments must mandate quality education and impose strict penalties for non-compliance. Civil society organizations (CSOs) also serve a significant role when it comes to providing vocational education, and career guidance opportunities.

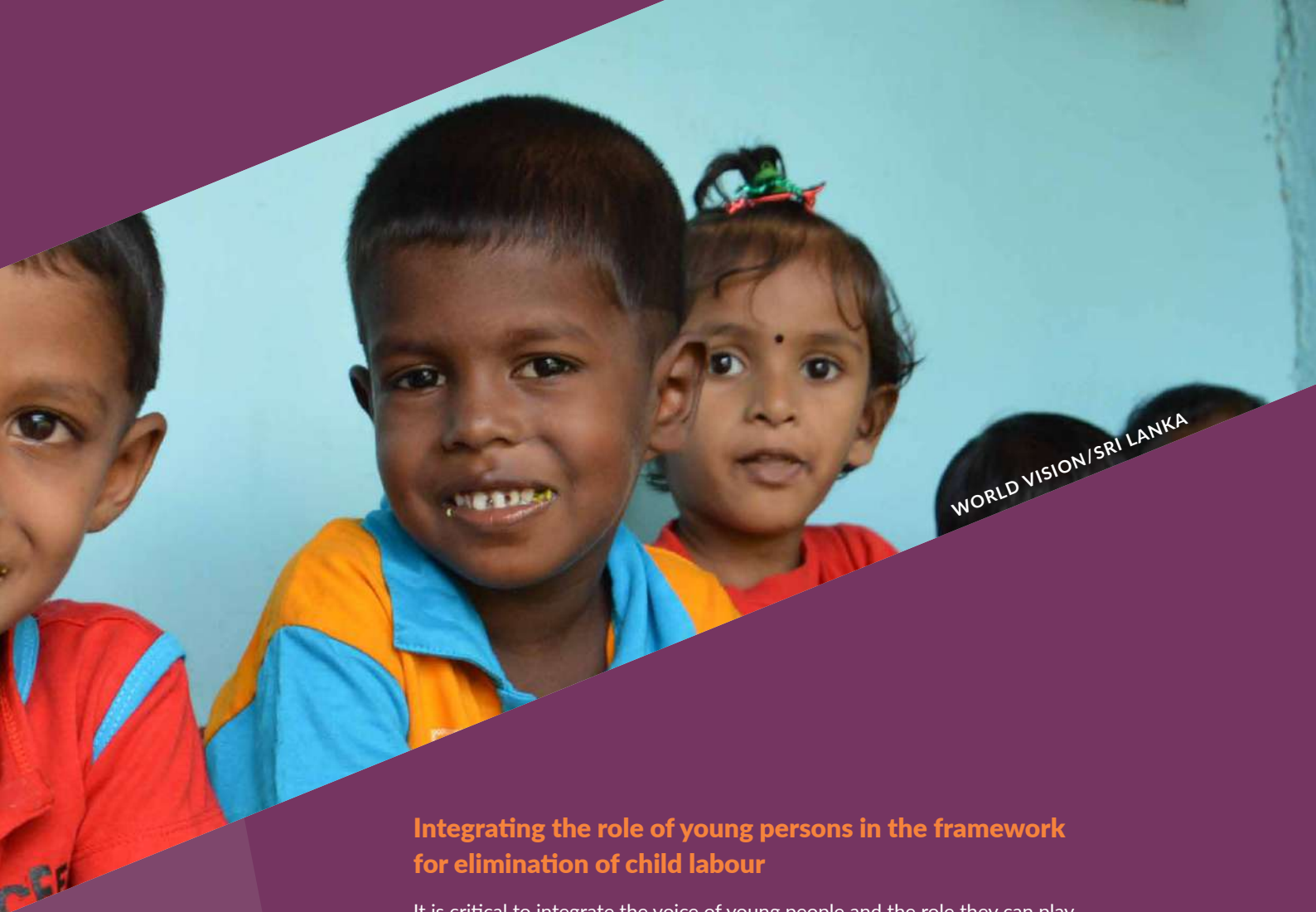
Social protection as a critical pathway

Improved social protection, including access to livelihood opportunities, is a necessary step in countering the ill-effects of extreme poverty, which often forces children into forced labor. It is also critical to understand how rural-urban migration affects poor families' access to social security net and take corrective action to ensure their access. To improve social protection for vulnerable groups, both governments and CSOs must take action.

From communications to adoption of strategies

At a household level, it is important to shift gears and move from creating awareness to facilitating the **adoption of specific strategies** to eliminate child labour. These could include enabling access to social protection, financial assistance to the families and improved access to livelihood opportunities for parents among others. It is imperative that governments and CSOs form effective partnerships in order to translate this into action on the ground.





WORLD VISION/SRI LANKA

Integrating the role of young persons in the framework for elimination of child labour

It is critical to integrate the voice of young people and the role they can play in the overall framework for the elimination of child labour. Their experiences and expectations are central to formulating effective policies and translating these into action on the ground. It is of the utmost importance for CSOs take the lead in creating platforms for young people to express their opinions and create opportunities for them to lead action on the ground.

Forging effective government and CSO partnerships

An effective government and CSO partnership is essential to eliminate child labour. Their roles are both complementary and supplementary to each other. Governments have to lead the way in reviewing policies, implementing relevant legislations, ensuring enforcement, allocating budgets, creating awareness and bringing about improved access to education, social protection, and livelihood opportunities. CSOs, on the other hand, can play a key role in **advocating for child rights and raising awareness of child labour** among stakeholders such as families, communities and employers. They can **enable vulnerable families to gain access to various schemes**, providing economic/financial assistance to families, as well as partnering with governments to enhance the reach of multiple initiatives. **Sub-national partnerships between government and CSOs will be critical to providing tangible actions towards ending child labour and ensuring child rights.**

Ending Child Labour: The Durban Declaration

As the current health pandemic threatens to reverse gains made in recent years, **stakeholders** from development partners, government, civil society, worker organizations, academia and others **are gradually acknowledging that additional commitments and effective collaborations are needed to end child labour by 2025, and forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery by 2030.**

Embedded within the broader targets under SDG 8.7 on ending child labour in all its forms by 2025 and the ever-increasing recognition of the multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and a right-based approach, **the Durban Declaration (DD) 2022 reaffirmed the centrality of social dialogue in the elimination of child labour.**

Prior to DD 2022, the ILO issued an appeal in 2021 to all member countries and stakeholders, whereby 2021 as the International Year for Ending Child Labour needed to be seen as an “opportunity for governments to step up and achieve Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals by **taking concrete actions to eliminate child labour** for good”¹.

Durban Call to Action 2022

The Call to Action (CTA), as mentioned in the DD is a commitment of the multiple stakeholders (governments, civil society organization, employers' organization and workers' organizations) to scale up action with respect to the following:

- i. the necessity of taking quick action through multi-stakeholder partnerships to eliminate child labour, with focus on hazardous occupations and processes;
- ii. eliminating child labour in agriculture sector (as nearly 70 per cent of global child labour is engaged in activities related to farming, fisheries and forestry);
- iii. generating and sharing updated information, including the relevance of listening to children;
- iv. realising children's right to education through improved access to quality education for children (with a view to enhanced capability for better employment and decent living; vocational education for older children
- v. universalizing access to social protection and taking care of people who cannot work (such as children, pregnant and lactating mothers, differently abled and old age persons, among others);
- vi. criticality of allocation of enhanced government budgets for elimination of child labour, including the role of global development finance to support resource-scarce countries for concerted actions towards elimination of child labour.

The fifth global conference on the elimination of child labour (which led to the DD), saw for the first time an active participation of children and youth. The DD acknowledges the dynamic role of Alliance 8.7 and several other regional initiatives aimed at ending child labour. Collaboration, partnerships, alliances and networks that offer voices to multi-stakeholders are expected to translate the objectives of DD into actionable agenda at the country and regional levels.

An important element of the DD is the commitment of social partners to respect the capacity of children to form their own views and their right to effectively participate and express those views freely in all matters affecting them. Creating enabling mechanisms for children to voice their concerns and suggestions thus finds a renewed emphasis on “children's participation” for identifying pathways for elimination of child labour – a matter that directly concerns them, within the Decent Work framework.

¹ ILO 2021



WORLD VISION/BANGLADESH

02 Towards a Regional Action Plan for South Asia

Acknowledging the role of National Action and Coordination Groups (NACGs) as the primary tier for coordinated action at the country level, the **South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)** began its efforts in a structured manner for **collating civil society voices for the Durban Conference**.²

Beginning in December 2021, SAIEVAC, undertook the critical task of forging effective linkage between the South Asia Coordinating Group (SACG) and NACGs as well as contributing to the Civil Society consultations. The primary purpose of these engagements was to collate specific inputs for informing the agenda for the Durban Conference. **Representation of CAYP groups in these country-level consultations** (even prior to the Durban conference, that called for active CAYP participation), is reflective of SAIEVAC's realisation of the inherent potential of the CAYP groups in (i) shaping a cohesive and coordinated action at the regional level and (ii) advocating for incorporating voices and choices of CAYP in policies, programmes and actions for ending child labour.

Pursuant to the 5th Global Conference and DD as the principle guiding document, the SAIEVAC has initiated deliberations with the NACGs to inform the formulation of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for ending child labour. Soon after the Durban Call to Action in May 2022, **SAGC worked with the NACGs to organise the country level 'We Speak CAYP Forum' in seven countries in August 2022**. The We Speak CAYP Forum consisted of two key elements: firstly, a registration survey to identify individual views of children and secondly, an online consultation with children. However, children from Bhutan only participated for the first part of the forum that being the registration survey. Preceded by a pre-survey form administered to the identified representatives, and breakout sessions (facilitated in local languages), the country level CAYP forums witnessed active **participation from 69 CAYP and 47 adults**. A consolidated report and emerging policy recommendations from these country-level consultations will be finalised and planned for dissemination during a Regional Conference on Child Labour (date and venue yet to be finalised).

The present document is a summary of the proceedings of the CAYP's online "We Speak Forum" organised on 13th of August 2022. The event, coordinated by World Vision International through its Asia-Pacific Regional Office and the ILO, brought together 69 children and youth participants from seven countries namely, (i) Bangladesh; (ii) India; (iii) Sri Lanka; (iv) Nepal; (v) Pakistan; (vi) Bhutan; (vii) Afghanistan. With nearly 46 per cent female participants and the remaining 54 per cent male participants, the "We Speak Forum" saw a balanced gender participation. The findings and analysis presented here offer the collective voices for ending child labour in a South Asian context.

² SAIEVAC is a SAARC Apex body which is an inter-governmental body with a vision that all children, girls and boys throughout South Asia enjoy their right to an environment free from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and discrimination. Its work is divided into five thematic areas namely, (i) Child Labour; (ii) Child Marriage; (iii) Sexual Abuse & Exploitation; (iv) Corporal Punishment; and (v) Trafficking.



03 Regional Consultation 2022: Perspectives of Partners

The **CAYP regional “We Speak Forum” held on 13 August 2022** opened with remarks by Dr Rinchen Chopel (Director General, Governing Board Member and Member Secretary, SAIEVAC), special addresses by Mr Insaf Nizam (Specialist at International Labour Organization South Asia Regional Office Delhi) and Dr Champa Gunasekhara (Chair, NACG, Sri Lanka), Dr P Thangam (Country Director, India TDH Netherlands) and a valedictory address by Mr Cherian Thomas (Regional Leader, South Asia and Pacific, World Vision International).

The observations made by these speakers helped in **setting the context for the regional CAYP forum, how it is linked to the Durban Declaration and the current ongoing efforts by the CSOs in partnership with NACGs towards developing a Regional Action Plan for ending child labour.**

The **macro perspectives set out by Dr. Rinchen Chopel** helped the CAYP participants to understand the recent developments (since June 2022) being made by SAIEVAC to translate the Durban Declaration into a set of tangible actions per se, for ending child labour. The discussions further highlighted the broad contours of the engagements by SAIEVAC for forging linkages between the SACG and the NACGs. Mr Insaf stressed upon the relevance of collaborative action (as envisaged under SDG 8.7) and the expectations from CAYP Forums to bring together the voices of the civil society and NACGs for translating the intents of the Durban Call in South Asia.

Even the best organised national and regional efforts may be adversely affected by external factors, like the current pandemic. Given that the current RAP for 2016-21 (launched in Bhutan in 2016) has formally ended, SAIEVAC continued its efforts during 2021 and the early parts of 2022 to formulate a revised RAP.

The **engagements by SAIEVAC with the NACGs and the national governments** during 2021 to address the “shadow pandemic” affecting children and the incidence of child labour in South Asia has helped to sustain the momentum to put governance mechanisms in place for the next meeting of its governing body, the last one being held in Maldives in 2019.

Beyond the pandemic, natural disasters are another set of variables that affect efforts aimed to end child labour. The **economic crisis** (as in Sri Lanka at present) has exacerbated the problem of child labour. Consideration should also be given to political developments, such as national elections, in the countries grappling with the issue of child labour.

Acknowledging the above developments, it is encouraging to note that **SAIEVAC has already begun its negotiations to generate institutional buy-ins for convening the regional CAYP forum in Nepal** (as per the earlier schedule in December 2022). These initiatives showcase the commitment of SAIEVAC and its partners to work unhindered towards developing the RAP for the Durban

Declaration (built on country-specific plans) and strengthen the advocacy-related engagements through harnessing their strengths and minimising the adverse impacts of exogenous variables.

Voicing the concerns of the NACG partners, SAEIVAC makes it clear that **for NACGs to be fruitful** (within an ever-dynamic world, grappling with economic shocks, health emergencies and natural disasters), the **current planning process must seek to capture the needs and prescriptions of the CAYP groups**. The online CAYP forum held on 13th of August 2022 is a step in this direction and ties up wholly to the Durban Call to Action.

Civil society through the NACGs have a critical intermediary role in collating the children's voices and bridging the gap between the children and the duty bearers. The speakers collectively laid out that the NACG consultations have contributed to the global discussions (leading to the Durban conference) and that it was now important to take the advocacy to the regional level. Dr Champa Gunasekera (Chairperson, NACG, Sri Lanka), highlighted that for translating the Durban Declaration into reality, CSOs have a role in creating participatory platforms for CAYP and enhancing the latter's capacities to claim their civil spaces. The We Speak Forum of 13th August 2022 also served as an opportunity for the CAYP to learn that the national action plans (NAPs) are currently underway (as in Pakistan and Bangladesh, for which surveys are in advanced stages at present).

Overall, the plenary remarks at **We Speak Forum** sought to link the local efforts with their global meanings, implications and an **appreciation of the linkages of the country-specific efforts by the CAYP with the endeavours at the regional level in South Asia**. The key message was that strengthening regional intergovernmental solidarity, mediated through the SACG and SAIEVAC has to be the next important and logical step for a more firm, cohesive and synchronised RAP to end child labour and violation of child rights in South Asia.

04 Voices and Choices of Children & Young Leaders

The following section contains a summary of the deliberations captured during the country-specific break-out sessions during the CAYP Forum held on 13th of August 2022 as well as key insights derived from the pre-survey.

A) RESULTS FROM THE REGISTRATION SURVEY

The **registration survey had 69 respondents** from 7 countries namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. While the respondents were from a broad age group ranging from 10 to 24 years of age, the top three majority were 16, 18, and 19 years of age. **The gender representation was nearly equal, with 31 female respondents and 33 male respondents.** The respondents included children engaged in child labour as well as child labour survivors, children with disability, children dropped out of schools, children from migrant families and child brides. Nearly 50 per cent of the respondents (30) were very familiar with the concept of child labour and the remaining were somewhat familiar (34) with nearly 94 per cent believing that child labour happens in their country. **According to the respondents, child labour is mainly found in factories, domestic work, and in agriculture** (apart from fishing, restaurants, garages and begging rackets to name a few). It is pertinent to note that **for more than 75 per cent of the respondents, the incidence of child labour has perceptibly increased on account of the pandemic** in their respective countries.



How can young people contribute in the elimination of child labour?

Respondents from the registration survey believe that they can contribute by **raising awareness** on the ill effects of child labour, encouraging children to **attend school**, conducting **household visits**, engaging in **peer-level discussions**, **engaging with organisations involved in supporting child labour victims**, working with **authorities**, **calling for access to basic services**, and **gathering data points** through surveys and research to enable humanitarian agencies to take action.

What initiatives have you taken to eliminate child labour?



In terms of specific initiatives that were taken, the respondents mentioned a range of activities, starting from enhancing their own **understanding and knowledge** about child labour. Some of the key initiatives already taken by the children include **awareness generation** through various platforms (social media, street plays, debates), **rolling-out of initiatives** with and without the government's help (such as financial assistance for children and their families), conducting awareness sessions on the **importance of education**, **setting up children's clubs** to encourage youth participation for sharing recommendations to eliminate child labour, joining **school clubs** (such as a child rights club), and participating in **assessments and discussion programs**.

What roles should government, CSOs and NGOs play to eliminate child labour?

The respondents believe that the government, civil society, and NGOs need to work together to prevent and eliminate child labour.

The **government** needs to implement laws that help improve access to education and eliminate child labour, increase budget allocation, create public awareness around the issue, and provide financial assistance to families.

The **CSOs and NGOs** have to effectively monitor and highlight both successes and issues in addition to creating awareness, providing assistance to families, and conducting research of relevant data points.



B) POINTERS FROM GROUP DISCUSSIONS AMONG CAYP

Similar themes, as expressed by the CAYP during the registration stage have been echoed during the deliberations captured during the breakout sessions at the online CAYP forum meeting in August 2022.

i. Improved access to education as the central agenda for action

The young people recognise the **importance of education** in the elimination and prevention of child labour. **Access to quality education, secondary education and educational resources**, such as libraries are clearly seen as ways to keep children in schools. In certain cases, while access to education in itself is not seen as a challenge, the **socio-economic situation of households** can still be significant deterrents for children to attend schools. For instance, one of the participants who completed Class 5 had to drop out of school and pursue domestic work because of the deteriorating health condition of his mother. When confronted with difficult economic and financial situations, the parents resort to sending their children to work. Other participants mentioned how

children who lose guardians become especially vulnerable to child labour in order to support the basic needs of their families.

In instances where access to education becomes a significant barrier either due to lack of schools in the vicinity including secondary schools or opportunities for vocational education, it becomes increasingly difficult for children to reap the many benefits of education and most importantly, not get coerced into child labour. In addition to access to basic school education, there is a felt need for career guidance programs. This could be interpreted as young people's aspiration to acquire skilled work or their awareness of other available career choices.

ii. Social Protection as a critical pathway

Extreme poverty is clearly understood as the primary cause for child labour. Therefore, there is an expressed desire for **eliminating poverty**. When basic needs of households are not met then the focus naturally shifts to 'survival'. In these circumstances children get pushed into labour. The CAYP also indicated that distress migration from **rural to urban areas** in search of better wages and expanded livelihood opportunities is enhancing vulnerabilities of migrant families and contributing to increasing incidence of child labour. In urban locations (across the South Asian countries), a lack of effective access to care and support systems (which were available to the families back in their home countries), absence of security through social protection schemes, and lack of access to education for children are seen by the CAYP as factors that exacerbate the poverty of poor families.

iii. From communications to adoption of strategies

Creating awareness cannot be stressed enough as a critical lever to prevent and eliminate child labour. A strong need is felt to spread awareness on what constitutes **child labour and abuse, its impact, child well-being, risks associated with certain vocations, rights of children, various schemes** available for them, and the importance of **school education**.

For the CAYP participants, the awareness drives have to necessarily include a **broad category of stakeholders** including children, their families, their community (people and institutions such as schools), and the larger eco-system which includes employers as well.

Thus, **multiple channels of communication** may need to be deployed to effectively broadcast the messages to the various stakeholders.

Providing parental guidance is especially seen as a key activity that can have disproportionate impact on the prevention and elimination of child labour. It is strongly felt that **interventions need to transcend creating awareness in families to helping them adopt specific strategies** for elimination of child labour. For instance, a participant from Pakistan suggested that the government could introduce financial assistance in the form of stipends for children who are already involved in child labour so that they be released from it and pursue their education. Participants also felt that the linkages between **disability and child labour** need to be further understood and relevant interventions initiated to tackle this specific category of child labour. It can be inferred that children with disabilities will face challenges of having access to quality education, limited skilled work opportunities in future and will easily get pushed into instances of unsafe working conditions as child labour.

iv. Integrating the Role of Young Persons in the framework for elimination of child labour

In response to the specific question on 'What can a young person like you do to help eliminate child labour in your community?', the CAYP are clear about the **various roles they can play** in the prevention and elimination of child labour. Some of the key ones that emerged out of the breakout sessions of CAYP from different countries are:

Spokespersons for child rights: The young people believe in the power of their personal stories to effect change. They wish to use their personal experiences to effectively communicate the gross ill-effects of the practice as well as the positive message that it can be overcome. They are cognizant of the significant role they can play in spreading awareness in their community on the issue of child labour including in their own families such that their parents can be positive change makers too. They see their role as not only talking about the ill-effects of child labour, but also educating children and their families about the various schemes available for children and the importance of education.

Identifying instances of child labour: They want to play an **active part in rescuing children** involved in child labour by highlighting these issues to relevant authorities as well as facilitating the enrolment of children in schools. To this end, they wish to help **identify instances of child labour in their community** through formal surveys, as well as through observations and thereafter highlighting such instances to relevant authorities through country-specific mechanisms available for this purpose. In countries where data may not

be readily available on the extent of child labour, the participants are keen to take the leading role in conducting local surveys to identify both the child labourers and the hazardous work conditions they may be employed in.

Initiatives to **identify instances of child labour in their communities** include interactions with school authorities to know about school drop-outs, assessments on child labour at the village level by village youth clubs, local-level surveys at school level to track change in enrolment including those of girls, formation of various clubs at the community level to identify children employed as labour and their family conditions.

Notably, there is an **encouraging level of awareness among the CAYP around various child helpline services** such as 1929 in Sri Lanka or Childline in India; agencies such as RENEW and Save the Children (both in Bhutan); local bodies such as Village Level Child Protection Committee (VLCPC) and Integrated Child Development services (ICDS) (both in India); and law enforcement authorities such as local police that can be contacted for help. In certain instances, they also directly interface with the families of children involved in child labour and sensitize the parents on the ill-effects of child labour as well as the importance of enrolling their children in schools.

Engaging directly with CSOs: CAYP value the **opportunity to communicate directly with various agencies** and donor groups that helps them share the realities on which the latter can act. This was strongly expressed in the case of Afghanistan where the participants felt that they can play a big role in highlight and share data from the ground to the agencies who could then swiftly act on the information provided.

On the question directed towards understanding the initiatives the young people have taken personally or with others to help eliminate child labour, there were many interesting examples shared. These ranged from activities related to spreading awareness on child labour to activities such as conducting surveys to understanding the extent of the problem on the ground, as well as specific actions to curb the instances of child labour in their communities.

Spreading awareness: Initiatives designed to spread awareness include interactions with a wide range of stakeholders (children, families, communities, local institutions such as schools, employers) as well as the use of different communication platforms (in-person interactions, street plays, workshops, surveys, signature campaigns, campaigns on TV and radio) to widely disseminate information. Active participation in workshops/meetings to know about harmful effects of child labour; dissemination of relevant messages in safe homes where the young people are housed; signature campaigns, street plays organised by children's clubs, and the use of sports and games to spread awareness; visits to rural areas to spread awareness about education and children's rights; question-answer sessions with communities to create understanding and clarify doubts; interactions with families of child labourers to sensitise them on its ill effects (including their own families if the young people themselves have been employed as child labourers) are few specific initiatives that children have taken to create awareness.

Taking Action: Specific actions to check instances of child labour in their community includes examples of young people **identifying school drop-outs** with the help of school authorities and subsequently helping them re-engage in formal education; **providing exposure to proper employment opportunities** by organising visits to vocational training centres; **organising child rights clubs** in schools in collaboration with INGOs and monthly classes to sensitise children about child labour issues and the importance of education; enabling children involved in child labour and their families to gain **access to various social protection schemes** by connecting them with relevant organisations, **holding community meetings** in areas where children are employed as labour and sensitising the locals; as well as leveraging existing platforms such as Bal Sangathan (in India) and NGOs/institutions to rescue children from child labour and facilitate their re-entry in schools. **Influential persons in the community** such as faith leaders and school principals are also directly involved to create awareness and influence right action.





v. Effective Government and CSO partnerships and their respective roles

The CAYP had a multitude of suggestions regarding the roles to be played by the government, civil society and NGOs to help eliminate child labour.

Role of Governments: For the CAYP, governments in their countries are expected to play a leading role in **creating public awareness** around the issues of child labour; bringing out **relevant legislations and regulatory provisions** aimed at preventing and eliminating child labour (for instance, bringing in new legislation to change minimum age of child allowed to work from 14 to 18 in India); **strengthening the implementation of existing legislations** through improved monitoring and enforcement (for example the need for stricter enforcement of child labour policies with severe consequences for violators in Bhutan); and overall **systems strengthening** (through systems strengthening in Nepal for implementing child labour master plan).

It is believed that the **formation of various ground-level bodies** such as Child Protection Committees can help in regular monitoring, preventing violence against children, as well as extending support to vulnerable families. In regard to the enforcement of relevant laws, the **young people strongly voice the need for strict action** to be taken **against violators**.

To understand the extent of child labour issues, it is important for governments to conduct **regular surveys** that can help give insight to the criticality of the issues, emerging issues, effectiveness of existing legislation and initiatives in preventing and eliminating child labour, as well as help in framing relevant laws and other initiatives in response to findings from the ground level.

Availability of data is essential to designing effective policies and legislations. Thus, generating and pooling of data from credible sources should form a critical component of the comprehensive framework of partnership between governments and CSOs.

Public awareness building is a significant task that needs to be taken ahead by the government and should include information related to the ill effects of child labour, child rights, and legal provisions. Aside from educating families and the larger community, it is also essential to **educate children on their rights and legal provisions**. This could be done effectively through formation of children clubs, introduction of awareness building sessions in schools, and through the medium of street plays.

Additionally, the governments have a major role to play in **improving access to education (opening more schools, improving education quality, mandating compulsory education)** for children, **improving access and availability of social protection schemes for marginalised** and vulnerable families, **creating livelihood opportunities** for parents of vulnerable children, and **providing vocational training** avenues for improved livelihood opportunities for young people. Introduction of 'learning with earning' i.e. income-generating courses at the school level is seen as a viable strategy to equip young people with relevant skills and sustainable livelihood opportunities. Specific **financial support** can also be extended by government for those families where children are compelled to work as child labour and help them be freed from it. To this end, governments should consider allocating more funds to initiatives aimed at improving livelihood opportunities.

In addition to these, there is a distinct need for the **establishment of safe homes and centres** where vulnerable children rescued from child labour can be housed and provided with basic rights and vocational capacity building as the socio-economic conditions of the family can make the re-integration of rescued children challenging.

It is expected that **governments work in tandem with NGOs** to gain the most traction on outcomes expected through various initiatives. Emphasis should be placed on developing effective public-private partnerships to improve overall outcomes. The young people also want their **voices to be heard** and incorporated by governments in their action plans. Moreover, they want to play an active role in the roll-out of planned activities.

Role of CSOs and NGOs: The suggestions regarding the roles of NGOs and civil society as a whole ranging from **advocating on child rights and raising awareness on child labour** among different stakeholders, such as families, communities and employers, to enabling **vulnerable families gain access to various social protection schemes**, providing **economic and financial assistance to families**, and to partnering with governments to help enhance the reach of various initiatives. There is huge emphasis on **creating sustainable livelihood opportunities** for the affected families to ensure that children can be rescued from child labour and not be trapped in it due to the socio-economic condition of the household.

Government-CSO Partnerships: At an aggregate level, it is clearly evident from the responses of CAYP that there is need for **stronger and effective partnerships amongst governments and CSOs**. Interestingly, the CAYP are aware of the relative strengths both social partners can bring to the table and therefore sought to espouse a more symbiotic engagement between the two as they perform their respective mandated agenda for ending child labour and ensuring child rights.

An effective government-NGO partnership is seen as a critical element in the fight against child labour. Through the partnerships, detailed surveys could be conducted to identify instances of child labour, effective campaigns can be designed and run to build awareness and relevant livelihood opportunities can be created to support vulnerable families. To be effective, frameworks and guidelines for government-CSO partnerships may be developed at the regional level in South Asia. However, what is inferred through the discussions that it will be the **sub-national partnerships that will provide tangible shape, meaning and actions across the range of themes for such partnerships**, from strengthening data systems, mechanisms for improving access to social protection and livelihoods for vulnerable families and even community-level awareness on child labour.

05 Emerging Pathways: at a glance

The CAYP consultation reiterated on the relevance of integrating the voices of children and youth in the planning process. However, the larger question that may still need to be addressed (as expressed by Mr Cherian Thomas, WVI) relates to the extent these voices could find a space in the decision-making process.

There is a need to build upon the successes of some of the recent efforts, such as rapid assessments on child labour initiated in member countries that are providing useful insights on what has been done by the CAYP in their local contexts and the specific ways the CAYP can potentially engage to end child labour. Making these exercises as a priority for the national governments would thus be useful to inform the Nation Action Plans (NAPs).

The fact that implementation of Action Plans require resources (both technical and financial), it will be further critical for the NACGs to ensure tangible political commitments manifested through child-labour responsive public budgeting.

The CSOs through their intermediary role may offer the technical assistance that may be required in the budgeting processing (from planning, to allocation to performance audits and evaluations), with active participation of children and youth throughout the process.

Collation of good practices and successful attempts by the CAYP in influencing local and sub-national action plans could be yet another way for creating a wider repository of knowledge for all members of SAIEVAC and building their capacities to replicate and scale-up these in their engagements.

There is a need to move beyond the social labelling and product certifications initiatives aimed at ending child labour. Engaging the private sector through meaningful Public-Private Participation (PPP) and employee engagement from local companies may be warranted for ending child labour.

Working with governments for better identification of vulnerable groups, CSOs and CAYP together can improve access to social protection for these groups and families. The idea behind such efforts is that tangible actions be taken to enable these vulnerable families to absorb the shocks and disasters, adapt swiftly to the dynamic situations and bounce back better, without violating children's rights in its entirety.

While CSOs and CAYP will be required to continue their engagements at the community level for awareness generation on child rights, improving access to education (and its quality), the emerging voices of the CAYP from the online consultation called for pathways and actions that can create real impact through collaborative efforts and enhanced resources for ending child labour and protecting child rights in South Asia.

A) Agenda for the Consultation

Time	Session/Format/Content	Resource Speaker
5 minutes	Introductory videos	Kathrine
35 minutes	Opening Session/Panel SACG: Welcome the participants, provide objectives of consultation and welcomes panel members ILO: provide update on the commitments made at the VGC, special attention on the commitments that CAY can related to SAIEVAC: provide update on the implementation of RAP on CL NACG: the important role of CSO and Children and Youth in eliminating child labour in South Asia Young Leader: share stories and case studies of what children are facing as effect of pandemic in terms of child labour	ILO: Mr Insaf Nizam SAIEVAC: Dr Rinchen Chopel NACG: Dr Champa Gunasekera Young Leader: Mamta Moderator: Thanggam Popandiam
5 minutes	Video: Effective intervention on ending child labour (SACG member organization)	Kathrine
90 minutes	Breakout rooms discussion: 10 mins: Instructions and moving to rooms 60 Mins: Discussion proper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitator run-through of the result of the survey and present key messages as the result of the survey CAY validates key messages, adds what they think are missing <i>Notes: Rooms will be categorised per country. This is to ensure that children will be able to communicate using their local language. A facilitator from the same country will be assigned to the room.</i>	Over all Facilitator: NACG Breakout Room Facilitators: NACG
30 minutes	Report back to plenary by breakout room groups	SACG
10 minutes	Closing ceremony	Mr Cherian Thomas

B) List of Participants

PAKISTAN

#	Name	Gender
1	Junaid	Male
2	Tajdar	Male
3	Faryal	Female
4	Asad	Male
5	Abdul	Male
6	Faizan	Male
7	Javeria	Female
8	Gullnoor	Male
9	Khurram	Male
10	Hassan	Male
11	Younis	Male
12	Wajahat	Male
13	Sahar	Female

BHUTAN

14	Neha	Female
----	------	--------

NEPAL

15	Nabin	Male
16	Krishna	Male
17	Prenusa	Female
18	Dinesh	Male
19	Jenny	Female
20	Jaya	Female
21	Prabin	Male
22	Manoj	Male

INDIA

23	Jeenat	Female
24	Mamta	Female
25	Gunjavte	Female
26	Jeeva	Male
27	Kajal	Female
28	Shubhonde	Male
29	Divya	Female
30	Bedh	Male
31	Anjali	Female
32	Kabilan	Male
33	Singrai	Male
34	Priyaranjan	Male
35	Shibadutta	Male
36	Tiyasha	Female
37	Zeenat	Female
38	Shunhendu	Male

SRI LANKA

#	Name	Gender
39	Evon	Female
40	Dhanaseeli	Female
41	Hariharan	Male
42	Kalpani	Female
43	Sureka	Female
44	Utharshan	Male
45	Sathurshiyen	Female
46	Vithusha	Male
47	Keraj	Male
48	Praveena	Female
49	Nithyapriya	Female
50	Adik	Male
51	Ifri	Female
52	Javagal	Male

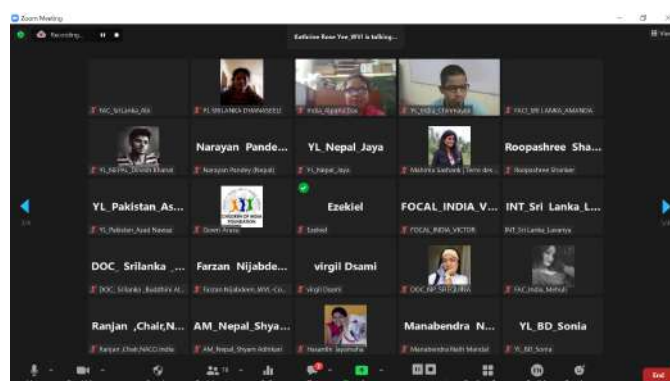
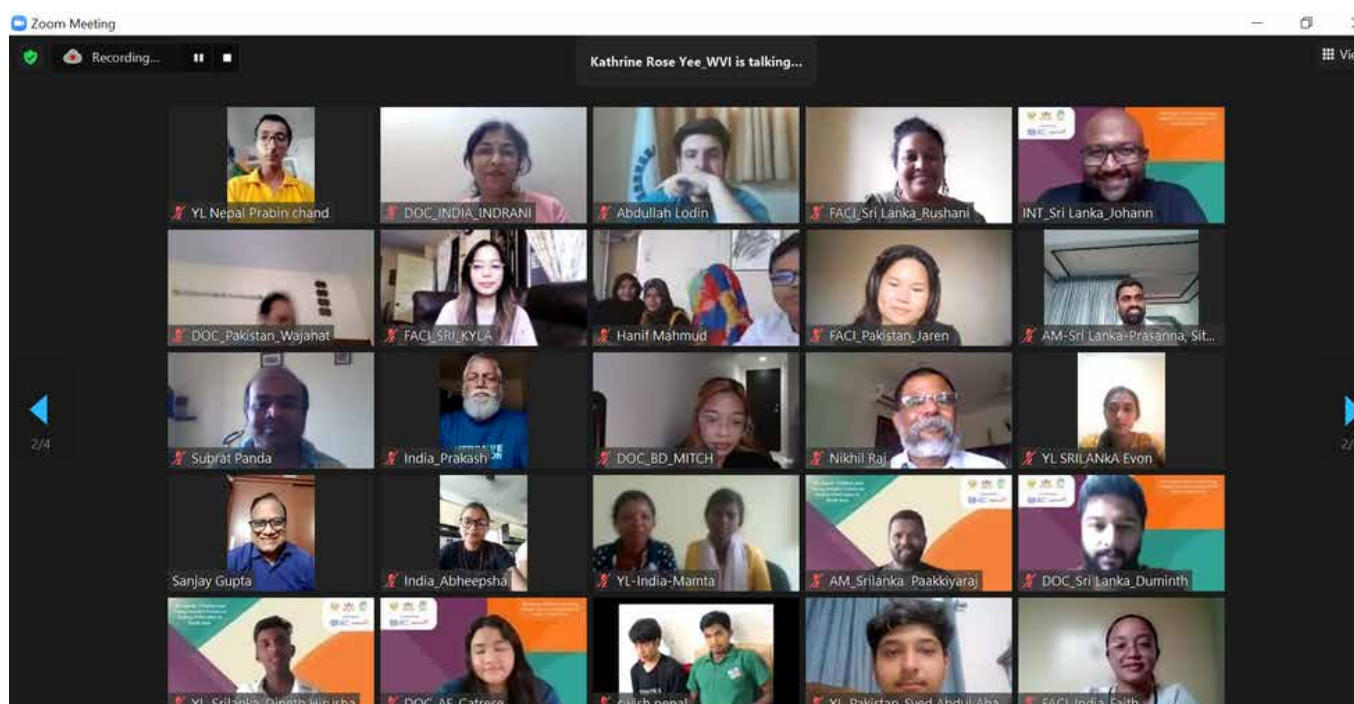
BANGLADESH

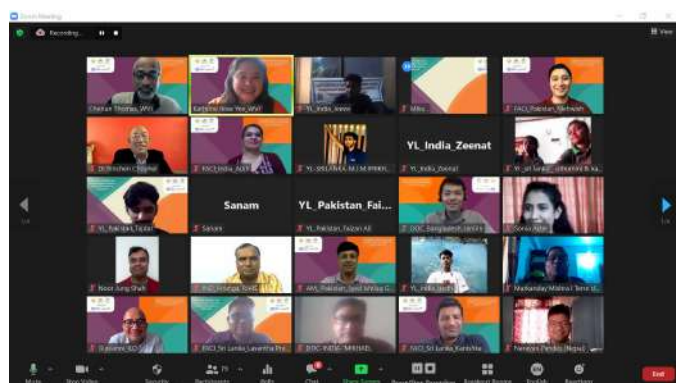
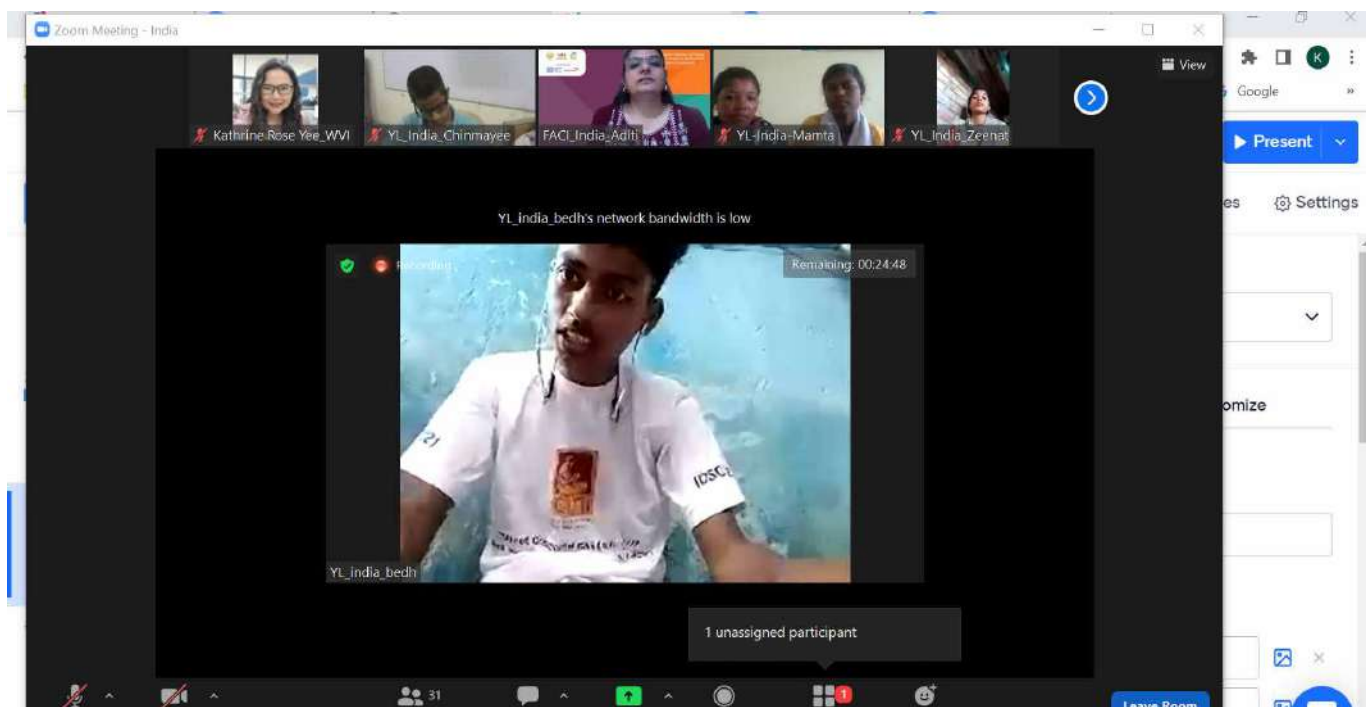
53	Rubina	Female
54	Sumon	Male
55	Sabbir	Male
56	Hossain	Male
57	Sonia	Female
58	Mafia	Female
59	Jahedul	Male
60	Abu	Male
61	Mita Akter	Female
62	Mita Begum	Female
63	Zorina	Female
64	Rozina	Female
65	Sagor	Male
66	Sohan	Male
67	Amina	Female

AFGHANISTAN

68	Toba	Female
69	Abdulla	Male

C) Glimpses from the consultation







WORLD VISION/BANGLADESH



In partnership with



International
Labour
Organization

World Vision
SOUTH ASIA & PACIFIC

