

# **CAAFAG - Children Associated with Armed Groups and Armed Forces Working Group's Terms of Reference**

## **Overall Objective**

A forum to discuss, to analyze protection issues, to elaborate and to coordinate comprehensive and harmonized responses for the release, return and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and armed groups (CAAFAG), as well as to design common advocacy strategies with relevant stakeholders.

## **Principles**

- A programmatic approach;
- A functional working group with focus on pragmatic, practical and prompt interventions;
- A collective effort to demonstrate proactive problem-solving;
- Information sharing and transparency among the members;
- Confidentiality to be respected always;
- Special attention to be paid to security concerns and how to deal with the media;
- Number of participants to be kept in a manageable size;
- Members should be open and flexible for developing new technical expertise necessary to work with CAAFAG and apply them in practice.

## **Specific objectives**

### Documentation, assessment and monitoring

- To share and to analyze information and experience related to CAAFAG situation and actions developed in Nepal. The level of sharing information and involvement in each activity will depend on each organization rules and mandate and according to protection principles and constraints.
- To develop a documented understanding of the CAAFAG situation and community capacities.

### Advocacy and sensitization

- To develop a broad line advocacy strategy for the Government, Security forces, CPN/M, and donors in relation to CAAFAG, their release and the specific needs that require their reintegration in their communities. Each organization will define and decide to take part in advocacy activities and/or to develop them jointly or separately.
- To elaborate a national, regional and district level advocacy strategy for the access and release of CAAFAG.
- To elaborate sensitization strategy to prepare communities to receive the children back.

### Policies and Programming

- To elaborate and agree on broad principles of protection needs and responses for the CAAFAG in Nepal context setting.
- To coordinate geographical and/or technical program's implementation among the different organizations.
- To agree and define appropriate but flexible strategies of response and programs.
- To plan joint and integrated interventions for the reintegration of children

### Training

- To develop joint training capacities and plans.
- To share broad experiences, research and training tools from other country.

### Collaborations

- To keep close collaboration with the UNSCR 1612 MRM Task Force.
- To collaborate with the CZOP coalition in specific joint actions

## **Composition of the working group – Membership**

Child protection agencies, I/NGOs and UN agencies that have been working with the issue of CAAFAG (or related issues), or intend to do.

Children as Zones of Peace (CZOP) as a wide coalition working for children affected by armed conflict represented by its coordinator.

Some other organization could be invited for some specific meetings or actions.

Organization can apply to be part of the CAAFAG working group based on their implementation capacities related to children protection and on their complete adhesion to the CAAFAG working group principles and approach.

## **Coordination responsibilities**

- UNICEF has been designated as the coordination agency that will imply to support and facilitate meetings; to guarantee coordinated division of tasks and responsibilities among members of the working group as well as the required actions for the development of a protective strategy for CAAFAG in Nepal;
- Among the members, a child protection agency will be designated, in each region, to lead and to coordinate the implementation of future action plans for CAAFAG (TOR to be clarify)
- Depending on the activities, member's organizations will take the lead to coordinate specific activities, such as rapid assessment, subcomponents of the action plan (sensitization/advocacy, children care and psychosocial support, reintegration activities, trainings, monitoring tools, etc), and adaptation of database for local needs, among others.

## **Possible activities for the working group**

### Mapping existing resources and mobilization

- Mobilization of child protection organization to be part of the CAAFAG working group
- Coordination and mapping of geographical coverage between child protection organization program's implementation regarding CAAFAG protection: regional lead agency
- Mapping of existing organizations/children's home working with CAAFAG
- Identification of districts where to initially start / pilot the reintegration, developing a criteria to select them;
- Assessment and lessons learnt from previous experience (tracing, transit care facilities, reintegration experience)

### Documentation and assessment

- Rapid assessment at community and children level
- Data base elaboration, tools development and coordination mechanism implementation

### Training requirements and sharing of experience

- Mapping priorities/identifying gaps in the capacity building of the organizations that are carrying out reintegration programs for CAAFAG;
- Organization and implementation of training in required fields as social work, psychosocial interventions, vocational training, etc.;
- Regular and thorough sharing of experiences and lessons learned on what the best interventions are ("what really works") and promote replication. Also promote reformulation and re modification of less effective interventions.

### Policy and minimum standards

- Humanitarian code of conduct for the children protection
- Development of minimum standards for CAAFAG approach strategy and case management, as well as technical guidelines
- Development of an overall framework for technical guidance in a timely manner
  - Special emphasis to be paid to the reintegration of girls

### Programming

- Development of quick response for cases raised by different stakeholders
- Regular documentation of CAAFAG program's development process and situation

### Advocacy / sensitization

- Sensitization strategies elaboration at community level
- Advocacy strategy towards government, CPN/M, security forces, donors elaboration and coordination
- Code of conduct development among members to collaborate with CPN/M and security forces
- Code of conduct and sensitization strategy elaboration to collaborate with medias
- Joint fundraising for CAAFAG interventions.

### **Other issues for further discussion**

- Coordination process at region and district level
- Funding modality for identified activities to be implemented
- Modality and frequency of meetings
- Sharing information with Government and other relevant stakeholders in future interventions.