

*Second Focus Group Discussion on Toll Free Helplines for Women and Children in  
SAARC Member States*

**29 -30 April, 2013**

New Delhi- A Focus Group Discussion was held at the National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi participated by the SDF team, officials from SAARC Secretariat and relevant stakeholders of the project from the participating Member States. The meeting discussed the objectives, activities and timeline of the project.

Objectives:

- Strengthen system to protect rights of women and children; and
- Help rescue and rehabilitation of victims, apprehend perpetrators of trafficking and deter intra country trafficking in South Asia through strengthening/ establishment of Toll free help lines in SAARC Member States.

Activities:

- Set up or strengthen existing Toll Free Helpline/s in SAARC Member States;
- Build capacity of the relevant institutions;
- Sharing of regional experiences;
- Advocacy and raising public awareness; and
- Setting up of Monitoring and Evaluation system.

The meeting also agreed on:

- Development of Clear and actionable objectives;
- Development of Activities and sub-activities;
- Development of Country specific budget in respective Country Currency;
- Selection of Lead Implementing Agency and Implementing Agencies;
- Clear understanding of role and responsibilities of IAs, LIA and SDF; and
- Development of Combined project proposal ready for submission to SDF Board in 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Based on new realities and advancements in technology related to the Toll free Helplines in the Member States, the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Task Force meeting held in Paro Bhutan (11 & 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2013) decided that it would be difficult to achieve the initial objectives outlined for the establishment of the uniform SAARC Toll free Helplines. Therefore the project was re-named as "Toll Free Helplines for Women and Children in SAARC Member States".



*SDF & SAARC Secretariat officials with the relevant stakeholders of the project from the participating Member States*