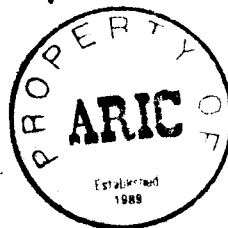


**MAKING REALITY OF THE WISHES OF CHILDREN  
IN AFGHANISTAN**

**MOVING FORWARD AFTER  
THE CHILDREN'S CONSULTATION PROJECT**



**Report Prepared By Shirin Persson , Consultant  
For Save The Children Sweden and Save The Children Norway  
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# CHAPTER 1

## Summary

The Children and Young People's Consultation Project (CCP) implemented in Afghanistan by Save the Children Sweden and Save the Children Norway (SCSN) from August 2002 to end December 2003 has been an unusual and unique project in the context of Afghanistan. The CCP reflects a broad based implementation strategy, a consultative approach and a commitment to attract and engage its target group i.e. children and youth of both genders. The project has been implemented under the umbrella of the Global Movement for Children (GMC) group in Afghanistan with funding from UNICEF. The primary aims of the project have been to demonstrate practically the strengths of child participation and identify methods through which children and young people could influence civil society structures, the Government and important individuals in society who influence their lives. Boys and girls, from 8-18 have been active participants in the CCP which has been implemented in about 11 locations throughout Afghanistan. The project has left a lasting impression on the minds of children and young people as is evident from the impact assessment reports from the 5-6 locations visited and from the information supplied by the SCSN staff in their reports from 4 additional locations.

Most often in Afghanistan children and youth are regarded as "silent dependents" rather than proactive citizen with rights to have opinions and express themselves. The project has been able to demonstrate otherwise: i.e. to engage the interest of children and adults, the community, the Shuras, Government Departments, the provincial school structure and also youth groups to promote and recognise the reflective capacity of children and the "inner strengths" of boys and girls. Children, young people's groups and civil society organisations interviewed in the provinces described the CCP as an exceptional occasion since this was the first non-political event they had attended together with their children aimed at promoting peace and development. The project had enabled Afghan society to recognise children and young people, irrespective of gender, as individuals with rights ensured to them by the CRC and also having the capacity to exercise these rights within the family, in school and also in the community. Children and young people's position as influential citizens had been highlighted and demonstrated to society through the CCP. In many provinces the participatory capacity of children and young people has been widely recognized today as a consequence of the CCP. The focus on wide scale implementation all over the country has served as a good strategy for recognition of the project all over Afghanistan.

Thus, the initial impact and momentum of the project has been very positive. Additionally, the methods adopted within the different processes of the CCP (forming the provincial GMC groups, selection of focal points and facilitators, facilitators training sessions, process of identification and formation of child groups, appointment of leaders by the children and youth, and the consultation workshops themselves) have also led to increased knowledge on the CRC and Afghanistan's obligations as a signatory to the Convention. The knowledge on child rights and child participation has been taken out of "the monopoly of the Kabul intellectuals" and disseminated to children in the provinces after the CCP. This was apparent during the provincial visits. Children were skillfully analysing their situation in the provinces and in their villages, conceptualizing their needs, identifying resources available at hand and resources needed from external sources. They wanted to leave the past behind and move forward with optimism to claim their rights. They wanted to be regarded as "contributing" citizens in the future development of Afghanistan. Children wished to form networks with

children from other provinces to discuss common issues, they wanted to initiate national advocacy campaigns through theatre and the media in order to change social images about themselves, they wanted to dialogue with Constitutional Reformers and the Loja Jirga about child labour, early marriage, corporal punishment and child abuse/trafficking. Further, they had concrete and viable suggestions that could lead to lasting peace in Afghanistan that were worthy of consideration by the administrators. Children's visions for the future were most often based on collective thinking rather than individual wants, needs and concerns. They had a clear understanding of what they wanted, why they wanted the input and the uses of the input thereafter in the future. The potentially viable project proposals identified for each province and location projected in Chapter (4) under "recommendations" has been based on initial presentations made during focal group discussions with different children and youth groups in the provinces. The projects were thereafter discussed with children in each province and also assessed with adults and other development and human rights organizations in the province to test relevance and feasibility.

An overview of the viable proposals shows a focus on direct support to community based projects such as libraries and village schools, trainings for strategic peer groups in the community with a view to increase knowledge and change attitudes in society and also many inputs promoting networking and strengthening the capacity of children and youth groups in order to join together in national level advocacy initiatives. The groups have in addition identified training inputs for themselves centered around specific trainings which could stimulate group dynamics and facilitate new learning on special child rights issues such as corporal punishment, violence and abuse, community mobilization to sustain child participation and how to promote/advocate among youth networks on sensitive issues concerning boys and girls.

Today, the project seems to be moving into a new phase "the follow up stage". The assessments show that there has been little time and resources allocated for follow-up in the initial stages of the CCP, whilst the Consultations were in progress and moving from one to location to another. This has resulted in a high rate of turn over among the facilitators and a weakening interest among the focal points identified in the different provinces, after the Consultation with children was concluded. Even Alliance members interviewed seemed to lack definite ideas on what was expected of them after the CCP. In order to sustain the momentum of the CCP in the future special training inputs are urgently needed from SCSN focused on human resource development for the focal points and the facilitators and also the child to child and youth groups. These measures would assist in consolidating the work in the provinces, help to promote and sustain the projects presented by the children and also instill a stronger programme strategy for follow up activities in the future. Individual plans may have to be chalked out by SCSN with each focal point in each province. The conclusions and recommendations in this report could serve as guidance in this exercise. Even in the locations where Alliance members have been designated as focal points this strategic planning exercise by SCSN could be useful in order to carry forward the CCP based on the visions conceptualized by the children.

In many locations one of the focal points identified by the CCP has been the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) provincial/regional branch. In this instance it would be productive if the capacity building recommendations in this report be incorporated as part and parcel of the support to the AIHRC child rights sections in the provinces, under the SCSN human rights support project. The AIHRC branches have raised concerns that the training offered via the training section of AIHRC in Kabul is not focused

on practical application of the CRC nor is it geared to addressing thematic issues and mobilizing children. Training inputs directly from SCSN were requested from the AIHRC provincial branches. The specific areas in which training for capacity building is required for the provincial branches has been identified in the recommendations and this should be further discussed with AIHRC under the SCSN support programme to AIHRC. A serious focus on the provincial branches of AIHRC is required in order to sustain the CCP activities and children's groups.

An assessment of the Provincial Department of Education has also been made wherever this was possible given the interest of SCSN to invest in quality education and strengthen child participation to bring about changes to the school environment and class room practices. In some locations the education has been already active in the CCP whilst in others the interest has been more passive. The recommendations from the various locations have also some suggestions of how to involve the Education Department in future projects and trainings.

There also appears to be good scope in the future even to interlink the CCP follow up projects with the planned programme expansions of SCSN in the fields of child rights monitoring, child participation methodology development, advocacy on child protection, sensitization projects on non-discrimination and inclusion, and child protection monitoring through children and young people's networks and child to child groups.

Every effort should be made to mainstream the experiences gained from the Children and Young People's Consultation Project into the overall programme of SCSN in Afghanistan in the future.

## CHAPTER 2 INTRODUCTION

### A. Background To The Project -

Development Of The Project - "We are the future of Afghanistan" - Children and Young People's Consultation Project implemented by Save the Children Sweden and Norway and funded by UNICEF was initiated in August 2002. The project is often referred to as the Children's Consultation Project (CCP) and this abbreviation will hereafter be used in this report to refer to the project. The CCP is under the umbrella of the Global Movement for Children (GMC) group in Afghanistan. The project is viewed by all concerned organisations as an extension of the UN General Assembly Special Session on children (UNGASS) process. The project has as its primary aims to practically demonstrate the strength of child participation and identify methods through which children and young people can influence civil society structures, the Government and important individuals in society who influence their lives. Children and young people both boys and girls from the ages of 8-18 have been active participants in the CCP. About 60 children, 7-10 facilitators and their assistants, and a working group made up of about 10-15 local NGOs, some UN organisations and provincial government departments has been active in the various locations where the project has been implemented.

The CCP Process - The CCP involves identification of a working groups in each selected province, identification of a focal point/points from this group, a series of CRC trainings for facilitators and shortly thereafter a 3 days Consultation with children who are identified with the assistance of the facilitators in the different locations selected. The implementation process at each location has been planned and steered by a CCP team from Save the Children Sweden and Norway (SCSN) under the guidance of a project coordinator from SCN. At the time of commencement of this Consultancy in early October 2003, a total of nine consultations with children had been completed, namely in Mazar, Herat, Kabul, Surk Road in Nangahar province, Peshawar in Pakistan, Kandahar and Jalalabad and local focal points identified by the CCP team who could take the CCP further in the various provinces. Additionally 2 more consultations had been implemented in Badakshan and Bamyan at the request of Afghan Aid and Save the Children Japan respectively who wished to have their target group children too exposed to the CCP processes. A 10<sup>th</sup> Consultation in Gardez was planned for late October-early November but was shifted to late November. After the conclusion of all the provincial Consultations with children a national Consultation is planned for mid-December 2003 in Kabul: this will be the concluding event and will also mark the conclusion of the CCP. Children from each province will be asked to select 10 representatives to participate in this national event in which high officials of the Government, hopefully including the President himself, will listen to the opinions of children relating to issues of both provincial and national interest. The children hope to get commitments from the national level for practical implementation and monitoring of children's rights in Afghanistan both for boys and girls.

Long Term Expectations - After the CCP it was expected that the participants would continue to work together in child to child clubs or child to child groups where they

could discuss their issues further and plan joint action to improve their situation. This could in turn result in increased respect for children and their rights and recognition of children and young people as important citizens in their own right. Among the specific targets of the long term expectations are

- post conflict rehabilitation measures paying due attention to the concerns and interests of children will emerge
- cooperation with the local authorities, schools and NGOs in the province will be initiated and continue
- information about the Consultation with children will be spread to other groups of children, adults, media, schools, administration, concerned authorities etc.

After December some unspent funds may be available within the UNICEF budget for implementation of small projects after the Consultations are concluded. There seems to be a possibility for these funds to be carried over by the project into 2004.

## **B. Background to This Consultancy –**

Consultancies have been commissioned, since July 2003 by SCSN, to document the voices and opinions of children under this project, assess the impact of the methods and processes used under the project, and study some of the results that are emerging from among the children and communities who have participated in the CCP in all the provinces where the project has been implemented. The degrees of interest and capacity of Alliance partners in Afghanistan to be a part of the child participation process initiated under the CCP even in the future is also being documented. The aim of the documentations are to take stock of progress so far and also to vision for the future on how the project can be carried forward and in what form, in what way, with whom and through what plans and strategies can this be done?

The objective of the present Consultancy is to contribute to this documentation of the CCP and its processes through an analytical overview of the actors, processes, children's participation methods and its short term and long term results in the various provinces. Further, the impact of the CCP on the children and the community and local administration, value added/not added to the work of the focal point and the province as a whole as a result of the CCP event will be also assessed.

Achievements, strengths and weaknesses in the CCP will be analysed and viable projects identified through which the work initiated so far can be consolidated in the future. Concrete steps on how to integrate the CCP and its processes within the SCSN country programme framework for Afghanistan, both short and long term from 2004 will also be explored through this assignment.

(see TOR for the Consultancy Annex (2) for details of responsibilities and specific tasks and (see Annex (3) for project visits and workplans).

## **C. Methodology and Framework Adopted For Work –**

Meetings with CCP team members and the project coordinator before commencement of work and also at periodic intervals during the assignment.

Preparation of workplan and provincial visit plan covering 7 weeks, with a designated assistant from CCP team.

Preparation of provincial projections with summary of important child rights and protection issues as raised by the children in the CCP. To serve as check list during field visits when projects are being discussed with children and the focal points. (annex 4 (a) – (e))

Project visits to as many localities as possible of the (10) identified locations to assess the impact of the CCP and activities started thereafter. (security permitting).

Preparation of framework for questionnaire for use in focal group discussions. (see annex 5)

Focal group discussions with children divided into different age groups (8-12, 12-14, 14-18) the focal points, facilitators, parents and community groups to gather primary level information regarding CCP impact on them.

Meetings with Child protection groups and GMC group in each provinces, youth organisations, interesting community based organisations, UN organisations, the AIHRC provincial and regional branches, the provincial Education Department, NSP partners in the province not included in the CCP upto now. To identify potential new contacts in each province. (Annex 6).

Focal group discussions and assessments with children and youth (in different age groups), facilitators and focal points regarding the potential viable projects identified for support in 2004. To assess realism, viability, feasibility and sustainability.

Discussions with local NGOs and human rights groups in each province, youth groups, and UN organisations to assess the provincial scenario for long term child rights projects and aspects of sustainability in the future. The viable projects identified for SCSN for the future will also be measured against these findings.

#### **D. Timeframe –**

1<sup>st</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> December 2004 (11 weeks in total).

#### **E. Comments Re Tasks Completed/not Completed -**

1. The project visits and assessment reports from Mazar, Badakshan, Herat, Bamyán and Kabul were completed as planned. The scheduled visits to Jalalabad, Surk Road, Kandahar and Sar-e-Pul and Shibarganj could not take place due to the uncertain security situation first in late October and later after 17<sup>th</sup> November and three weeks thereafter especially in the Eastern and Southern Provinces of Afghanistan. The SCS office in Jalalabad and also UNHCR activities in the South and East were temporarily closed over many weeks after 17<sup>th</sup> and field visits planned by the Consultant were not advised. Kandahar has remained a high risk province



even throughout December and travel to the province has not been recommended even for the Afghan assistant working with the Consultant.

2. Short result focused progress reports are enclosed for Sorkh Rod & Jalalabad, Sar-e-Pul and Shiberghan in the absence of full fledged assessment reports. These progress reports have been compiled by the Consultant based on information received from CCP team members who have been working with the project and from SCSN sub office in Jalalabad. These reports have not been factually verified against activities in the field. Assessment of the capacity of the focal points and also AIHRC branch in Nangahar has also not been possible. In these circumstances no viable project proposals are being presented for these four locations.

3. The final Consultation in Gardez was postponed by the CCP team due to logistical problems from first week of November to 2 weeks later. This was unfortunate since Gardez together with Sar-e-pul and Shibarganj was one of the locations where an assessment of the Consultation process could have been made at the time of its implementation in the field. The change of date was a negative factor for this consultancy since Gardez had to be left out and not reported on within the Consultancy.

4. In respect of the outcomes from the CCP and its process in Peshawar the Consultant relied on the SCS office in Peshawar to coordinate with CAR to furnish a report on the outcome and projects started. The Peshawar field report is based on information supplied by the CAR coordinator in Peshawar. The questionnaire that was used in the other provinces within Afghanistan was also applied as far as possible in Peshawar even if the children were only from 'refugee groups awaiting return'. The long term development of this CCP is in the hands of UNHCR and CAR in NWFP and SCSN will not be investing in future programmes so viable project identification has been excluded.

5. The National Consultation with children which would bring together child leaders from all the provinces and which was scheduled to be held from 13-16 December 2003 in Kabul was also postponed due to the uncertain security situation that was prevailing and also because the National Loja Jirga which was to meet in mid December in Kabul was dominating the attention of the administration and the public. The national Consultation with children was thereby tentatively postponed to February/March 2004 when a better public platform and the attention of the administration and national leaders could be captured in full.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **ASSESSMENT REPORTS FROM LOCATIONS**

#### **Mazar Report**

**Recent Trends and Development** - At the time of this visit the security situation in the outskirts of the city and the provinces covered by the CCP in Balkh was unstable with recent clashes between the Tajik and Uzbek factions. The visits to Sheberghan and Sar-e-Pul were not advised by the focal point Save (UK). Mazar city too was only semi secure after 6 p.m. Field visits had to be chosen carefully given the security situation. The visit to Dehdadi was undertaken by Mr. Zabi (assistant to the Consultant) alone. Businessmen and traders were returning from Pakistan and Iran to restart their lives and business on the streets and in the small shops was intensive. Children's issues including psycho social issues among the returnees needs to be analysed in a focused manner given the fact that the numbers of street and working children and also the numbers of orphans (this includes children with only mothers) is on the rise. Issues relating to abuse and violence, sale of children for settlement of family debts, girls for early marriage and also exploitation of girls and boys for sexual purposes was reported by many organisations interviewed. Engaging of children for drug trafficking, sale and kidnapping of children for sale of their organs, children in carpet weaving and also cases of recruitment of children as soldiers by some factions was also highlighted during interviews.

**The Save The Children Alliance in Balkh** – two Alliance members Save the Children (UK) and (US) are implementing projects in the province. Health issues dominate the work of both organisations. Monitoring working children and organising education centres for these children has also been prioritised by Save (UK). Some projects are self implemented whilst others are in partnership with youth organisations such as AYU (Save UK) and YCDP + CVG (Save US). Both have child to child groups but in different provinces. Each Alliance member has its own child to child facilitators and field trainings. No interaction between the child groups up to now. Save (US) also has a large kindergarten programme with ECD as an important component. Save (UK) is co-ordinating and leading the provincial child protection network started a few months ago. Save (US) is participating in this group for exchange of information. This network has now taken over the function of the earlier UNICEF child protection network. UNICEF links to this new group remains weak. The local youth organisations associated with the Save the Children Alliance members, UNHCR, AIHRC, IRC and Min of Labour & Social Affairs and orphanages department are also members of the group.

**Capacity of Save (UK) as CCP Focal Point** - Save (UK) has been having children's groups in Mazar even before the CCP. Since Save (UK) also prioritises child participation there is interest from the side of this focal point to sustain the lessons learnt. The CCP concept is now being used to strengthen the existing child to child groups and form new groups especially with street and working children. The long term objective of Save (UK) is to form a large children's network in Balkh including all childrens groups coming under Save (UK) projects in Mazar city, Balkh, Dehdadi, Nahri Shi, children's orphanages and also the Kashyanas. New facilitators

are to be appointed shortly and capacity building by Save (UK) is planned both for the facilitators and the child to child groups.

Save (UK) had no clear conception as to what was expected of them as focal point after the CCP concluded. There were no clear guidelines of what was expected of the focal points and the facilitators after the concluding presentations in Mazar that were forthcoming from the CCP team according to the focal point. Save (UK) has therefore adopted its own methodology for sustaining children's interests and decided to focus primarily on children within its own projects. Save (UK) has developed a strategy preferring to wait and allow children to think for 5-6 months before actively interacting

with the groups once more, after the CCP. Regular contact seems to have been maintained with the children coming within the Save (UK) projects with the assistance of a facilitator from the Afghan Youth Union (AYU) and also the Save (UK) child protection team from the Mazar office. Save (UK) also has Kashyanas (education centers for working children) together with AYU. Techniques of analysis learnt from the CCP are being used in the Kashyanas by the teachers from AYU to stimulate discussion in group work with children, in order to identify issues concerning children and find possible solutions with the children. About 50 children from the original group of 90 children who participated in the CCP are covered by the above activities.

A child protection officer has been appointed by Save (UK) Mazar office to coordinate the CCP and GMC work and also the activities with the children's groups. In addition Save (UK) is also linking with CBOs in the province, the NSP, the DDR, Basic health projects at district level etc. to influence these development projects to be more child oriented. Linking to other NGOs such as GOAL, Action Aid, CHA, CCA, CFA and other NSP partners.

#### **Overview of Activities After CCP process -**

The CCP process was concluded in Mazar in October 2002. Save (UK) which like SCSN has child participation high on its agenda for Afghanistan was assigned the role of focal point organisation to initiate and co-ordinate activities and ideas stemming from the children after the consultation process. Since then the children with the guidance of 4 facilitators have formed about 40 child to child groups in the province and have been analysing their needs according to the principles they learnt during the consultation process. The groups meet once a week or twice a month according to the convenience of the boys and girls. Two concrete proposals have been presented to Save (UK) for consideration and on forwarding to SCSN shortly. The proposals are well thought out and motivated and present the need for two libraries one in Mazar city (proposed by boys group) and the other in Dehdari district (proposed by the girls). The children themselves have also started fund raising locally for the projects and are mobilising the adults in the community to help them regarding allocation of space, painting the library, contributions of books etc. A facilitator from AYU Mazar is presently assisting them to move forward these plans. The children regard the library as a place for exchange of knowledge and learning, a common meeting place and community centre for themselves. They do not want it in a school since this would restrict their access and freedom to use the premises as a common meeting place.

As one boy who was also a child group leader said “ it is not a question of a library for boys or girls. It is a library for children we are asking, where all children are invited to come whatever their social status, background, ethnicity or gender to exchange views and ideas and learn more about each others issues and our rights”. The leaders from the girls group in Dehdari said “ we have done the ground work and have mobilised the community and also identified a suitable locality for the library in our school. We can meet about 50% of the project needs. We are asking SCSN only for the rest for carpets, cupboards, shelves etc. We have to start soon too much time has passed and children groups in Dehdari are asking what happened to our ideas and proposal we carefully prepared? We want to know where is our proposal now and what is SCSN doing?”

OBS – this issue was taken up with SCF in Mazar who have promised to send the proposals from the children immediately to SCS office Kabul for assessment and funding. This could be a good immediate project to sustain interest of the CCP children until such time as long term inputs are planned.

**Position Regarding CCP Facilitators** – Under the CCP 6 facilitators (3 male and 3 female) had been trained in August 2002. They were from CDAP (1), from local youth organisations in Mazar (4), from Save (UK) (1). Today only two of these trained persons are still active and working with children, i.e. one with Save (UK) as protection officer in Mazar and the other with AYU as facilitator for the Save (UK) project with working children. Save (UK) pointed out that there is an acute need to replace the facilitators who have left the project. Training is also immediately needed for these new facilitators in child rights, child stimulation, facilitation skills and community mobilization in order to sustain the interest in child participation and also initiate practical interventions with children and the community. Teachers within the Save (UK) education projects were identified as being suitable for this task.

**Meeting with child group leaders (8 girls, 6 boys and 2 male youth group members)** The child group leaders network call themselves “the GMC group” and lead the CCP post Consultation work together with a facilitator from the AYU. The children were well informed about the goals, objectives and process of the CCP. The trained facilitator from AYU together with the other facilitators trained under the CCP had regular contact with the children in Mazar and had visited the schools and villages frequently before the CCP consultations in October 2002. The children were motivated to come for the Consultations and learn more about their rights and also were asked to choose their leaders – a task that they had never done before especially the girls. The initial preparation work in Mazar has been good and the facilitators as long as they were engaged in the CCP have been active in the field. The interest of the children is still very high this is primarily due to regular follow up by AYU and SC(UK). Some children not coming within the projects of the focal points have fallen out of the CCP.

**Value added to children’s lives- uses of the lessons learnt from CCP –**

- There are about 40 child to child groups in Mazar in four clusters with child group leaders both girls and boys in equal numbers. The leaders have received recognition in the community and function as social leaders in their villages. They stimulate discussions among families on health issues, cleanliness at home, education for girls, rights for the disabled, abuse and exploitation issues relating

- to street and working children. This core group of 40 leaders are also responsible to stimulate new groups and spread the CCP concepts over a wider horizon.
- Within the schools the child group leaders have adapted the child to child concept to suit their own school conditions. 1-2 representatives from each class meet the facilitator and the child protection officer from Save (UK) discuss new ideas and are educated on thematic issues and monitoring of rights. These leaders are responsible to educate other children in their respective classes. They are also required to write reports and give feedback regarding their work and meet with the facilitator twice a month.
  - The girl's school in Dehdadi village has taken up the issue of discrimination. Some girls who could afford were dressed in fancy clothes and painting their nails and wearing fancy earrings just to get attention and show they are different. A joint action to stop this by the children has resulted in the school enforcing the school uniform system so that all children can look the same and feel equal to one another irrespective of their family status.
  - The girls group leaders are using the methods and lessons learnt from the CCP to organise mini-consultations in their villages. They find the role plays, group work exercises to analyse the community through drawings, and thematic issue based discussion in small groups particularly useful to discuss sensitive questions.
  - The girls have attended a UNAMA Conference on Youth and Human Rights in Mazar in 2003 and are trying to learn more about their rights
  - Children want to know more about specific child rights issues such as how to address corporal punishment in their schools and homes and how to motivate the community to refrain from abusing children and exploiting them for child labour. Children now know they are citizens with rights just like adults and must be treated equally and with respect. They also know that children from all factions and ethnic groups in Afghanistan have equal rights and status as other children
  - Different children's groups now realize that they need to know more about each other. Inter exchanges are being promoted via AYU between child groups in the schools and those among working children and children with disabilities under the Save (UK) programme. CCP methods such as group work, drama, analysis through drawings and play are used to stimulate partnership between the groups.
  - Children see themselves as young leaders with a duty to influence even other children outside the project who are "living in the darkness" as one boy said.
  - Consequent to the CCP, the AYU who have long been an active group in Balkh on youth issues for boys and girls, has influenced provincial media to allocate time for TV spots and debates between NGOs and children on child rights issues. The programmes aired on Balkh TV are informative, humourous and entertaining. Educative drama spots and a series of vignettes compiled by youth relating to infringements of child rights have also been developed and recorded on video by the AYU for the TV. The provincial TV has allocated prime time free of charge for broadcast of these advocacy materials. Children and families interviewed were familiar with the programmes, their content and the times of broadcast.

#### **Reactions and results in the Community after the CCP –**

- Parents have learnt more about other groups of children in the community than their immediate ones. Especially issues concerning disabled children and non discrimination. They now have no objections to their children playing and talking with disabled children.

- A girl group leader of 14 years told her parents "we learnt about children's rights". Parent could not believe that there was anything called children's rights. Parents were proud that girls who had limited learning opportunities in the province were getting new knowledge. Parents have encouraged their daughters to talk about child rights to other girls who were not aware of the CCP.

- Community was happy since this was the first non-political event where children and parents could participate together in Mazar. They hoped that events such as the CCP could lead to new leadership from among their children and youth.

- "we were comfortable and confident with the facilitator from AYU. He could explain to us very simply and clearly the objectives of the meeting that was planned for our children and its importance for both our sons and daughters. After this we had no reservations to our children travelling to Mazar for the CCP" community leader.

### **Experiences of the (2) facilitators remaining with the CCP –**

Convincing urban populations who were more open minded was easier than convincing rural populations who were more conservative and reluctant to expose their children to a big meeting in Mazar. Promoting child participation and community mobilisation for the CCP through the school system was comparatively easier in the rural areas since people had confidence in the village schools. This was in direct contrast to the urban area where there was a mistrust of the school and its ability to engage children in new thinking. Facilitators thus had more work in the city even if the population was more open minded to child participation. Promoting child groups within the schools and sustaining them long term was also more successful in the rural than in the urban areas.

The female facilitators were especially needed in the villages to convince families and elders and ensure proportionate participation of boys and girls of all ages in the Consultation. Their roles were lesser important among parents from the city. However more facilitators and training is needed if the interest in child participation and protection issues is to be sustained in the province. Today there are only (2) male facilitators left from the original group of (6). Both are engaged with the Save (UK) projects. They too need more new training and stimulation to meet the demands from children and youth groups in different locations of Balkh.

### **CONCLUSIONS -**

The Mazar childrens consultations August-October 2002 was among one of the first undertaken under the CCP. The whole venture was a learning process for the CCP team on how to organise themselves in the other locations to come. The location was selcted due to the presence of Save the Children Alliance members operative in the province who could sustain the process after the initial CCP trainings and inputs. Selection of the first group of (6) facilitators was also carried out by the Save the Children Alliance members and UNICEF who formed the first GMC group in Mazar. The facilitators training for this group together with two other groups from Herat and Kabul was conducted in Kabul by the CCP team. The training seems to have been adequate to promote the formation of child to child groups but insufficient for facilitators to identify their roles beyond the 3 day Consultation workshop with children which was to follow.

Today the GMC group comprises children and youth group leaders coming within the activities of Save (UK) projects. A new child protection group comprising NGOs , UN

Agencies and some Government departments has been formed under the leadership and coordination of Save (UK) Mazar office. This group meets once a month for exchange of information. After the initial cooperation phase within the CCP the partnership between the Save the Children Alliance and UNICEF regional Office in Mazar also seems to be weakening.

Today Save (UK) is engaged in moving the CCP process forward on its own steam based on its commitment to child participation and child rights. The CCP and its methods are now included within the Save (UK) strategi to identify child protection issues and promote monitoring with children. Thus, sustaining the initial momentum and enthusiasm for the CCP objectives and follow-up projects over and above Save (UK) interest areas seems to be becoming increasingly difficult and not feasible due to logistical reasons and lack of cooperation at the provincial level from all child concerned organisations and institutions.

There seem to have been few new ideas forthcoming from the CCP team to the field to help steer the project, to guide the facilitators in their work with children after the Consultations and direct the focal point on what was expected of them after the initial phase concluded in October 2002. Suggestion/ framework on how to move the process forward with children over and above "make a project proposal with children and send it to SCS in Kabul for funding" would have been welcomed. The fact that neither the children nor the focal point had previous experience of working together in planning projects and writing proposals seems to have been missed by the CCP. The fact that this was a time consuming process involving regular interaction with children and the ability of the focal point to handle this and allocate special time for this has also been assumed.

Today sustaining and planning for future CCP work beyond the Save (UK) projects may not be feasible. There could however exist opportunities for utilisation of the advocacy material and vignettes produced by AYU in other provinces to promote teaching and learning among children and young people on child rights and sharing of information.

## **NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE – VIABLE PROJECT PROPOSALS**

1. Children's library cum community center for children in Mazar city. Children now meeting under tents or in locations where space happens to be available such as at AYU. Save (UK) Mazar office was requested by the Consultant to investigate further together with the children and the community how access for girls and boys would be ensured to the library and its facilities, sustaining of the facilities and investments. Save (UK) was also requested to assist the children in identification of suitable space in Mazar city for the proposed library. The facilitator from AYU trained under the CCP will assist Save (UK) in this regard. Immediate action is required since the children have completed their tasks, namely analysing their needs and submitting a relevant proposal.
2. Training and capacity building of more facilitators from AYU, YCDP, CVG and other groups is also needed in order to sustain interest in child participation and community mobilization outside the Save (UK) project and to compensate

for the high turnover of trained facilitators. Regular monitoring of these persons and new inputs are also needed to sustain their interest and competence. (does SCSN want to sustain other activities and involve other child and youth groups outside the Save (UK) and (US) programmes is a principal question that ought to be taken up first in future programme planning).

3. Girls library in Dehdadi school premises. The library will also be a meeting place for exchange between children in the GMC group and also other students and teachers. The community will contribute with some books, paint and labour and maintenance of library premises. Children want only a 50% contribution from SCSN. Quick decision required by the girls who have completed initial preparations with the community. Consultant requested Save (UK) to assess community contributions and also the possibility for boys also to use the library at different hours or together with the girls in Dehdadi.
4. Training for teachers in the schools by SCSN trainers on child friendly teaching practices including refraining from corporal punishment. Introducing more play and child stimulation within teaching methods.
5. Children also want AYU to intervene with the provincial radio network station to expand the contents of the children's radio programme currently being broadcasted to promote interlinkages between the GMC groups. Topics of interest such as CRC, sanitation, group mobilisation to debate on children's issues, discussions and radio drama on child abuse and corporal punishment could be encouraged with participation from children and youth.
6. Youth want training on how to network with similar GMC groups in the other province and also opportunities for meeting other groups. They would also like to use the advocacy materials produced by them after the CCP to give new ideas and increase knowledge among the child groups in other locations and provinces.

#### **MEETINGS WITH OTHER POTENTIAL ORGANISATIONS -**

**UNAMA Balkh Office** - Discussions have started between UNAMA and the Commanders in the Balkh Province on disarming of youth. Reintegration project by UNICEF has not been launched as yet. Mazar is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the DDR.

**NOTE:-** The Consultation process and methods used could be useful here for UNAMA and other UN bodies to gather the views of children and identify child friendly processes of rehabilitation/reintegration which are planned with children. SCSN doing similar work in Nangahar for UNICEF possibility to link experiences and youth groups in the future.

**UNICEF Regional Office Mazar** - Follow up after the CCP by SCS and the focal points was very weak. Too much was left to the local organisations and the youth groups to take the process forward. No clear guidelines to them on how to do this or how to develop project proposals. The project proposal presented through



UNICEF was rejected by SCS as being too expensive. Save (UK) starts another process and SCS agrees to Save (UK) acting as focal point. UNICEF feels Save (UK) Mazar may not be adequate to take on the coordination role alone for the whole province after the CCP to hold together all the activities that children are suggesting. Facilitators too have lost interest except for a few now being used within the Save (UK) projects. A few follow up meetings have been recently called by Save (UK) with the objective of assessing proposals rather than discussing how do we keep the whole CCP idea alive. UNICEF strongly feels that the child protection network should be under the AIHRC to give it correct local ownership. Important protection issues that ought to receive focus include the DDR, cross border trafficking from Kunduz, Badakshan, Baglan, Takhar, Mazar and Jawzjam of children from 6-17 years for employment and abuse. UNICEF Kandahar coordinating a study trying to follow this network. Very sensitive issue.

**IRC** – IRC did not take part in the CCP could not see the linkage between its projects and the SCS venture. IRC have a project together with UNHCR reporting and monitoring issues relating to children among the returnee populations. IRC has now joined the recently formed Save (UK) Child Protection Network in order to intelink with others and also participate in UNHCR and Save (UK) trainings.

**UNHCR** - Member of the Save (UK) Child Protection Network. Links with the Alliance also through SCS. Has received Community mobilization trainings thrice in 2002 and 2003. (Sadakat, Yusuf, Siddika). Interested to receive training and conduct Consultation with children as in the CCP especially among returnee families to help them co-exist with the settled groups. At present conflict of cultures and ideas between the groups which has resulted in discrimination of returnee children. Searching for methods to initiate focused work with the returnees. This issue too needs to be developed and brought in as a protection issue within the child protection network and UNHCR regards itself as an important resource here. (Nadia Hanifi, Community Services Officer).

#### **Save (US) - Health and ECD Section –**

Health education programmes of Save (US) are primarily on preventive health care. Save (US) has an ECD and child to child programme together with UNICEF. 60 kindergarten centers operating three times a week at household level. About 15-20 children in each center. Space and teacher are provided by the community. Self implemented programme by Save (US).

Methods Adopted In Child to Child - In the child to child programme CVG and YCDP are involved as implementing NGOs. Children from 7-18 years organised around 6 education centers in Mazar. The children are of different social groups and are engaged focused discussions on specific topics and issues affecting their lives. They thereafter disperse to collect information on the topic from the community and community based organisations with a view to organising small action based advocacy projects relating to the topic. They visit schools and community centers to educate other children with similar problems. The child groups also interact with Mullahs, Shuras, and community leaders at community level meetings. The partner NGOs are active in organising the groups and monitoring the programmes.

Some child to child programmes have also been initiated within the community forums established by the Community Forum Development Organisation. Save (UK) has provided some CRC training to the facilitators within this initiative. Among the child to child groups here interest has been focused around topics such as torture and violence in society; discrimination on grounds of ethnicity, gender and disabilities; abuse in schools and at home.

Save (US) is a member of the Child Protection Network to learn about the work of other organisations and exchange information with others. Interested to participate in thematic trainings if these are conducted in the future by SCSN.

**Kashyana Centers of AYU** - These are education centers for street and working children run by AYU and now supported by Save (UK). Youth from AYU are the teachers at the centers. The children feel the centers are important for learning and skills development. Currently the centers are producing radio programmes that are voiced once a week over the Balkh radio where children can reflect on their lives and have social debates over the air. The children wish to be able to spread their ideas and views to other provinces too. Some methods from the CCP are used to stimulate group analysis in the child to child groups in the Kashyanas by Save (UK).

#### **AIHRC North Region Branch Mazar –**

Child Rights Section - (Dr. Khaleeli Deputy for Child Rights Section)

The AIHRC here has been functioning since April 2003. Currently the child rights section of the AIHRC is trying to establish contacts with child rights organisations in the province. The main children's issues as analysed by the child rights section coincided well with the projections made by children at the CCP. (see annex 4 (a) Mazar projection). Challenges for the future lie in identifying methods on how to give constructive and practical ideas to parents and teachers regarding ways and means of respecting children and protecting their rights. Current activities under implementation include

- AIHRC partnership with the Dept of Education to include CRC sessions in primary school education classes.
  - Programmes on TV and radio on child abuse and corporal punishment.
  - Training for police, military and teachers to eradicate the culture of violence against children. Training packages from different NGOs used. AIHRC has also received some trainings from Save (UK).
  - Officials from AIHRC also visit orphanages and detention centers and follow up individual cases for release of children illegally detained.
  - AIHRC has documented abuse, trafficking and kidnapping in the province through a factual verification exercise in Balkh, Sar-e-Pul, Samangan, Jawzjam, Faryab provinces. Some girls sold by families in settlement of family debts, early marriage and forced marriages, boys for employment etc.
  - Lack of education facilities for IDPs was also raised as an issue.
  - Raising concerns regarding uneven and ineffective distribution of UNICEF resources in the region creating discrimination and community dissatisfaction. UNICEF prefers to have tent schools costing about USD 600 instead investing in simple school constructions costing about Afs 3,000 and building more schools with the same quantity of money.
  - AIHRC member of the SC(UK) Child Protection Network. Sees the network as being an important forum to avoid duplication of projects in the same



## Report From Sar-e-Pul and Sheberghan Final CCP Sessions

**Background** - This was one of the few locations where field assessment would have been possible through observation and discussions at the time of CCP implementation. The initial plans were for the Consultant to observe these final sessions herself, make an assessment of the observations and present some viable future plans in consultation with the participating children, the authorities in Sar-e-Pul and Shiberghan and also the focal point. However, the uncertain security situation during October in Balkh in general and in these two districts in particular resulted in a postponement of the CCP and forced a change of the initial plans both for the CCP team and the Consultant.

This "location report" is not a project assessment by the Consultant but a short overview of the outcome of the final CCP sessions in the two locations in November as reported by a member of the CCP team from SCSN who led the work in the both places. This report is included to highlight important concerns that were raised by the children which ought to be considered by SCSN in case the organisations decide to begin projects in the future in these two districts together with SC (UK) the focal point for Balkh or in cooperation with other partners.

### Concerns Raised By Children -

(A) Sheberghan District - This was the first time that children had gathered together to discuss and analyse the situation regarding their rights and highlight the obligations of the community and leaders to ensure fulfillment of these rights. Children had expressed their needs and rights as citizens as follows:-

- "education and health facilities should be ensured for all boys and girls without any kind of discrimination: children should have access to playgrounds, female children should have access to higher education, there should be no discrimination between boys and girls by our families". Naveed 12 years. (boy)
- "how happy I would be if there was no war, if there were no bombs among the toys I pick up in the fields, if my mother did not have a sad face when I want to go to school instead of work, if there was no restriction to playing, if there were no guns in the hands of people in my village but pens instead". Kamran 8 years. (boy)
- "we the children are tired of war, hunger, being orphans, living in fear, facing violation of our rights, corporal punishment and discrimination. We want boys and girls to continue their education side by side. We want child rights education for the community, family and Government and implementation. Armed people are our main concern. They must be disarmed". Nasreen 14 years. (girl)
- "Good food, love, good behaviour from adults, education and peace are factors influencing child development which is our right. In Afghanistan today many children are refugees in other countries, many are forced into child labour and used for trafficking and smuggling, have no access to education. We have heard about the CRC and that Afghanistan has ratified the CRC. Now we need to claim our rights and the Government must ensure we get these rights. Participation is our basic right. We should be given the chance to express ourselves on issues concerning ourselves. Adults want children to be silent. They do not want us to participate in meetings, discussions and decisions. This affects our personality and keeps us under-developed, and adults often think we are stupid and foolish.

Why cannot adults respect our personality & right to express ourselves". Ahmed Bashir 14 years.

- "We children have suffered from the war, have had bad experiences from the war, have been made orphans by the war, are being subject to discrimination, are being beaten at home and at school, no regular food, education nor shelter. Don't ask us to be silent but I ask you instead to listen to us. We want peace, security and implementation of our basic rights." Sharmila 13 years (girl).
- "Children's rights should be a part of the Constitution of Afghanistan. The weapons should be collected and pens and books distributed to the armed people instead." Mina 15 years (girl).

#### # Commitments By The Authorities Present –

Abdul Hay Yaseen representative of the Provincial Government - "I feel proud that children are coming forward to claim their rights. We should remove the gun and give them books and pens. We will try to pass your messages to the Loja Jirga to include aspects of the CRC in the new Constitution. We ask your teachers to teach you with love and not with the stick".

#### Concerns raised By Children -

(B) Sar-e-Pul District – Important concerns raised by children at the concluding sessions here were as follows:-

- "families are not allowing girls to go attend school after they pass 14 years. Instead they are forced to marry. The legal age of marriage should be raised and this should be stated in the marriage documents. Our role is ignored in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. We have the capacity to rebuild our country but in Sar-e-Pul nobody considers us. We need a children's committee to discuss children's concerns with the authorities". Sima 13 years (girl).
- "children have passed a very difficult period in Afghanistan. Our country is destroyed because of national and international interference. Our schools have been destroyed especially by the Taliban. Discrimination is very strong among ethnic groups which makes life difficult especially for the girls. We do not want to talk about the past, we want to forget what happened and move ahead. Now we want to rebuild our country. We want education, to remove the roots of war. We want a safe and secure environment and people should be disarmed to ensure this. We need a University for girls since they cannot go to other provinces for higher studies." Takhima 14 years (girl).
- "We girls in Afghanistan have suffered as much as anyone else from the years of war. We have witnessed killings, destruction and chaos; but now we children want to prepare the grounds for development. For this we want your attention to the following issues. The CRC which is ratified by Afghanistan should be a part of the Constitution, not only on paper. Weapons should be collected from all over the country. The older should have literacy courses. The schools should have libraries and laboratories. For Sar-e-Pul girls a university is very important". Navida 13 years.
- "We want to stop early and forced marriages, especially for girls who are going to school. The beating of children in the homes and in the schools is a big problem and it should stop. Family quarrels and fighting also affect the children's personality. Finally we want peace and no fighting". Zyada 15 years (girl).



## Badakshan Report

**Recent Trends and Development** – The population is for the most part are very poor and have to cope with limited resources. The harsh winter conditions and lack of agricultural opportunities for almost 6 months of the year often leaves large groups of people very vulnerable. The number of NGOs and UN offices in Faizabad the provincial capital is small. Most organisations are engaged in rural engineering including road construction, community development programmes for agriculture, water and sanitation, micro finance, maintaining rural health clinics and educational services. WFP has a major food for work, food for education programme for children and families implemented through local and international NGOs. Wheat distribution among participants as an incentive to engage them in development projects is common: so much so that even wheat and cooking oil distribution is used as an incentive to families even to ensure that children are sustained in school! This was loosely described as a method of "community mobilization" by many UN agencies and international organisations interviewed. Very few organisations are concerned about children's rights nor do they analyse the consequences of increased dependency. Badakshan is also known for its poppy cultivation which has been revived and expanded after the Taliban and functions as a major income earner for the rural poor. Children too are engaged in the cultivation and sale of the crop. The numbers of children engaged in the cultivation and sale of the crop is on the increase today according to sources interviewed in the province.

Recently there has been concerns raised from human rights agencies in Kabul about sale of children and trafficking of children from Badakshan to Pakistan and Iran. This trend was however denied by the local offices of UNICEF, UNAMA and local NGOs interviewed who classified this as "media propoganda" by some local political groups. Traditionally, the practice seems to exist of sending boys over 16 to work in Iran and for education in the religious schools of Pakistan, this is now termed "trafficking".

There is a high degree of awareness and priority placed on education of girls and sending girls to primary, secondary and even high school in the village is common. The positive attitude to girls education is attributed to the Mujahideen's commitment to education of girls. Even during the jihad mobile schools for girls were prioritised by the Mujahideen. Literacy in the province is estimated to be as high as 45% for girls. In many villages (such as Argu) there is a healthy balance between fundamentalism and education for girls. Boys are often educated only up to the secondary level. They were thereafter compelled to shoulder family responsibilities and work instead of education. In contrast girls are being allowed to continue to receive higher education.

However a disturbing trend in recent months is the emergence of 14 political parties in the province, in anticipation of the 2004 national elections. Of these about 4 are fundamentalist and it is they who are spreading rumours about trafficking of children to BBC and other "scoop media reporters" according to UNAMA! The local NGOs, UN organisations led by UNAMA and the provincial govt will soon be coordinating a child protection network in the province to quash this rumour. The groups also hope to function as a child protection and monitoring network for Badakshan province in the future.

## **Assessment of CCP in Badakshan –**

The CCP process in the province was concluded in August 2003. The CCP was implemented here at the special request of Afghan Aid (AA) who are active in the province through Community Mobilization & Development Projects. Afghan Aid through its provincial office in Faizabad was designated as the focal point by the CCP to carry out the follow up activities in Badakshan after August 2003.

AA also undertook responsibility for future project coordination and implementation with children and the facilitators. During assessment it was apparent that this coordination seems to be taking place only to a limited extent today and in relative isolation of other NGOs in the province. UNICEF Faizabad office was active during the consultations with 60 parents and their children having joined the CCP sessions in Faizabad. However after this the links between the focal point and UNICEF seem to have weakened, so has the AA contacts with other NGOs and the AIHRC who also participated actively in the CCP.

Afghan Aid is today implementing the follow up project by itself as part of its Child Development Pilot Project which falls within the AA Community Development Programme. The focus is on two locations ARGU and WARDUJ. The projects center on child to child activities among children and youth both girls and boys. There was little knowledge of the Afghan Aid project among the other NGOs and CBOs we interacted with in Faizabad. Even the Afghan Aid provincial office staff seemed uncertain of what was expected of them in the future in relation to the Child Development Project and how to further promote and develop the initiative and stimulate the facilitators.

**Capacity of Afghan Aid as CCP Focal Point** - Afghan Aid is the second largest NGO in the province and has strong contacts with the community and enjoys the trust of the people and the Shuras even in the most remote locations with difficult access. The organisation has a strong outreach programme through its health education programmes, its infrastructure and agriculture support projects, rural infrastructure projects, kitchen garden programmes, women's resource centers. The ability to educate communities within these projects on child rights through the child to child groups trained under the CCP has yet to be conceptualised. The same also applies to extending the CCP learning into AA's community based trainings which could be a strong base to build on to promote child rights concepts.

New inputs and stimulans is urgently needed to the child to child groups both in Argu and Warduj. They are very strong, enthusiastic and active now. But for how long and how can AA sustain the interest are urgent issues that should be discussed between SCSN and AA. A long term programme vision is immediately needed together with increased delegation by AA to the field and regular coordination from Faizabad level. Training inputs should also preferably be coordinated and implemented at province and village levels by SCSN and AA in the future rather than centralised and planned from Kabul in order to stimulate the field work and the staff engaged with children.



New and Emerging Concerns - How will AA respond to the proposals from the children? There is no mechanism within AA to discuss and assess the children's plans and link this to SCSN. There is also an acute need for training and sensitization at other levels of the provincial organisational structure. e.g. managerial levels for proper monitoring of the project, facilitators to deal with specific new issues raised by the children corporal punishment, abuse and violence, changing community perceptions etc. The project seems to be coordinated from Kabul with no regular new inputs and capacity building to the province to carry forward the work. The CRC training seems to be repeated and not geared to the practical needs of the field. The field has now identified new training needs beyond CRC. How can this be met by AA and SCSN together in order to sustain and move forward the CCP in the future is a challenge that needs to be addressed.

### **Overview Of Activities After The CCP Process Assessment of Field Work –**

**(A)VISIT TO ARGU** - A remote rather conservative muslim village, about 2 hours away from Faizabad. AA is working in 6 village clusters covering 36 villages – 2184 households – 2839 families – with a staff of 36 village organisers. Even though the village was conservative there were large numbers of girls in primary, secondary and high schools. Parents considered education of girls as being important for the development of the village. Traditionally the genders have been working together in the fields despite the burka tradition, so joint cooperation is common and accepted in Argu. Even the male Shura members the Consultant met with were very supportive of education for all genders. The problem however today is that the village lacks education investments for boys in comparison to those being made for girls! Today there 14 boys groups with 297 members and 11 girls groups with 170 members in Argu under (4) facilitators two males and two females from the vilage. The facilitators are all regular employees of Afghan Aid in Argu. They have good contact with the children and the community and interact often with the families through house visits and via Shura meetings. Different methods have been successfully adopted by the male and female facilitators to motivate the community about child rights issues.

Impact of CCP on AA Office Argu - The AA office and staff in Argu considered it important to be part of the CCP because they considered it as being a good opportunity for the children in Argu to share information about their village and discuss specific issues of importance to them with children from other villages in Badakshan. It was also an opportunity for Argu children to learn how children analyse issues and solve problems in other countries – a valuable experience to bring back to the village to share with other children. Children were also regarded as important actors by AA in community development projects since they could assist adults to analyse their environment and village issues better. The saying of the Holy Prophet "those who do not respect their elders and those who do not appreciate and value the opinion of children is not one of us" was often used in the village level motivation sessions by the AA staff to facilitate participation and inclusion of children.

Position regarding CCP Facilitators – Four staff members from AA were trained as facilitators under the CCP (2 males and two females). One pair has left the project to join another NGO. Today today only one male and one female faclitator are actively

functioning. Two new facilitators have just been appointed by AA but had received no formal training at the time of this assessment and were "teaching themselves". Provincial office and Argu office highlighted this lack of regular training for the facilitators and also management staff as a weakness in this project. Projected this as an immediate need that ought to be prioritised by AA and SCSN for sustaining the child development programme in Badakshan.

Methods Used By Male Facilitator - A male community mobilizer from AA who had been trained as facilitator under the CCP had worked extensively both with the community and with the children before the child groups were formed. Interventions with peer leaders, Shuras, parents and religious had been made to convince them of the value of understanding children. How motivation was done? Islam and values from the Koran were used in discussions to convince people that children also had rights that ought to be respected. Youth were also motivated through Islam to include disabled children and orphans in the youth groups. The value of working together in the community and in the child groups was motivated by comparing the group to a hive of bees where it is the collective response of working together that achieves the ultimate result, one individual bee would not have been able to achieve any visible result!

Methods Used By Female Facilitator - The facilitator was head of the AA women's resource center and an engineer by profession and respected by the young girls, their families and the Shura members in the village. She uses the AA resource center as a meeting place and her skills training groups as discussion fora to stimulate child rights discussions among the young girls. The girls meet twice a week and discuss issues concerning their lives such as early marriage, security and protection issues for older girls, access to higher education, discrimination between boys and girls.

Some 'self-reflections' after the CCP

- "Sometimes parents deny basic human rights by not extending common courtesy to their children. They take them for granted. No one says thank you to a girl, shows appreciation or recognises them as being brave and useful people in the family even if they do as much work for the family as the boys. Just because young girls are going to school in Argu we should not assume they have rights and respect from the family" reflection on attitudes in the family to girls and their rights.
- Reflecting on social change and child rights "I cannot say people have not changed even if this village is very conservative in its values. When I started working here 7 years ago there were very few schools for girls but today we have schools upto the 10<sup>th</sup> class in Argu and girls are attending the schools. Even the women's resource center was a new concept when I started this project with Afghan Aid. Today girls can come here freely and associate with each other in discussions. They see me a professional woman as a good example of what a woman can achieve if only one has the determination to do so despite all odds. Attitudinal changes take time but they are coming."

#### **Impact Of CCP on Argu village and the local community as seen by adults**

- taking children 20 boys and 20 girls to Faizabad was a big challenge for the facilitator but it was an even bigger challenge for the community and the families to allow their children to go to the big city alone. Many parents had never visited Faizabad themselves! They trusted Afghan Aid and so allowed the children.

- many mothers worried about the early marriage issue but did not know how to discuss this matter with their daughters. They are now relieved that the young girls have begun to analyse their lives and take up this issue themselves and can promote open discussion in groups after the CCP
- children pushing peers and adults in the community to advocate with policy makers for prohibition of early marriage and child marriage and ensure that this prohibition is included in the new Constitution.

### **Impact on Argu Village and Changes In The Community as seen by children**

- lesser cases of corporal punishment in the family
- parents don't expect children to carry 50 kgs of wheat daily to the market. "Burden of work has decreased, even though we still have to work".
- parents using discussion and advice instead of the stick to correct children
- children now able to analyse special concerns and issues such as lack of roads and communication, need for schools materials and library, need for a boy's schools. All UNICEF facilities have been provided only for the girls who have classes upto high school in the village, boys feel excluded of their rights. Presently they sit by the river on stones and study!
- community has jointly contributed and constructed a building for the boy's school and is willing to contribute to teachers salary to start off the school. Children in the groups have jointly identify material needs such as doors, windows, books and stationery, tables and chairs for the school. Seeking external funding.
- community has joined together to contribute towards paying for transport from Faizabad and meeting the salary of 4 teachers in the girls school. Addressing the shortage of qualified female teachers in Argu.
- The men's Shura has agreed to allow the boys to share the same school as the girls, at separate times and sessions, until the new boys school is completed. However the boys are not allowed to use the recreational and sports facilities that are reserved for girls most hours of the day. The boys can play anywhere was the opinion of the Shura, the girls have the greater need just now!

### **Value Added To Childrens Lives –lessons learnt from the CCP-**

- feel proud to have represented their village at an important gathering with important decision makers in Faizabad and to have been able to analyse the issues of their village for the general public.
- a unique occasion where adults gave us the time and came to a meeting to actually to listen to childrens views, especially our views from the village.
- originally children in Argu used to solve problems alone with the parent or school teacher but now they first analyse the situation in the group work out a strategy and then approach the family or teacher in a collective group seeking a solution e.g. construction of volleyball court in girls school, need for boys school etc.
- children happy that they too can now be active in Afghan Aid projects just like their fathers in agricultural projects and their mothers in the women resource and skills development centers, kitchen garden projects etc.
- during the nights there is no electricity, there are also armed gangs in our village all of which we are afraid of. We are now raising these issues with our parents and asking them to solve this issue and ensure our security. (girls groups)

- lack of stationery in the girls school discussed with the community and community contribution obtained to meet this need (girls groups)
- influenced female Shura in the village to take up the issue of early marriage and its hindrance to education for girls. (girls groups)

### **Uses & Impact of Child Rights training On Children -**

Discussion with boys group leaders – 12 peer leaders from boys groups took part in the informal discussions. The boys recap how they started the child to child groups. They were motivated by the facilitators to sit in the school garden under the shade of trees and have their meetings. Other children too got curious and joined in. Today there are 14 boys groups with about 280 members meeting weekly exchanging ideas on child rights. Topics that are discussed at the group meetings include the concept of "who is a child" as understood by children in Argu, the contents of the CRC and its 54 Articles covering rights, that children also had the right to expression and freedom of association and why this was not functioning in Argu, how one could motivate parents towards allowing the child increased participation in family decisions that concern them, the burden of work on children, violence in the school.

### Discussion with girls group leaders and 20 girls from childrens groups –

What do you understand when you hear the words "child rights"?

Answers – it is about the human rights of all people under 18 years. It ensures the right to survival, security, education and access to these. It gives assurances that girls and boys have the same rights. It allows us to express ourselves and say no to early marriage. It makes it obligatory for the province to allocate resources for us and give us priority even if our province is a very remote one in Afghanistan.

What are your memories and impressions from the CCP?

Answers – "We saw and learnt from other children many new ways of analysing our situation and expressing our views e.g. role plays, songs, drama, speeches in public." "There was one drama on discrimination that was very good – a working child was prevented from going to school by his father. The CCP facilitator visited the house and together with child and parents manages to make a schedule that meets both the child's dream of going to school fulfilled and the family need to get some work done by the child. It was just a matter of adjusting times and giving less work to the child. Jointly finding solutions with our families is important for us as children."

### **CONCLUSIONS –**

There has been a very good start off in Argu and the interest still continues among the children in the child to child groups and the community. AA has the confidence of the communities and strong linkages to the families in Argu. It was a good strategy on the part of SCSN and AA to build on an existing/ongoing programme with a wide outreach in the community and broadbased impact. The problem however is that a clear cut mandate is needed for the Faizabad and Argu offices to carry the project forward including capacity building training in child rights, monitoring and management of the child to child groups and the facilitators. The commitment and interest on the part of the field staff and field office of AA is very strong. They want to learn more and involve themselves more strategically in the Child Development Programme activities. SCSN ought to cooperate on these fronts on training AA staff in the Argu and Faizabad and also invest in special projects with children in

partnership with AA. Agreement should be first reached between SCSN and AA at the senior management levels in Kabul, including with the Manager Child Development Programme, regarding decentralisation of the Child Development Programme activities and trainings before the steps proposed below are launched.

#### **NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE - VIABLE PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR ARGU –**

1. Assistance to complete the boys school started by the community. The ground work, roof and walls have been complete. Identification of teachers and their salaries can also be met by the community. Boys seeking external support for doors, windows, seating facilities, stationery and textbooks. School will serve both as school and community center for the boys groups and youth. How far can SCSN help via Afghan Aid office Argu. Input needed after winter in April 2004 when work can resume once more and the school sessions start after winter.
2. Trainings inputs from SCSN - Need for child rights training and practical methods to explain the rights concepts to facilitators, Shuras, women resource centers and child leaders. Additionally, there is need for focused training on non-discrimination and inclusion, corporal punishment and child rights, ' concepts on how to link human rights and child rights and Islam, community mobilization to promote child rights. There is a need for regular training and follow up in the field: at present trainings seem to be far and few and no regular back-up from Kabul Office seems to be forthcoming. SCSN and AA need to work out a training programme with timeframes to realise these trainings.
3. AA should be encouraged by SCSN to join the local networks and be active in child rights monitoring groups in Faizabad. At the moment AA has little or no links with other child protection networks or children's organisations in Faizabad with a view to learn from them. AA seems to be keeping its children's programme separate from the other child protection initiatives being implemented among other organisations in Badakshan, even linkages to the AIHRC were weak.
4. Training on child rights and monitoring for supervisory and management levels at Faizabad by SCSN is also needed for future sustainability of the project. If this should be done direct or via AA Kabul office should be first discussed between the two organisations.
5. Reorganisation of linkage to main programme and delegation to the field is needed for future sustainability. A principal discussion on this is necessary between SCSN and AA to uphold the good work that has started and infuse new momentum into the CCP work. (AA is shortly starting an internal evaluation of its work and this principal discussion should be ideally taken prior to this evaluation). The provincial office of AA in Faizabad has not been required to be active or feel as being a part of the Child Development Programme. Further, the provincial office has not been delegated the task to monitor the child development project therefore there is no direct linkage at field level today to the community mobilization programme as a whole. This

compartmentalisation could result in fragmentation of the programme and limitation of the impact of the CCP.

**(B)VISIT TO WARDUJ** - About 3 hours to the East of Faizabad. Warduj is made up of 44 villages. AA is working in 33 through the Shuras and community mobilization among 26,00 people. AA is also working with female Shuras in 6 villages. In contrast to Argu in Warduj 98% of the population is illiterate. Only three primary, one secondary school and one health clinic run by govt in all these 44 villages.

Overview of CCP Activities- The CCP was started here too at the request of AA. Child to child activities of AA were have been functioning here since 2001. Active child to child groups. One male and one female facilitator trained under the CCP have been working since August. The facilitators working on a voluntary basis without salary. The male facilitator is infact an AA Community mobilizer and the female a health educator within the AA. There is good interaction between the facilitators and also between the child groups and the facilitators. Today there are 5 girls groups with 100 members covering 6 villages and 7 boys groups with 151 members covering 5 villages.

#### Functions of the facilitators in the community after the CCP and results –

- The Articles of the CRC have been used to sensitize the Shuras, community and parents regarding the value of education and the rights of both girls and boys to education.
- Motivating the community through focused group discussions in the Shura regarding early marriage, child labour, violence against children, discrimination etc. Discussions are becoming increasingly positive and the elders more outspoken to postponing the age of marriage. The age of marriage for girls has gone up from 13-14 to now 16 years.
- Children were grazing cattle and collecting wood and fodder instead of going to school now Shura has motivated parents to send them to schools and give them less work.
- Value of sports and recreation too is reflected in the community, more children at play after distribution of sports material by AA.
- After 4 months of sensitization the community realizes that it is valuable for children to discuss issues concerning their future in groups rather than alone. Children both boys and girls permitted to meet and discuss freely after the CCP.

#### Meeting With Child Group Leaders Boys 10-16 Years - Impact of CCP -

11 boys from the child to child groups were interviewed. The facilitator had encouraged the children to participate in the CCP in order to present their concerns regarding children in their village to the higher authorities. Memories and lasting impressions from the CCP –

" this was the first time I went to Faizabad and saw the city"

"this was the first time I could stand up and present my ideas before elders"

"it was a memorable experience taking part in a drama to express my concerns about moneylenders and indebtedness in my village"

"I got the opportunity to express the concerns of my village through poetry which I enjoy more than speech"

"this was the first time we visited Faizabad and also the first time we saw the AA office and met children from Argu. We want to have more time for exchanges with them either in their village or in Faizabad".

"this was the first opportunity for me to leave my village and see a high officer from the Government".

"Before the conference we were silent since we were from the village now when we discuss our future in groups we feel more confident and speak out our feelings".

#### Results after the CCP? Use of Consultation Methods and Experience By The Boys-

- "we told other boys that they should not be tending animals, cows and donkeys year in year out that they should aspire for more through education"
- " we hear of so many seminars and workshops in Kabul but we from the village are often considered without rights to participate in such events and meet children from other places". We now realise that adults are preventing children from meeting one another and discussing issues about rights"
- "even if we are children we now understand after the Consultations that we are a part of the community and should be given the opportunity to express our views and concerns to community leaders by ourselves"
- "when we returned we participated in a male Shura meeting to tell them that we had taken both issues of concern to us such as lack of girls schools and discrimination and also those of concern to the village such as roads, bridges, unemployment and electricity shortage"
- "we encouraged the girls to also organise meetings with the female Shuras about their special concerns using the methods from the CCP and this has been done by them"
- "we are helping our parents to overcome their illiteracy and teaching them to read and write. They are consulting us and we are consulting them".

#### Meeting With Men's Shura – Assessment of CCP

Shura had 50 members made up of prominent members of the village, some free thinking Mullahs, teachers and community mobilizers in village development.

- Our children are the future of the village we are proud that they could participate in the children's conference
- Our children got an opportunity to bring to the notice of the higher authorities the prominent issues and needs of our village, even we adults have not managed this yet in Warduj.

- Islam encourages elders to listen to the views of children now this is reaffirmed by the children's consultations. It was nothing foreign to us as muslims.

#### Cooperation between the Men's Shura and the children after the CCP –

- Shura is discussing issues and solutions for the village together with the children after the CCP. Shura has encouraged the community to jointly contribute towards purchase of land for a girls school and a request for construction has been made to UNICEF Faizabad but no response upto now after the initial survey. Girls studying outdoors under guidance of 11 female teachers from the community on the banks of the Warduj river sitting on stones. Very soon the school activities will stop due to the severe winter in Warduj. Shura views this project as a priority for the girls since the boys have their own school at present.
- conference encouraged children to meet and learn new methods of village development that would benefit children. This is considered as being important by the Shura since children are also members of the community
- the children brought up the idea of getting electricity to the village and the Shura has persued this. Today the village has electricity after Shura negotiated this with the local authorities and an NGO working in the village. Children very proud.
- Shura and children have advocated among the parent-teacher committees in the schools to discuss issues relating to discrimination, corporal punishment and abuse in the class rooms. How to understand children better and alternatives to corporal punishment have also been discussed with the school principle and teachers. Shura stressed that children and parents must be encouraged to understand each other. Causes for a person's violent behaviour must also be analysed. Reasons such as poverty, no salary for teacher, parents want child to work and parents feel irritated when child has other ideas such as going to school or for play etc were cited. Shura wishes to learn more and have more training from SCSN on these issues for the village..
- many boys from Warduj are being sent to work in Iran and also for education in "madrassas" in Pakistan due to limited facilities in the village. Links are established through children who are already in Pakistan and who come back to Waduj on visits. Ages vary from 10-20 years when they leave their families for Pakistan and over 16 years when they move to Iran in search of work. Smugglers at the border help the kids over to Iran and the children are in life long debt to the smugglers who take the child's salary once tythey find a job usually on construction sites. Shura are concerned that children cannot get education and vocational skills in the village and have to be exploited in this way.
- Shura and children also have begun to analyse access to education and vocational skills for disabled children and orphans who are often neglected, discriminated and found working under "bonded labour" conditions for others.

#### Meeting With Girls Groups, Womens Shura and female facilitator –

The girls had learnt of the CCP through the AA female facilitator. Very good and alert female facilitator who has the confidence of the groups. The girls were well informed about the purpose and objectives of the CCP. They had worked in groups in the preparatory stage, divided according to ages under the leadership of the



facilitator. This method made them both familiar and interested in the topics they were preparing for the Consultation and facilitated them to analyse their needs and prioritise issues easily. During this meeting with the group the girls under 12 years very keen to express their views the 12-16 group seemed less willing to discuss family issues openly. Seemed unsure of the reactions of the female Shura members present. *Strong memories from the Consultations were*

- "It was the first opportunity for us to talk before our elders about our issues".
- "It was the first occasion that adults gave us time and space and actually allocated time to listen to us without stopping us midway"
- "we learnt so many new things like that there is a global movement for children and that we and our village are now part of this movement promoting child rights everywhere ; that Afghanistan has ratified the CRC and is therefore bound to respect child rights and allocate resources ; that our rights are of 4 main types and we can claim any type relevant for us."

#### Activities Started/ Future Plans After The CCP By The Girls -

- the under 12 group have started discussing rights issues with parents and elders at home. "we told our parents that the people at the conference gave us a lot of encouragement and confidence; much more than anyone has given us at home"
- we learnt about the "dream day" we are still dreaming and hoping that we will get our own girls school and do not have to study in the cold by the side of the river"
- "we feel with contributions from the community we can start building the girl's school on the village land secured for us by the Shura. Our fathers and brothers can make the bricks. We need only a little equipment, books and stationery from organisations outside. The female Shura can supervise the construction together with the AA engineers". (the facilitator endorsed this view).
- we realise we need more knowledge and methods to talk to our parents on sensitive issues, we are also interested to know about games and play in other countries. We want to learn new games and play.
- teachers are beating us and sometimes the punishment is severe. It is better to speak to us and try to understand why we have not read our lessons or finishes our homework. This is against our rights but they have no knowledge. We want them educated in child rights and their duties.
- teachers are responsible to teach us. It is their duty to find better ways of teaching us than beating us. It is their responsibility to understand us as children.

#### **CONCLUSIONS –**

Warduj district just like Argu has motivated and active child to child groups under AA Warduj office. The staff and facilitators are also interested in new training and stimulation in order to develop the programme further with the girls and boys. There is a need for more facilitators, training, monitoring and management of child to child groups just like in Argu. Decentralisation of the Child Development Programme from Kabul to the field remains an issue here too. Agreement should be first reached between SCSN and Afghan Aid Kabul Management levels on steps for decentralisation to the field in Warduj before the following project proposals are taken up for discussion and implementation with Afghan Aid.

## NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE VIABLE PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR WARDUJ

1. Programme review with AA with a view to strengthening the field activities and coordinating the programmes with the child to child groups of all age groups. This could include identification of field level trainings for the children and facilitators, community and Shuras, AA field staff and women's groups with a view to promoting child participation and protection issues. The last CRC training by SCSN and AA to the field offices was in 2001. This was too early and before any child to child work had started in the field. No trainings and new inputs since then until August 2003 and the CCP input by SCSN. The only training the child groups and facilitators remember is that under the CCP. They want more refresher training at village level from SCSN. Very strong and vibrant child to child groups both boys and girls. How do we sustain the momentum and build confidence among them?

2. Assistance to build and invest in a girls school in Warduj together with the community. AA has the cement. The community has the land, the manpower, the teachers and are already meeting the cost of (4) females of the (8) teachers, how can we move ahead since UNICEF seems to be dragging its feet regarding the building and equipment. There are a few conservative members in the village who want to see the project delayed even further shall the girls bow down to the will of these people after all this initial spadework with the community and Shura. How far and in what way can SCSN and AA jointly cooperate to start work on the school in April 2004 after winter.

3. Promoting cooperation between the child groups and facilitators in Warduj and those of Argu on a regular basis for exchange of experiences and to learn from each other.

4. The community, children and facilitators have identified the following training needs to improve their skills and want SCSN assistance urgently : -

- training on new methods and ideas on how to consolidate work and sustain interest within the child to child groups both for boys and girls.
- training on a regular basis for parents and Shura members on the human rights of the child and also CRC concepts
- facilitation and presentation skills for the facilitators and children
- CRC and monitoring skills training for the management levels in Faizabad, and Warduj and Argu.
- training in community/group mobilization and organisation of self help activities in the community for men and women to address childrens needs
- skills in addressing psycho social issues and speaking to children on sensitive issues.

HOW FAR CAN SCSN HELP. Is AA Child Development Section willing to allow SCSN to conduct **regular training** in Argu and Warduj with SCSN trainers even for AA staff??

5. Discuss with AA longterm cooperation in both places? How does AA look on this 'pilot project' which was planned to last 3 years: two have already passed. What are AA's future plans for this child dev project.

(Take a meeting with Mr. Mall Simons Country Director Kabul Office, the AA Evaluation Section, and Mr. Gulam Rabbani Manager Child Development Programme.)

## **MEETINGS WITH OTHER POTENTIAL ORGANISATIONS –**

**UNICEF** - Dr. Zahir Fazil, Provincial Project Officer Badakshan – UNICEF concerned with lack of monitoring on protection issues in Badakshan and allegations that children are being kidnapped and trafficked across the border for sale of organs etc. This is untrue. Want to coordinate a child protection group together with UNAMA to quash the rumour. Children only going for work in Iran above 16 years and for education to Pakistan. Parents are very poor and employment opportunities are limited so exploitation of children in child labour, sending children out of the province for work and even engaging them in poppy cultivation and sale of opium is common. There is a need for annual relief programmes to sustain families during the long and severe winter when many localities are cut off for at least 6 months of the year. Supporting about 234 schools under the back to school programme and about 400,000 children in schools. Material support also to the provincial education department. UNICEF wants to do more but has at present only 2 professional staff members to implement its programme covering 27 districts of Badakshan.

**UNAMA** – very concerned about false rumours about children and monitoring this issue closely. Alleges scoop media reports supported by some factional groups who wish to destabilise Badakshan which is a relatively quiet province with no factional fighting or insecurity.

**Norwegian Afg Comm (NAC)** - has education, health, infrastructure programmes and a small self run orphanage (children who have lost their fathers in the jihad). Runs also a food for education programme (WFP oil, wheat and rice to families of children) in 97 primary schools in the province. NAC participated in the CCP invited by Afghan Aid. They distributed a hygiene kit for all the children who participated at the Consultation.

Environment protection training for the youth in primary and secondary classes and also for women's groups. NAC has its own teacher training programme in Badakshan. Plan for expansion in the education field. Working groups in health and education but not linked to UNICEF. 1 Programme Manager and 104 field staff. Sub-office in Kishim.

**PROJECT** - maybe a good CBO to sensitise on CRC and link with Mazar youth groups and Heart youth groups. Coordinate work under AIHRC or UNICEF.

**Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA)** – All staff at the Faizabad office were away at a training in Puli Kumri and not available for a meeting during this visit.

**AIHRC Badakshan Regional Office** – Mohammad Mohsin Farid – Deputy Manager - office under reorganisation may shift to Kunduz for better focus and overlook Badakshan from there. ISAF presence in Kunduz could also be helpful for AIHRC and create environment to monitor rights issues. Opposition for human

rights work by some local political parties in Badakshan makes working environment difficult. AIHRC has to constantly explain its position on hr issues. Lack of skilled support staff and communication problems with the districts also a problem. Making strides in Faizabad but weak in monitoring the provinces. Child rights dept of AIHRC branch has 1 child rights officer and one assistant. Scope of present work :-

- AIHRC in contact with dept of education to meet the needs of schools and equipment lacking in them
- re disabled children in contact with ICRC for orthopedic care
- monitoring children engaged in poppy cultivation and smuggling of narcotics
- monitoring health issues of children in carpet industry. Providing protection masks. No employment of kids under 12 years is being promoted as a first step
- has regular meetings with UNICEF, ICRC and CFA on the above issue
- plans to expand profile of work in Faizabad
- has organised 2 workshops on CRC for religious leaders and another for community after July workshop in Kabul organised by headoffice.
- meetings with women's affairs dept to seek their cooperation on h.r. issues
- in the near future child rights workshop to be organised with the police with focus on trafficking. Children from Kunduz and Takhar used for trafficking for sexual purposes, for sale of organs and also smuggling. Some taken as servants to the Middle East and later exploited for sexual purposes.
- trying to influence dept of communication and information in the province to broadcast educative programmes over the media with active child participation regarding presentation and contents
- have had meetings with the local branch of the Min of Justice to advocate for a separate section for adolescent detainees and better facilities at the correction centers.

**PROJECT** - SCSN offers its capacity in training on human rights and child rights to help the local branch identify methods on how to convey principles of human rights to children. Volunteers in the schools could be trained to be facilitators for child rights in the schools. Training also needed on how to monitor sensitive protection issues. How to talk to children about these issues??? Need guidance for developing material for the same. SCSN could possibly promote regional exchanges with Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh on this point.

**Aga Khan Dev Network (AKDN)** – Regional Programme Manager –  
 AKDN has been in Afghanistan since 1996 through an affiliated organisation FOCUS. Mainly engaged with emergency assistance. After 2002 a concentrated focus on dev work. AKDN created to do this and FOCUS remains as the relief organ. Operates under a formal Agreement with the Afg Govt to operate programmes in Badakshan, Bamyán and Baglan all bordering Tajikistan and also Chitral. AKDN promotes inter exchanges between its programmes and sees its work as a part of regional dev of the whole area. Sectors prioritised – community dev, NSP, rehab of agriculture, education and health, micro power, roads/bridge construction. The plan is long term development spanning 25-50 years. Work covers 10 districts in Badakshan in 250 villages. AKDN work through building grass root level community organisations with a focus on women. The work with the NSP was important to ensure that women too are partners and receivers of NSP benefits. (USD 20-300 in micro finance loans). In-service training for teachers, teacher training college in Shighnan (border to



## HERAT REPORT

**Recent Trends and Development** – According to UNHCR figures approximately 400,000 refugees have returned to the Herat province from Iran since 2001. Youth and children in these families are keen on education after being exposed to a higher standard of education and development in Iran. This applies to boys and girls even at secondary and high school levels. The number of adult literacy classes and homebased schools at village level especially for young mothers and older girls who cannot attend the regular schools is also on the increase. The provincial Government is currently constructing housing facilities for the returnees and encouraging small business enterprises. The numbers of IDPs in the camps has fallen from 12,00 in January to 3,500 as at November 2003. The province has been relatively peaceful with little factional violence and hence the higher standards of living and access to essential services including communication, electricity and water which function regularly in Herat in compared to many other parts of Afghanistan. However in recent months human rights monitoring organisations have raised concerns about the possible regrouping of Taliban groups in the southern areas of the province in about 10 verified locations.

Another emerging problem is the growing numbers of unaccompanied minors deported from Iran to Afghanistan. These children from 8-18 years have been living and working in Iran illegally and without proper documents. UNHCR is working with ICRC and ICMC in tracing the families of these children. Most of them originate from Badakshan and Takhar and are usually transported by truck drivers across the border and linked to smugglers on both sides of the border. Some boys have been living in Iran for many years without documents and tracing their families and reuniting the children with them is becoming increasingly difficult.

### **Assessment Of The CCP Process –**

The focal point here was IRC through its Child Protection Department established after the CCP. A project has been started with the Turkman Youth Association in September 2003 ongoing upto December. IRC is monitoring, reporting and incharge of fund disbursements to Youth Association. This project is funded with CCP funds. The objective is to promote and sustain the activities in the child to child groups and youth groups who meet once a week to discuss common issues.

IRC is also the focal point for a child protection network which was started after the CCP process. This network includes Govt departments concerned with children and also NGOs in Herat. Common protection issues monitored and reported on include inadequate school facilities and teachers, non-child friendly schools system, displaced children among the IDPs, working children, early marriage, the high rate of suicides among girls who are forced to marry early by their parents. 8 facilitators had been trained under the CCP in August 2002 at a joint training with facilitators from Mazar and Kabul in Kabul. 2 females and 1 male trained were active today all with TYA.

### **Field visit to Turkhman Youth Association (TYA) – results after CCP**

- weekly meetings are held with groups of children from the GMC group divided into group clusters according to ages 8-12, 12-16 steered by the Youth Association. Meetings are held at the premises of a member organisation under

TYA. About 7 facilitators trained by TYA assist to move forward the small group discussions. Topics dominating the discussions included discrimination (girls 16-18), family debts, physical punishment in schools (12-16 groups) burden of work (12-16 mainly among the boys), early marriage a hindrance to education (12-16 girls). There was evidence pointing to the fact that children had a great deal of internal fears that were brought out in their discussions relating to the fear of renewed war and violence, thieves, losing parents once more (all age groups). Children express their wishes and feelings through informal group discussions and through drawings. Facilitators interacted well with the children and the youth and promoted freedom of expression and feeling.

- The TYU itself organised a one day consultation in August 2003 with the children in Herat city in order to promote good communication between children and also encourage children's participation in community issues. Report available with TYA and IRC.
- children are happy that after a long period of uncertainty the project is now restored since September 2003 but wondering about the future and what they should do with the project the ideas they were asked to present to War Child and UNICEF. They are keen to organise a children's library since the national library in Herat city is not going to have a children's section. Youth also want a publication of their own instead of having to only read news from Kabul. They are willing to coordinate the work through the girls and boys youth groups of TYA and implement the project if SCSN can provide the seed money.
- Of the 3 female and one male facilitator trained under the CCP only one woman has left and 4 more have joined the project. Good sustainability with low turnover.
- families are encouraging children (boys and girls of all ages) to go for the weekly meetings organised by TYA and learn about their rights
- "we can express ourselves at home in front of our elders who even listen to us" girl 15 years.
- "family members do not beat us anymore but are finding the new situation very difficult psychologically" girl 12 years
- GMC children discussing their right to a child friendly class room free of physical punishment with their teacher and other children in the class, some teachers do not approve of this and think they are spreading bad influence in the school
- boy of 12 years had encouraged parents to send his sister to school advocating that she had the same rights to education as he had
- the elder boys and girls groups want to promote media freedom through a youth magazine not controlled by the fundamentalists restricting freedom of expression for even children.

**Impact of CCP on TYA Girls groups** - about 30 members ages ranged from 14-18 years. Only 10 from CCP others from other youth groups. They met weekly and discussed what they enjoyed and valued most as children – going to school, moving about with friends, having independence according to Islamic principles, rehabilitation and reconstruction of their province, more female health workers in the village. Concerned that there was a lack of CRC knowledge among their family members this was hindered the girls from exercising their rights at home more fully. Solutions identified were raising awareness through family level trainings, media awareness campaigns for the public, inviting parents to weekly meetings so that they could exert influence on each other in the best interest of the child. Want more

consultations at provincial level since only a few bigger girls can participate in the national Consultation in Kabul. Willing to organise it themselves if they could get some financial support for such events. Want exchange with other GMC groups in other provinces on a more regular basis.

**Impact Of CCP On The Community** - "Children are happy and so are parents as long as children do not demand that the adults too have to change their perceptions and old values relating to children. The adults and parents need to be educated just as the CCP has done with us." boy 15 years.

" We often talk to other friends who do not belong to the GMC about the rights they ought to have and do not have." girl 14 years.

Methods Adopted to Explain "child rights" – "we analyse the needs we (the youth) have with our friends. Needs that are not met by our society and the community but which are important to us and our country as boys and girls. We then explain that there are international human rights rules that make it compulsory that we should have these needs fulfilled : we have a right to claim, just like adults do" boy of 16 in the TYA GMC group.

**Meeting With TYA Facilitators** - 6 women and one man.

- need more competence building and training in CRC and skills and methods of facilitation in order to guide child groups better. 50% facilitators new and untrained.
- observation of work in other localities and inter exchange with other facilitators to improve working methods and learn new ones
- there are vagrant children that need to be included in the childrens groups but we lack the methods and skills to do this
- need skills in psychosocial training on how to deal with sensitive questions affecting young girls. How to get them to express themselves and solve their issues without resorting to suicide.
- skills on how to mobilize the community to identify childrens needs and exercise their responsibilities properly and organise self support groups around activities
- skills on how address corporal punishment in schools and at home and get community understanding for this.

## **CONCLUSIONS –**

The youth organisations including the TYA are very active and have a wide network throughout the province which is useful for the project. Most of the new facilitators are also youth interested in promoting child rights. They should be given the necessary training to continue with the CCP ideas. The capacity of IRC needs to be assessed once more especially its ability to consolidate structures and promote child rights monitoring and protection outside the IDP camps. The question whether the selection of IRC as a focal point facilitates/restricts the development of the CCP in Herat needs follow up in 2004. The strengthening of the child protection/GMC working group in the province coordinated by IRC and UNICEF also needs close steering and monitoring.



## NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE – VIABLE PROJECT PROPOSALS

1. Continue the present project with IRC and TYA promoting weekly meetings among the different child and youth groups. SCSN should continue with its material support to the groups and also the allowances paid to the facilitators.
2. Stronger coordination of the project and monitoring from SCSN needed in 2004 together with the new inputs. IRC vision maybe insufficient to promote CRC via community mobilization and also to take further issues of thematic interest among all children. More interaction with facilitators also needed.
3. The child groups need stimulation and facilitation to sustain their interests. The Facilitators need new skills from SCSN on how to do this. This training is not available with IRC within their work with Internally Displaced Persons.
4. Capacity building by SCSN through community level trainings for parents, teachers and the facilitators to understand how to conceptualise the CRC in simpler terms and in a practical manner. Training through practical examples are required to suit community requirements/resources in project areas.
5. Skills training for facilitators on the topics requested by them in this report. Youth leaders too could be included who could be useful community Animators in the future.
6. SCSN seed –money for the youth magazine and also the community center cum library to be used by girls and boys, since the children have been denied space in the city library.

## MEETINGS WITH OTHER POTENTIAL ORGANISATIONS

**(A) UNHCR Heart office-** Bobby Ray Gordon Protection Officer, Ms. Rahima Community Services Officer.

3 Community mobilization and protection trainings have been conducted by SCSN in the form of TOT trainings for comm mobilizers (Ajmal and Siddika in Herat). IRC doing general human rights trainings for UNHCR Heart but this is not child focused. **Possible project** - send details of SCSN trainings for UNHCR in Jalalabad and copy of partnership Agreement. Capacity building in Herat by SCSN open for discussion after this on specific issues of interest to women and children IDPs and returnees from Iran.

Visit to Maslak IDP camp and female shelter and meeting with children - UNHCR, MSF, UNICEF, ICMC, IOM, GTZ, WFP working in this camp. Shelter is maintained by UNHCR. About 1 m refugees still in Iran. Only deportees returning today. They are respected for their knowledge but jeered on since they cannot speak the 'proper Dari'. WFP and Indian Govt distributing biscuits in the school so attendance is high (700 kids x 3 schools but only 3 teachers per school). Camp about 4 years old.

**(B) Injeel Village School and adult literacy centers run by community contributions** - About 1,000 girls and 1,000 boys in the primary and secondary schools, youth especially young girls in the village active as volunteer teachers. The

project is led by a youth leader from the CCP and her sister. Population a mixture of returnees from Iran and also families deprived of education during Taliban times. No remainder control or Shura dominance in the area so community can start up and implement education activities for girls freely within the principles of Islam and purdah segregation. Schools are run in tents and teachers (26) serve in the schools as a part of community service. School is monitored by the village women's association. Project about 5 years old.

**(C) UNICEF** – Mr. Najib child protection officer, Ms. Barbara Atherly education and child protection officer Heart office.

Reorganisation of UNICEF office underway and Barbara new to the post. No protection section now only working teams in the provinces. CCP very successful in Heart and UNICEF was very active together with local youth organisations and NGOs. But with the reorganisation UNICEF seems to have lost focus on protection issues. Even the GMC work has lost its initial punch. UNICEF does not even attend the IRC protection meetings. UNICEF advises SCSN to formally appoint a local coordinator to follow up on the GMC. SCSN prefers to coordinate under IRC and asks UNICEF to join this protection cum GMC network instead. Links between IRC and UNICEF facilitated by SCSN during this visit. Next joint meeting between IRC + UNICEF Herat planned in November to discuss juvenile justice concerns with Ministry of Justice in the province.

**NOTE:-** potential to use local youth organisations should be analysed further. The 13 youth groups in Heart have formed themselves into a network. There are funding opportunities in Heart that the network can lobby for. Childrens debates and programmes on TV can also be promoted by the media. UNICEF Heart office intends to start a HIV/AIDS campaign. How can the youth network be mobilized in the sensitization campaigns among the youth. Good to discuss this in the protection group.

**(D) AIHRC Herat** – Regional Programme Manager Mr. Rahimi –

Interested in promoting CRC workshops. Some have been held from time to time with kindergarden teachers, police, juvenile correction centers, caretakers of orphanages.

Concerns – **(a)** situation of children in correction centers unsatisfactory. Violence and abuse common. Long delays in trial procedures and discharge. Only one correction center in Kabul, Girls and boys detained together. Kids from 12 years onwards detained even for petty crimes. **(b)** Drug addiction among young children common, 4,000 drug abusers according to official figures in Herat Province alone. Many children also exploited for smuggling of drugs to Iran and also to Pakistan. AIHRC has alarmed UNAMA and NGOs of this rising menace and advised to include these children in their monitoring exercises. **(c)** children exploited in cross-border trafficking to Iran for employment purposes is on the increase. Illegal smuggling of boys as young as 10 years reported. The police in Iran are very harsh on them and they are immediately deported. Networks are operating in Afghanistan and Iran linked to very poor villages in Heart, Mazar, Kunduz, Badakshan and Takhar provinces. In Iran children working as cheap illegal labourers on construction sites or in petty trade on the streets. UNHCR operates shelters for the deported children. AIHRC has alerted ACBAAR and UNAMA on this issue. **(d)** There is an increasing interest for education for all age groups and larger numbers of children (boys and



## BAMYAN REPORT

**General Socio-political situation** - Bamyan has seen a great deal of human rights violations especially under the Taliban period when the Hazara communities that dominate the provincial population were subject to revenge actions and killings of family members. Children have witnessed bloodshed and violence of family members and still the fear lives in the minds of many children that they may lose their family members and that the Taliban will return. People talk of mass graves in many locations when the Taliban retreated from Bamyan. Yakalang was one of the villages especially affected. The large number of young widows in this district is a strong indicator of the suffering families had faced under the Taliban. The large number of orphans and also destruction to the agricultural economy are also living evidence of the suffering faced by the province. Large areas around of market places and shops and archaeological sites are still in ruins after the Taliban destruction of them. The focus on education and the standard of education in Bamyan is relatively high both for boys and girls and evidence of this was seen in Yakalang where the standard of and the numbers of teachers are higher than in Bamyan town. Even during the Mujahideen the province received priority in education and this has had long term positive effects. School management and qualitative support to schools in the province is shared between the Government, the Swedish Committee and the Shuhada Organisation. UNICEF and Save Japan are engaged in school construction in Yakalang and Bamyan districts.

The community in Bamyan district and its surrounding areas has been made passive due to the presence of too many donors and NGOs in Bamyan. Most of the organisations are engaged in relief and handouts; very few are interested in promoting community mobilization or expecting community contributions. Most often the community was mobilized by the donors only to serve as workers within various development programmes e.g. to receive food for work, or food for education, food for teachers, food for doing road maintenance etc. Thus aspects of sustainability and self-help have been very low in the minds of the people. Recent efforts are being made to reverse this trend under the NSP implemented in the province by HABITAT and AKDN. Community mobilization has been given high priority today under the NSP before any inputs are introduced to the community and village groups.

**The CCP Process in Bamyan** - The CCP was conducted in Bamyan in September 2003 in cooperation with Save the Children Japan who have their programmes in Bamyan primarily in Yakalang district. The facilitators however seem to have been selected mainly by the Save the Children team who visited Bamyan for selection of facilitators, training of facilitators and also the Consultation process with children. The appointment of two focal points namely Save Japan and also the AIHRC seems to have been made SCS on the conclusion of the Consultations.

11 facilitators had been trained under the CCP (5 women and 6 men). Of these 3 men and 3 women were working with the AIHRC, one of them with the child rights section. 2 male facilitators were working in Yakalang village but since they were selected from two outside NGOs Save Japan has had no possibility to monitor their work. Today they seem to have little time to work as facilitators in the village and seem to have lost interest. 2 females are with the Department of Women's Affairs. 1 male facilitator was active with good results in Saidabad village.

Gifts and stationery for the Bamyan CCP concluding sessions had been contributed locally by the US-PRT team via the AIHRC. The AIHRC from its own budget had also contributed USD 300 for gifts for the children.

**Capacity of SC Japan and AIHRC as CCP Focal Points** - Save Japan is an Alliance member engaged in qualitative improvements to education sector in Bamyan and Yakalang through engineering inputs and the construction of schools in cooperation with the Department of Education Bamyan. The AIHRC has been operative since April 2003 and has a child rights section under which the CCP project is coordinated. Both organisations have limited experience and exposure to child rights concepts and techniques of working with children and coordination. The focal point role and what was required of them by the Consultation Project was unclear to both organisations. Additionally, the issues of how to move forward the CCP process, the roles and responsibilities of the facilitators and who would monitor and supervise them was also unclear between the two focal points. They were expecting concrete ideas for implementation and a framework for future work to be discussed by the CCP team at the conclusion and summing up of the Consultations. But this seemingly has not been forthcoming.

Save Japan admits to being an Alliance member with limited knowledge on child rights and interaction with children and so does the AIHRC. Both focal points require more focused inputs and training on child rights in general and how to interact with children in particular, more guidance and training in community analysis, in community mobilisation, in preparing proposals with children and project planning in order to carry forward the CCP initiative are required. The CCP had generated a process of thinking among the focal points but had not been wide or in depth enough for them to appreciate how to formulate proposals with children and stimulate child groups including both girls and boys.

An uncertainty of what to do next was apparent in all interviews both with the two focal point organisations and also the facilitators. It was also noted that among the facilitators there was no one from among the Save Japan staff despite the fact that CRC concepts were weak within the organisation. The focal point role was however left in their hands at the conclusion of the CCP without adequate working guidelines for the future. Institutional backup with capacity building from SCSN is needed in 2004 if the both focal points are to function effectively and in partnership in Bamyan.

The facilitators seem to have been selected in a hurry this could account for the large number from the staff of AIHRC and for the fact that the 2 from Yakalang were only interested if the project paid them a salary for their work. The facilitators from AIHRC seem to be using the exercises on analysing childrens feelings in their individual work with child abuse cases. Only one facilitator in AIHRC is effectively interacting with youth to promote group participation.

### **Overview of Activities After the CCP Process -**

#### **Visit to Yakalang District –**

- In the Consultations itself there seem to have been no girls from Yakalang only 3 boys. The representatives from girls groups had been only from Bamyan. In fact during the visit to Yakalang and also during meetings with the village elders it was

brought to the notice of the Consultant that there were no barriers from the community itself to the participation of girls! It was unclear which of the organisers of the CCP had decided to leave out the girls. This has resulted in limited knowledge of the CCP in areas outside Bamyan among boys and girls. The sense of belonging to the GMC group among the children of Bamyan was also much weaker, compared to some other provinces, as a result of this. Interaction between the children and the facilitators also seemed weak and irregular.

- The two facilitators from Yakalang have understood the contents of the facilitators training and their roles. The need to listen to children, stimulate child discussions in groups, to allow children to think and come up with their own solutions, not to steer childrens thinking but guide them, to give time to children to express themselves and value their views, the need for energising exercises and play as a part of learning etc. have all been understood. However motivation to work with children after the training on a voluntary basis was lacking. The facilitators had selected 12 children from Yakalang all boys, for the Bamyan CCP. The interaction with the community and parents during this process had been weak since the facilitators were traders from the town and not from the village. This could have contributed to their inability to mobilize the community to send girls to the CCP. Conservative family attitudes in the village seem to have been used as an excuse by the facilitators to keep out the girls from Yakalang from attending the CCP. Selection of children have also been from 12 different villages which does not allow for easy interaction between the child group leaders given the long distances between the villages. Since the facilitators in Yakalang were "external persons" not selected by the focal points but seemingly by the CCP team there have been difficulties for the focal points to steer the selection process of children in Yakalang.
- Facilitators in Yakalang were also confused if the CCP was an SCS or an SCJ project and who should one report to. The proper linkages between the two organisations and their activities had not been adequately explained at the facilitators training so that the facilitators could appreciate the whole project.
- Time for interaction after the facilitators training and before the Consultation workshop with children in Bamyan had also been too short. It did not leave time or room for proper selection of children with community consent. This was highlighted as specially needed in geographically difficult areas such as Yakalang where villages were scattered far from each other and regular communication facilities did not exist between the villages or with Bamyan.
- The Consultant could not interview any children in Yakalang since the schools were closed for winter vacation and the boys had gone up to the mountains to collect winter fodder for their family cattle. Only met some families, the 2 facilitators and some community members to get their views and knowledge of the CCP in Yakalang.

#### **Visit To Bamyan Town Child Groups –**

**Markaz Girls High School - Interview with 9 girls group leaders (14-18 years) and one female AIHRC facilitator.**

Persons from SCJ and AIHRC had informed the students about the CCP 3 day meeting in Bamyan. The parents had confidence in the AIHRC and the facilitator and therefore allowed the girls to freely travel and participate in the Consultations. "We had to spend a lot of time with the parents to convince them, we had not been

given any training on how to do this. We were abused and even subject to violence by the fathers of the girls in some of the houses when we visited them in the beginning. We knew they needed time to see the value of the meeting. I wish I had more time to mobilize more families; a mere 1 1/2 months is too short for us as facilitators working voluntarily after our regular jobs to visit houses and convince families of older girls. I could only convince 5 families in time for the meeting, the others I had to speak to later and they had no opportunity to participate" female facilitator from AIHRC Bamyan.

A focal group discussion was taken with the girls on how far the CCP had influenced and changed their lives and in what ways. The impact and important changes initiated by them were highlighted as follows:-

- the girls had described the consultations to their families and the idea that girls too have rights and can have opinions of their own and the parents had listened to them.
- "we are now allowed to talk in the presence of our elders and express our concerns and wishes on issues such as going to the bazaar without 'mahrams', visiting friends and relations houses alone, our wishes to participate in conferences and educational courses in the evenings. After some discussion we are most often granted our wishes now. Hopefully we can even discuss our marriages in the near future and say we do not want to marry just now but want to study instead." Fahima 15 years.
- "Girls as young as 9 years were being married off to old men during the Taliban times. Now the age is about 13 when girls marry in my village. I hope that I can influence my family to marry me to someone after I am 18 even if 18 sounds very old to my mother who married at 12" Ayesha 14 years.
- "People are always coming from the outside and asking about our problems but nothing seems to be happening to change the conservative attitudes of the elders. Noone is trying to educate the community on non-discrimination, violence and attitude changes. Only small changes are coming like new buildings and some extra food." girl 15 years.

Girls group 10-14 years at school – 8 girls belonging to the same child group were also stimulated to have focal group discussions around the CCP impact on their lives.

- "girls we know are not allowed to study after class (5) or allowed to go out of the house alone or choose their own dress. They are usually not allowed to play either after 12 years of age. Some girls in my community have never played at all. Even when we went for the Conference 6 of my friends had their mothers with them. To have my rights for me means to be able to do all the things I mentioned and to be able to do it according to my choice." Jazima 11 years.
- "my mother came with me for the Conference and was with me all the time she says she understands child rights but she still beats me when she is angry. She still feels her rights come first and then mine."

Child group 8-10 years from Saidabad village in discussion with the Consultant.

About 18 children boys and girls participated in this discussion. (there were 2 groups in the village with 13 members in each group: representatives from both groups participated in these discussions) . Saidabad village had a very good male facilitator working voluntarily and interacting with children and the community. The children met

2-3 times a week together with the facilitator to do their homework and discuss common issues. This child group was one of the strongest among the Bamyan groups and had confidence in the facilitator and interacted well with him. Children felt motivated to come for the Consultations because they were told by the facilitator that they could learn new things, play and learn new games, discuss their concerns and also meet other children. The most enjoyable exercise for the children was the "dream day" since they got time to reflect on their wishes for the future. Personal security and to wake up without the fear of war was a dream shared by many of the children. Educational courses in English which was not available at school was also another common dream. The group also reflected on some important ideas which they had shared and discussed with other children they had met at the CCP in Bamyan. These included discrimination of girls, ideas regarding new games to play using the limited resources in the village, how to combine responsibilities of working for family income and also attending school, corporal punishment in the school and how children could work together to stop this habit.

#### Impact of Advocacy Measures By These Children At Family Level –

- children have discussed with their families methods on how to combine working for the family and also attending school. Adjusting times to suit both parties discussed.
- parents encouraging more girls to go to school "we do not want our children to be illiterate and blind like us elders".
- children aware and informing parents of educational and health facilities available in the surrounding villages.
- children have convinced parents that small children under 7 years should not be beaten. "today parents only show us the stick they do not use it on us".
- even girls 15-17 are now being permitted by their parents to attend the AIHRC literacy classes in the village. These girls also want to know about child rights as a part of their educational training. Have become curious about child rights through the influence of this younger group and the facilitator.

#### Boys group 15-18 years Saidabad Village -

A male facilitator from AIHRC (head of child rights section) has been in contact with the boys and motivated them to form this group. Boys had been selected for the CCP by the facilitator both from the school and from the village to ensure a wider dissemination of the learning. The facilitator had informed them of the 3 day consultation that was aimed at discussing issues concerning youth and children under 18 years. He also informed them about the CRC and international standards relating to child rights. After the CCP the boys now meet on their own initiative or gather for meetings called by the facilitator at the AIHRC office in the town.

Memories From the Consultations - They learnt more about what rights was about and that child rights were of 4 main types and how to analyse these rights in relation to their own issues. Learnt new methods such as role play, drama, poetry and songs as methods to convey messages relating to child rights. "We learnt useful energizers to use when we are tired even at school."

#### Practical steps taken and plans after the Consultations –

- "We need to look more closely at issues concerning returnees from Iran. About 500 families have returned to this locality. Their children are very talented but often discriminated and we must find ways of including them in our work and in schools"



- "Our village, especially the parents, did not know how to behave with children before. They were illtreating the smaller children. Now they are advising them and only saying "I will beat you if you do not listen".
- "The school situation is much more difficult but we are trying. When cases of corporal punishment are reported by the children we take it up as a group with the principal, if this does not work we take it up with AIHRC and the Dept of Education. One such case came up where the teacher was transferred."
- "We want to use the premises of the Markaz Girls High School for tuition in the evening after the girls have left but all our discussions with the school principal have failed. This is a school run by Shuhada and only girls are allowed to use the facilities."

### **CONCLUSIONS –**

A lot of initial enthusiasm has been generated both in Bamyan and Yakalang by the CCP but the project seems to be implemented today for the most part only in Bamyan whilst in Yakalang district, which could have benefited very much from the project, children and facilitators seem unable to sustain the CCP inputs and training. A serious problem here is the selection of unsuitable facilitators in the preparation of the CCP. SCJ seems to have had no supervision over these facilitators.

The AIHRC and SJC entrusted with the task of functioning as focal points had limited experience and exposure to child rights concepts and techniques of working with children and also project coordination. The focal point role and what was required of them by the Consultation Project was unclear to both organisations. Additionally, the issues of how to move forward the CCP process, the roles and responsibilities of the facilitators and who would monitor and supervise them was also unclear between the two focal points. They were expecting more concrete ideas to be forthcoming from the CCP team at the conclusion and summing up of the Consultations together with an implementation framework for future work. But this seemingly did not take place. Today, both focal points require more focused inputs and training on child rights in general and how to interact with children in particular, more guidance and training in community analysis, in community mobilisation, in preparing proposals with children and project planning in order to carry forward the CCP initiative are required. The CCP had generated a process of thinking among the focal points but had not been wide or in depth enough for them to appreciate how to formulate proposals with children and stimulate the child. An uncertainty of what to do next was apparent in all interviews both with the two focal point organisations and also the facilitators.

The interest to promote child participation and bring children together has been achieved in Bamyan but the planning thereafter seems to have been inadequate in its vision and content to carry forward the project.

### **NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE - VIABLE PROJECT PROPOSALS**

1. The children from Bamyan have not met the children from Yakalang after the Consultations and are interested to have a joint meetings to learn more about them and also what they are doing in their villages. Meetings every six months between children of various age groups as was divided in the Consultations was suggested by the children's groups and the facilitators. These meetings should be coordinated by SCJ and AIHRC with new ideas and thematic inputs in the form of trainings from

SCSN were further suggestions. This proposal was discussed with the focal points who were interested to pursue this idea further as a part of the cooperation with SCSN.

2. AIHRC and SCJ also needs more training on CRC especially in thematic areas and how to build networks between the children's groups both in Bamyan and Yakalang. The possibilities to link to other provincial groups such as those in Mazar and Badakshan should also be assessed and links promoted by SCSN via the Alliance and also AIHRC branches.

3. The work in Yakalang district has to be stimulated and reactivated through SCSN inputs to SCJ and the villages concerned. Training in community mobilization, CRC sensitization for the parents and teachers, village level discussion groups on alternatives to corporal punishment, detection and prevention of child abuse, non-discrimination need to be started. Additionally capacity building in child to child group formation and management/reporting, ARC package on psycho-social protection, how to communicate with children, and facilitation skills could be some other useful trainings for Yakalang especially for the focal points and also all the active facilitators. The trainings should be conducted in Yakalang and practically follow up regularly with the focal points in the field. The focal points are today weak and inexperienced to carry out this function by themselves without SCSN support and training inputs.

4. Discuss with AIHRC how the literacy classes in Saidabad could be resumed and child rights discussions included as a subject for the bigger girls (14-18). The parents of the girls have confidence in the village facilitator, even if he is a man, to lead this work. There is scope for the very active 8-10 years child group to be invited as resource persons to facilitate the CRC training since they have skilfully grasped the methods used at the Consultations. The facilitator could be paid a monthly allowance from the SCSN follow-up project to implement this work, monitor child protection issues and also develop further the the various projects proposals coming from other children's groups in Saidabad.

NOTE:- AIHRC at present only offers the literacy courses in language and maths for three months in each village. The bigger girls wanted a broader perspective in their literacy groups more like "a common discussion forum" as they described it.

5. Children need more training on how to build networks between their groups, facilitation skills and guidance on how to discuss sensitive issues such as abuse, discrimination of refugee children, corporal punishment and alternatives to it, early marriage etc. with their elders and other children. Consider in which areas SCSN has the capacity to introduce such trainings suitable to children and help them develop training material. Consider how far and in what way the children in Bamyan and Yakalang could be linked to the ACHIANA children and the social awareness theatre group. Consider also dissemination of child abuse and corporal punishment posters and material developed by SCSN in Sweden, NCPA & UNICEF in Sri Lanka for schools and parents, tools on monitoring corporal punishment by Save Alliance in Pakistan/Afghanistan, tools on child protection and monitoring developed by the Alliance Pakistan/Afghanistan etc.

6. There is a need for SCSN to reassess the capacity and work of the facilitators trained under the CCP. There is a need to train more committed facilitators from the

village to replace at least (5) of the old facilitators. There is also a need for a trained full time coordinator from SCJ if the projects to be started and trainings given in 2004 are to be effectively implemented, disseminated in the community, and sustained with regularly monitoring and reporting.

7. Interesting new dimensions and a broader scope for outreach could be built into the CCP follow-up projects through strengthening links to UNAMA and HABITAT community development projects implemented under the NSP in Bamyan, Saidabad and Yakalang. Possibilities to initiate training with NSP facilitators, youth groups, women's groups, Shuras and communities on community mobilisation and child rights should be investigated. SCSN should make a field assessment together with the focal points on the scope to do this and the inputs needed for implementation. Possibilities to organise child to child groups and train them within the UNAMA and HABITAT community and youth projects should also be investigated within this assessment. Potential to promote child protection monitoring via the NSP groups and include them in the provincial level child protection network group to be set up could also be investigated by SCSN and the focal points.

## **MEETINGS WITH OTHER POTENTIAL ORGANISATIONS**

**AIHRC Bamyan** - This is the office for the Hazarajat region. There are two persons in the child rights section which started work in April 2003. The head of the section participated in the SCSN human rights workshop held in Kabul in July. There are 6 facilitators trained under the CCP within the AIHRC (3 men and 3 women). However only one of them has been assigned to the child rights section. The second member of the section is a recent employee since 4 months ago.

After the CCP some training with children seems to have taken place in the field using the principles and exercises learnt at the CCP. Some coordination meetings with other child oriented NGOs has also been held. No clear description of impact could be gathered from AIHRC.

Relating to the AIHRC training unit in Kabul the Bamyan branch felt that no practical training and dissemination of knowledge on how to implement CRC was forthcoming from Kabul. It was more useful to attend Save Alliance trainings such as the one on "Child Protection Monitoring Tools" where practical knowledge relevant to the field was given.

OBS – the facilitators within the AIHRC do not have the time to engage in discussions with the community regularly on child rights or stimulate child rights groups since they are fulltime engaged with other duties at AIHRC education, women's rights, following individual cases of children, orphans, children in institutions etc. They are not clear about their tasks after the CCP. They were asked to meet children and get their views. Their future roles and responsibilities towards the focal points, the community, the children, the GMC group etc. had not been clarified after the Consultation according to AIHRC.

**UNAMA** - Meetings with Peter Maxwell, Head of Office : Julia Quillet, Community Development and Gender issues. Molly Little, Project Coordination Officer. Hafiza Mrowat, gender coordinator.

UNAMA coordinates different reconstruction activities in partnership with various departments and the Governors office. Chairs sector working groups one on community dev and human rights where specific childrens issues are also sometimes discussed. Gender is a cross-cutting issue. UNAMA also has a role in the Constitutional process and also the disarmament process. The Southern districts of Bamyán south of the mountain range always get lesser attention and are much more poorer than this northern area. There is a need to spread knowledge on child rights and human rights in this region according to UNAMA. If SCSN and SCJ start a group on child rights and child protection UNAMA would be very interested to join and give inputs. Local women's and human rights organisations should also be included in such a protection group. The office facilities of UNAMA could be used by the Alliance partners for such meetings. (Peter Maxwell).

**HABITAT** - Engaged in community development projects and training in the community for the NSP. HABITAT is interested in children's issues but has no time to directly focus on children within its training in the community. Interested to learn and cooperate with SCSN. HABITAT was not invited to the GMC group or the CCP preparations. Could have been useful as a resource organisation to identify facilitators from the community. HABITAT offers full cooperation to SCSN and Alliance in case we continue to work in Bamyán. Interested to participate in SCSN trainings in order to incorporate child focused ideas it in the community work currently being implemented. HABITAT like UNAMA interested to join Alliance child rights and child protection group in Bamyán. Advises SCSN to join the UNAMA groups on education and human rights and gender in Bamyán. HABITAT also has youth groups and works with Shuras undertaking self-help activities in Yakalang and Bamyán. Dept of Women's Affairs and UNAMA have also women's groups in Saidabad and Yakalang.

**PROJECT** -SCSN together with the focal points ought to make a field assessment on

- how far is there scope for SCSN trainings to be linked to these existing community groups in order to widen impact of trainings.
- how far and in what ways can the community, village and youth groups under the HABITAT and UNAMA programmes be useful for monitoring child protection issues in their various communities in the province.

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Department of Education (done by Björn Odin)  
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## KABUL REPORT

### CCP Process in Kabul -

The CCP workshop with children in Kabul took place in November 2002 with about 90 children. The GMC group led by SCSN in Kabul selected a few organisations who could form themselves into a CCP working group in August 2002. ASCHIANA, HIFA, Save Japan, SAVE (US), AYU Kabul branch, Min of Women's Affairs, UNICEF.....(note Save(UK) in the GMC but held a low key). Responsibilities were divided between the parties.

The organisations also sent representatives for selection as facilitators to be trained under the CCP. 5 facilitators (2 women and 3 men) were trained in August 2002. 1 from Min of Women's Affairs, 1 from Save (US), 2 from AYU, 1 from HIFA. This was a joint training with the facilitators selected newly from Mazar and Herat. The Alliance and the Kabul facilitators met after the training to identify areas of the town wherefrom the children would be selected for the Consultation workshop. Children were invited one day before the workshop to familiarize themselves with the location of the workshop. The working group members were very active in the preparation and implementation of the 3 day Consultation workshop in November.

**Reflections Of The Facilitators On The Process** - The whole group had a better understanding of the CRC and its contents. Methods of how to consult with children via child to child was also clear and considered useful in everyday work. They also felt that it was good to train facilitators from different provinces together, thinking on new issues using new ideas was possible. Sharing new ideas and methods between the facilitators and provinces needs to be promoted even further by the CCP in the future. There have been no contacts between the facilitators nor interexchnages after the CCP final sessions in November 2002. No regular contacts seem to have been promoted by the facilitators between their projects and children in Kabul either. The facilitators seem to have been waiting for guidelines from the CCP team after the final sessions on how to do this.

### Projects Initiated After The Consultations –

- YCUAP childrens groups. Children and youth gathering around literacy classes and discussion groups. YCUAP members facilitating the classes and discussions working as volunteers. They received funds for benches and tables for their class rooms from the CCP. Children involved in the planning and leading the child groups and topics discussed. (ongoing)
- Children from ASCHIANA submitted a project proposal to produce (3) advocacy posters on children's rights relevant for Kabul. (ongoing)
- AYU and Shams started mini-consultations with children's groups in Kabul using lessons learnt from the CCP. (ongoing)
- AYU also submit a project proposal for a library and community center for youth. 50% of the funds have been paid by SCS. The funds have been utilised and vouchers submitted to SCS. Remaining payment is awaited. (follow up).
- Shams members were contracted by CCP to produced cloth bags for the Kabul Consultations for distribution among the children. Children produced the bags as a part of their skills training tailoring project. Project completed and payment settled in full.

- Translation of child rights convention into sign language and Dari recorded on video by HIFA childrens groups with the assistance of Afghan Media (AYNA). 15 copies have been produced for dissemination. No clear information was available either at HIFA nor from SCSN about usage and distribution.
- Golgothai Project - G is a facilitator and has a group of girls wishing to make a basketball team. This project was discussed with CCP team in July 2003 and USD 500 disbursed to the project for purchase of equipment. The Education Department and the school authorities providing the basketball court seem to have been raising objections to the project recently. The project has now been extended to cover all children GMC and others proposed by the school authorities as a compromise.
- Winter Training Course – the girl had organised a winter training course for girls especially to assist slow learners in the school. SCSN had initially contributed the teachers salary but now this activity has been taken over by the Government which also meets the teacher's salary. This was negotiated by the girls.
- Health network - Some children from the CCP have joined the Save (US) child to child network in Arjankimat district and are taking leadership roles. The Save (US) facilitator is doing small preventive health care projects with the children. Children from the CCP are also functioning as voluntary junior health educators.

## **Meetings, Project Visits And Assessments –**

### **1. Meeting with UNICEF on future of CCP and GMC**

The lessons learned from the CCP and the methods of child participation developed will be used by UNICEF to strengthen and upgrade the quality to its education sector programmes. Special attention will be paid to improve the quality of teaching with children rather than to children, change class room attitudes and practices between students and teachers, addressing violence and abuse in the school system and class room. UNICEF also proposes to build child welfare committees in the community in some provinces (not identified as yet) to monitor some of the graver issues raised by the children at the Consultations. Early marriage and trafficking of children as colateral to moneylenders, sale of children for food security for survival of the household will be some issues that will receive special attention. The CCP will be mainstreamed into the general country programme of UNICEF from 2004.

The experiences from the CCP will also be used by UNICEF within the DDR project; specifically to gather childrens own feelings about their past and future lives, and also to promote inclusion in the project of all children who have been forced to participate in the fighting not only those actually engaged in armed combat.

Future of GMC group - The group and its focus has revolved around the UNGASS and the CCP upto now. In the future UNICEF feels that it is necessary to vision and discuss the role and functions of the GMC at national and provincial levels in Afghanistan. It would be advisable for the GMC to focus on one central theme and coordinate its work around this. Improving basic quality education, community mobilisation and project inputs to strengthen child participation, public sensitisation campaigns and training on a particular theme over a long period etc. were suggested as interesting future initiatives from the UNICEF point of view.

## **2. Meeting With HIFA child groups - Impact of CCP –**

- The children felt that the CCP had given the opportunity to meet and have good exchanges and discussions with other children. There were many children who had never spoken to a disabled child or had any contact with children who could not speak or hear. Some children had been discouraged to join disabled children by their elders saying that these children were "abnormal and violent".
- "Many children at the Consultation could not believe that we also had the capacity to communicate and we had our own language through which we could study and learn new things even about our rights. I explained to friends at the Consultation that it was just like any other language for us a tool for communication" boy of 14 at HIFA vocational training center.
- "before the CCP when I asked my father for things/material for my school he got angry. Now using the methods from the CCP I can explain to him why I need the things, and that I have a right to get these things and also that it is his responsibility to give these things to me for me to develop myself", boy 12 years in HIFA school.
- "now my father consults me on the colour of my clothes and what size/colour of shoes I like. He has even begun to take me to the shops. Mothers are usually kind, it is the fathers who need to be educated more" girl 10 years.
- HIFA social worker - reports that in some localities in Kabul fathers have formed parent groups to influence negative social attitudes and motivate changes among other families towards disabled children. Children have also explained to Badakshan army personnel that they have a responsibility not to hit children.
- CCP was very important to spread knowledge about lesser known children\*s issues especially relating to the disabled. It gave children who were facing different forms of discrimination a common platform to meet and express their concerns to adults and decision makers. The problems of the disabled children got an important focus at the Kabul meeting in contrast to many other provinces.
- The ability of the children was focused on in contrast to the inability . This approach gave children increased recognition as normal children in the eyes of society.

## **3. Meeting With ASCHIANA – activities and future plans -**

10 children from ASCHIANA had participated in the Consultations. 5 boys and 5 girls. Activities Initiated After CCP- After the CCP the children have formed themselves into groups and have presented a proposal to SCSN for funding 3 posters needed for advocacy work. The children have selected issues concerning their daily lives and the pictures for the posters have been produced by the combined efforts and drawings of the children. One poster is about the traffic hazards on the Kabul street, another on the right for education for working children on the street and the third is about the right to play and recreation for all children. 700 posters had been printed. At the time of this visit a discussion among the children took place about distribution of the printed posters. The children decided to divide themselves into groups and undertake the distribution. One group decided on schools and NGOs as its target, the ASCHIANA theatre and music group decided to distribute the posters after its performance in various street localities in the evenings and also in schools, yet another group decided target the shops and bazaars in the old city and other

localities. Street animators had been given the posters to stimulate discussions in the community. Posters will be used after role plays in the community.

Experiences From The CCP- "The idea to divide us into age groups was good. We could understand each other better even if we came from different social groups. We also met many kinds of street children some working, some begging, some domestic workers, others collecting garbage." group leader boy 14 years.

"If you have events like the CCP you must quickly organise projects thereafter to hold the interest of children. We got guidance from ASCHIANA but what will other children do" group leader 15 years.

#### **4. Meeting With AYU – activities initiated after CCP**

The two AYU facilitators one male and one female trained under the CCP have motivated youth to meet in groups and discuss issues relating to child rights. The idea has also been spread to Mazar and Herat through the AYU facilitators trained there. AYU together with Afghan Radio was having radio programmes for youth even before the CCP. Today these programmes are being used to interview youth on issues relating to their rights and also to promote debates between NGOs and youth on human rights issues and the Constitution. Information on important events for children and youth are also broadcasted (global child rights events, AIHRC events, national days of importance for children and youth). Time on radio has been allocated free of charge by the Government after interventions by AYU members. A tape recorder has been purchased with funds from the CCP to promote this work since children do not have the time nor the resources to come to the radio station to express their views. The radio goes to the child to broadcast children's voices! Two girls 14 and 12 years are coordinating the interviews in the field.

### **CONCLUSION –**

The organisations and the facilitators who participated in the CCP process are doing good work given the limited resources and facilities available to them. They seem to have received little guidance from the CCP itself after the conclusion of the Consultations with the children in 2002 as to how to move forward. The facilitators have initiated projects according to their own knowledge and capacity and are for the most working alone with their child groups. There is both room and scope for networking among the children and the facilitators and this should be actively promoted by SCSN. In about 3 cases concrete projects for 2004 have been identified by the child groups and facilitators that ought to be studied by SCSN. Final reports in writing are also needed from the Golgothai project and also the AYU project with Afghan radio regarding project progress, utilisation of funds, and final conclusion of the project. AYU seems to have submitted a report in Dari that needs to be translated by the CCP team.





## PESHAWAR REPORT

This report relating to the CCP outcomes in Peshawar was received in end November from the programme coordinator Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR) in Peshawar. The translation by the SCSN office in Kabul was however not ready in time to be incorporated into my assessment. Attempts will be made to include this report at a later date when the translation is ready.

The follow up activities in Peshawar are coordinated by CAR and primarily focus on Afghan children awaiting repatriation to Afghanistan. The projects form part of the CAR programme in Afghanistan funded through the CAR UNHCR partnership in Pakistan. Given the fact that this whole project falls outside the Afghanistan country programme no conscious effort were made to identify and assess specific projects with CAR nor with the SCSN office in Peshawar in time to be included in this report.

## SORKH ROD and JALALABAD REPORT

SCSN sub-office Jalalabad is the focal point for Nangahar province to take forward the CCP. This report has been made based on an interview with the SCSN sub-office personnel from the office in Jalalabad. Field visits to verify facts and assess impact through interviews with the community and children was not possible given the uncertain security situation in Nangahar province after mid-November and up to the time this Consultancy ended.

### **The CCP Process And Its Implementation –**

Two Consultancies have been conducted in Nangahar province one in the SCSN project district Sorkh Rod in April 2003 and another in Jalalabad urban area in August 2003. Thus whilst one CCP had a provincial base the other had a more urban group of children participating.

**Sorkh Rod** - About 60 children had participated in the Consultations together with facilitators. The motivation for selection of this location was because the district was the SCSN target area and the community and the children had confidence in the organisation. The children were able to participate freely without 'mahrams' due to this fact. The facilitators about (8) persons had been selected by the SCSN Jalalabad sub-office. They were from different villages where SCSN was working and had been selected in consultation with the Shuras in the villages. There were men and women in the team but numbers were uncertain. During and after the facilitators training the CCP team and the SCSN office had good and informative exchanges about the CCP processes in other provinces and shared reports for exchange of experiences. There had been good exchange of learning in preparation for the Sorkh Rod CCP.

The process and the joint cooperation however seems to have lost its focus after the CCP final sessions in April 2003. The facilitators and the focal point had been expecting more clearer instructions on how to move forward and what was expected of them after the final CCP sessions. The general feeling was that the CCP had not planned beyond the Consultations and had no clear ideas to share with the field beyond asking the facilitators to form children's groups and discuss problems. The facilitators seem to have needed more guidance on group dynamics and how to sustain the groups than was forthcoming from the CCP team. This has resulted in a large number of facilitators leaving the project a short time after conclusion of the CCP. The SCSN sub-office too seems to have had problems to coordinate the childrens groups without clear guidelines from the CCP team. Today the project is being sustained by the SCSN Jalalabad sub-office according to its own understanding of how the project should move forward. The CCP children as far as possible have been linked to the child to child groups in the SCSN schools. This strategy has its weaknesses since other children who are not attending the SCSN schools remain left out CCP follow up activities without links to the SCSN project activities.

**Jalalabad Urban Area-** The motivation for this second CCP in Jalalabad is unclear especially given the fact that this is not a target district for SCSN. The CCP was concluded here much more recently in August 2003. Here too the facilitators seem to have been selected by the SCSN sub-office but since the links with the community

and the focal point were weak the sub-office had to rely on staff recommendations in the selection of this group of facilitators. The serious weakness in this project is the weak follow up by the SCSN sub-office of the child groups. The office has to rely on its project staff already fully engaged with work in Sorkh Rod district to do this work and the time factor has affected the follow up work. Follow up and meetings with children and the facilitators in the evening is also not convenient. The activities in Jalalabad too have come to a standstill today after the CCP.

### **IMPACT OF CCP**

- Two facilitators from UNHCR Community Services are using the consultation methods they learnt at the CCP to involve children in the assessment process of refugees.
- Girls from 11-18 years from SVF together with their facilitator have started voluntary literacy classes in the village.
- The SCSN sub-office together with the AIHRC branch in Jalalabad has since October set up a child protection network. This group functions as a working group under the AIHRC.

### **CONCLUSIONS –**

Clearer guidance and project plans for future work need to be given by the CCP if they are looking towards the SCSN sub-office in Jalalabad to take up this follow up work. The sub-office on its own does not have the vision at present on how to move forward after the Consultation. Today there is uncertainty as to whether the CCP is to be regarded as the start off point for something else or if the CCP is an end in itself. Responsibilities and issues such as who is to do what are unclear in Nangahar too just as in some of the other provinces. The success of the CCP seems to have been assumed just because SCSN sub-office was the focal point! Expectations have been created in the minds of the children and programme support is needed to the sub-office to move forward with the follow up initiatives coming from the children.

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## CHAPTER 4

### CONCLUSIONS, FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children and Young Peoples Consultation project (CCP) has been a unique and unusual project which has had a positive impact in all provinces and locations where it has been implemented. The popularity of the CCP has been mainly due to the fact that the consultation process with children and young people had allowed them to articulate what they thought and believed in – often for the very first time in their lives. The analytical and visionary capacity of children and their ability to influence adults, Shuras, teachers, parents and the community has also been clearly reflected in the interviews with children and young people from the different locations (both boys and girls). Children and youth are for the first time receiving recognition as individuals with rights and as citizens in the community after the CCP. During the interviews in the field children and adults have pointed out that this was the first non-political event that they had participated in together, promoting forward looking thinking in Afghanistan after decades of war. The fact that the CCP had spread its project initiatives to the provinces was viewed as being very positive by the children and youth groups/ networks, the community, the provincial NGOs, and the representatives from the provincial/ district administrative who were interviewed.

Undoubtedly, the initial impact and momentum of the CCP has been widespread and recognised all over Afghanistan. The enthusiasm of the child to child groups and the growing interest to network with children in other provinces has been affirmed in the impact assessment. Now the children and youth want to move ahead with their visions, wishes and dreams. Project proposals presented in this chapter are a summary of the ideas which were expressed by children and youth (boys and girls of different age groups), the focal points and facilitators, communities and Shuras, teachers and parents with a view to strengthening the CCP process and moving the project forward. Each proposal has been assessed for its viability, realism, community contribution and details on motivation for the request being made to SCSN. The SCSN capacity to meet the requests and deliver the trainings requested has also been assessed. The capacity of the focal points to coordinate and sustain the projects in the future has also been overviewed and weighed.

The contents of this chapter have been extracted from the conclusions and recommendations that were projected at the end of each assessment report from the various locations. See chapter (3) sections on “viable projects” from each location. Findings relating to potential organisations of interest that SCSN ought to link with in the future are also included in the recommendations for each province. Some NGOs, provincial UN bodies and departments are familiar to SCSN whilst others are new and lesser known. The organisations overviewed are keen on learning about child rights, child protection monitoring and community mobilization to ensure a sharper child focus within their projects. They wished to be included in trainings and sensitization workshops of SCSN in the future. An overview of the AIHRC branches and an assessment of their work has also been projected with separate recommendations on ways and means for SCSN to strengthen linkages with AIHRC in the provinces. Recommendations relating to the education department in the provinces is also included given the SCSN focus on quality education aspects in the future together with the Alliance.

## MAZAR

### CONCLUSIONS -

The Children's Consultation in Mazar from August-October 2002 was among one of the first undertaken under the CCP. The whole venture was a learning process for the CCP team on how to organise themselves in the other locations to come. The location was selected due to the presence of Save the Children Alliance members operative in the province who could sustain the process after the initial CCP trainings and inputs. Selection of the first group of (6) facilitators was also carried out by the Save the Children Alliance members and UNICEF who formed the first GMC group in Mazar. The facilitators training for this group together with two other groups from Herat and Kabul was conducted in Kabul by the CCP team. The training seems to have been adequate to promote the formation of child to child groups but insufficient for facilitators to identify their roles beyond the 3 day Consultation workshop with children which was to follow.

Today the GMC group comprises children and youth group leaders participating within the activities of Save (UK) projects. A new child protection group comprising NGOs, UN Agencies and some Government departments has been formed under the leadership and coordination of the Save (UK) Mazar office. This group meets once a month for exchange of information. After the initial cooperation phase within the CCP the partnership between the Save the Children Alliance and UNICEF regional Office in Mazar also seems to be weakening as reflected by UNICEF in interviews with them.

Today Save (UK) is engaged in moving the CCP process forward on its own steam based on its commitment to child participation and child rights. The CCP and its methods are now included within the Save (UK) strategy to identify child protection issues and promote monitoring with children. Thus, sustaining the initial momentum and enthusiasm for the CCP objectives and follow-up projects over and above Save (UK) interest areas seems to be becoming increasingly difficult and not feasible due to logistical reasons and lack of cooperation at the provincial level from all child concerned organisations and institutions.

There seem to have been few new ideas forthcoming from the CCP team to the field to help steer the project, to guide the facilitators in their work with children after the Consultations and direct the focal point on what was expected after the initial phase concluded in October 2002. Suggestion/ framework on how to move the process forward with children over and above "make a project proposal with children and send it to SCSN in Kabul for funding" would have been welcomed both by the focal point and the facilitators. The fact that neither the children nor the focal point had previous experience of working together in planning projects and writing proposals seems to have been missed by the CCP. The fact that this was a time consuming process involving regular interaction with children and the ability of the focal point to handle this task together with all its other work has also been assumed when the consultations with children were concluded.

Today sustaining and planning for future CCP work beyond the Save (UK) projects may not be feasible. There could however exist opportunities for utilisation of the advocacy material and vignettes produced by AYU in other provinces to promote teaching and learning among children and young people on child rights and sharing

of information. Community sensitization could also be promoted through this material.

## **NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE – VIABLE PROJECT PROPOSALS**

1. Children's library cum community center for children in Mazar city. A proposal has been prepared by the children and submitted to Save (UK) for assessment and on forwarding to SCSN. At present the children were meeting under tents or in locations where space happened to be available such as at AYU. Save (UK) Mazar office was requested by the Consultant to investigate further together with the children and the community how access for girls and boys would be ensured to the library and its facilities, sustaining of the facilities and investments. Save (UK) was also requested to assist the children in identification of suitable space in Mazar city for the proposed library. The facilitator from AYU trained under the CCP was to assist Save (UK) in this regard. Immediate action is required since the children have completed their tasks, namely analysing their needs and submitting a relevant proposal.
2. Training and capacity building of more facilitators from AYU, YCDP, CVG and other groups is also needed in order to sustain interest in child participation and community mobilization outside the Save (UK) project and to compensate for the high turnover of trained facilitators. Regular monitoring of these persons and new inputs are also needed to sustain their interest and competence. (the question whether SCSN wants to sustain other activities and include other child and youth groups outside the Save (UK) and (US) programmes is a principal question that ought to be taken up first in future programme planning by SCSN).
3. Girls library in Dehdadi school premises. A project proposal has been prepared by the girls and handed over to Save (UK) for on forwarding to SCSN. The library will also be a meeting place for exchange between children in the GMC group and also other students and teachers. The community has accepted to contribute some books, paint and labour and maintenance of library premises. Children want only a 50% contribution from SCSN. Quick decision required by the girls who have completed initial preparations with the community. Consultant requested Save (UK) to assess community contributions and also the possibility for boys also to use the library at different hours or together with the girls in Dehdadi.
4. Training for teachers in the schools by SCSN trainers on child friendly teaching practices including refraining from corporal punishment. Introducing more play and child stimulation within teaching methods. This need for sensitising teachers was brought up by many children's groups in Mazar.
5. Children also want AYU to intervene with the provincial radio network station to expand the contents of the children's radio programme currently being broadcasted to promote inter linkages between the GMC groups. Topics of interest such as CRC, sanitation, group mobilisation to debate on children's issues, discussions and radio drama on child abuse and corporal punishment could be encouraged with participation from children and youth.

6. Youth want training on how to network with similar GMC groups in the other province and also opportunities for meeting other groups. They would also like to use the advocacy materials produced by them after the CCP to give new ideas and increase knowledge among the child groups in other locations and provinces. **NOTE:-** in Mazar the children themselves form the GMC group and introduce themselves as "the GMC" (very positive) in contrast to some other provinces where child oriented organisations represent the GMC group and children are participants in the CCP process. The Mazar method should be promoted in the other provinces too to ensure direct involvement of children in the follow up projects.

#### **MEETINGS WITH OTHER POTENTIAL ORGANISATIONS -**

**UNAMA Balkh Office** - Discussions have started between UNAMA and the Commanders in the Balkh Province on disarming of youth. Reintegration project by UNICEF has not been launched as yet. Mazar is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the DDR. **NOTE:-** The Consultation process and methods used could be useful here for UNAMA and other UN bodies to gather the views of children and identify child friendly processes of rehabilitation/reintegration which are planned with children. SCSN doing similar work in Nangahar for UNICEF possibility to link experiences and youth groups in the future.

**UNICEF Regional Office Mazar** - Dr. Khalid Saddiq, Protection Officer for region - The follow up after the CCP by SCSN and the focal points was very weak. Too much was left to the local organisations and the youth groups to take the process forward. No clear guidelines to them on how to do this or how to develop project proposals. The project proposal presented through UNICEF was rejected by SCSN as being too expensive. Save (UK) has thereafter taken on the role as focal point.

UNICEF feels Save (UK) too immature to take on the coordination role after the CCP to hold together all the activities that children are suggesting. Facilitators too have lost interest except for a few now being used within the Save (UK) projects. A few follow up meetings have been recently called by Save (UK) with the objective of assessing proposals rather than discussing how do we keep the whole CCP idea alive over and above the Save (UK) interests. UNICEF protection section strongly feels that the child protection network should be under the AIHRC to give it correct local ownership. Important protection issues that ought to receive focus include the DDR, cross border trafficking from Kunduz, Badakshan, Baglan, Takhar, Mazar and Jawzjam of children from 6-17 years for employment and acts of abuse. Very sensitive issue. UNICEF in Kandahar is coordinating a study trying to follow this network and its operation.

**IRC** – IRC did not take part in the CCP since it could not see the linkage between its projects and the SCSN venture. IRC has a project together with UNHCR reporting and monitoring issues relating to children among the returnee populations. IRC has now joined the recently formed Save (UK) Child Protection Network in order to interlink with others and also participate in UNHCR and Save (UK) trainings.



**UNHCR** - Ms. Najia Hannifi, Community Services - UNHCR is a member of the Save (UK) Child Protection Network. UNHCR links with the Alliance also through SCSN. Has received Community mobilization trainings thrice in 2002 and 2003 from SCS. Interested to receive training and conduct Consultation with children as in the CCP especially among returnee families to help them co-exist with the settled groups. At present there exists conflict of cultures and ideas between the groups which has resulted in discrimination of returnee children. UNHCR is searching for methods to initiate focused work with the returnees. This issue too needs to be developed and brought in as a protection issue within the child protection network and UNHCR regards itself as an important resource which could facilitate this in the network.

**Save (US) - Health and ECD Section** – Ms. Asiya ECD Officer: Mr. Seyyed Acting Manager Programmes -

Health education programmes of Save (US) are primarily on preventive health care. Save (US) has an ECD and child to child programme together with UNICEF. 60 kindergarten centers operating three times a week at household level. About 15-20 children in each center. Space and teacher are provided by the community. Self implemented programme by Save (US).

Methods Adopted In Child to Child - In the child to child programme CVG and YCDP are involved as implementing NGOs. Children from 7-18 years are organised around 6 education centers in Mazar. The children are of different social groups and are engaged in focus group discussions on specific topics and issues affecting their lives. They thereafter disperse to collect information on the topic from the community and community based organisations with a view to organising small action based advocacy projects relating to the topic. They visit schools and community centers to educate other children with similar problems. The child groups also interact with Mullahs, Shuras, and community leaders at community level meetings. The partner NGOs are active in organising the groups and monitoring the programmes.

Some child to child programmes have also been initiated within the community forums established by the Community Forum Development Organisation. Save (UK) has provided some CRC training to the facilitators within this initiative.

Among the child to child groups here interest has been focused around topics such as torture and violence in society; discrimination on grounds of ethnicity, gender and disabilities; abuse in schools and at home.

Save (US) is a member of the Child Protection Network to learn about the work of other organisations and exchange information with others. Interested to participate in thematic trainings if these are conducted in the future by SCSN.

**Kashyana Centers of AYU** - These are education centers for street and working children run by AYU and now supported by Save (UK). Youth from AYU are the teachers at the centers. The children feel the centers are important for learning and skills development. Currently the centers are producing radio programmes that are voiced once a week over the Balkh radio where children can reflect on their lives and have social debates over the air. The children wish to be able to spread their ideas and views to other provinces too through the GMC network. Some methods from the CCP are being used to stimulate group analysis in the child to child groups in the Kashyanas by Save (UK).

## **AIHRC North Region Branch Mazar –**

Child Rights Section - (Dr. Khaleeli Deputy for Child Rights Section)

The AIHRC here has been functioning since April 2003. Currently the child rights section of the AIHRC is trying to establish contacts with child rights organisations in the province. The main children's issues as analysed by the child rights section coincided well with the projections made by children at the CCP. (see annex 4 (a) Mazar projection). Challenges for the future lie in identifying methods on how to give constructive and practical ideas to parents and teachers regarding ways and means of respecting children and protecting their rights. Current activities under implementation include

- AIHRC partnership with the Dept of Education to include CRC sessions in primary school education classes.
- Programmes on TV and radio on child abuse and corporal punishment.
- Training for police, military and teachers to eradicate the culture of violence against children. Training packages from different NGOs are being used. AIHRC has also received some trainings from Save (UK).
- Officials from AIHRC also visit orphanages and detention centers and follow up individual cases for release of children illegally detained.
- AIHRC has documented abuse, trafficking and kidnapping in the province through a factual verification exercise in Balkh, Sar-e-Pul, Samangan, Jawzjam, Faryab provinces. Some girls had been sold by families in settlement of family debts, early marriage and forced marriages, boys for employment etc.
- Lack of education facilities for IDPs was also raised as an issue.
- Raising concerns with provincial departments and UN organisations regarding uneven and ineffective distribution of donor resources in the region which is creating discrimination and community dissatisfaction. E.g. UNICEF prefers to have tent schools costing about USD 600 instead investing in simple school constructions costing about Afs 3,000 and building more schools with the same quantity of money.
- AIHRC is a member of the SC(UK) Child Protection Network. Regards the network as being an important forum to avoid duplication of projects in the same locality and also everyone going to the same donor. In some cases Save (UK) and AIHRC had previously received funds to do the same things. Now project areas are much more evenly dispersed and sharing of reports are also possible through the network.

Links to CCP - Has learnt of the CCP through Save (UK) since AIHRC in Mazar was started after the CCP had finished. Save (UK) and AIHRC have conducted a few CRC trainings in schools. AIHRC hopes to link with the CCP child groups and leaders to clarify child abuse issues to the education authorities through a child perspective.

PROJECT - AIHRC is interested in issue based trainings in the future regarding eradication of corporal punishment, detection of child abuse and talking to children about this, community mobilisation to respect child rights. Training that demonstrates practical application of theory is required by AIHRC for its field work. AIHRC is seeking the assistance of SCSN in this capacity building exercise of its staff and field workers. AIHRC prefers if the trainings could be organised at provincial level or regional level for the northern provinces.

## **BADAKSHAN**

The CCP in Badakshan had been implemented by SCSN in cooperation with Afghan Aid (AA) as focal point and involving children from two districts. The districts are socio-economically different from each other and the issues raised by the children's groups and communities also differ. Conclusions and recommendations for each location are therefore projected separately in order to assist SCSN to have a clearer conception of the project ideas and suggestions from the field.

### **(A) CONCLUSIONS FROM ARGU DISTRICT –**

There has been a very good start off in Argu and the interest still continues among the children in the child to child groups and the community. AA has the confidence of the communities and strong linkages to the families in Argu. It was a good strategy on the part of SCSN to build on an existing/ongoing programme with a wide outreach in the community and broadbased impact. The problem however is that a clear cut mandate is needed for the Faizabad and Argu offices to carry the project forward including capacity building training in child rights, monitoring and management of the child to child groups and the facilitators. The commitment and interest on the part of the field staff and field office of AA is very strong. They want to learn more and involve themselves more strategically in the Child Development Programme activities. SCSN ought to cooperate on these fronts on training AA staff in the Argu and Faizabad and also invest in special projects with children in partnership with AA. Agreement should first be reached between SCSN and AA at the senior management levels in Kabul, including with the Manager Child Development Programme, regarding decentralisation of the Child Development Programme activities and trainings before the steps proposed below are launched.

### **NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE - VIABLE PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR ARGU –**

1. Assistance to complete the boys school started by the community. The ground work, roof and walls have been complete by the community through its own contribution. Identification of teachers and their salaries are also be met by the community. Boys groups are seeking external support for doors, windows, seating facilities, stationery and textbooks to start off the school activities. The school will serve both as a school and a community center for the boys groups and youth. How far can SCSN help via Afghan Aid office Argu to complete this project. Input needed after winter in April 2004 when work can resume once more and the school sessions start after winter.
2. Trainings inputs from SCSN - Need for child rights training and practical methods to explain the rights concepts to facilitators, Shuras, women resource centers and child leaders. Additionally, there is need for focused training on non-discrimination and inclusion, corporal punishment and child rights, concepts on how to link human rights and child rights and Islam, community mobilization to promote child rights. There is a need for regular training and follow up in the field: at present trainings seem to be far and few and no regular back-up from Kabul Office seems to be forthcoming.

3. AA should be encouraged by SCSN to join the local networks and be active in child rights monitoring groups in Faizabad. At the moment AA has little or no links with other child protection networks or childrens organisations in Faizabad with a view to learn from them and exchange experiences. AA seems to be keeping its children's programme separate from the other child protection initiatives being implemented among other organisations in Badakshan, even linkages to the AIHRC were weak.
4. Organisational Capacity Building - Training on child rights and monitoring for supervisory and management levels at Faizabad by SCSN is also needed for future sustainability of the project. If this should be done direct or via AA Kabul office should be first discussed between the two organisations.
5. Programme Management - Reorganisation of linkage to main programme and delegation to the field is needed for future sustainability. A principal discussion on this is necessary between SCSN and AA to uphold the good work that has started and inject new momentum into the CCP work. (AA is shortly starting an internal evaluation of its work and this principal discussion should be ideally taken prior to this evaluation). The provincial office of AA in Faizabad has not been required to be active or feel as being a part of the Child Development Programme. Further, the provincial office has not been delegated the task to monitor the child development project therefore there is no direct linkage at field level today to the community mobilization programme as a whole. This compartmentalisation could result in fragmentation of the programme and limitation of the impact of the CCP on the long term.

## **(B) CONCLUSIONS FROM WARDUJ DISTRICT –**

Warduj district just like Argu has motivated and active child to child groups under AA Warduj office. The staff and facilitators are also interested in new training and stimulation in order to develop the programme further with the girls and boys. There is a need for more facilitators, training, monitoring and management of child to child groups just like in Argu. Decentralisation of the Child Development Programme from Kabul to the field remains an issue here too. Agreement should be first reached between SCSN and Afghan Aid Kabul Management levels on steps for decentralisation to the field in Badakshan before the following project proposals are taken up for discussion and implementation with Afghan Aid.

### **NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE VIABLE PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR WARDUJ**

1. Programme review with AA with a view to strengthening the field activities and coordinating the programmes with the child to child groups of all age groups. This could include identification of field level trainings for the children and facilitators, community and Shuras, AA field staff and women's groups with a view to promoting child participation and protection issues. The last CRC training by SCS and AA to the field offices was in 2001. This was too early and before any child to child work had started in the field. No trainings and new inputs since then until August 2003 and the CCP input by SCSN. The only training the child groups and facilitators remember is

that under the CCP. They want more refresher training at village level from SCSN. Very strong and vibrant child to child groups both boys and girls. How do we sustain the momentum and build confidence among them ?

2. Assistance to build and invest in a girls school in Warduj together with the community. AA has the cement. The community has the land, the manpower, the teachers and are already meeting the cost of (4) females of the (8) teachers, how can we move ahead since UNICEF seems to be delaying its decision regarding the school building and equipment. There are a few conservative members in the village who want to see the project delayed even further shall the girls bow down to the will of these people after all this initial spadework with the community and Shura. How far and in what way can SCSN and AA jointly cooperate to start work on the school in April 2004 after winter. Discuss with AA office in Kabul first.

3. Networking - Promoting cooperation between the child groups and facilitators in Warduj and those of Argu on a regular basis for exchange of experiences and to learn from each other was prioritised by the children and the youth. Annual meetings were suggested similar to the CCP consultations.

4. The community, children and facilitators have identified the following training needs to improve their skills and want SCSN assistance urgently : -

- training on new methods and ideas on how to consolidate work and sustain interest within the child to child groups both for boys and girls.
- training on a regular basis for parents and Shura members on the human rights of the child and also CRC concepts
- facilitation and presentation skills for the facilitators and children
- CRC and monitoring skills training for the management levels in Faizabad, and Warduj and Argu.
- training in community/group mobilization and organisation of self help activities in the community for men and women to address children's needs
- skills in addressing psycho social issues and speaking to children on sensitive issues.

HOW FAR CAN SCSN HELP. How far would AA Child Development Section be willing to allow SCSN to conduct **regular training** in Argu and Warduj with SCSN trainers even for AA staff?? This issue needs to be discussed at Directors levels.

5. SCSN should discuss long term cooperation with AA in both places? An important issue here is how does AA look on this Child Development 'pilot project' which was planned to last 3 years: two have already passed. What are AA's future plans for this child development project.

( Take a meeting with Mr. Mall Simons Country Director Kabul Office, the AA Evaluation Section and Mr. Gulam Rabbani Manager Child Development Prog.)

#### **MEETINGS WITH OTHER POTENTIAL ORGANISATIONS –**

**UNICEF** - Dr. Zahir Fazil, Provincial Project Officer Badakshan – UNICEF is concerned with lack of monitoring on protection issues in Badakshan and "false" allegations that children are being kidnapped and trafficked across the border for sale of organs etc. UNICEF is preparing to coordinate a child protection group together

with UNAMA to quash this rumour. UNICEF monitoring has shown that children above 16 years are going for work to Iran and for education to Pakistan. Parents are very poor and employment opportunities are limited in Badakshan so exploitation of children in child labour, sending children out of the province for work and even engaging them in poppy cultivation and sale of opium is common.

UNICEF wants to do more to monitor child protection issues but has at present only 2 professional staff members to implement its programme covering 27 districts of Badakshan.

**UNAMA** – very concerned about false rumours about children and presently monitoring this issue closely. Alleges "scoop" media reports supported by some factional groups who wish to destabilise Badakshan which is a relatively quiet province with no factional fighting or insecurity. UNAMA is promoting a child protection network together with UNICEF Faizabad. Welcomes AA and its child group leaders to this child protection monitoring group.

**Norwegian Afg Comm (NAC)** - has education, health, infrastructure programmes and a small self run orphanage (children who have lost their fathers in the jihad). Runs also a food for education programme (WFP oil, wheat and rice to families of children) in 97 primary schools in the province. NAC participated in the CCP invited by Afghan Aid. They distributed a hygiene kit for all the children who participated at the Consultation.

NAC currently implementing environment protection training for the youth in primary and secondary classes and also for women's groups. NAC has its own teacher training programme in Badakshan. Plan for expansion in the education field in 2004. NAC also has working groups in health and education but not linked to UNICEF. 1 Programme Manager and 104 field staff. Sub-office in Kishim.

**PROJECT** - maybe a good CBO to sensitise on CRC and link with Mazar youth groups and Heart youth groups. Coordinate this work under AIHRC or UNICEF.

**AIHRC Badakshan Regional Office** – Mohammad Mohsin Farid – Deputy Manager - office under reorganisation may shift to Kunduz for better focus and overlook Badakshan from there. ISAF presence in Kunduz could also be helpful for AIHRC and create environment to monitor rights issues. Opposition for human rights work by some local political parties in Badakshan makes working environment difficult. AIHRC has to constantly explain its position on human rights issues. Making strides in Faizabad but weak in monitoring the provinces. Child rights dept of AIHRC Badakshan has 1 child rights officer and one assistant. Scope of present work :-

- AIHRC is in contact with dept of education to meet the needs of schools and making inventories regarding equipment lacking in them
- re disabled children in contact with ICRC for orthopedic care
- monitoring children engaged in poppy cultivation and smuggling of narcotics
- monitoring health issues of children in carpet industry. Providing protection masks. "No employment of kids under 12 years" being promoted as a first step.
- has regular meetings with UNICEF, ICRC and CFA on the above issue
- plans to expand profile of work in Faizabad
- has organised 2 workshops on CRC for religious leaders and another for community after July workshop in Kabul organised by headoffice and SCSN.
- meetings with dept of women's affairs to seek their cooperation on h.r. issues

- child rights workshop to be organised shortly with the police with focus on trafficking. Children from Kunduz and Takhar used for trafficking for sexual purposes, for sale of organs and also smuggling. Some youth are taken as servants to the Middle East and later exploited for sexual purposes.
- trying to influence the dept of communication and information in the province to broadcast educative programmes for children over the media with active child participation regarding presentation and programme content
- have had meetings with the local branch of the Min of Justice to advocate for a separate section for adolescent detainees and better facilities at the correction centers.

PROJECT - SCSN could offer its capacity in training on human rights and child rights to help the local branch identify methods on how to convey principles of human rights to children. Volunteers in the schools could be trained to be facilitators for child rights in the schools. Training is also needed on how to monitor sensitive protection issues. How to talk to children about these issues??? AIHRC needs guidance for developing material for the same. SCSN could possibly promote regional exchanges with Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh on this point.

**Aga Khan Dev Network (AKDN) – Regional Programme Manager –**  
 AKDN has been in Afghanistan since 1996 through an affiliated organisation FOCUS. Mainly engaged with emergency assistance. After 2002 a concentrated focus on development work has been introduced. AKDN created to do this and FOCUS remains as the relief organ. Operates under a formal Agreement with the Afg Govt to implement programmes in Badakshan, Bamyán and Baglan all bordering Tajikistan and also Chitral. AKDN promotes interexchanges between its programmes and sees its work as a part of regional dev of the whole area. Sectors prioritised – community dev, NSP, rehab of agriculture, education and health, micro power, roads/bridge construction. The plan is long term development spanning 25-50 years. Work covers 10 districts in Badakshan in 250 villages. AKDN works through building grass root level community organisations with a focus on women. The work with the NSP was important to ensure that women too are partners and receivers of NSP benefits. (USD 20-300 in micro finance loans). Inservice training for teachers, teacher training college in Shighnan (border to Tajikistan). Power plant in Baharak. Negotiating with UNOPS to build a road along the Tajikistan border along Amudharia River. Building 4 airstrips on Dawaz, Shighnan, Ishkashim ensuring access to remote areas even during winter.  
 Have about 500 staff in Badakshan and about 1,200 in the whole of Afgahnistan.

PROJECT - Interest to work with children and youth – upto now AKDN focus has been on women. Has links to education programmes in the province only through school construction and also distribution of books for UNICEF back to school programme. Has not looked at possibility upto now to engage with youth, nor CRC through the women's groups, nor the potential to train community mobilizers on CRC. AKDN is interested to learn more about SCSN issue based packages on corporal punishment, child stimulation and disabilities, violence and abuse, child to child, child participation tools etc.  
 Take meeting with Ms. MINA VALLI MOHAMMAD – Kabul office and pursue matter further.

**Department Of Education** - Appreciates the need to building aspects of CRC into teacher training programmes coordinated in the province. The department is interested to join any SCSN trainings in the future relating to child friendly class room practices and CRC and child participation skills training for teachers. Even inclusion of some of these topics within the teacher training courses could be possible by the department.

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## **BAMYAN**

### **CONCLUSIONS –**

A lot of initial enthusiasm has been generated both in Bamyan and Yakalang by the CCP but the project seems to be implemented today for the most part only in Bamyan whilst in Yakalang district, which could have benefited very much from the project, children and facilitators seem unable to sustain the CCP inputs and training. A serious problem here is the selection of unsuitable facilitators in the preparation of the CCP. SCJ seems to have had no supervision over these facilitators at present.

The AIHRC and SJC appointed as focal points had limited experience and exposure to child rights concepts and techniques of working with children and also project coordination. The focal point role and what was required of them by the Consultation Project was unclear to both organisations. Additionally, the issues of how to move forward the CCP process, the roles and responsibilities of the facilitators and who would monitor and supervise them was also unclear between the two focal points. They were expecting more concrete ideas to be forthcoming from the CCP team at the conclusion and summing up of the Consultations together with an implementation framework for future work. But this seemingly did not take place. Today, both focal points require more focused inputs and training on child rights in general and how to interact with children in particular, more guidance and training in community analysis, in community mobilisation, in preparing proposals with children and project planning in order to carry forward the CCP initiative.

The CCP had generated a process of thinking among the focal points but has not been sufficiently wide or in depth enough for them to appreciate how to formulate proposals with children and stimulate the child groups. An uncertainty of what to do next was apparent in all interviews both with the two focal point organisations and also the facilitators.

The interest to promote child participation and bring children together has been achieved in Bamyan but the planning thereafter has been inadequate in its vision and content. A large proportion of the work seems to have been left in the hands of focal points who cannot carry forward the project alone without institutional backing from SCSN.

### **NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE - VIABLE PROJECT PROPOSALS**

1. The children from Bamyan have not met the children from Yakalang after the Consultations and are interested to have a joint meetings to learn more about them and also what they are doing in their villages. Meetings every six months between children of various age groups as was divided in the Consultations was suggested by the children's groups and the facilitators. These meetings should be coordinated by



SCJ and AIHRC with new ideas and thematic inputs in the form of trainings from SCSN were further suggestions. This proposal was discussed with the focal points who were interested to pursue this idea further as a part of the cooperation with SCSN in 2004.

2. AIHRC and SCJ also needs more training on CRC especially in thematic areas and how to build networks between the children's groups both in Bamyan and Yakalang. The possibilities to link to other provincial groups such as those in Mazar and Badakshan should also be assessed and links promoted by SCSN via the Alliance and also AIHRC branches.

3. The work in Yakalang district has to be stimulated and reactivated through SCSN inputs to SCJ and the villages concerned. Training in community mobilization, CRC sensitization for the parents and teachers, village level discussion groups on alternatives to corporal punishment, detection and prevention of child abuse, non-discrimination need to be started. Additionally capacity building in child to child group formation and management/reporting, ARC package on psycho-social protection, how to communicate with children, and facilitation skills could be some other useful trainings for Yakalang especially for the focal points and also all the active facilitators. The trainings should be conducted in Yakalang and practically follow up regularly with the focal points in the field. The focal points today lack the experience to carry out this function by themselves without SCSN support and training inputs.

4. Discuss with AIHRC how the literacy classes in Saidabad could be resumed and child rights discussions included as a subject for the bigger girls (14-18). The parents of the girls have confidence in the village facilitator, even if he is a man, to lead this work. There is scope for the very active 8-10 years child group to be invited as resource persons to facilitate the CRC training since they have skilfully grasped the methods used at the Consultations. The facilitator could be paid a monthly allowance from the SCSN follow-up project to implement this work, monitor child protection issues and also develop further the various projects proposals coming from other children's groups in Saidabad.

PROJECT - AIHRC at present only offers the literacy courses in language and maths for three months only in each village. The bigger girls wanted a broader perspective in their literacy groups more like "a common discussion forum" as they described it. This is an interesting youth group among the girls for SCSN support via AIHRC.

5. Children need more training on how to build networks between their groups, facilitation skills and guidance on how to discuss sensitive issues such as abuse, discrimination of refugee children, corporal punishment and alternatives to it, early marriage etc. with their elders and other children. Consider in which areas SCSN has the capacity to introduce such trainings suitable to children and help them develop training material. Consider how far and in what way the children in Bamyan and Yakalang could be linked to the ACHIANA children and the social awareness theatre group in Kabul. Consider also dissemination of child abuse and corporal punishment posters and material developed by SCSN in Sweden, NCPA & UNICEF in Sri Lanka for schools and parents, tools on monitoring corporal punishment by Save Alliance in Pakistan/Afghanistan, tools on child protection and monitoring developed by the Alliance in Afghanistan etc.

6. There is a need for SCSN to reassess the capacity and work of the facilitators trained under the CCP. There is a need to train more committed facilitators from the village to replace at least (5) of the old facilitators. There is also a need for a trained full time coordinator within SCJ if the projects to be started and trainings given in 2004 are to be effectively coordinated, implemented, disseminated in the community, and sustained with regularly monitoring and reporting.

7. Interesting new dimensions and a broader scope for outreach could be built into the CCP follow-up projects through strengthening links with UNAMA and HABITAT community development projects implemented under the NSP in Bamyan, Saidabad and Yakalang. Possibilities to initiate training with NSP facilitators, youth groups, women's groups, Shuras and communities on community mobilisation and child rights should be investigated. SCSN should make a field assessment together with the focal points on the scope to do this and the inputs needed for implementation. Possibilities to organise child to child groups and train them within the UNAMA and HABITAT community and youth projects should also be investigated within this assessment. Potential to promote child protection monitoring via the NSP groups and include them in the provincial level child protection network group to be set up could also be investigated by SCSN and the focal points.

## **MEETINGS WITH OTHER POTENTIAL ORGANISATIONS**

**AIHRC Bamyan** - This is the office for the Hazarajat region. There are two persons in the child rights section which started work in April 2003. The head of the section participated in the SCSN human rights workshop held in Kabul in July. There are 6 facilitators trained under the CCP within the AIHRC (3 men and 3 women). However only one of them has been assigned to the child rights section. The second member of the section is a recent employee since 4 months ago.

After the CCP some training with children seems to have taken place in the field using the principles and exercises learnt at the CCP. Some coordination meetings with other childrens NGOs has also been held. No clear description of impact could be gathered from AIHRC.

Relating to the AIHRC training unit in Kabul the Bamyan branch felt that no practical training and dissemination of knowledge on how to implement CRC was forthcoming from Kabul. It was more useful to attend Save Alliance trainings such as the one on "Child Protection Monitoring Tools" where practical knowledge relevant to the field was given.

OBS – the facilitators within the AIHRC do not have the time to engage in discussions with the community regularly on child rights or stimulate child to child groups since they are engaged fulltime with other duties at AIHRC such as education, women's rights, following individual cases of children, orphans, children in institutions etc. They are not clear about their tasks after the CCP. They were asked to meet children and get their views. Their future roles and responsibilities towards the focal points, the community, the children, the GMC group etc. had not been clarified after the Consultation according to AIHRC.

**UNAMA** - Meetings with Peter Maxwell, Head of Office : Julia Quillet, Community Development and Gender issues. Molly Little, Project Coordination Officer. Hafiza Mrowat, gender coordinator.

UNAMA coordinates different reconstruction activities in partnership with various departments and the Governors office. Chairs sector working groups one on community dev and human rights where specific childrens issues are also sometimes discussed. Gender is a cross-cutting issue. UNAMA also has a role in the Constitutional process and also the disarmament process. The Southern districts of Bamyan south of the mountain range always get lesser attention and are much more poorer than this northern area. There is a need to spread knowledge on child rights and human rights in this region according to UNAMA.

PROJECT - If SCSN and SCJ start a group on child rights and child protection UNAMA would be very interested to join and give inputs. Local women's and human rights organisations should also be included in such a protection group. The office facilities of UNAMA was offered for use by the Alliance and its partners for such meetings.

**HABITAT** - Engaged in community development projects and training in the community for the NSP. HABITAT is interested in children's issues but has no time to directly focus on children within its training in the community. Interested to learn and cooperate with SCSN. HABITAT was not invited to the GMC group or the CCP preparations. Could have been useful as a resource organisation to identify facilitators from the community. HABITAT offers full cooperation to SCSN and Alliance in case we continue to work in Bamyan. Interested to participate in SCSN trainings in order to incorporate child focused ideas it in the community work currently being implemented. HABITAT like UNAMA interested to join Alliance child rights and child protection group in Bamyan. Advises SCSN to join the UNAMA groups on education and human rights and gender in Bamyan.

HABITAT also has youth groups and works with Shuras undertaking self-help activities in Yakalang and Bamyan. The Department of Women's Affairs and UNAMA have also women's groups in Saidabad and Yakalang that could benefit from sensitization in child rights and community mobilization.

PROJECT -SCSN together with the focal points ought to make a field assessment on

- how far is there scope for SCSN trainings to be linked to these existing community groups in order to widen impact of trainings.
- how far and in what ways can the community, village and youth groups under the HABITAT and UNAMA programmes be useful for monitoring child protection issues in their various communities in the province.

UNICEF, UNHCR, AKDN and Department of Women's Affairs representatives were not available at the time of this visit . These organisations also need to be assessed in the future to gauge their potential and interest to link with SCSN activities. The Department of Education in Bamyan was overviewed by Björn Odin in his report for SCSN on the scope for quality education development in the province.



## HERAT

### CONCLUSIONS –

The youth organisations including the TYA are very active and have a wide network throughout the province which is useful for the project. Most of the new facilitators are also youth interested in promoting child rights. They should be given the necessary training to continue with the CCP ideas. The capacity of IRC needs to be assessed once more especially its ability to consolidate structures and promote child rights monitoring and protection outside the IDP camps. The question whether the selection of IRC as a focal point facilitates/restricts the development of the CCP in Herat needs follow up in 2004. The strengthening of the child protection/GMC working group in the province coordinated by IRC and UNICEF also needs close steering and monitoring.

### NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE – VIABLE PROJECT PROPOSALS

1. Continue the present project with IRC and TYA promoting weekly meetings among the different child and youth groups. SCSN should continue with its material support to the groups and also the allowances paid to the facilitators.
2. Stronger coordination of the project and monitoring from SCSN needed in 2004 together with the new inputs. IRC vision maybe insufficient to promote CRC via community mobilization and also to take further issues of thematic interest among all children. More interaction with facilitators also needed.
3. The child groups need stimulation and facilitation to sustain their interests. The Facilitators need new skills from SCSN on how to do this. This training is not available with IRC within their work with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
4. Capacity building by SCSN through community level trainings for parents, teachers and the facilitators to understand how to conceptualise the CRC in simpler terms and in a practical manner. Training through practical examples is required to suit community requirements/resources in project areas. This could be coordinated under TYA youth groups.
5. Skills training for facilitators on the topics requested by them in this report. Youth leaders too could be included who could be useful community Animators in the future.
6. SCSN seed –money for the youth magazine and also the community center cum library to be used by girls and boys, since the children have been denied space in the city library by the local authorities.

### MEETINGS WITH OTHER POTENTIAL ORGANISATIONS

**(A) UNHCR Herat office-** Bobby Ray Gordon Protection Officer, Ms. Rahima Community Services Officer.

3 Community mobilization and protection trainings have been conducted by SCSN in the form of TOT trainings for comm mobilizers (Ajmal and Siddika in Herat). IRC doing general human rights trainings for UNHCR Herat but this is not child focused. **Possible project** - send details of SCSN trainings conducted for UNHCR in Jalalabad and copy of partnership Agreement. Capacity building in Herat by SCSN open for discussion after this on specific issues of interest to women and children IDPs and returnees from Iran. UNHCR also planning ARC training in 2004 in Herat to be conducted by SCSN trainers.

**(B) Injeel Village School and adult literacy centers run by community contributions** - About 1,000 girls and 1,000 boys in the primary and secondary schools, youth especially young girls in the village active as volunteer teachers. The project is led by a youth leader from the CCP and her sister. Population a mixture of returnees from Iran and also families deprived of education during Taliban times. No commander control or Shura dominance in the area so community can start up and implement education activities for girls freely within the principles of Islam and purdah segregation. Schools are run in tents and teachers (26) serve in the schools as a part of community service. School is monitored by the village women's association. Project about 5 years old. Interesting methods of community mobilization for 'self-help' have been developed by this project useful as learning for SCSN.

**(C) UNICEF** – Mr. Najib child protection officer, Ms. Barbara Atherly education and child protection officer Herat office. Reorganisation of UNICEF office underway and Barbara new to the post. No protection section now only working teams in the provinces. CCP very successful in Herat and UNICEF was very active together with local youth organisations and NGOs. But with the reorganisation UNICEF seems to have lost focus on protection issues. Even the GMC work has lost its initial punch. UNICEF does not even attend the IRC protection meetings. UNICEF advises SCSN to formally appoint a local coordinator to follow up on the GMC. SCSN prefers to coordinate under IRC and asks UNICEF to join this protection cum GMC network instead. Links between IRC and UNICEF facilitated by SCSN during this visit. Next joint meeting between IRC + UNICEF planned for end November to discuss juvenile justice concerns with Ministry of Justice in the province.

**NOTE:-** potential to use local youth organisations should be analysed further. The 13 youth groups in Herat have formed themselves into a network. There are funding opportunities in Herat that the network can lobby for. Childrens debates and programmes on TV can also be promoted by the media. UNICEF intends to start a HIV/AIDS campaign. How can the youth network be mobilized in the sensitization campaigns among the youth. Good to discuss this in the protection group.

**(D) AIHRC Herat** – Regional Programme Manager Mr. Rahimi – Interested in promoting CRC workshops. Some have been held from time to time with kindergarden teachers, police, juvenile correction centers, caretakers of orphanages. Concerns – **(a)** situation of children in correction centers unsatisfactory. Violence and abuse common. Long delays in trial procedures and discharge. Only one correction center in Kabul, Girls and boys detained together. Kids from 12 years onwards detained even for petty crimes. **(b)** Drug addiction among young children

common, 4,000 drug abusers according to official figures in Herat Province alone. Many children also exploited for smuggling of drugs to Iran and also to Pakistan. AIHRC has alarmed UNAMA and NGOs of this rising menace and advised to include these children in their monitoring exercises. (c) children exploited in cross-border trafficking to Iran for employment purposes is on the increase. Illegal smuggling of boys as young as 10 years reported. The police in Iran are very harsh on them and they are immediately deported. Networks are operating in Afghanistan and Iran linked to very poor villages in Herat, Mazar, Kunduz, Badakshan and Takhar provinces. In Iran children working as cheap illegal labourers on construction sites or in petty trade on the streets. UNHCR operates shelters for the deported children. AIHRC has alerted ACBAR and UNAMA on this issue. (d) There is an increasing interest for education for all age groups and larger numbers of children (boys and girls) preferring to stay in school for higher education. Facilities and resource allocations to this sector however remain very low. Most schools function at community levels, housed in tents and implemented by the community through its limited resources. There also large numbers of parents sending their boys to mechanical workshops and skills training centers in the urban areas instead of to school. AIHRC is pioneering work in Herat to negotiate with the employers to allow time for the boys to attend basic literacy classes conducted by local NGOs. A project with about 80 boys is under planning. The local mosques will be used as education centers during the afternoons. The AIHRC is trying to negotiate food aid for the voluntary teachers as an incentive to sustain staff within this education project. (e) there are also a number of children with their mothers in prison. War child (France) is providing kindergarten education in its schools for these children allowing them an opportunity to come out of the prison. (f) Special problems relating to IDP children and returnee children referred to UNHCR. There about 500 families who have returned in the last 4 months and adults adjust to integration fairly quickly since they are more educated and have been exposed to a more advanced society than in Herat Province. The females too are more outspoken and productive in their own right. There are however problems for children who are often discriminated socially and in schools since they do not talk the same dialect and are also unfamiliar with life in Afghanistan, and the backward education system prevailing here. They are more ambitious and advanced than the average Afghan children of the same age. Many have been born and lived their whole life in Iran up to now. (h) Community mobilization on this issue is very strong especially among the Shiaa communities where education and reintegration has been prioritised even for the youth both girls and boys. Village literacy centers for elder girls run by the community are common in many places around Herat city. Many young girls were denied their education during Taliban times for about 6 years. They want to continue now and some are attending the high schools with their babies! Special arrangements and education centers were needed for this group were taking over places in the high schools reserved for ordinary students. (i) Training for staff at juvenile detention centers on CRC and child friendly practices is urgently needed to protect the rights of children often treated as criminals at the detention centers, abused, victimized by the media. The situation has worsened since the detention centers now come under the preview of the Min of Justice and everyone in state custody (including deported children) are treated like prisoners.

Links to Kabul - Capacity building is more effective if implemented at the provincial level and the office is organising its own trainings for selected groups in Herat via the

Child Rights Section. Some central level training was given to the 7 regional offices after the SCS July workshop before the provincial level trainings were undertaken. However after this no new inputs have been forthcoming from the training section in Kabul. Knowledge of what the training section and what was available in the way of training programmes was unknown to the branch.

The AIHRC had participated in the CCP and considered it an important opportunity for children to meet, exchange ideas, and also widen their knowledge about children from other districts and towns in the province. AIHRC was also interested to see a better coordination between the GMC group and the child protection groups in Herat to ensure more effective monitoring of protection issues.

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## KABUL

### CONCLUSIONS –

The organisations and the facilitators who participated in the CCP process are doing good work given the limited resources and facilities available to them. They seem to have received little guidance from the CCP itself after the conclusion of the Consultations with the children in 2002 as to how to move forward. Facilitators have initiated projects according to their own knowledge and capacity and are for the most working alone with their child groups. There is both room and scope for networking among the children and the facilitators and this should be actively promoted by SCSN. In about 3 cases concrete projects for 2004 have been identified by the child groups and facilitators that ought to be studied by SCSN. Final reports in writing are also needed from the Golgothai project and also the project with Afghan radio regarding project progress, utilisation of funds, and final conclusion of the project. Mr. Noor Aga from Afghan Radio seems to have submitted a report in Dari that needs to be translated by the CCP team.

### NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE - VIABLE PROJECT PROPOSALS

#### 1. FROM ASCHIANA –

(a) We want to use the ASCHIANA theatre and music groups as an advocacy tool to make people aware of children's rights. We want to travel with the theatre to other provinces and motivate the community and other child to child groups.

(b) We would like to maintain contact with the other children's groups but do not know how? The HIFA children were very interesting and gave us new knowledge. How can we meet them again? We want to learn how they solve their problems. We know where their organisation is in Kabul but how can we meet the children themselves as friends: (informally).

**NOTE:** - SCSN has an important role to promote this networking and also raising the skills of children on how to do this. Possibilities to bring in regional and international resources to strengthen this aspect for Kabul and the provinces needs to be considered.





**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

SCSN	Save The Children Sweden Norway
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
GMC	Global Movement for Children
CCP	Children and Young People's Consultation Project
CRC	Child Rights Convention
AYU	Afghan Youth Union
YCDP	Youth and Child Development Programme
CVG	Children's Voice Group
ASCHIANA	Afghan Street Working Children And New Approach
SVF	Social Volunteer Foundation
CAR	Commissionerate For Afghan Refugees
UNICEF	UN International Children's Emergency Fund
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
IRC	International Rescue Committee
TYA	Turkman Youth Association
AIHRC	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
CHA	Coordination Humanitarian Assistance
CCA	Central Cooperation for Afghanistan
CFA	Children's Fund for Afghanistan
SCA	Swedish Committee for Afghanistan
NAC	Norwegian Afghanistan Committee
AKDN	Aga Khan Development Network
AA	Afghan Aid
ECD	Early Childhood Development
CBO	Community Based Organisation
NSP	National Solidarity Programme
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration

SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN/NORWAY – AFGHANISTAN PROGRAMME  
“We are the future of Afghanistan” – Children and Young People’s Consultations

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PROJECT CONSULTANT ON  
PROMOTION AND SUPPORT OF FOLLOW-UP INITIATIVES

1. Background

“We are the future of Afghanistan” - Children and Young People’s Consultations is a project to promote children and young people’s rights in Afghanistan, with a focus on their right to express themselves in matters concerning their lives and the right to participate and be counted in. The project is under the umbrella of the Global Movement for Children Afghanistan. It is funded by UNICEF and Save the Children. Save the Children Sweden is the implementing team.

The project is a continuation of consultations held prior to the United Nations Special Session on Children in May 2002. In order to make the UN aware of Afghan children’s situation, consultations were held, both in refugee camps in Pakistan and inside Afghanistan. This was achieved through cooperation of many different organizations. The messages from the Afghan children and youths were collected in a booklet and widely distributed at the Special Session.

The current project was started in August 2002. Up to mid-September 2003, nine consultations have been held – in Mazaar-I-Sherif, Herat, Kabul, SurkhRod in Nangarhar province, Peshawar in Pakistan, Kandahar, Jalalabad, several districts of Badakshan and Bamyan . The consultations have been arranged by local GMC groups where child-and-youth-focused organizations are cooperating, supported by the implementing team. Local NGOs and youth organizations have been active and there is a good cooperation with different ministries.

Each consultation lasts for 3 days and 60 children and young people from 8-18 years participate. They come from different backgrounds and life situations. Some are going to school, some are working or going to home-based schools, they might be from an ethnic minority, some have disabilities, they might come from cities or rural districts. Half of them are girls. They work together in groups with a facilitator, answering questions about what makes them happy, sad or angry, what main concerns they have in their lives and what dreams they have for the future. On the third day, we invite representatives of the local authorities, organizations working in the area and media to listen to what the children have to say. Through role-plays, speeches, poems or songs, they present their most burning issues to the audience.

The project will continue through 2003, ending with a final session in Kabul in December with participants from the locations where the consultations have been held.

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The overall goal of the project is to ensure that children and young people can express their hopes and concerns and that these messages reach people in local government, other children and young people, parents and teachers. After the consultations, the participants will continue to work together in children's clubs or child-to-child groups where they can discuss their issues further and plan joint action in order to improve their situation. Both during the consultations and in the work afterwards, the children and young people will become familiar with children's rights and discuss ways of realizing these rights.

The objectives of the projects are:

- To bring together groups of children and young people of both genders, from different ethnic backgrounds, from a number of provinces and with different abilities and languages.
- To pay particular attention to issues brought up by the children and young people in the consultations relating to the effects of the armed conflict and bring these to concerned people, as well as suggestions for ways of rehabilitation.
- To cooperate with local NGOs, authorities and schools, to facilitate the participation of 600 children and young people expressing their hopes and concerns for the future in local consultations within Afghanistan and also arrange one among the refugee population in Peshawar.
- To ensure that the Afghan government at the highest level is informed about the outcome of the consultations.
- To ensure that information about the consultations and outcome is spread to other children and young people through broadcast, newspapers and schools, as well as to the general public.

## 2. Responsibilities of the Consultant.

The backdrop for this assignment will be the processes initiated by the Consultation Project implemented by SCS and SC-N in selected provincial localities and in Kabul during 2002 and 2003. These terms of reference are aimed at identifying steps to consolidate the work begun under the Consultation Project with a view to strengthen and support children and young people groups and child focused organisations' initiatives in the provinces. The consultant will also make recommendations on developing a children's participation long term programme for future support by SCS and SCN, as well as other actors. The consultant should identify together with children, the communities, civil society actors in the provinces and provincial and local administrators (wherever possible) viable projects to enhance the outcome of the Children's Consultation Project further. The strengths and weaknesses of the identified projects and the ability of local structures to sustain the projects should also be analyzed in each location. Community involvement and children and young people's participation should be highlighted.

## 3. Specific tasks.

- To become familiar with all projects and initiatives started after the local consultations and make an assessment of how well the work is progressing in the 10 specific locations. Specific locations will be identified by the consultant together with the Consultation Team at SCS Kabul.

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- Identify suitable ways of using available SCS/SCN funds reserved to support projects initiatives and activities run by children and young people or with potential to become child-led
- Identify and promote initiatives (technical and financial) for sharing of information between the various children and young people's groups and networks. The ventures identified should be realistic given the existing environment in each of the locations.
- Suggest ways and opportunities so that the children and young people in one location can teach others how to start and lead work for the promotion of their rights
- Identify ways and means to strengthen the ties with the focal points from the consultations, facilitators and all involved partner organizations and find others who can take over if the support network fails to sustain itself.
- Consider where training in community mobilizations would be most valuable in order to promote and facilitate increased opportunities and support for participation by children and young people.

#### 4. Cooperation with the Children's Consultation Team.

The Consultant reports to the project coordinator of the Children and Young People's Consultations project.

The Consultant will work together with a project assistant from the Consultation Team during the period of this assignment.

#### 5. Location

The Consultant will work from Kabul and travel to the various locations where the project was implemented in 2002 and 2003 for consultations with children and young people, the community and all local actors who have been involved with the work.

#### 6. Time frame

Ten weeks starting October 5<sup>th</sup> 2003. A draft report to be ready by mid-December for discussion in Kabul.

#### 7. Contract

A consultancy contract will be prepared for signature upon arrival to Peshawar/Kabul. Fees and cost coverage will be specified in the consultancy contract

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## ANNEX 3

### TENTATIVE PLAN FOR CONSULTANCY WORK

#### Time – 1<sup>st</sup> October to 17th December 2003

1-2 October - preparation of work in Sweden and travel day

5-14 October – preparatory work and meetings with CCP group, reading documents and overview Kath's draft report and planning logistics with Mr. Zabi from CCP for field work in the next 6-8 weeks in the provinces. Contact all focal points at their Kabul head office and province levels, check off visit plans, travel plans and all logistics. Prepare provincial profiles and questionnaires.

#### **Schedule For Field Work –**

- 14 – 15/10 meetings with focal points and some project visits in Kabul including Government, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNAMA etc. Interview UNHCR project trainers and NSP trainers at SCSN.
- 16 – 22/10 field assessment of follow up activities Mazar with SC (UK)
- 23/10 – 30/10 field assessment of follow up activities Badakshan with Afghan Aid
- 4/11- 6/11 observation of closing sessions in Gardez with CCP team from SCSN (did not take place as scheduled since team could not finalise the arrangements). Postponed.
- 2/11-6/11 field assessment of follow up activities in Herat with IRC & Turkman Youth Association (instead of Gardez observation)
- 8/11 – 14/11 field assessment of follow up activities Bamiyan with Save Japan
- 17/11 – 20/11 field assessment of follow up activities Kandahar with Intersos (postponed due to security situation in Kandahar)
- 21/11 – 29/11 Kabul field assessment, finish notes on follow up projects visited so far and give “mid-term” feed back to CCP team and Project Coordinator at SCSN. Start report writing (Eid holidays 25-28/11)
- 1/12 – 6/12 field assessment of follow up activities Jalalabad and Sorkh Rod with SCS project office and personnel (postponed due to security situation, SCS and UNHCR felt that field visits were not safe). Summarised experiences with CCP team from Sar-e-Pul and Shibarganj in a report.
- 4/12 – 11/12 field assessment in Kandahar by Mr. Zabi alone (security reasons)
- 6/12 – 10/12 field visit to Gardez by Shirin (if possible) or continue Kabul visits. Prepare reports on Sar-e-Pul and Shibarganj.
- 10/12 to 13/12 Preparation of draft report for presentation to Kabul office and CCP team. Interview Jalalabad project coordinator and team.
- 14/12 Presentation of report and findings verbally and in print at a joint meeting to get feedback. Get comments either direct or my e-mail.
- 15/12 – 20/12 complete final report. (partly in Kabul and partly in Stockholm)
- 20/01 – 21/01/2004 – Presentation in Stockholm and Oslo (verbal and elec copies)

## MAZAR PROJECTION

## Annex 4 (a)

### **Current Issues – concerns of children and the community**

1. Quality education, child friendly school environment without corporal punishment.
2. Play and recreation and water facilities in the school needed.
3. Constant feelings of insecurity for self and family members in case they should be killed, harmed or disappear (psychosocial issues). Children and young people need constant contact and reassurances from family members, elders, parents and peer groups.
4. Afraid of landmines and reappearance of the Taliban once more.
5. Discrimination and prejudices against refugees
6. The disabled have limited facilities and scope for integration
7. Freedom and opportunities for association with other children including girls (15-18 group)
8. Community wants eradication of corporal punishment and non-disc on grounds of lang, ethnicity, disability (gender not mentioned).
9. Community wants to remove the effects of war on children and youth.

**Focal Point – Save The Children (UK) Mazar office. Member of GMC group and leading follow up work after CCP in Mazar.**

### **Issues for analysis with focal point –**

- assess the field activities, SCF roles and responsibilities at present, future visions and interest to continue cooperation , how and in what form, contributions from SCF human resources and financial in the future to sustain the programme, has CCP added value to your work? how?
- new inputs needed from SCS for sustaining the Mazar activities, and what?
- How has SCF integrated the methods from the CCP in its own work: to what extent and how. Links with other NGOs, UN orgs in Mazar, youth groups, womens orgs, hr orgs etc. to spread CCP concept. Lessons learnt.

**Time of SCS input through CCP - OCTOBER 2002**

### **General points to consider with others**

- The projects ability to sustain itself, strengths and weaknesses??
- Future survival mechanisms roles of community, local administration, children and youth groups, local and int NGO links, UNICEF UNHCR SC Alliance links in Mazar
- Visions of focal points, facilitators and children re future programmes development (refer back to issues raised by the children & community)
- Assess socio-political structures encouraging/hindering child rights and protection in Mazar. What can the future prog do to influence changes.

### **To Meet :-**

SC (UK) Mazar sub office programme manager, staff and field facilitators,

Children and group leaders and parents in the project localities

Other local & int NGOs, youth groups, human rights groups concerned with child protection.

AAB, YCDP, AYU, CVG . UN organizations concerned with childrens issues UNICEF, UNAMA.

Other international NGOs in the Province IRC, Save (US) etc.

Government structures - Departments of Education, Labour and Social Welfare, Afghanistan

Human Rights Commission provincial branch Balkh etc.

Annex 4 (b)

**BADAKHSHAN PROJECTION - (two provinces Argu and Warduj)**

**Current Issues – concerns of children and the community**

- Argu -**
1. Education for girls and prevention of early marriage
  2. Shuras ought to be more concerned about children's issues, consult with children.
  3. Abuse and exploitation of working children by community
  4. Lack of teachers and corporal punishment in the schools
  5. Inadequate security for girls on the way to school. Armed groups a threat to children.

- Warduj**
1. Working children have no opportunities/ no access to education
  2. Lack of child friendly education facilities and recreation
  3. No birth registration and lack of individual identity –issue for whole Badakshan.

**Focal Point – Afghan Aid Faizabad Office. Member of GMC group and leading follow up work in Argu and Warduj provinces.**

**Issues for analysis with focal point –**

- access the field activities in Warduj and Argu, roles and responsibilities of Afghan Aid and coordination of work by the facilitators and child leaders.
- has the CCP added value to AA's work with children and in what way. How has integration of the lessons learnt from CCP taken place?
- visions to continue the cooperation with SCS and in what form ?
- AA's own capacity to carry on the future work. Further inputs needed from SCS to sustain activities. Human resources & financial including training.
- How does the local community participate. How far have they been influenced by the CCP, the child to child groups etc.
- What inter linkages exist between the children's groups and the adult groups. Capture some examples of results positive and negative.
- What do the children's networks (boys and girls separate) prioritise for the future? How do they hope to realize this? Vision and scope to link with other provinces? To what extent can AA assist, how and in which places?

**Time of SCS input through CCP – August 2003**

**General points to consider with others**

- the projects ability to sustain itself; compare with present and future social and political developments in Badakshan.
- Survival mechanisms in the community and interest to sustain activities started in child to child groups (35 boys and 40 girls Argu)(42 girls and 21 boys Warduj).
- Capacity/motivation of facilitators Argu (3w and 2m), Warduj (3w and 1m).
- Capacity/motivation of Shuras to monitor protection issues. Role of teachers, parents, "mahrams". Is there separate women's Shura? Interview.

**To meet – project staff and target group children, group leaders, communities, peer leaders and administration in the two localities. Other youth groups and human rights groups. International NGOs including Swedish Committee, Norwegian Afg Comm, Oxfam, CFA, Aga Khan Dev Network. UN or5ganisations including UNAMA, UNICEF. Government depts including Education. AIHRC provincial branch Badakshan.**



## BAMYAN PROJECTION

### **Current Issues – concerns of children and the community**

1. Lack of quality, child friendly education facilities. Play and recreation.
2. Lack of security, factional fighting, fear of new invasions and strife
3. Restrictions on freedom of movement for children, free to move about only for household chores directed by adults.
4. Children wish to contribute their ideas to new Constitution. No scope or opportunity at present.
5. Need for respecting laws of the Government and having a functional justice system enforcing rights for all people.
6. Fear for self security – bombs and landmines, dogs, wild animals.
7. Girls positive to youth organizations, to participate in Shuras and actively influence decision making.

**Focal Point – Save The Children (Japan) Bamyan office. Member of GMC group and leading follow up work after CCP in Bamyan.**

### **Issues for analysis with focal point –**

- assess the field activities in Yakawlang, what issues addressed by the projects, Save Japan roles and responsibilities at present, ability to coordinate and sustain the activities started, links to children and community, future visions and interest to continue cooperation , how and in what form?
- contributions from Save Japan human resources and financial in the future to sustain the programme, new inputs needed from SCS for sustaining the Bamyan activities, to what extent, in which areas and in what form?
- how far has Save Japan integrated the methods from the CCP in its own work: to what extent and how: value added to field work. Get examples.
- links with other NGOs, UN orgs in Bamyan, youth groups, women's orgs, AIHRC etc. to spread CCP concept. Lessons learnt from this cooperation.
- Save Japan views of the CCP process and identification of children; scope and interest to be an agency to advocate on protection issues at provincial level with youth groups and AIHRC branch in Bamyan.

**Time of SCS input through CCP - SEPTEMBER 2002**

### **General points to consider with others**

- The projects ability to sustain itself, strengths and weaknesses??
- Future survival mechanisms roles of community, local administration, children and youth groups, local and int NGO links, UNICEF, HABITAT, Dept of women's affairs, AIHRC, head of education dept, CFDO (community forum dev org), ICRC, UNHCR etc.
- Visions of focal points, facilitators and children re future programmes development (refer back to issues raised by the children & community). Reflect on high degrees of awareness on citizenship rights. Build on this. Reflect on absence of psycho social support as a need. Views on this ???

- **Assess socio-political structures encouraging/hindering child rights and protection. What can the future prog do to influence changes.**

**To Meet :-**

**SC Japan Bamyan sub office coordinator, staff and field facilitators,  
Children and group leaders, Shuras and parents in the project localities  
Other local & int NGOs, youth groups, human rights groups concerned with child  
protection. UN organizations concerned with childrens issues with links to CCP process  
Government structures - education, labour and social welfare, AIHRC Bamyan branch  
etc.**

**Notes for self**

- Reflect on high degrees of awareness on citizenship issues. From where??
- Restrictions on freedom and mobility for girls and access to schooling
- Fear of landmines, bombs, return of the Taliban, bloodshed and violence, racial disunity, not seeing father again (already among 8-10 age groups). Need to focus on and investigate psycho social trauma within the child. Children have matured early what coping skills have they developed???
- Heavy workload on the child leaves little time for rest, play and recreation after school. All children dream of an afternoon nap and freedom to choose what they can do in the evenings.

## HERAT PROJECTION

### **Current Issues – concerns of children and the community**

1. Displaced children among returnees (unaccompanied minors) and IDPs, discrimination and lack of understanding from the Afghan community
2. Early marriage, forced marriage – economic arrangements between families
3. Lack of school facilities despite large interest among children for education
4. Literacy classes in the villages for married girls needed
5. Parents forcing children to work instead of going for education
6. Deported children from Iran – trafficked to Iran for illegal work from Badakshan, Takhar, Kunduz and Mazar now in detention in Herat.
7. Children in poppy cultivation, drug addiction and smuggling of drugs.
8. Corporal punishment at home and in school
9. Very few localities in the community where children can meet in groups, talk and learn
10. Fear of war, landmines, loss of more family members and return of Taliban

**Focal Point – Child Protection Department of IRC office Herat province. Member of GMC group and Child Protection Network. The GMC group and Protection network are now combined since Nov into one group led by IRC. UNICEF part of group.**

### **Issues for analysis with focal point –**

- access the field activities in Herat, roles and responsibilities of IRC regarding monitoring as per Agreement with SCS signed in October 2003
- coordination of work by the facilitators and child leaders of Turkman Youth Association (TYA) implementing partner. Links between IRC and TYA.
- has the CCP added value to TYA's work with youth and in what way. How has integration of the lessons learnt from CCP taken place?
- visions of TYA/IRC to continue cooperation with SCS and in what form ?
- Further inputs needed from SCS to sustain activities. Human resources, training inputs & financial.
- How does the local community participate in the project. How far have they been influenced by the CCP, the child to child groups etc.
- What inter linkages exist between the youth groups and the community. Capture some examples of results positive and negative.
- What do the TYU (boys and girls separate) prioritize for the future? How do they hope to realize this? Vision and scope to link with other provinces?

**Time of SCS input through CCP – November 2002. Cooperation with TYU Oct 2003.**

**General points to consider with others**

- **the projects ability to sustain itself; compare with present and future social and political developments in Herat.**
- **Survival mechanisms in the community and interest to sustain activities started by TYU. Attitudes towards youth and child participation?**
- **Capacity/motivation of facilitators trained.**
- **Capacity/motivation of IRC and TYU to monitor protection issues. Role of teachers, parents, “mahrams”. Other civil society organizations engaged in projects with boys and girls? Interview.**

To meet – project staff IRC and TYU and target group children, group leaders, communities, peer leaders and administration. Youth groups and human rights groups. International NGOs and UN system including UNHCR, UNICEF, girls literacy centers in Injeel village & community schools, Maslak IDP school and camp, Gazirga transit Center for deportees, Education Department, AIHRC Regional Manager and staff Herat.

## KABUL PROJECTION

### Current Issues – concerns of children and the community

1. No access to desks, chairs in the school, no play and recreation.
2. Corporal punishment and discrimination at the hands of family and teachers of girls, the disabled, and children from minority ethnic groups.
3. Family disharmony and violence at home.
4. Shortage of electricity, water at home and medicines in the hospitals.
5. Children forced to engage in dangerous/hazardous work such as carpet weaving, drug peddling, and child soldiers.
6. Children cannot express themselves in front of adults or assert their rights.
7. More proof needed that peace will replace war; that pens and books will soon replace the guns.
8. Children want to be active members in human rights discussions, the reconstruction process, and ask for a Child Rights Commission to be set up in Afghanistan involving children and the government.
9. NGOs often make promises to children but do not keep their promises.

NOTE:- the issues children raise are beyond the basic survival level unlike in other provinces. Overarching security and development issues are raised by the Kabul children. They want to be educated and qualify to serve their nation and the community. Putting country first and self last, the Mujjahid concepts of collective development reiterated here.

### Focal Point – Save The Children Sweden. Leading and coordinating the GMC working group in Kabul.

- assess the field activities in Kabul of HIFA, Achiana, Shams, Radio Kabul, YCUAP, Golgotai Sports Team, AIHRC. Trace new inputs after CCP.
- what issues raised by the children are addressed by the projects; how are the organisations and children using the experiences from the CCP
- roles and responsibilities of the facilitators after the CCP and how are they functioning at present, ability to coordinate work and sustain the activities, links to children and the community
- contributions needed from SCSN and the GMC group (human resources and financial) in the future to sustain the activities started, new inputs needed to what extent, in which areas and in what form?
- how far have the partners and the Alliance integrated the methods from the CCP into their own work: to what extent and how: value added to work. Room for inter organisational networking as a strategy for learning. Interlinking child groups in Kabul ideas from children. Get examples.
- links with projects of other NGOs, UN orgs , youth groups, women's orgs, AIHRC etc. to spread CCP concept. Lessons learnt from this cooperation.

Time of SCS input through CCP - CLOSING SESSION DECEMBER 2003

**General points to consider with others**

- UNICEF'S plans and commitment for the future of CCP
- AIHRC's vision at policy level to influence child participation and use the lessons learnt from the CCP
- Possibility to link with other Ministries such as Justice, Labour & Social Welfare, Education etc.
- Possibility and room to link the CCP process to other trainings of SCS and projects (UNHCR projects, NSP, Alliance Quality Education, ARC, Child Protection & Monitoring Processes, Advocacy).
- Interest on the part of Alliance members to sustain the CCP, the GMC group and child protection network.

**To Meet :-**

**All Alliance child protection officers and GMC reps**

**Partners who participated in the Consultations and are using the Consultation principles**

**Children and group leaders, parents and facilitators in the project localities**

**UN organizations concerned with childrens issues with links to CCP process**

**Government structures education, labour and social welfare, AIHRC Kabul.**

## ANNEX 5

### **ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR USE IN THE FIELD – (through discussion)**

#### **Framework For Questions To Children –**

- what did you know about the CCP before you actually came for the Consultations in your province? How were you informed and by whom? What were the methods used to inform you? Did you feel sufficiently informed/satisfied with the methods?
  - why did you feel it was important for you as boys and girls to participate in the event?
  - how did you interact with your family and the community to agree to your participation and allow you room for this? what facilitating skills did you use?
  - what happened during the childrens consultations that added to your knowledge /changed your knowledge. What did you learn from the Consultations? What are your lasting memories and lessons learnt? (assess value added at a personal level).
  - how are you now using this new found knowledge and your right to participate and the right to expression in your daily life? what are the positive/negative reactions you are facing from adults around you? How does the facilitator or focal point help you?
  - What does the family, the community and other children feel about your assertive leadership role. What are your groups immediate plans on how to move ahead?
- 

#### **Framework For Questions to Facilitators –**

- what was your function and role before, during and after the children's consultations? your views and comments about positive/negative aspects.
  - what interaction and spadework did you have to do with the community, the family, and your focal point NGO (if you belong to one) in all your roles?
  - what methods did you use to organise the children for the consultations and after the event? Were these different for boys and girls?
  - what strategies are you and your focal point organisation using to sustain this focus on children and to facilitate their continuing participation in the activities initiated after the CCP? analyse methods and work are you currently doing to sustain the interest of children and youth in your province? reactions from provincial administrative structures, departments, local interest groups and leaders, other NGOs, the UN system, AIHRC etc.
  - how do you see your future role? what further support do you need to strengthen your facilitating role with the child leaders?, child groups? projects started by children? how do you plan to build up your own capacity to understand child rights issues better? how, in what areas and with what resources?
- 

#### **SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FOR FOCAL POINT ORGANISATIONS**

- see provincial projection sheet for each CCP location.
- questions differ depending on whether focal point was an Alliance member, a CBO or a local association/youth organisation etc.

## ANNEX 6

### MAZAR

<u>Name of Person</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Mr. Ramesh Puri	Programme Manager	Save (UK) Mazar
Mr. Sarwar	Child Protection Officer	Save (UK) Mazar
Dr. Khalid Saddiq	Protection Officer	UNICEF
Ms. Najia Hannifi	Community Services	UNHCR
Mr. Seyyed	Programme Manager	Save (US) Mazar
Ms. Asiya	ECD Coordinator	Save (US) Mazar
Mr. Hamid Khawari	Head	Afg Youth Union
Mr. Khaleeli	Deputy Head child rights	AIHRC Mazar

### BADAKSHAN

<u>Name of Person</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Mr. Karngar	Community Dev Manager	Afg Aid Faizabad
Mr. Besmilah & Mr. Zabadi	Child Rights Facilitators	Afghan Aid
Engineer Zubaida	Child Rights Facilitator	Afghan Aid
Mr. Naseem	Admin Assistant	NAC
Dr. Zahir Fazil	Provincial Head	UNICEF
Mr. Mustafani	Programme Manager	UNAMA
Mr. ....	Programme Manager	Aga Khan Dev Net.
Mr. Mohammad Mohsin Farid	Deputy Manager	AIHRC Badakshan
Mr. Mohammad Rahim	Deputy Director	Dept of Education

### HERAT

<u>Name of Person</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Ms. Suzanne	Child Protection Officer	IRC
Ms. Barbara Atherly	Child Protection Officer	UNICEF
Mr. Najeeb	ex Child Protection Officer	UNICEF
Ms. Rahima	Community Services Officer	UNHCR
Mr. Bobby Ray Gordon	Protection Officer	UNHCR
Ms. Rokeya	Coordinator and facilitator	Injeel School
Mr. Mohammedi	Head of office	Warchild & TYU
Mr. Rahimi	Regional Prog Manager	AIHRC Herat

### BAMYAN

<u>Name of Person</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Ms. Mamiko	Head of office	Save Japan, Bamyan
Engineer Abdullah	Programme Officer	Save Japan
Mr. Bashir Shukram	Child Rights Officer	AIHRC Bamyan
Mr. Peter Maxwell	Head of Office	UNAMA
Ms. Julia Quillet	Community Services	UNAMA
Mr. ....	Programme Officer NSP	HABITAT



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES CONSULTATION PROJECT LOCATIONS

