

## Children's core group meeting

Date: 22 November 2006

Time: 11 A.M – 1 P.M

Venue: NCRC meeting hall

In attendance: See annexe-1

Absentees:

- PDA
- Peace trust
- Offer
- Save the Children
- TLAC

### Agenda

- Need for a core group – brainstorming
- How to take the core group forward?
- Retrospection on the core group- in the wake of core group completing one year

After welcoming the core group members, Mr. Gerald of NCRC asked the members whether we need a core group. The members responded by citing the benefits of having a core group:

- Common issues could be addressed
- Helps to know the activities of other NGOs
- Core group could complement individual NGOs' activities
- Common platform for sharing and learning
- Capacity building platform for all the NGOs
- A forum to mobilize resources
- Larger area of coverage possible
- Better outreach: to parents; to teachers and to the authorities

### *Clarifications sought:*

- Should the core group cover tsunami affected areas or unaffected areas too?
- If the focus is on non-tsunami affected areas, who is going to cover the other areas?
- How long the NGOs working currently will remain?
- How to bring in neutrality when NGOs with different approach and perspectives come in?

Representative from CREATE, while supporting the idea of covering other areas too, said that children facing similar issues in unaffected areas are getting discriminated as we our focus is limited to tsunami affected alone

Suggestions came up like when we talk about children's right, a district level perspective would be useful

It was also suggested to meet other NGOs who working in unaffected areas  
Also the Core committee should maintain linkages with all the government committees

#### *Decision taken*

- The target group will be all the children in the district
- A forum would be evolved wherein new NGOs can come and register- membership will not be restricted to tsunami affected areas but the entire district
- The core focus of the forum will be children and will promote the formation of a Child secretariat.
- A code of conduct and byelaws will be evolved for the forum and the NGOs joining the forum have to abide by this
- The forum will have a separate identity and will not be under NCRC banner

Mr. Kannayiram of UNICEF quoted his Calcutta experience where a secretariat had been formed for the children and is aligned to the municipality and is working well.

Ms. Sitalakshmi of Phoenix federation referred to a few other coordinating mechanisms working well in other areas-  
Find out more details about these

Ms. Annie, C.E.O suggested that 3-5 members can go for an exposure visit to these places. The other members agreed to this and added that this group should take the responsibility of drawing up Nagapattinam specific guidelines.

The members discussed on giving an organizational structure to the core group and towards this the members suggested the formation of an executive committee with 5-7 members for drafting guidelines and bye-laws for the core group. The implementing NGOs will be the members of the executive committee.

The core group members suggested representatives from the following NGOs for the executive committee:

1. CREATE
2. SNEHA
3. Phoenix Federation
4. AVVAI
5. Good shepherd
6. Vanavil Trust
7. LCI

#### *Functions of the executive committee*

- Study the possibilities of evolving a formal structure
- Study similar structures outside
- Draft the rules and regulations

The study report will be sent to all NGOs to get their feed back

Mr. Gerald of NCRC was selected as the convener of the executive committee

Time schedule for executive committee to carry out the functions:

S. No	Tasks	By when	Responsibility
1	Exposure visit to other organizations	2 <sup>nd</sup> week of December	Executive committee
2	Gather information on other resources	2 <sup>nd</sup> week of December	All members; Phoenix and Vanavil to take the lead
3	Studying the legal aspects of similar structures with the government and non-government systems	2 <sup>nd</sup> week of December	UNICEF
4	Meeting of Executive committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> week of December	

### Retrospection on the core group- in the wake of core group completing one year

The members shared their experience on the changes they have observed among the approach of NGOs since the last Children's day celebration. While appreciating each others commitment and sincerity, the members noted the synergies of working together. The members said there has been a perceptible change in the approach of NGOs wherein the individual priorities have given way to an approach of 'working together for a common cause'.

The merits and demerits of having a formal set-up came up for discussion. Everyone felt that having an informal set up gave the smaller NGOs space to voice their views and play a key role in decision making. On the other hand, there was a common feeling that having proper systems and roles will ensure transparency and will give the group a proper direction.

A **SWOT** (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, Threat) analysis was carried out: The groups identified the following strengths and weaknesses of the core group:

Strengths	Weakness
Voluntarism	Lack of accountability at individual level
Commitment	Irregular participation
Resource mobilization	Delay in decision Making
Collective Strength	Meeting not starting in time
Coordination	Feedback minutes- not available in time
Leadership	Lack of money
Communication	Information not reaching everybody
Regular meeting	Lack of system
Creative program	
Geographic coverage	

Capacity Building	
Networking	
Gap Filling	
Identity	
Facilitation	
Informal set up	

With some of the members sharing concerns on the delay in communication and transparency it was decided to read out the previous meeting minutes, in all the meetings, and get it approved from all the members. This meeting minute will have the latest financial statement also

The members expressed the need to have a document on the details of the NGOs working with the children in Nagapattinam. It was decided to publish a document having NGO details. NCRC took the responsibility of compiling the information.

Next meeting to review the agreed actions will be held on December 6, 2006 Next core group meeting will be held on the 09 <sup>th</sup> of December 2006
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#### Annex -1

#### Participants List

S.No	Name	Organisation	Contact No	Email Id
1	Sr.Mercy Joseph	Good Shepherd	9840570122	<a href="mailto:srmercy_ngt@sancharnet.in">srmercy_ngt@sancharnet.in</a>
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