

## **South Asian Peace Alliance (SAPA)**

SAPA has been the freshest effort among all advocacy, capacity building, research and networking engagements of SAP-Pk, in 2006. It is presently developing its credibility as its activities are scaling up and donors are showing their eagerness to support it. In less than 9 months SAP-Pk has already undertaken four initiatives. Following is a brief on these activities:

1. **Media Core Group Meeting:** SAP-Pk organized a meeting with representatives of both Urdu and English newspapers and news-agencies, on 19 September 2006, at Lahore. In this meeting, a group of eight journalists were orientated about SAPA. This group formed a core group in this meeting to support peace and regional identity in their writings. This group, now known as Pakistan Core Group, also agreed to develop media strategy and capacity development programs for media representatives in forthcoming meetings.
2. **SAPA's Core Group Meeting:** Another very important activity that SAP-Pk held for SAPA this year was SAPA's Core Group Meeting. This meeting was organized in Nepal, on November 16-19. The Group reviewed SAPA's performance of the past years, outlined three-years' strategic plan and thrashed out details of the action plan 2007. The Action Plan 2007 expects from SAP-Pk to organize two training workshops with Ekta Preshad and Gandhi Peace Foundation, liaise with media and Institute of Human Rights Commission and develop and disseminate material on regional identity.
3. **Thematic Paper "Regional Identity":** In 2006, SAP-Pk developed and presented a thematic paper "Regional Identity". This paper was presented to the SAPA's Core Group for their approval, in its meeting on November 16-19. It took stock of the discourses on the issue of identity, identity of South Asian countries vis-à-vis conflicting identities besides underpinning the significance of the identity of united and culturally diverse and rich South Asia with respect to peace, dignity, political stability and economic prosperity. This paper was greatly appreciated by the members of the network.
4. **Non-violence and Conflict Transformation Workshop (TOT):** SAP-Pk organized workshop on Non-violence and Conflict Transformation in support with SAP-Nepal, in Nepal, for two to three representatives of each SAPA member, in 2006. There were 11 females and seven males who attended that workshop. It was a 12 days' event, held on November 20 - December 1, 2006. It drew financial assistance from Commonwealth and Quaker, UK.

The said workshop was very detailed, covering several topics, including:

- Democratic Space in South Asia
- Non-violent Language
- Mass Mobilization
- Experiences of Civil Society in South Asia
- Conflict Transformation
- Approaches to Conflict

- Reconciliation
- Art of Facilitation
- Visioning/Dreaming
- SWOT
- Campaigning

Experts from SAPA also contributed in planning and holding of the sessions of the workshop. The contents were delivered through mini-lectures, discussions, brainstorming, group-works, presentations, role-plays, simulations, etc. The participants also organized a rally during the event to condemn violence against women. They also met with a woman who was survivor of a violent conflict. Towards the end of that workshop, they also visited women farmers' community to further gain insight into the issues of safety, security, livelihood and gender.

Regional Initiative for the Rights to Sustainable Livelihood and Enabling Environment for Social and Political Participation:

“Regional Initiative for the Rights to Sustainable Livelihood and Enabling Environment for Social and Political Participation” has been yet another matter of deep interest to SAP-Pk. This project is a regional initiative of the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA). The Consortium was formed in 1997, aiming to advocate and assist in materializing SAARC Social Charter. It is therefore another significant opportunity for SAP-Pk to be part of the process of synergies' development on issues of human rights, particularly of women, peasants and workers, not only at the national but also the regional level.

CHA is working exclusively on livelihood, violence against women, human rights, child labor and issue of mainstreaming of the physically challenged out of an exhaustive list of areas as enshrined in the SAARC Social Charter. The areas of CHA's interest technically cut across three main categories and each country partner follows essentially the same pattern. Following is the brief on these three categories:

1. Stocktaking and Resources Allocation: This category is for creating databank of the profiles of like-minded organizations of SAARC countries, developing national policy-critique for sensitization of the stakeholders and undertaking regional policy reviews on the basis of the feedback, reports and critiques.
2. Empowerment and Support for Vulnerability Protection: Its purpose is to form Community Protection Networks (CPNs) of the social workers and community members, capacitate those groups to undertake advocacy and mobilize people, conduct review and create a national body for providing policy guidance.
3. Transfer of Customized Knowledge for Civic Administration: This category of the programs is mandated to design training kits for delivering rights-based knowledge to the communities, disseminating SAARC social charter among masses for their education, providing small grants to community-based groups for their advocacy initiatives, equipping them with knowledge of

stocktaking/mapping, human rights, social education and communication, etc., developing linkages among them and providing advisory services to them.

OXFAM Novib provides financial resources to the CHA for undertaking the said project. The CHA then shares its resources through country partners with different community-based initiatives. SAP-Pk is one of CHA's country partners since 2004.

### **Community Protection Networks (CPNs)**

CPNs are networks of local organizations and individuals to advocate the protection of basic human rights and improvement in hardscrabble livelihoods of the peasantry, to support emancipation of women from all forms of oppression, and to act as watchdog with regards to the local development initiatives.

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Presently, there are 20 CPNs working in 20 districts of Punjab and Sindh province in Pakistan. These networks draw their strength from about 250 male and 100 female members from different fields of life. Essentially, these are advocacy networks which receive trainings from SAP-Pk and articulate their position on the mentioned issues, assist women who are victims of violence and trigger peoples' participation for social, political and economic change.

### **National Protection Working Group (NPWG)**

NPWG is a body of development professionals, academicians, lawyers, journalists and technical experts to provide policy guidelines to CPNs as well as country partners on matters related to advocacy. SAP-Pk has 20 male and female members in its NPWG, from the same walks of life. NPWG meets at least one a year.

In 2006, CPNs in Pakistan undertook many activities. For instance, they:

- Organized 216 monthly sensitization-meetings on human rights, livelihood rights, violence against women, in their respective communities in which about 6,000 people were sensitized;
- Assisted at least 10 female victims in receiving legal support and social protection
- Held 40 meetings with service delivery departments for improved services in their areas

Similarly, SAP-Pk also undertook many activities in the reported year. For instance, SAP-PK:

1. Created 14 new CPNs in Punjab and Sindh province
2. Conducted two training workshops, i.e.,:

- Water Resource Management (Punjab; eight male and four female participants; March 15)
  - CPNs and Their Role in (Punjab; 36 male and 11 female participants; April 29-30, 06)
3. Developed a toolkit for six-days' training on rights, justice and development, for the development workers from South Asia (to be finalized after CHA comments on it)
  4. Organized Review Visits to CPNs (Punjab in April 06, Sindh in May 06)
  5. Assisted in organizing NPWG meeting (December 21)
  6. Computerized 360 profiles of local and national level organizations that are working with similar objectives
  7. Distributed translated version of SAARC Social Charter among 5000 individuals and organizations, to provide them insight into the official undertaking of the South Asian states and suggest them to take actions accordingly