



## SOUTH ASIA REGION: AFGHANISTAN- BANGLADESH-INDIA-NEPAL-SRI LANKA JOINING EFFORTS FOR CHILD RIGHTS

### Civil Society Alliance for Child Rights in South Asia

South Asia is home of more than half a billion children, whose rights are neglected. More than in any other place in the world, children in South Asia face malnutrition, high child mortality; they are exposed to violence, exploitation, trafficking and abuse. Out of 161 million children of primary school age 40 millions do not attend school; more than 12 million children between 5 and 14 years are involved in child labour. The three years project, started in 2011, is **co-financed by the European Commission** and involves a network of 130 grass-root NGOs in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, with a long experience in field work with children and child rights. The project aims to increase visibility and collective strength of the National and Regional Alliances of Grassroots NGOs through capacity building in management, advocacy, communication and networking. Together with its partners, ISCOS is supporting NGOs in mobilizing the civil society

and relevant stakeholders in each country and in organizing campaign on child rights in the Region. More than 800 stakeholders coming from the civil society (teachers, magistrates, trade unionists, policemen, local authorities, journalists) have been involved in training and consultations in promoting concrete action to change the situation of the rights of the children. The process has culminated in the Regional conference in Kathmandu, where representatives of civil society united in the South Asia Alliance of Grass-root Organizations (SAAGN) have jointly draft a road-map and committed themselves focus on the most severe problems plaguing children of South Asia: education, trafficking, child marriage, abuses and violence against children and child labour. ISCOS has been deeply involved in networking trade unions and international organizations with the SAAGN and ensuring its technical support throughout the complex management of the project in the five countries.