

FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

CHILDREN'S VOICES: CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED FORCES AND ARMED GROUPS

A Project Implemented by
Search for Common Ground (Nepal)

With Support of
UNICEF

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
CAAFAG	Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups
CAAC WG	Children Affected by Armed Conflict Working Group
CAAFAG WG	Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups Working Group
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
GoN	Government of Nepal
CPN-M	United Communist Party of Nepal-Maoists
VDC	Village Development Committees
KAB	Knowledge, Attitude and Behavioral Change
SB	<i>Sunau Bolau</i>
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The children's project implemented by SFCG Nepal was established at the first national-level DDR working group, the CAAFAG Working Group (Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups, i.e. combatants, messengers, porters, spies, etc; children who have been used by both sides in the conflict)¹. SFCG has been an active member of the working group, leading the sub-technical WG on communications and sensitization. The project components have been set up as the formal communications ally of the DDR working group. The overall goal of the project is to *"provide a platform for children and youth's voices in the transition to peace so as to prevent the further manipulation of youth to violence."* The main targets of the project are children and young people; families, parents and guardians responsible for the well-being of children; and local-level stakeholders such as local government, political parties etc. The key project components for the last two years are: a) the production of a radio program by children, *Sunau Bolau*, b) intergenerational folk media (Dohori) and the engagement of children and youth clubs in community peacebuilding, and c) communication campaigns such as posters, leaflets, public service announcements on radio, 45-minute drama cassettes and hoarding boards on return and reintegration of former CAAFAG.

SFCG tasked its internal program team to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the UNICEF co-funded children's project with the help of the design, monitoring and evaluation departments. The overall goal of the evaluation is *"to assess the change in the return and reintegration environment of Children Associated with Armed Groups and Armed Forces, children having a voice, and to identify the contribution of SFCG in the process."* The specific objectives include:

- The identification of changes in CAAFAG's individual perception, in the perception of the community stakeholders (members, teachers, adults, etc) and in the perception of the two groups vis-à-vis each other;
- The identification of the SFCG contribution in transforming the return and reintegration environment of CAAFAG;
- The assessment of the listenership of the radio program, the analysis of the discussions originated by the program, and
- The gathering of feedback and the assessment of the planning, organizing, implementation processes and of the monitoring of the project by partners and participants (including, child journalists, AFN and their adults).

Over the past two years, the project has been extremely successful in the transformation of the environments and conditions of the targeted beneficiaries. Two of the main successes of the project were the creation, for the first time in Nepal, of a space for children's voices and the promotion of dialogue in communities on the importance of bridging intergenerational gaps and on the return and reintegration of children in armed conflict.

¹ The CAAFAG WG was recently renamed CAAC WG (Children Affected by Armed Conflict Working Group).

Some of the other major findings of the project are:

- *Sunau Bolau* has obtained 27% of the share, as confirmed by an informal survey done in six districts of Nepal (Sunsari, Salyan, Dang, Kailali, Accham and Siraha), with 480 samples. In the evaluation of the four districts of Dang, Salyan and Surkhet plus Kathmandu, 96 people interviewed (out of 150 respondents) said they had listened to *Sunau Bolau*. In 31% of cases discussions on the program occurred.
- Personal and relationship transformations have occurred especially among those directly involved in the project components i.e. *Sunau Bolau* and intergenerational Dohori. The project participants have gained knowledge on issues regarding children in armed conflict and their difficulties and intergenerational divides. Moreover, they have spread the lessons learnt on intergenerational gaps and appropriate behaviors towards CAAFAG to their friends, families and community members and they have put those lessons in practice by performing dramas.
- Community members have a comprehensive knowledge about former CAAFAG. This pertains to all the key actors (CAAC WG, political parties, community members, etc) who have contributed to the change in perception towards CAAFAG.
- Intergenerational Dohori has received a great response among both participants and the audience of the events. It has also allowed the obtainment, for the first time, funds in two VDCs from the local government for youth and children.
- The communication campaigns, especially posters and cassettes, have been largely appreciated and were discussed immediately after their broadcasting.

However, the project was not short of limitations and challenges. One of the main difficulties encountered was the postponement of the formal DDR, which resulted into designing the project for children who were informally released or were disqualified during the initial verification. Another drawback was the project duration, which was too short to allow an efficient implementation of each component, i.e. the planning, the scheduling of activities and the mobilization of resources. Program-wise, the main challenge was having a media production that was hard to monitor due to limitations in resources and the lack of a comprehensive distribution strategy.

At the end of the analysis of the project, some recommendations have been put forward for the upcoming program areas. Some of the major ones are listed below:

- Continuity of the child-produced radio program, *Sunau Bolau*, maintaining it as a local production as it was able to successfully create space for children's voices and enhance children's knowledge on broad issues.

- Participatory planning is needed while implementing components of the project. It is important to engage the participants of the project from the very beginning especially concerned stakeholders i.e. children, youth, local government, etc. This is in line with a project objective, i.e. to promote ownership of the activity.
- A longer-term approach is needed to implement the project components efficiently and to achieve effective results.
- Programming should include broad array of issues concerning children. Some of the critical issues to discuss are: psychosocial trauma, continuity of education, campaign against manipulation of children in political activities, intergenerational dialogue, child marriage, and income-generating opportunities for adults.
- Intergenerational Dohori should continue in more VDCs and proper follow-up is necessary.
- While implementing any children's programs, it is imperative to work with the children's parents/guardians, community members and, in general, with all the adults who are responsible for their well-being.
- The visibility of any media productions, including outreach materials of any programs, need to have a clear distribution strategy. The strategy needs to address key questions such as: to whom are the posters delivered? How many? Where are they going to be put – in schools, town centers, clubs, FM stations? How is the follow-up organized?
- Clear and frequent coordination mechanisms need to be established with district-level government bodies, international and national non-governmental organizations, journalists, youth networks and loose networks. This is important for the district bodies to understand SFCG programming and for SFCG to identify the various organizations working in the district.
- Better coordination between these bodies and CAAC WG is needed in order for them to benefit from each other, especially for media products.
- While designing and implementing components of different projects, it is recommended to choose homogenous areas or locations of implementation in order to achieve a deeper impact. It will also help community members perceiving SFCG programming as more than a one-off event.
- It is imperative to create conditions to monitor the media programming in areas where the target beneficiaries live. A first option is to produce an intense advertising campaign in the area; a second option is to have regular focus group discussions, monitoring forms, and implementing at least one component of the community peacebuilding project in the area.

2. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY OF THE EVALUATION

The document has been developed to assess the effectiveness and relevance of Children's Voices, a project for CAAFAG funded by UNICEF (including all co-funded activities) and implemented by Search for Common Ground (SFCG) Nepal. The primary objective of the evaluation is to reveal the results of the project and to identify the project's achievements. The goal is to analyze how the two-year emergency response to the return and reintegration project has impacted the community, and what the lessons learned were, both in terms of program objectives and of implementation methodologies.

Despite their significant role in the 10-year violent conflict in Nepal, children have had limited voice in the dialogues about peace in Nepal. Thirteen thousand children were found to be used by both clashing parties in different ways, such as porters, spies and combatants². Communication was identified as a fundamental tool to inform and sensitize communities in order to prevent the political and violent manipulation of young people and to transform them into actors contributing to the peace process. SFCG has had a two-pronged approach to implementing the communication campaigns and creating an environment for CAAFAG return and reintegration into their communities. The SFCG two-year emergency project on the return and reintegration of CAAFAG is coming to its closure. Hence the evaluation intends to be a summative and reflective exercise on the achieved results for the program leadership and ground staff.

The overall goal of the evaluation was ***“to assess the change in the environment of returned and reintegrated Children Associated with Armed Groups and Armed Forces, children having a voice, and to identify the contribution of SFCG in the process.”***

The specific objectives of the evaluation were:

- To identify the changes in the perception CAAFAG had of themselves, the perception of the community stakeholders (members, teachers, adults, etc) and the reciprocal perception of the two groups;
- To identify the contribution SFCG has made in changing the environment for CAAFAG return and reintegration;
- To assess the share achieved by the radio program and to analyze the discussions that stemmed from the program;
- To obtain feedback on and assess the planning, organizing, implementation processes and the monitoring of the project from partners and participants (including, child journalists, AFN and their adults).

² CAAFAG Working Group on *The Situation of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups*, October 2006.

2.1 Methodology

The evaluation has assessed the outcomes and outputs of the project since its inception in February 2007 with a pilot project on *Nepal Chautari*. The evaluation has assessed the outcomes in line with:

- Cognitive domain (knowledge);
- Affective domain (attitude); and
- Psycho-motor domain (behavioral change).

The evaluation has compared the changes the project has induced in its target beneficiaries during its implementation in terms of knowledge, attitude and behavioral changes.³

SFCG's approach to the evaluation is based on the guiding principles of its work: participatory; culturally sensitive; committed to building capacity; affirming and positive while honest and productively critical, and valuing knowledge and approaches from within the context. In addition, the standards of utility, feasibility, propriety and accuracy developed by the American Joint Committee on Standards for Evaluation have been followed.

The evaluation was carried out in three districts (Surkhet, Dang and Salayn) of Nepal plus Kathmandu. Two of the districts have child journalists producing their program and all of the districts receive radio broadcast and have community peacebuilding and outreach components. The evaluation used a mixture of research methods to arrive at its conclusions, including:

- Desk research on reports, baseline assessments, success stories, discussion guides etc;
- Listenership surveys;
- Key informant interviews;
- Focus group discussions;
- Case studies.

The evaluation collected a mixture of qualitative and quantitative types of information. The SFCG evaluation team included four SFCG field-based staff, four SFCG Kathmandu-based staff including the Children's Project Manager as team leader. The quantitative information was obtained primarily from the listenership survey carried out in five districts in Nepal and the qualitative information derived from various interviews, focus group discussions and desk research.

³ See Annexe 1 for the TOR of the evaluation.

2.2 Sources of Information

The evaluation has relied on two different sources of information: primary and secondary. Primary information has been collected in three different districts including Kathmandu through key informant interviews, focus group discussions and informal listenership surveys. Secondary information consists of the Rapid Assessment Report published by the CAAFAG Working Group in 2006, SFCG monthly reports, partner reports, children's program tracker, scripts, monitoring reports and other documents.

Key Informant Interviews with Target Beneficiaries of the Project:

The evaluation team conducted a total of 43 key informant interviews in Surkhet, Dang, Salyan and Kathmandu: three individual interviews were carried out with child journalists, three with adult producers, two separate interviews with Dohori organizers and private interviews with former CAAFAG. The team interviewed representatives from the local government, local and national CAAFAG Working Groups and political parties to identify and assess the impact of the communication campaigns. Interviews with parents/guardians of former CAAFAG and school teachers were also completed. Table 1 below summarizes the numbers of interviews taken along with percentage of gender balance.

Table 1: Key Informant Interviews					
S.No	Local Village and District	Interviewee	Number of Samples	Male	Female
SURKHET					
1	Birendranagar, Surkhet	Local Government	2	1	1
2	Birendranagar, Surkhet	Adults	2	0	2
3	Birendranagar, Surkhet	CAAFAG Working Group	1	1	0
4	Latikoili, Surkhet	CAAFAG	3	0	2
5	Birendranagar, Surkhet	Child Journalist	3	1	2
6	Birendranagar, Surkhet	Adult Producer	1	0	1
7	Ramghat, Surkhet	Political Party	1	1	0
Total			13	4%	8%
DANG					
1	Ghorahi, Dang	Local Government	1	0	1
2	Gadawa, Dang	Adults	1	1	0
3	Tulsipur, Dang	CAAFAG Working Group	1	1	0
4	Falkapur, Dang	CAAFAG	2	0	1
5	Lamahi, Dang	Child Journalist	1	0	1
6	Lamahi, Dang	Adult Producer	1	1	0
7	Lamahi, Dang	Youth Network	3	2	1
8	Gadawa, Dang	Political Party	3	3	0
Total			13	8%	4%
SALYAN					
1	Khalanga, Salyan	Local Government	2	1	1
2	Huilchal, Salyan	Adults	2	2	0

3	Shreenagar, Salyan	CAAFAG Working Group	1	1	1
4	Bamekhola, Salyan	CAAFAG	2	2	0
5	Huilchal, Salyan	Youth Activist	2	2	0
6	Khalanga, Salyan	Political Party	1	1	0
7	Khalanga, Salyan	Youth Network	2	2	0
Total			12	11%	2%
KATHMANDU					
1	Kathmandu, Nepal	Child Journalist	3	1	2
2	Kathmandu, Nepal	Adult Producer	1	0	1
3	Kathmandu, Nepal	CAAFAG Working Group	1	0	1
Total			5	1%	4%
GRAND TOTAL			43	24%	18%

Focus Group Discussions (FGD):

The evaluation team conducted a total of 10 focus group discussions in three districts (Surkhet, Salyan and Dang). Each FGD was carried out with listener groups and journalists. One FGD was conducted with youth network organizers of intergenerational Dohori. Table 2 below summarizes the number of FGD carried out in various locations in the three districts and the percentage of gender balance.

Table 2: Focus Group Discussion					
S.No	Local Village District	Interviewees	Number of Samples	Male	Female
SURKHET					
1	Ramghat, Surkhet	Youth Network	1	2	3
2	Jarbuta, Surkhet	Listener Group	1	9	8
3	Birendranagar, Surkhet	Journalists	1	5	0
Total			3	59.25926	40.74074
DANG					
1	Parseni, Dang	Children - Kamaiya	1	8	4
2	Lamahi, Dang	Journalists	1	5	1
3	Gadwa, Dang	Fathers Group	1	17	0
4	Balakuti, Dang	Child Club	1	13	3
5	Gadwa, Dang	Listener Group	1	5	8
6	Gadwa, Dang	Dhori Artists	1	3	2
Total			6	73.91304	26.08696
SALYAN					
1	Khalanga, Salyan	Journalists	1	3	1
2	Shreenagar, Salyan	Youth Network	1	3	4
Total			2	54.54545	45.45455
GRAND TOTAL			11	187.7178	112.2822

Listener Survey:

In January 2009, an informal listener survey was carried out by the Design, Monitoring and Evaluation team of SFCG Nepal. The survey completed in six districts, Sunsari, Salyan, Dang, Kailali, Accham and Siraha for three major SFCG programs broadcasted on the radio i.e. *Naya Bato Naya Paila (New Paths New Footsteps)*; *Sunau Bolau (Let's Listen, Let's Talk)* and *Farkilo Dharti (Wider Earth)*. The objectives of the survey were to determine the performance of the SFCG radio programs during the broadcasting phase; to know what the favorite performances among different generations are, and to know whether SFCG Nepal has managed to create a debate across different age groups, gender, castes and ethnic groups⁴. The sample size of the survey included 490 people, out of which 151 were the listeners of *Sunau Bolau*. Tables 3 and 4 below describe the survey results for each of the districts with gender and age group breakdowns.

District	Number of samples
Sunsari	103
Salyan	69
Dang	74
Kailali	75
Accham	75
Siraha	95
Total	491

District	Males	Females	Children up to 18	Youth from 18 to 25	Adults above 25
Sunsari	52	51	24	36	43
Salyan	47	22	16	45	8
Dang	45	29	29	20	25
Kailali	33	42	33	32	10
Accham	49	26	14	51	10
Siraha	72	23	19	46	30
Total	298	193	135	230	126
Percentage	61%	39%	27%	47%	26%

Interviews with Process Participants:

The evaluation team interviewed a number of direct participants and beneficiaries to the project. The team interviewed local Dohori artists, local youth network Dohori organizers, child journalists, adult producers and FM stations. The interviews were focused on the development of their skills, their feedback and on the organizing process of the Dohori events.

Other Sources:

The evaluators reviewed and analyzed reports, *Sunau Bolau* trackers, scripts of all media outputs, posters, and booklets, documents of the curriculum summit, review meetings and all communication materials of the project. Desk reviews were carried out to identify and assess whether the benchmarks of the log frames had been met.

⁴SFCG Nepal, informal listener survey, March 2009.

2.3 Means of Analysis: Indicators for Social Change

In order to be able to identify SFCG's contribution, the team has compared existing log frames and developed an evaluation framework with the indicators. Key questions have been formulated as indicators to verify the information. These indicators have helped to compile data and analyze the information. A mixture of qualitative and quantitative data has been used to draw conclusions on the relevance of the project, its impact and outcomes, social transformation and SFCG's contributions⁵.

3. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The aftermath of the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Nepal (GoN) and the United Communists Party of Nepal-Maoists (CPN-M) has seen a reduction of violence. Children exploited during the 10-year conflict in Nepal as porters, messengers, combatants, and members of cultural teams have either returned home, migrated to find manual labor work or are in the government-assigned cantonments across eight districts in Nepal.

The national-level demobilization, disarmament and reintegration working group CAAFAG, recently renamed Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC), carried out an inter-agency rapid assessment in October 2006, right after the CPA was signed. The assessment, carried out in two Village Development Committees (VDCs) of six of the most conflict-ridden districts in the middle and far west of Nepal, had the following main findings:

- Lack of intergenerational dialogue (recommendation 2.3, public version Rapid Assessment, September-October 2006);
- The need to take responsibility to prevent and eliminate any discrimination around the return of CAAFAG children, with special focus on girls. (recommendation 2.5, public version Rapid Assessment, September-October 2006);
- Children need to have a voice through healthy and safe participation (recommendation 4);
- The lack of a safe environment for return and reintegration in the communities.

With the comprehensive document in hand, the CAAC Working Group established an alliance among various child protection organizations in Nepal to support the GoN in creating the right environment for return and reintegration of these children. After two years implementing the CAAFAG program, an external evaluation of the program was commissioned. The major finding of the external evaluation showed the support provided to schools, psychosocial counseling, advocacy to relevant stakeholders, vocational trainings and community sensitizations was successfully instigated⁶.

⁵ See Annexe 2 on the evaluation framework of indicators to analysis.

⁶ Maguire, S. *Evaluation of UNICEF Program for the Reintegration of CAAFAG*, December-February 2008.

Despite the decline in the number of children being manipulated into violence and the CPN-M now being in power, children continue to be exploited by emerging armed groups in the Terai belt of Nepal. Due to regular intermittent bandhs (shutdowns/road blocks), children are struggling to go to school. Children still have a limited say and the intergenerational dialogue is at a minimal rate. Young people still perceived as victims are the major targets of armed groups, and continue to be used as messengers in the Terai.

3.1 Goals and Objectives of the Project

SFCG Nepal, registered as an International Non-Government Organization (INGO), has been working in Nepal since February 2006. SFCG was set up amidst the initial negotiations phase between the GoN and the CPN-M. As the CPA was signed, the program took off with the youth radio program, *Naya Bato Naya Paila* and youth capacity-building in the middle and far west of Nepal. Now, SFCG Nepal has seven fully fledged projects being implemented in media and community peacebuilding.

Being an active member of the UNICEF-led CAAFAG Working Group, SFCG has played a leading role in coordinating the technical sub-working group on communications and sensitization, all policy planning and the implementation of working group actions.

SFCG has been implementing the Children's Voices program with the goal "*to provide a platform for child and youth voices in the transition to peace so as to prevent the further manipulation of youth to violence.*" The specific objectives of the project were:

- To strengthen the belief that children, communities, and families have a responsibility to protect the rights of vulnerable children – especially girls – and facilitate the reintegration and prevention of CAAFAG;
- To facilitate intergenerational dialogue by encouraging children – in particular girls – to talk and ask questions and for adults to listen and respond;
- To provide children with a platform so as to drive national dialogue on the peace process; and
- To motivate children and youth, in partnership with adults, to organize activities that advance peace, promote their rights, and protect them from manipulation by violence.

The target beneficiaries of the project are in three categories, organized into two levels. Primary targets include: a) children and youth (girls affected by the armed conflict, CAAFAG who are also in the Southern Terai armed conflict, rural conflict-affected children, children at risk of re-recruitment, former CAAFAG, children who have lost their educational opportunities); and b) families, adults, teachers and communities responsible for the well-being of children. The secondary target of the project includes local government and political party leaders (particularly youth wings of political parties).

SFCG's children's program has combined media production and community outreach, with an emphasis on reintegration. The two approaches of the program have worked closely to create platforms for children's voices and other communication mechanisms to spread the message and practically apply it in community peacebuilding. Over the last two years, the project has included the following components:

- Pilot project on *Bal Chautari* (Feb-April 2007);
- Child-produced radio program, *Sunau Bolau* (*Let's Listen, Let's Talk*);
- Community peacebuilding (intergenerational Dohori, linking children and youth clubs, journalists' sensitization);
- Communications campaign for return and reintegration of CAAFAG (*Awa Ghar Pharkau* booklets, flipbooks, and cassettes (I and II), and public service announcements on radio).

The SFCG children's project has been primarily implemented in the mid-western and far-western regions of Nepal, with a focus on rural communities. Radio broadcasts have gone out nationally to more than 29 FM stations and Radio Nepal.

The project is divided into three integrated program components for which this evaluation has been carried out, and contains:

1) Production and Broadcast of Sunau Bolau:

The child-produced radio program *Sunau Bolau* has been broadcast since October 2007 under the brand name *Nepal Chautari* and was being broadcast by 50 FM stations throughout the country. In August 2008, the program, now independent of an umbrella brand name, was broadcasted as *Sunau Bolau* on the national radio, Radio Nepal and on 28 FM stations across Nepal.

Currently, there are 25 child journalists (aged 11-17 years) reporting from 17 different districts in Nepal; the final production is done by three child journalists based in Kathmandu. The journalists have been supported by an adult producer assigned to them as coach. A number of issues have been raised from mining, children's positive behaviour, the situation of CAAFAG who have returned home, and children in environmental reconstruction to name a few. These issues have been selected through a participatory 'Curriculum Summit,' with producers, child journalists, child protection organizations, youth organizations and all concerned stakeholders attending to shape the program.

The major media partner for this has been a community-based production house called Antenna Foundation Nepal (AFN). A number of outreach materials have been created for the publicity of the program and for community outreach such as posters, stickers, name-tag stickers, discussion guides, cassettes of two episodes, bookmarks and t-shirts. These have been distributed widely to the SFCG field offices, field staff, FM stations, child journalists and the CAAC Group (CAAC WG) agencies.

2) Community Peacebuilding:

Community peacebuilding of the project has two program components: intergenerational folk media (Dohori) and linking children's clubs to youth clubs. The first intergenerational Dohori was held in 11 districts in the Mid and Far West of Nepal, with one in the east. The Dohori festivals were organized by SFCG in partnership with the local youth networks, Dohori artists and local government. The second instalment of the program was held in November 2008 in 26 VDCs in 11 districts. The objective of the Dohories was to raise awareness among the local communities of intergenerational gaps and to foster a safe environment for the return and reintegration of former CAAFAGs.

The second component of the project included linking children and youth clubs to build mutual capacities and support each other's work. The component was implemented in 11 districts in the Mid and Far West of Nepal. In addition to this, in March 2008 Youth Networks for Peace also conducted an intensive one-month programming for children in armed conflict, in 11 districts in the Mid and Far West of Nepal. These activities include designing and putting up hoarding boards, interactions with adults and children, broadcasting *Let's Return Home* cassettes on the local FM stations, etc.

3) Communication Campaign:

As official communications tool of the national DDR working group, SFCG has produced a number of media outputs, namely 10 public service announcements (PSAs) on radio, two 45-minute radio dramas on cassettes, and numerous posters and leaflets. The content of the campaign was developed in consultations with several child-protection organizations, experts in child rights, psycho-social organizations and journalists. The media partners for the drama and PSAs were AFN, New World and Far Western Media Development Center.

Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the activities, outputs and outcomes have been carried out all along the implementation process. Monitoring of the program components has been carried out specifically through:

- Two Kathmandu-based and four field-based monitors conducting regular interactions, and focus group discussions and surveys with the target beneficiaries;
- Monitoring questionnaires have been developed and monthly reporting on outputs and outcomes has been carried out;
- Monthly monitoring bulletins on the progress and outcomes of the project have been circulated to all the staff.

The activities have adhered to the Paris Principles, *The Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups* and Module OG4.60 of the IDDRS: *Public Information and Strategic Communication in Support of DDR*.

4. RELEVANCE OF THE PROJECT

The relevance of the program was assessed through 1) the communities' perceptions and behaviors toward returned CAAFAG and CAAFAG changes in attitude, and 2) the listenership survey of the primary media outputs of the project.

4.1 Communities' Perceptions and Behaviors Towards Returned CAAFAG and of CAAFAG Themselves

The evaluation team designed a set of questions to identify and assess the communities' perceptions towards children who have returned home, their reintegration and the current situation CAAFAG face. The questions were formulated around their knowledge of CAAFAG (whom they would identify as CAAFAG) and their attitude towards the reintegration. These questions were:

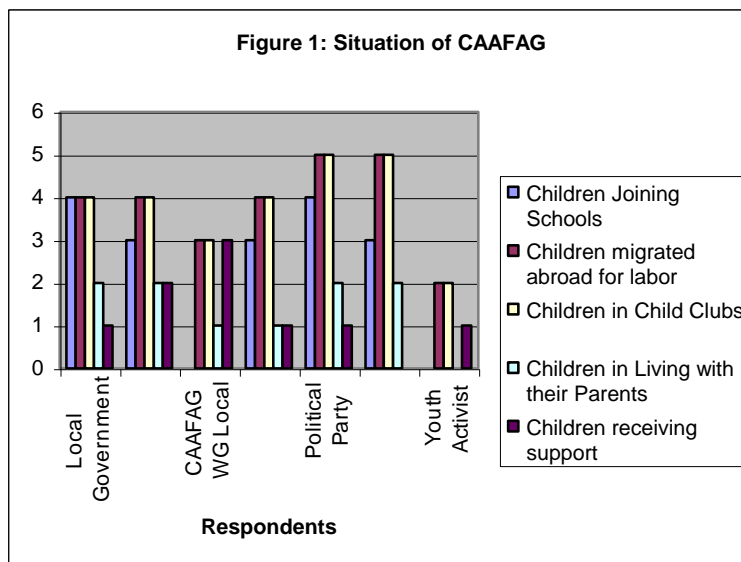
- Who do you think CAAFAG (Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups) are?
- What is the current situation of:
 - Former children who have been in armed conflict?
 - Children who have come back home? How many?
 - Children who are engaged in children's clubs in positive activities? How are CAAFAG engaged? What percentage lives in your community?
- How has the perception of community changed towards CAAFAG?
 - What has changed?
 - How do you know this?

The evaluation has analyzed the respondents' answers to the questions above. It can be claimed that all the respondents (100%) are aware of CAAFAG children. Every respondent has been able to define who can be considered a CAAFAG – as former child combatants, messengers, porters, cultural teams, etc.

On an average 200-400 children are said to have returned home⁷. Figure 1 describes the communities' responses to the situation of CAAFAG who have returned home. It is evident that most of the children who have returned home are in schools and are engaged in children's clubs. Few children are staying with their parents and many have migrated abroad (i.e. India) to find work.

⁷ An accurate average could not be determined due to the numbers being given in random and what they have seen or experienced. The average has been calculated by determining the various data that was processed. Hence, the average has been determined in a scale.

The perception of community towards returned CAAFAG seems to have had a drastic shift since the Rapid Assessment was carried out in 2006. Every respondent talked freely about the situation of these children. All respondents have stated that their community's perception towards the CAAFAG has changed drastically. Most of them accept CAAFAG children back home and understand the motivations, difficulties and indoctrinations of these children. Respondents have claimed that the support from various stakeholders i.e. non-government organizations, government, children and youth, journalists, sensitization-awareness campaigns and the new political scenario, have all contributed to the change in perception towards CAAFAG.



4.2. Listenership Survey

Since one-third of the project is based on media and communication tools, the relevance of the project has further been evaluated through the listenership survey that was carried out with 490 respondents, out of which 151 were for *Sunau Bolau*. The survey was set to determine: a) the usage of radio, b) the time of the program broadcasted, and c) the importance of having an issue-based radio program. In six districts (see Section: 2.2 Scope and Methodology), respondents stated they most enjoyed the messages broadcasted on the radio. The following findings have been taken from the SFCG *Informal Listeners' Survey* carried out by the DM&E department⁸.

Almost all respondents (99%) listen to the radio. It means that it is one of the most valuable means to spread information and raise dialogue in Nepal.

Figure 2: Do you listen to the radio?

1. Do you listen to the radio?		
District	Yes	No
Sunsari	103	0
Salyan	66	0
Dang	72	2

⁸ For further information please refer to D'Errico, S. *Informal Listeners' Survey* SFCG Nepal, January 2009.

Kailali	75	0
Accham	75	0
Siraha	94	1
Total	485	3
Percentage	99%	1%
Overall total	488	

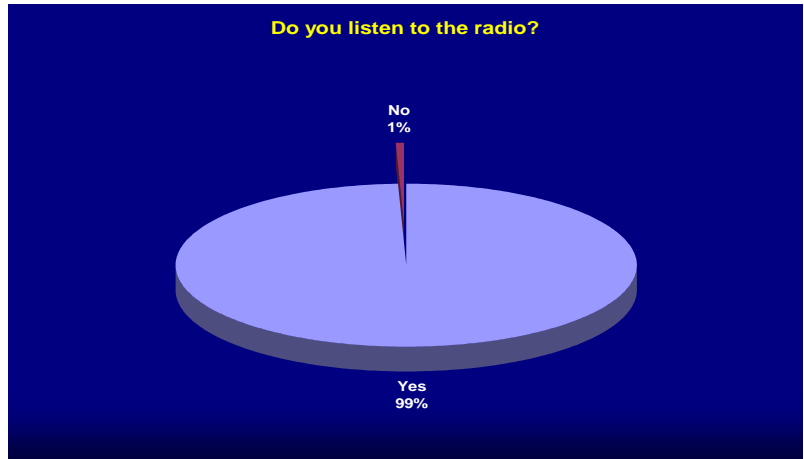


Figure 3: When do you listen to the radio?

According to Figure 3, the listeners surveyed prefer to listen to the radio in the evening (61%), in the night (41%), and early in the morning (39%). It is strongly recommended broadcasting during these three time slots to maximize listenership (see Figure 4). Listeners' preferences are distributed among different radio stations, even though Radio Nepal resulted as the most listened to among those listed (42%).

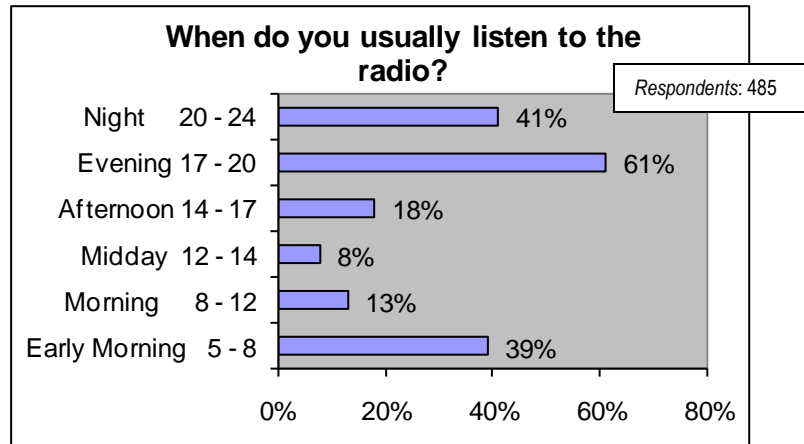
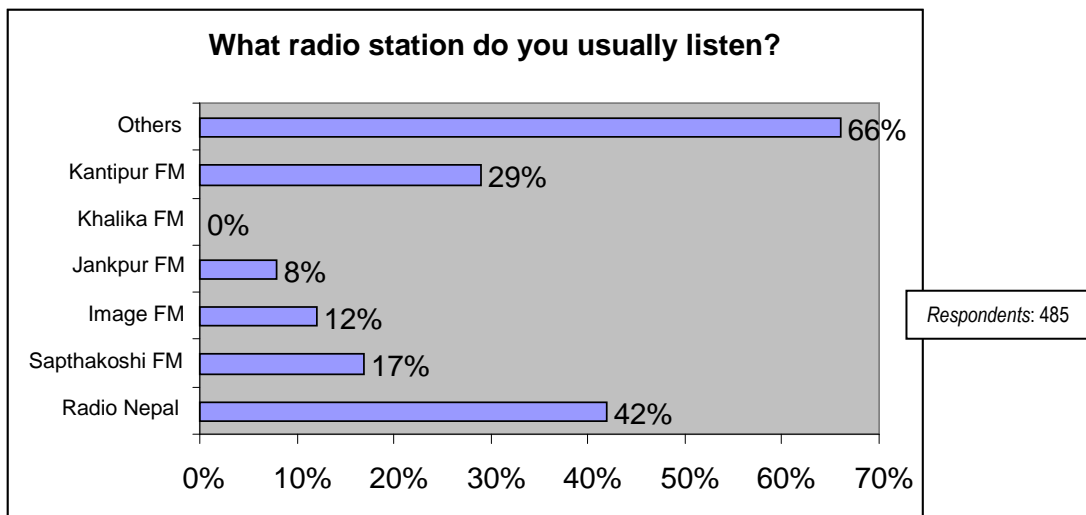


Figure 4: What radio station do you usually listen to?



As detailed above, it can be seen that the radio is considered to be the favorite source of information in districts outside of Kathmandu. However, due to resource limitations, the survey could not be carried out in more districts and especially in Kathmandu.

5. EFFECTIVENESS OF AND CHALLENGES TO THE PROJECT

The Children's Voices project engaged target beneficiaries from all levels of the community. The project has targeted transformation in individuals' knowledge (K), attitude (A) and behavioral change (B) at four levels: i) Personal Transformation (individuals develop skills and positive attitudes towards contribution to the peace process); ii) Relational Transformation (people understand and work together from across dividing lines); iii) Structural Transformation (potential spoilers become facilitators i.e. in terms of intergenerational dialogue); and iv) Cultural Transformation (stereotypes and stigmatization is overcome). The effectiveness and challenges of the project are hence analyzed according to the above mentioned KAB levels.

5.1. Personal-Relational Transformation and Challenges in Project Participants

Children and Adult Producers of the Radio program Sunau Bolau (SB)

The evaluators conducted separated interviews with seven child journalists in Surkhet, Dang and Kathmandu. Table 5 below shows the children's background and the duration of their engagement with *Sunau Bolau*.

Table 5: Background of Children Producers			
S.No	Name and District	Age	Length with SB
1	Rupa Chaudhary, Dang	14	6 Months
2	Akanchha Karki, Kathmandu	18	16 Months
3	Utsav Rasaili, Kathmandu	15	16 Months
4	Nirmala Marasini, Kathmandu	13	16 Months
5	Akbar Khan	18	16 Months
6	Nira Bhattarai	15	16 Months
7	Sukma Sunar	16	16 Months

Questions asked of the children were: What were the skills you gained? Why did you like being engaged in the show? What have you learned being engaged in *SB*?

All the children were found to be satisfied with the program in general. In terms of the skills developed, all of the respondents consistently claimed to have gained confidence and are now able to go to villages to report and create discussions in Kathmandu, or talk to and discuss any child-related issue with anyone.

Box 1: Example of skill development of one of the child journalists

Rupa Chaudhary, 14 says: "I'm able to understand that we should listen to other people's voices. I now I feel confident enough to talk to my parents about anything. I am able to identify similar issues concerning children."

The journalists say that they have kept themselves informed about the issues analyzed by the program every week and have been able to directly meet with former CAAFAG. They say that they are also building their network both with radio professionals and child-protection organizations.

Box 2: Example of knowledge developed by one of the child journalists

Akanच्cha Karki, a child journalist in Kathmandu expressed that when her school conducted a Model United Nations (MUN) session, she was asked to chair one of the committees. She said to her school that she wanted to include a session on the issues of return and reintegration of children in armed conflict. She was able to persuade her school to approve the session by demonstrating her knowledge on the issue through her work as a child journalist.

Akbar Khan and Sukma Sunar are very active journalists. Akbar not only choreographed and performed in the drama *Let's Return Home* after being inspired by the poster, he was also recently elected president of Youth Network for Peace, Surkhet. Sukma Sunar, on the other hand, was a former CAAFAG and when she returned home a lot of people used to rebuke and tease her. However, after her engagement with *SB*, she has been looked upon as a role model in her village. Community members are proud of her and openly acknowledge that she might have joined the war due to lack of opportunities at home.

The journalists have also learned the more technical aspects of radio, such as editing, mixing, using the marange (recorder), conducting interviews, and participating in interactions and discussions.

Despite the skills gained and the improved knowledge, the journalists feel that they still need to engage more with programming. They expressed their interest in taking up journalism as their career in the future.

Some of the challenges they have expressed are:

- The inadequate logistical support available, especially in terms of resources i.e. the marange. With only very few maranges available it was difficult for them to manage interviews and reporting with the FM stations;
- Due to the programming being produced and broadcast from the center, some of the local issues have been ignored;
- Entertainment is still lacking in the program.

The three adult producers interviewed from Surkhet, Kathmandu and Dang said that they learned how to provide efficient coaching during the program. They feel also more aware of the children's issues; working with children has made them realize how important it is for children to have freedom of expression.

Participants – Youth Network and Dohori

The evaluators conducted both individual interviews and focus group discussions (FGD) with the organizers and Dohori artists to discuss the process, the skills learned and the existing challenges. Table 6 below lists the people interviewed and FGD carried out in the field:

Table 6: Interviewees of Dohori			
S.No.	Name and District	Role	Type
1	Giri Raj Bhatta, Dang	Organizer	Interview
2	Khadengra Khadka, Dang	Organizer	Interview
3	Gyan Manjari, Dang	Organizer	Interview
4	Kishor Kumar Singh, Salyan	Organizer	Interview
5	Bhupendra Rana, Salyan	Organizer	Interview
6	Lila Thapa, Surkhet	Dohori Artist	FGD
7	Moti Ram Gharkoti, Surkhet	Dohori Artist	FGD
8	Bishnu B.K, Surkhet	Organizer	FGD
9	Purnima Khadka, Surkhet	Organizer	FGD
10	Chanda Khadka, Surkhet	Dohori Artist	FGD
11	Babita B.K, Surkhet	Organizer	FGD
12	Krishna Bahadur Ojha, Dang	Dohori Artist	FGD
13	Ashmita G.M, Dang	Dohori Artist	FGD
14	Shati Oli, Dang	Dohori Artist	FGD
15	Dhaney Bhandari, Dang	Dohori Artist	FGD
16	Bik Basnet, Dang	Dohori Artist	FGD

All the artists and organizers have said that the biggest thing they learned in organizing and taking part in the Dohori events was that they were themselves able to learn about generational gaps. They are more aware of how they should be responding and talking to people older than them, and to people younger than them. They have taken it so much at heart that they have been advocating the importance of linkages in generation gaps and of listening to former CAAFAG who have returned home.

Box 3: Example of skills developed by local Dohori artist

Lila Thapa, Dohori artist from Surkhet, says: “We were able to show our talent. We are very confident. We were able to inspire people. We were able to write the song ourselves. When people ask us about issues on children or generation gaps, we are able to listen and talk to them.”

The youth networks, on the other hand, said that they were able to learn a number of new things especially in terms of planning and confidence in public speaking. One of the

organizers in Surkhet, Babita BK says: "I have done a lot of announcements everywhere since Dohori events. I have become more confident and now I receive a lot of family support."

Box 4: Example of knowledge and behavior change of youth network organizer
Basudev Khanal, youth organizer from Dang, says, 'After participating Dohori, my own perception toward CAAFAG has changed. It has taught me not to use bad words towards CAAFAG children. I have development my program coordinating skills.

Organizing and performing the Dohori events weren't short of challenges. Most of the respondents expressed their concerns at the limited resources (including equipment) that were available for the events. Other challenges that the respondents have had to face were:

- Short notice in organizing Dohori events were given so it was hectic trying to get things done in one month;
- Due to the lack of local artists in the VDCs the Dohori was being organized, some artists had to be brought in from the district headquarters. This put a strain on their budget;
- Post-Dohori events, it was hard to monitor the attitude change in all the spectators in the community, for they were a huge number;
- It was challenging having large numbers of people organize the Dohori and having groups and sub-groups of organizing committees. Coordinating to bring people together was tough;
- Trying to find all stakeholders in communities as part of the events, namely former CAAFAG and local government members.

5.2 Children's Radio Program, *Sunau Bolau*: Achievements and Challenges

The children's radio program, *Sunau Bolau*, has been broadcast through Radio Nepal and 28 other FM stations across Nepal since August 2008. However, *Sunau Bolau* was being broadcast as a Saturday supplement to the most popular radio talk show, *Nepal Chautary*, since October 2007. The decision to make *Sunau Bolau* an independent brand was debated for a long time, although eventually the program took its own shape.

The evaluation has been carried out: 1) to assess the impact/effectiveness of *Sunau Bulau* vis-à-vis its target beneficiaries; 2) to identify the listeners of the program; and 3) to find out what level of transformation was achieved by the show. The evaluation covers the entire duration of the program, i.e. since October 2007.

Issues Raised and Messages Delivered

Out of 150 people who were interviewed, 31% are regular listeners of the program. Of the 31% of respondents who do listen to the show regularly, 70% have discussed it with

they friends, children, families, etc. However, the discussions have been intermittent some depending on listening to the show together.

Two of the major questions to listeners concerned the most popular issues that were raised in the program and the most memorable.

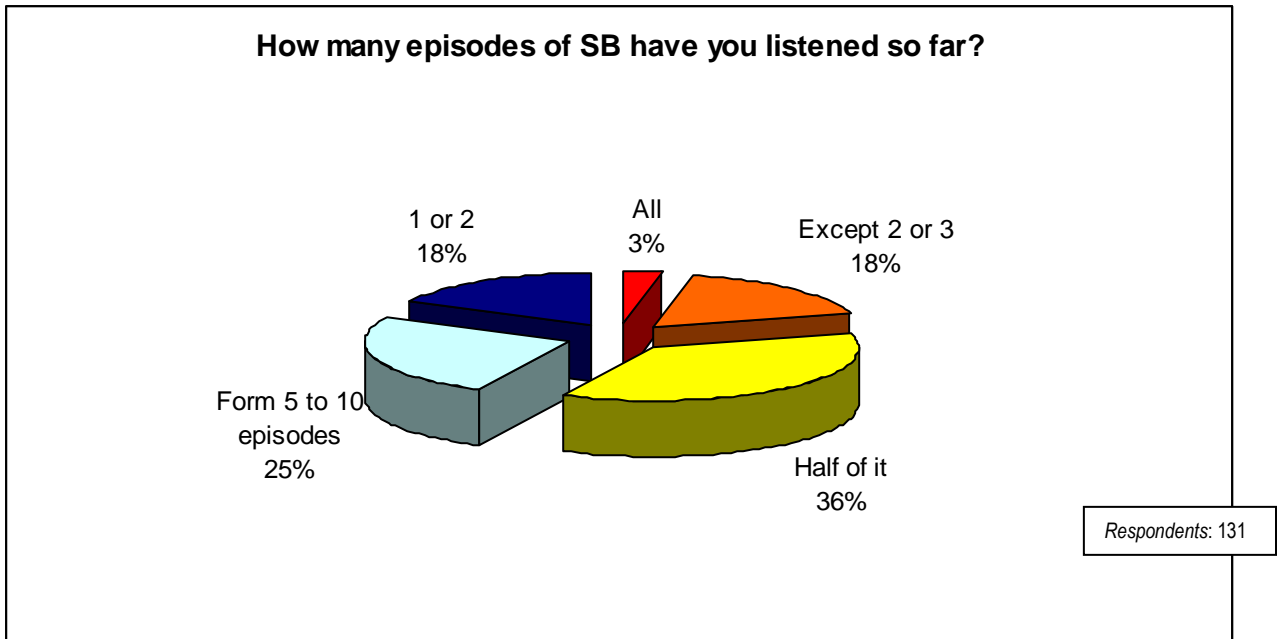
The total number of respondents for the two particular questions was 30. They included children listeners of the program, journalists, youth network, Dohori artists, local government, adults (teachers/parents), child journalists, adult producers, children (former CAAFAG, Kamlari), and political party and youth activists. According to the answers collected, the most popular and liked issue that has been raised in *Sunau Bolau* has been on 'the reintegration of former CAAFAG.' Other topics (on children being able to showcase their talent, child rights and CAAFAG, children's issues, parents' roles in education, and scholarships for children) have scored the same amount of popularity.

The survey conducted provides indication that the show has been successful, although a final conclusion can one be drawn after additional information (others surveys, more respondents) is collected.

Informal Listenership Survey

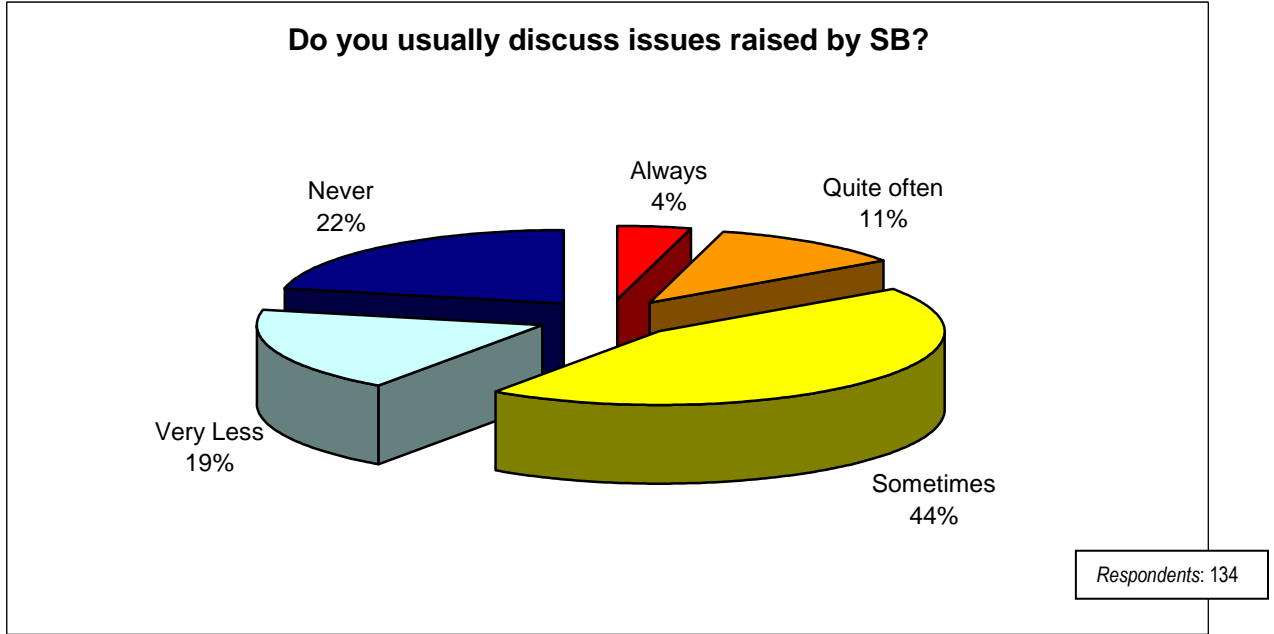
The informal listenership survey carried out in January 2009 recorded a 27% listenership rate for *Sunau Bolau* (131 out of 490 samples). More than a third of *SB*'s respondents indicated that they listened to half of the show's episodes (36%); 25 % listened from five to 10 episodes, while 3% listened to all and except two or three episodes (18%).

Figure 6: The amount of episodes listened to by the sample



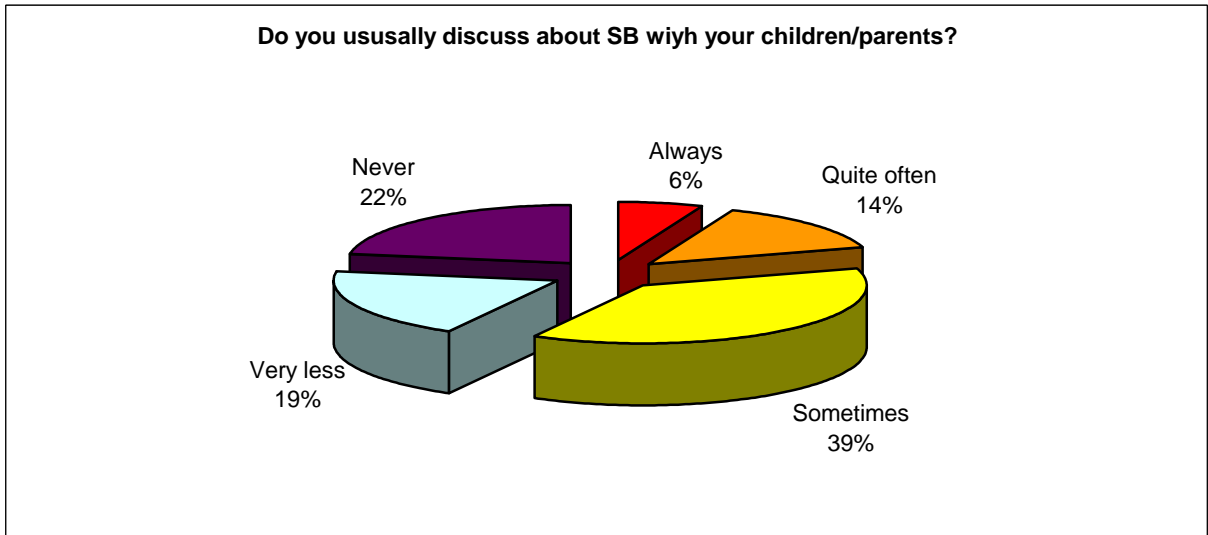
Of SB's listeners, 69% usually discuss the show's topics, 4% indicated doing so always, 11% quite often and 44% sometimes. Figure 7 below articulates these figures.

Figure 7: Episodes discussed by the sample size



The 69% of SB's listeners usually discuss, out of which 6% discuss it regularly, 14% often and 39% sometimes. Figure 8 shows the percentages of listeners who indicated discussing *Sunau Bolau* with their children or parents.

Figure 8



Further Achievements of Sunau Bolau

In addition to the abovementioned achievements of the program, the evaluation identified the following major findings:

- The program has been found generally useful with 60% of the listeners confirming this;
- Name recognition for the show was generally high, with a lot of people mentioning that they remember the name when they hear it on radio or read it in paper;

Box 1: Listening to Sunau Bolau

Babita B.K. of Ramghat Surkhet said that one of the reasons she listens to the program is because she is able to listen to the voices of local children, who are her friends, as journalists on radio.

- The program has been able to bring successes and stories of children from local communities;

Box 2: Successful example of intergenerational dialogue

Anuragh Yadav, a politician and a chairperson in a local school says: "After I listened to the episode on 'showcasing the hidden talent of children,' I was so impressed that I recorded the episode and took it to my school. I gathered children around and listened with them again. We even had a discussion on the issue. Now, two teachers in my school and children listen to the program regularly."

- Child journalists have been publicizing their programs to their friends, families, guardians.
- Most of the listeners of the program like its format, raising different issues every week and concluding with solution-oriented discussions.

Box 3: Children wanting to get on the show

Ashok Yadav, working in Deukhuri FM, Dang says: "I guess because I'm at the phone table receiving phone calls all the time, I have received a few phone calls from children asking what time *Sunau Bolau* is broadcast on radio."

Further Challenges and Improvements of Sunau Bolau

The implementation of *Sunau Bolau* has not been without challenges, and some clear improvements can be made. Although a lot of people are starting to recognize *Sunau Bolau* independently of *Nepal Chautary*, many still don't listen to the episodes regularly.

The major challenge lies in increasing the publicity and outreach of the program, which has been limited due to the lack of resources. Other challenges that have emerged over the course of the period under consideration include:

- *Sunau Bolau* was originally designed as part of the communications campaign on the return and reintegration of children in armed conflict. However, since the formal national DDR process has yet to take place, *Sunau Bolau* has been addressing issues targeting children who have informally returned home
- The decision in changing the format from local productions to national production and broadcast has hindered efforts to increase the listenership of *Sunau Bolau* in those areas where it had been locally produced. The rate of the listeners has dropped dramatically and child journalists at the local level are seen to have less interest in publicizing their program.
- In terms of monitoring outcomes, it has been difficult to assess the exact impact of *Sunau Bolau* on its target beneficiaries. Additional information would be needed to complement the findings from the present evaluation.

Box 1: Improvement in monitor-ability

To be able to assess the program's impact on a wider scale an integrated approach is recommended. By integration it is meant that all of SFCG's community peacebuilding programs are aligned with monitoring components of all media outputs.

- Listeners to the programs seem to be primarily those who know the child journalists personally. A challenge here is that the program needs to be able to attract more listeners.

Box 2: Improvement to be followed up – local broadcast of national radio

It has been identified that the national radio, Radio Nepal, which broadcasts the program from its local distributors, is cutting the final 10 minutes of each episode in Surkhet. Hence, a close monitoring of the broadcast needs to be done.

- The program has seen a lack of local voices being broadcast due to child journalists being chosen from district headquarters.
- The format of the program includes a story that most of the respondents, especially children, seem to enjoy. Nevertheless, other 'edutainment' (education and entertainment) components, such as drama, songs and music need to be added.

Box 3: Publicity limitations

Due to the limitations in budget, publicity of the program has been very limited. Lack of a proper distribution strategy and its orientation to the field-based staff has seen a major setback for the visibility of the materials that have been published and distributed widely.

- The child journalists have inadequate support from their adult producers, who appear to be simultaneously engaged in various other tasks and programs within their FM stations. Despite being coaches to the children, the adult producers are not seen as being able to give enough of their time to them.
- Partner selection is seen as a challenge. Some partners, specifically FM stations, need to be able to understand the common-ground approaches well enough to be able to implement activities in line with SFCG's over-arching goal and objective.
- Coordination with local government seems to be a key challenge. Although SFCG has been implementing effective work, the local government officials in some districts (i.e. Dang and Salyan) seemed to be confused by the work.

5.3 Intergenerational Dohori: Achievements and Challenges

The Intergenerational Dohori was organized in 11 districts in the Mid and Far West of Nepal. In these districts, 26 festivals were organized, involving an average of two to three VDCs per district. The evaluation team interviewed the Dohori artists, organizers, community members, local government officials and any other concerned stakeholders to assess the effectiveness of the festivals. The section below is divided into three parts: i) the process of organizing the Dohori (with youth network interviews); ii) issues and messages understood by the audience of the Dohori; and iii) further achievements and challenges of the activity.

Dohori Organizing Procedures: Relationship Transformation

The Dohori events were held in two VDCs per district in Surkhet, Salyan and Dang. Table 7 below shows the names of districts the Dohori were organized:

Table 7: Dohori Events	
District	VDC
Dang	Sadbariya, Fulbari
Salyan	Markey, Damachor
Surkhet	Ramghat, Kunathari

Interviews and focus group discussions were conducted with the organizers of the Dohori to determine how it was organized and the nature of the relationship transformation. The interviews included questions such as: How did you bring people together? How did you decide the locations? Who did you invite?

The organizers from the youth networks (see Table 6 for detail of interviewees) explained how they organized the events with SFCG's support. The following is an indicative description of the process:

- SFCG field offices contacted the youth networks (who were chosen as the leading partners) in organizing the second Dohori events;
- Meetings were convened with the field officers and Dohori artists;
- The seven mid-western districts attended the regional-level workshop held in Nepalgunj. One youth network representative (possibly an artist too) and one Dohori artist participated in the workshop. The workshop contained sessions on conflict, situation analysis, and a reconciliation exercise. It stressed the importance of have many actors participate in the organization the event. An announcement on the budget for each district was also made, with equipments being provided to them;
- At the end of the workshop, all districts made their action plan and submitted it to SFCG staff;
- As they went back to their respective districts, a district-level planning meeting was organized. The organizers at the meeting disseminated the learning from the regional workshop and categorized groups accordingly the requirement i.e. management committee, song writing committee, equipment handling committee, etc;
- The events were publicized on papers, fliers, announcements, rallies etc;
- The events took place a month later in the abovementioned VDCs.

The people who were engaged in the Dohori events as organizers included:

- Youth networks and clubs;
- Local Dohori artists;
- Children's clubs;
- School teachers;
- Parents/local guardians;
- Child protection organizations;
- Mothers groups
- VDC chiefs; and
- Former Maoist cultural team members.

The organizers have gained knowledge of the importance of sensitizing local communities to accepting former CAAFAG and have also acted as a bridge between the generations to end negative conflict. It can be widely acknowledged that the process participants have had the biggest impact of the project compared to the spectators.

Issues Raised/Messages Delivered

Out of the 150 respondents to the evaluation, 68 people had seen and been part of the Dohori festivals. Out of those 68 people, 75% had discussed the program with their friends, family, children, etc. Most discussions however, took place once after the Dohori festivals, and not frequently.

The two major objectives of the Dohori festivals were to: 1) bridge the intergenerational gap between adults and youth; and 2) create conditions for the successful return of former CAAFAG and show them as role models to enable other children to return home and enjoy community acceptance. The messages of the festivals were formulated in line with these two objectives. Success, therefore, is defined by how well spectators of the events understood those messages while also being entertained. Key questions included: Have you seen the Dohori? If yes, what do you think were the messages? Did you like the messages? How relevant/useful it is in your communities? Did you discuss this with others?

All of the spectators interviewed about the event have understood the messages really well. Most of them have said that they liked the event, for it was the first of its kind in their communities. Some mentioned that they become so emotional that they even cried at the Dohori.

The respondents of the sample were: children in clubs, child listeners, journalists, youth network members, local government officials, adults (teachers/guardians), children (CAAFAG, Kamlari), political party representatives, child journalists, adult producers, Dohori artists and youth activists. The people, who did watch the Dohori understood the messages really well i.e. to reintegrate CAAFAG, help and support CAAFAG children, and intergenerational gap. The highest level can be seen towards the reintegration of former CAAFAG, the importance of youth and adults needing to talk (intergenerational gap), help and support for former CAAFAG and the entertainment provided.

The respondents have said that they were impressed with Dohori being used as a tool for sensitization of any issues, such as child marriage. Some of them even suggested that the next issues should be around child marriage, Kamlari children and children who are migrating away. They said that additional positive message should be incorporated if other Dohori are to be held.

Further Achievements of Intergenerational Dohori

In addition to the achievements detailed above, the following anecdotal successes and achievements have been identified:

- Young people in the districts who had been looking for the opportunities to showcase their positive work in their communities have been able to channel their energy towards organizing an effective Dohori event.

- Networks of young people have been formed together with other significant stakeholders in the communities. They are now invited to various events that are being organized in the VDC as well as the district levels.

Box 1: Success story in Ramghat VDC, Surkhet

Youth Club President, Ramghat VDC, says: "To the Dohori event itself we invited the VDC president. He was so impressed by the Dohori that for the new budget, for the first time in Ramghat, we have funds set aside for youth (18,000 rupees) and children (20,000 rupees)."

- The title of the program itself was catchy enough that a lot of people were drawn to watch the Dohori when it happened in the VDCs. The way the messages in songs were intertwined has helped people in communities absorb the messages easily.
- Dohori programs in VDCs were so popular that other child protection organizations have asked to collaborate on such events with SFCG field offices.
- When the Dohori was being organized, teachers helped in getting people together, as for example in Salyan.

Box 2: Success story of adults' initiatives for youth.

In Bella village in Dang, after the event was finished, adults started putting aside some funds for the youth in the village and have since begun inviting youth to participate in discussion programs. This has never happened before.

Further Challenges and Improvements of Intergenerational Dohori

Intergenerational Dohori has been very successful in spite being the first of its kind in Nepal. Nevertheless, a list of challenges has been identified in line with the organization of the events, external factors and coordination. These challenges are:

- The funding of the project was only for six months. This created immense pressure on the project staff to implement activities over a very short span. The events had to be organized within two months, which pushed all the organizers out of their normal working hours.

Box 1: Feedback from Dohori organizer, Surkhet

Bishni B.K says, "Previous notice wasn't given about the Dohori. We've had to do a lot of things in the last-minute rush. It would be good to organize next time from the very beginning."

- The funding itself was limited to the Dohori organizers for the event, who have had to organizing two different events – and, in places, also transport the local artists – with limited funding.
- Monitoring outcomes from the events has been difficult, especially for one-off events.

Box 2: Improvement in monitor-ability

Dohori events need to be organized in more VDCs and with more consistency, so that an impact can be assessed more easily and accurately.

- The visibility of the program is seen as a challenge because the outreach was limited to where the Dohori event took place. Most of the respondents outside of the VDC and those who weren't part of the Dohori didn't know that the event was taking place.
- The partner selection of Dohori has been a challenge to the local artists as well as the youth networks. Because of SFCG's criteria in selecting partners and limitations in resources, local-level partners have been difficult to work with voluntarily.
- Coordination with the local bodies has been a major challenge, as adults perceive youth and youth networks as being inexperienced, often organizing these events for the first time.

5.4. Communications Campaign: Achievements and Challenges

Ten public service announcements (PSAs) on return and reintegration of children in armed conflict have been produced by SFCG with local media partners. The PSAs have been recorded with an array of messages around girls' specific issues of former CAAFAG returning home, creating an environment for children who have returned home, anti-sexual exploitation, children to be released. SFCG also produced Let's Return Home posters, Let's Return Home cassettes, Let's Move Forward Together, Let's Return Home booklets and Let's Return Home leaflets. All communication outputs were aimed at creating a positive environment for return and reintegration. SFCG field-based staff has been responsible for the distribution of these outputs through media partners, youth networks, CAAFAG working group etc.

To be able to assess the effectiveness and visibility of the media outputs, the evaluators asked questions such as: Have you seen/heard anything in the media about children affected by armed conflict? What have you heard/seen? What was the message? How relevant was it to your community? How have the campaigns contributed for children raising their issues in their communities? How many people create discussions around the program? How?

Visibility, Issues and Messages Delivered

Out of 150 respondents of the evaluation, 49 people have either seen or heard one of the media outputs. Out of the 49 respondents, 54% have discussed the program with their friends, family, children etc. The discussions are, however, limited to immediately after they have seen or heard the program.

The *Let's Return Home* posters were the most registered output while booklets were the least. *Let's Return Home* cassettes were the most-heard drama, while PSAs were the least heard. As to how the outputs were seen, most respondents said through SFCG field-based staff, while some have said that they had seen it in passing schools, in town. Some also said that they received it through the CAAFAG WG partners. The PSAs were heard on radio.

Most of the respondents who had seen or heard the program acknowledged the message. The respondents widely declared that they liked the messages that were raised and mentioned in the media outputs.

All the respondents had the same level of understanding of the media outputs. Four messages were understood i.e. that children should return home; anxieties of children in cantonments need to be addressed; that it is wrong to use children in conflict; and communities should accept the return and reconciliation of children.

SFCG has been successful in registering the outputs to the target beneficiaries. However, some of the respondents had seen the outputs a while back, thus some cross-questioning had to be done to be able draw out their understanding in messages.

Further Achievements of Communications Campaign

Besides the major success in being able to register the media outputs to the target beneficiaries, there are further achievements and anecdotal successes of the campaign. They are:

- All the respondents said that the messages portrayed by the media outputs are very useful to the community, for when children are living away from home their minds are filled with negative assumptions, and adults might also have similar feelings about their children. The messages raised in the outputs especially posters and cassettes have been repeatedly confirmed as being a tool to help adults and children understand each other's pain.
- Some of the respondents have also mentioned that the cassettes have been used as a tool in sparking dialogues between communities and children.

- One of the respondents said that he liked the messages so much that he has hung the *Let's Return Home* posters in his school premises. The district Woman Development Officer in Salyan also had the poster on her wall.

Box 1: Success story of Awa Ghar Pharkau cassette

"I am also a victim of conflict. My family has had to immigrate to Surkhet from Jajarkot due to conflict. After I listened to the cassette I was really touched. I gave to other friends of mine and also discussed it."

- Media is one of the most powerful means of sensitization; the respondents appreciate the creativity the messages have used.

Box 2: Success story of applying the messages into action

A respondent in Salyan says: "I have seen *Let's Return Home* poster and heard *Let's Return Home* cassette. When people listened to the cassette and learned that Bandika [one of the characters of drama] gets help from the community and community - specially youth - also help her in turn, we didn't only discuss about the cassette; we used this cassette as vehicle for our drama.

Further Challenges and Improvements of Communications Campaign

One of major challenges of the communications campaign has been the way it was set up to address the formal DDR process of the government. Because the formal release of children hasn't happened to date, SFCG has had to create messages to children who have been informally released. This has hindered an accurate understanding of the situation of children who have come back home, which had to be relayed by consultations with SFCG field-level staff, CAAC WG partner organizations, local partners and local government partners.

Other challenges are:

- A major challenge is seen around visibility of the outputs. Because SFCG has not been able to saturate the media on messages on former CAAFAG, some of the respondents weren't able to recall messages, especially those from the PSAs.
- The communications campaign wasn't branded as one. Different outputs had different titles and were very few in number; consequently the registration of the outputs are seen very limited.
- The lack of a proper distribution strategy is seen as one of the major challenges for some places where most people gather, while places where the messages would have more impact had limited number of outreach of the outputs.

Box 1: Improvement in better co-ordination with the working group members

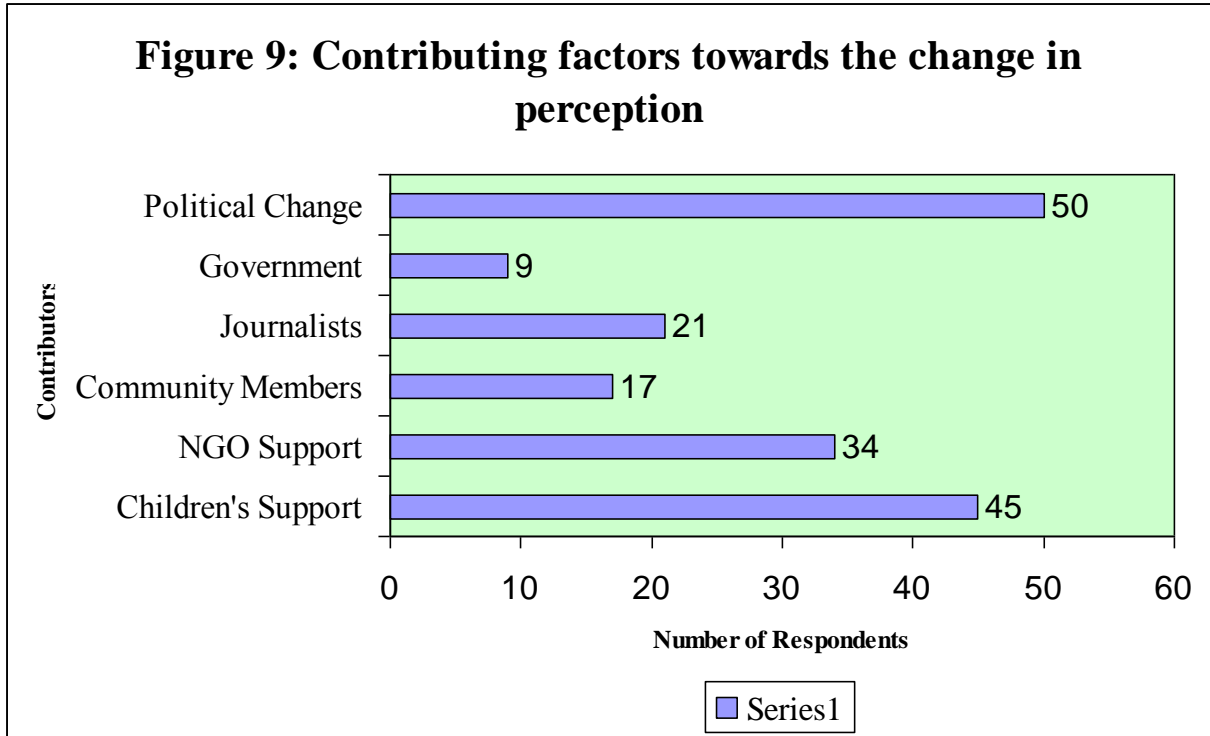
In spite of the fact that all media outputs had been delivered to the CAAC WG members, limited number of them had been disseminated to their field offices and partners. It was seen the posters and flipbooks were the only outputs that were distributed around the members' local partners. Following up is necessary with the working group to be able to create as much of an outreach as possible.

- Coordination with other stakeholders in the community also seen as a challenge. With better coordination with youth organizations, local government and other relevant actors in the community, it would have been easier to channel the outreach.
- Assessing media outputs is a major challenge especially to draw out percentage change in perception of communities towards CAAFAG. However, it can be affirmed that the media outputs of SFCG have been successful in creating discussions.

6. REFLECTING ON RESULTS: CONCLUSION

Despite a few challenges and a number of lessons learned, the two-year project in creating an environment of return and reintegration is seen as a success in communities. As detailed in section 4.1 on the Communities' Perception towards CAAFAG, the community members are seen to be fully aware of children in armed conflict and the need to be able to reintegrate into their society. However, it cannot be said that this is a 100% success due to the limitations of sample size of the evaluation. It needs to be recognized that there are still a lot of issues and problems in the community around the safe and full acceptance of children who are returning. This can be analyzed as one of the key reasons for increase in migration of children to India for labor work (see Figure 1: Situation of CAAFAG). There is yet a long way to go in terms of support to be provided to these children. CAAFAG itself mentioned the limitations in support (in terms of the length of time, actual resources etc). On the contrary, the issue of dependency should also be considered while providing support.

Reflecting on the results of the report and drawing up the major factors contributing towards the change in situation of CAAFAG is shown in Figure 9 below. It details the respondents' reaction to changes of community perception towards CAAFAG. The X-axis shows the factors that have contributed to the change in people's perception and the Y-axis shows the number of respondents.



The highest number of respondents said that the major contribution towards change of people's perception has been the change in political situation in Nepal. Fifty out of 150 interviewed respondents confirmed that previously most of the community members didn't trust the children who had returned home, and weren't confident in the children's behaviors and words. Most of the respondents said that, since the rebel group is now in government and legitimate, the community members have started trusting the children who have returned home.

The second-highest response (from 45 respondents) was regarding former CAAFAG receiving support from their peers through counseling, being part of children's clubs, through drama and activities and being engaged in the District Children Welfare Board (DCWB). Most of these children's clubs are started by children themselves or by children who are now youth and in advisory committees. These children have been working towards helping their peers reintegrate back into communities and participate in intergenerational dialogue.

Thirty-four respondents stated the support various NGOs have provided. This includes SFCG's contribution for communications and sensitization and other NGOs working in the area. When asked the types of support NGOs have provided, most respondents said: support in going to schools, life skills training, and communication and sensitization. Some of the NGOs that were mentioned a few times were: Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO), the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Search for Common Ground (SFCG) in Surkhet for their reintegration and sensitization; Children Welfare in Nepal (CWIN) and Backward Society Education Nepal (BASE) in Salyan for reintegration and

scholarship in schools; Dalit Non-Government Organization Committee (DNGOCC) and Social Welfare Action Nepal (SWAN) in Dang for reintegration and sensitization.

Twenty-one respondents were generally happy to express what journalists had written in news pieces and reported on radio to help children who have returned home. However, the journalists have not been able to do a full feature on the children since they do not have a dedicated space specifically focused on it, although the journalists also said that if they did find stories on the children, they would write about it.

Seventeen respondents affirmed some amount of support by community members to those children who have returned home. Community members are supporting the children to go to school, with the support of other organizations and the government. It is also seen that some members of the community are not as progressive as others; some of them are open about accepting children while many are hiding or marrying girls off as soon as they have returned home.

The lowest contributing factor towards the change is shown as government, with only nine respondents affirming it. Government bodies themselves, political parties, CAAFAG WG partners and journalists confirmed that government is providing scholarships in schools to children who have returned home.

6.1. SFCG's Contribution Towards the Changes in Communities' Perceptions

The success of the national effort in creating conditions of change for communities' acceptance towards children who have returned home is described above with the limitations and challenges that have been faced. The report has outlined SFCG's effectiveness and challenges of its major programs. However, to be able to better assess the contributions SFCG has made towards the change in the communities' perceptions and draw conclusions from the abovementioned achievements, the findings have been aligned with the four levels of transformation:

- A. Personal Transformation;
- B. Relationship Transformation;
- C. Structural Transformation; and
- D. Cultural Transformation

A) **Personal Transformation** deals with the individual's skills and positive attitudes towards contribution to the peace process.

The project included more than 100 direct and indirect process participants, of which the evaluation team interviewed 26 based in Kathmandu, Dang, Salyan and Surkhet. The 26 interviewed have been direct participants of *Sunau Bolau*, the intergenerational *Dohori* and media partners of communications outputs on radio. The final evaluation drew the following conclusions:

- SFCG strategically selected the direct beneficiaries/participants of the program from varied backgrounds, including former CAAFAG and CAAC

members, street children, individuals from affluent backgrounds, Dalits, Muslims, and professional and unprofessional Dohori artists.

- The direct project participants have gone through peacebuilding training which incorporates reconciliation and conflict transformation, and this is seen as one of the major factors in contributing to the participants' knowledge gain and transformation.
- The participants have widely acknowledged that by being engaged in organizing and implementing the project, they have acquired immense knowledge on issues of children in armed conflict and intergenerational gaps. This has been reflected in behaviors where the participants themselves have changed their perception towards CAAFAG.
- The project participants have disseminated what they have learned to the other members in their communities which has positively influences others.

B) Relational Transformation deals with people understand and working together across dividing lines. As stated above, the direct participants of the project came from varied backgrounds. Yet, they were all able to identify with each other and work together. This has been a rigorous exercise for the SFCG implementing staff to show the participants the importance of working across dividing lines and understanding conflict. More specifically:

- The intergenerational *Dohori* organizers have been able to successfully organize the events with a number of people from different backgrounds and age groups working together with a noteworthy impact. For example, the group included former CAAFAG youth, Dalit, Maoists cultural teams and government bodies.
- The participants of *Sunau Bolau* gained knowledge about children in armed conflict as well as other issues affecting children, enabling them to learn about intergenerational gaps. As one of the project objectives, the child journalists have been able to work with adults and other professionals in voicing their opinions while respecting others' opinions. Also, most of the journalists stated that they have started better relationships with their parents because of their involvement in the project.

C) Structural Transformation deals with potential spoilers becoming facilitators i.e. in terms of intergenerational dialogue. This has been one of the hardest to analyze for the evaluation team. Even though personal and relational challenges have been achieved to a large extent for the process participants, actually being able to transform a potential spoiler has been difficult to achieve. However, in terms of the intergenerational dialogue some conclusions can be drawn on SFCG's contribution towards the change. They are:

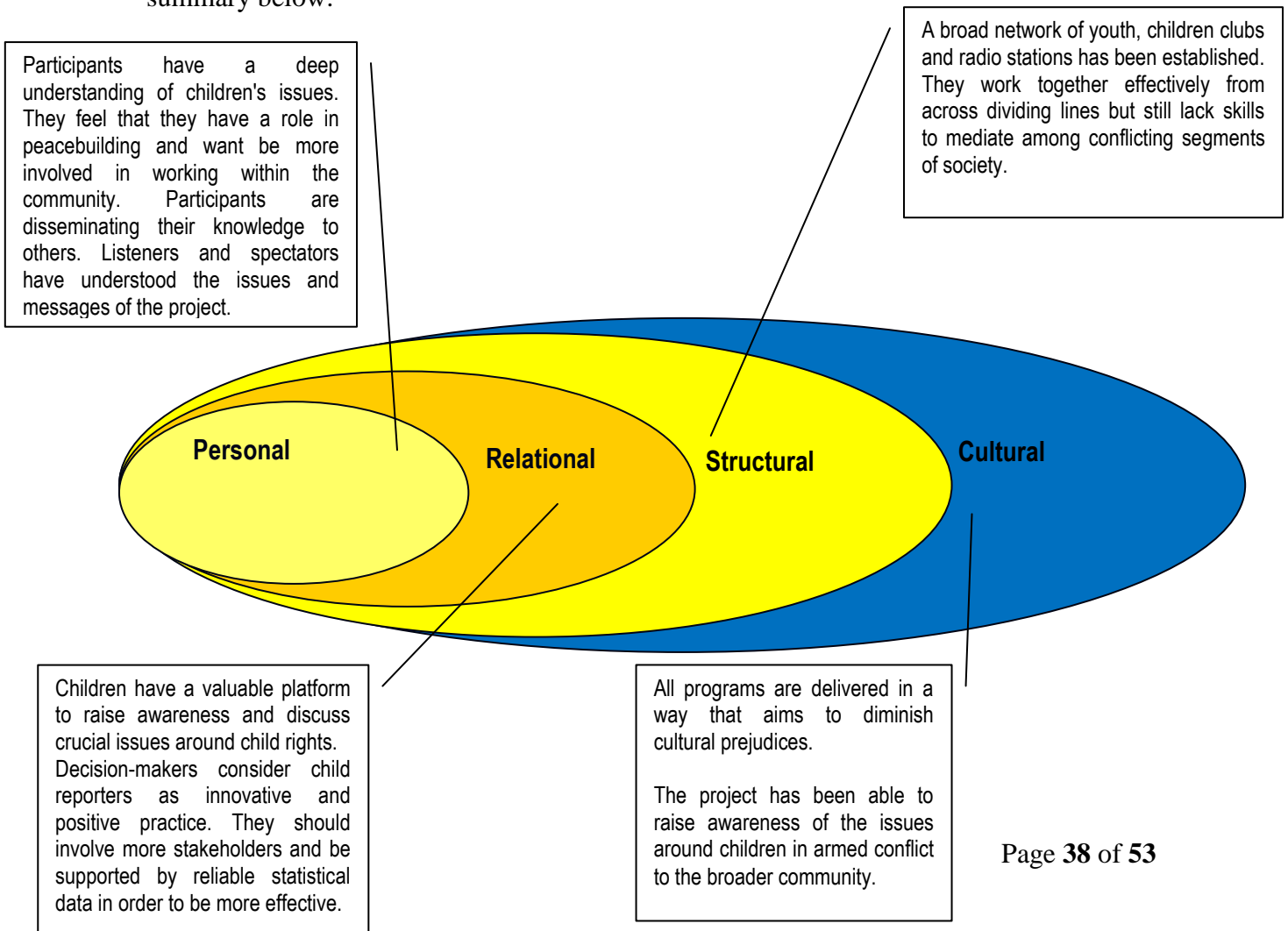
- Some of the direct target beneficiaries in the media outputs, including youth network organizers and participants, have changed their attitude towards different age groups, including generations older than themselves. In addition, they stated that they listen more to people who are younger than themselves or

their own age as well as starting to understand and talk to people who are older.

- The listeners of *Sunau Bolau* have shown a 5% shift in behavior in communities after listening to *Sunau Bolau*. Children stated that they understood the importance of participating in decision-making at home and are better informed about children's issues. Some listeners have also replicated some of the messages that were broadcast in the program through street dramas.
- Furthermore, children who are shy in showcasing their talents have started writing stories, poems, and dramas etc to be selected so *Sunau Bolau* can broadcast their creative writings.

D) **Cultural Transformation** deals with stereotypes and stigmatization being overcome. Claiming that cultural transformation has taken place in the communities solely through the project would be artificial. As outlined above, the communities' perceptions have been changed due to a lot of factors working together. However, some of SFCG's evaluation respondents registering the sensitization messages that SFCG has portrayed with all its project components can be added towards the contribution of all actors in the society.

The pictorial presentation of SFCG's contribution in line with transformation is shown in summary below:



7. RECOMMENDATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The Children's Voices project implemented by SFCG since November 2006 has had major successes. However, based on the findings and analysis of the report, the evaluation team would like to put forth some recommendations for the project's forward-looking contributions. They are:

Overall Programmatic Recommendations to support children

- Continuity of the children-produced radio program, *Sunau Bolau* for its ability to successfully create space for children's voices and enhance children's knowledge on broad issues;
- Local production of *Sunau Bolau* is necessary to be able to incorporate children's voices locally, to give platform to explore their talents and to enable children as role models through positive storytelling;
- Participatory planning is a must while implementing components of the project. It is important to engage the identified participants of the project from the very beginning, especially concerned stakeholders i.e. children, youth, local government etc. This is with an objective to create ownership of the activity;
- Long-term projects need to be sought in order to implement the project components efficiently and to achieve effective results;
- While scheduling activities planned under the project, it is important to spread it evenly throughout the life of the project in order to avoid an intensive month (s);
- Programming should include issues of children in a broad array. Some of the burning issues to be implemented are: psychosocial trauma, continuity of education, campaign against manipulation of children in political activities, intergenerational dialogue, child marriage, income generating ways for adults...
- Intergenerational Dohori should continue in more VDCs and proper follow-up is necessary.
- While conducting any program for children, it is imperative to work with their parents/guardians, community members and all adults who are responsible for their well being.

Publicity

- Creating a brand name for any media output is necessary. This will not only create a larger, more cohesive outreach, but will also deepen the messages in terms of registering them.

- The visibility of any media outputs including outreach materials of any program need to have a clear distribution strategy. This needs to incorporate key questions such as: who are the posters being delivered to? How many? Where are they going to be put – for example in schools, town centers, clubs, FM stations? How is the strategy followed up? and so on.
- In creating powerful messages with an objective of creating change in the community, the media messages in whatever shape or form needs to be able to saturate all the exit points i.e. FM stations, bookshelves, offices, TV, in hoarding boards, comic books etc.

Coordination

- Clear and frequent coordination needs to be initiated with district-level government bodies. This is seen as important for the district bodies to recognize SFCG programming and to identify the various organizations working in the district.
- Clear and frequent coordination needs to be initiated with all significant stakeholders in the districts i.e. international and national non-government organizations, journalists, youth organizations and loose networks. This will help SFCG field and Kathmandu-level programmatic implementation in terms of local consultancies and partnerships.
- Better coordination with the CAAC WG needs to be explored in order to benefit from each other, especially for the media outputs in SFCG.

Coherent Strategy

- While designing and implementing a number of components of different projects, it is recommended to choose homogenous areas/locations of implementation so that deeper impact results. It will also help for community members recognizing SFCG programming as more than one-off events.
- The links between media and peacebuilding should be further explored to be able to create better relations between partners of both media and peacebuilding.

Monitor-ability

- To be able to monitor the impact of the media programming it is imperative to create conditions of monitoring in areas where the target beneficiaries are seen. One way of doing so could be through creating a big publicity push in the area; the other could be having regular focus group discussions, monitoring forms and implementing at least one component of the community peacebuilding project in the area.
- Regular follow-ups of all media and community peacebuilding are important creating links in their key intersections.

- Regular follow-ups need to be built in, with use of media outputs from partner organizations of SFCG and CAAC WG to ensure effective and efficient results.

ANNEXE 1: TOR EVALUATION

TERMS OF REFERENCE for 2009 Internal Evaluation

Search for Common Ground Program: Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC)

1. BACKGROUND

2. *Program Summary*

SFCG's children programme was established in September 2006 with the formulation of a working group called Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups convened by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The program supported by UNICEF started as a pilot project grew to be a fully fledged project in August 2007. The target beneficiaries of the project are:

I. Primary target beneficiaries:

A. Children and Youth

- Children – and in particular, girls – who have been affected by the armed conflict
- Children and young people who have been associated and affected by the Southern Terai armed conflict.
- Children in rural, conflict-affected areas;
- Children – and especially girls – who are or have been associated with armed forces or armed groups;
- Children who are at risk of recruitment into armed groups;
- Girls, who have been formerly associated, are at risk and have been affected by armed conflict;
- Children who have lost educational opportunities, have been separated from their parents or have suffered other consequences of the war; and
- Teenagers who are most vulnerable to manipulation into political action and violence.

B. Families, Adults, Teachers and Communities (all responsible for the well-being of children).

II. Secondary target beneficiaries:

- A. Local government;
- B. Political party leaders (in particular youth wings of political parties)
- C. Partner organizations capacity building

The program was set up amidst the initial negotiations phase between the Government of Nepal and Communists Party of Nepal-Maoists. As the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed, the program took off significantly. The implementation of the peace agreement has been fraught with challenges, and more than 40 new agitating groups –

potential spoilers – have arisen. In this context, SFCG has grown its children's program from one component of the project to four.

The program was established around the first Rapid Assessment that was carried out in September 2006 to assess the situation of children in armed conflict during the 10-year violent conflict in Nepal. The major findings of the assessment were:

- Lack of intergenerational dialogue (recommendation 2.3- Public Version Rapid Assessment, September-October 2006)
- Need to take responsibility to prevent and eliminate any discrimination around the return of CAAFAG children with special focus on girls. (recommendation 2.5- Public Version Rapid Assessment, September-October 2006)
- Children have a voice - healthy and safe participation (recommendation 4 to Children Highlighting their Positive Work - Parents and Journalists) plus Working Group Co-ordination.
- No environment for safe return and reintegration in the communities.

SFCG's overall goal has been to *create conditions in which the peace process and transition can be successful*. This has been done through a multi-pronged approach, working with youth, civil society, and the media.

SFCG's children's program combines media production and community outreach into most efforts, with an emphasis on reintegration. Over the last two years, the project has included components:

- Pilot project on Bal Chautari (Feb-April 2007).
- Children's radio program, *Sunau Bolau (Let's Listen, Let's Talk)*
- Community peacebuilding (intergenerational Dohori/ linking children and youth clubs, journalists' sensitization)
- Communications campaign for return and reintegration of CAAFAG (*Awa Ghar Pharkau* booklet, flipbooks, *Awa Ghar Pharkau* cassettes (I and II), public service announcements on radio)

SFCG's children's project primarily works in the mid-western and far western regions of Nepal, with a focus on rural communities. Radio broadcasts have gone out nationally to more than 29 FM stations and Radio Nepal.

Search for Common Ground is registered with the Government of Nepal as a Belgium-based INGO in Nepal.

1.1 Search for Common Ground

Since 1982, Search for Common Ground, an international non-governmental organization, has been working to transform the way the world deals with conflict: away from adversarial confrontation, toward co-operative solutions. Our philosophy is to "understand the differences," but "act on the commonalities." SFCG is engaged in a long-term process of incremental transformation, so we make long-term commitments.

We seek cross-cultural integration of indigenous and international concepts of conflict prevention. We work with partners on the ground to strengthen local capacity to deal with conflict. SFCG currently works in or with 18 countries: Angola, Belgium, Burundi, Cote D'Ivoire, D.R. Congo, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Liberia, Macedonia, Middle East (with an office in Jerusalem), Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Ukraine, and the USA. Our "toolbox" includes mediation/facilitation training, community organizing, radio/TV, journalism, sports, drama, and music.

1.2 The evaluation

2.1 Organisational Goal

SFCG, as an organization, has committed to conducting program evaluations on a two-year basis in order to maximize the effectiveness of our programming and engage in continuous improvement and learning within programs and across the organization.

2.2 Program Evaluation Objectives

The primary purpose of this evaluation is to reveal the results of the children's project funded by UNICEF, including all co-funded activities. It should serve to inform program leadership and ground staff of how the two-year emergency response to the return and reintegration project has impacted the community and what the lessons learned were, both in terms of program objectives and implementation methodologies.

Due to the fact that the CAAFAG emergency project is closing, evaluation will assess the environment it has created in the community for return and reintegration. The evaluation will also be summative/reflective, serving as learning exercise, with a specific and comprehensive project evaluation within.

The purpose of the evaluation is ***"To assess the change in the environment of Return and Reintegration of Children Associated in Armed Groups and Armed Forces, children having a voice, and to identify the contribution of SFCG in the process."***

The specific objectives are:

- To identify the changes in perception towards CAAFAG by themselves, by the community stakeholders (members, teachers, adults) and of each other.
- To identify the contribution SFCG has made in the change in environment of return and reintegration of CAAFAG
- To verify the listenership of the radio program and to analyze the discussions created around the program.

- To obtain feedback and assess the process of planning, organizing, implementing and monitoring the project from partners and participants (including child journalists, AFN and their adults)

The internal evaluation of the project will assess the outcomes/outputs of the whole project since its inception in February 2007 with a pilot project on Nepal Chautari. The evaluation will be a reflective exercise. The evaluation will assess the outcomes in terms of Cognitive Domain (Knowledge), Affective Domain (Attitude) and Psycho-motor Domain (Behavioral Change) level of target beneficiaries as highlighted in the project proposal, the overarching objectives and the communications guideline for return and reintegration of CAAFAG published by the CAAFAG working group. The evaluation will compare the difference in impact the project has created in its target beneficiaries over the tenure of the project implementation.

The evaluation will use the major findings that have come out of the Rapid Assessment as mentioned above as an outline.

2.3 Target Respondents for the Evaluation

The evaluation will have a number of targeted respondents, including:

A. Key stakeholders (overall)

- CAAFAG WG members, local CAAFAG WG members.
- Local-level government (DCWB, WDO, political party representatives, youth wings)
- Children (children's clubs, school-going children, those out of school)
- CAAC (ex-combatants, girls especially, children who are at risk with educational opportunities missed, kamalari, ex-kamaiya children, Badhi children of manipulation, other CAAFAG and orphan children)
- Community members (parents, guardians, teachers, community leaders, mother groups, families in rural areas, journalists).

B. On the ground (project-specific)

- Participants in process
 - 25 child journalists and their adult mentors
 - Partner organization staff (AFN)
 - FM stations that broadcast *Sunau Bolau*
 - Youth (youth network, local youth artists)
 - Adults (journalists, local artists)

- Target beneficiaries in communities
 - Families, adults, teachers
 - Community members
 - Local government
 - Political party leaders (in particular youth wings of political parties)

- Partner organizations' capacity-building

2.4 Evaluators

The evaluation team is SFCG-employed staff. The goal of summative evaluation will reflect on all project components/activities carried out by the organization in terms of change in the environment. The evaluation will be a "lessons learned" tool for the future. The evaluation will be led by the Children Project Manager, and staff in media, community peacebuilding and administration.

2.5 Audience

The primary audience of this evaluation is twofold: SFCG Nepal and Antenna Foundation program staff (as well as other smaller partner organizations) and the wider child protection community/organizations. The resulting report(s) will be used for organizational learning, programs achievement and reporting to the donor.

The secondary audience is the rest of Search for Common Ground and external funders and partner organizations who may be interested in the results of the work to date.

1.3 Evaluation Methodology

The SFCG approach to evaluation is grounded in the guiding principles of our work: participatory; culturally sensitive; committed to building capacity; affirming and positive while honest and productively critical, and valuing knowledge and approaches from within the context. In addition, the standards of utility, feasibility, propriety and accuracy developed by the American Joint Committee on Standards for Evaluation will be adhered to.

The evaluator will visit three districts of Nepal plus Kathmandu, two of which have child journalists producing their program and all of which receive radio broadcast and have community peacebuilding and outreach components. These are **Surkhet, Dang and Salyan**. The evaluation will use a mixture of research methods to arrive at their conclusions, including:

- Desk research on reports, baseline assessments, success stories, discussion guides etc. The desk research will include reading *Sunau Bolau* tracker and listening to 12 random episodes broadcast from October 2007 to January 2009 (this will be done through a matrix on standards of common ground as well as children's issues covered)
- Listenership survey.
- Semi-structured questionnaires, key informant interviews (few questions on Surkhet on listenership)
- Focus group discussions.
- Case studies.

Below is the table for evaluation tools and target respondents:

S.No	Tools	Target	Numbers (in each district)	Remarks
1	Key Informant Interviews (semi-structured)	Local government ⁹	2	
		Adults (teachers and community members of conflict-affected VDC)	2	
		CAAFAG WG local	1	
		Children and youth (former CAAFAG, girls, vulnerable children - kamlari, kamaiya children, Badhi etc)	4	
		Political party (Maoists and other political parties active in the area)	3	
		Participants: Child journalist Dohori youth group and local artists	4	
Total Number of Respondents			18 per district	
Grand Total			18X3= 54	
2	Focus Group Discussions	Children: children's clubs in school and out of school.	1	
		Child listeners- media outputs.	1	
		Adults (fathers/mothers)	1 Father 1 Mother	
		Journalists (participants)	1	
Total Respondents			5 per districts	
Grand Total			5X3= 15	

⁹ Except in Surkhet.

3 SCOPE OF WORK

3.1 Location:

This evaluation will take place in Nepal with visits by evaluators to Kathmandu, Surkhet, Salyan and Dang.

3.2 Deliverables:

3.2.1 Final Report: The report should be 15-20 pages (excluding appendices) and consist of:

- An executive summary of key findings and recommendations – no more than two pages;
- Table of contents;
- Research methodology;
- Research findings, analysis, and conclusions with associated data presented, where appropriate in clear graphs or charts (including methodology assessment);
- Analysis and conclusions;
- Recommendations for future action; and
- Appendices, which include collected data, detailed description of the methodology with research instruments, list of interviewees and bibliography.

The evaluator will submit five bound, hard copies and an electronic copy, submitted in English

3.2.2 Summary Documents: These public documents will be essential for use as a tool for communicating key results to the public, including donors, partners and beneficiaries. There should be two summaries of up to seven pages.

- English summary covering the major conclusions and recommendations for the general public, including partner organizations, funders, and conflict specialists;
- Nepali summary for program beneficiaries.

SFCG will exercise no editorial control over the final evaluation report (but will have the right to ask for elaboration and clarification on key areas). Both the final and the summary report will be credited to the consultant and potentially placed in the public domain at the decision of SFCG.

1.4 3.3 Duration & Deadlines

- 10 days in the field, including seven days of desk research.

- Travel dates to all three districts: 16th- 24th of February 2009
- Reporting Deadline: First draft 15th of March 2009.
- End report for the evaluation: 23rd March 2009.

1.5 3.4 Logistical Support

SFCG will provide preparatory and logistical assistance to the evaluator(s), which include:

- Background materials (monthly reports, proposals, log frames, existing evaluations, etc.);
- Preparation meeting with program director and key staff;
- Identify interviewees and set up most interviews and focus group discussions; and
- Arrange transportation, lodging, etc.

1.6 THE EVALUATORS

4.1 Evaluators' Role

The evaluation will be conducted by four people plus four researchers. The evaluators will be expected to travel to the various locations cited above to conduct this work. The final writing of the deliverables can be conducted externally to the area.

The evaluator is expected to be responsible for the following:

- Identify and define evaluation priority areas, methodology and indicators;
- Formation of the assessment team (including identifying and hiring research team);
- Design and implement data collection;
- Facilitate survey crew training and data collection tools;
- Engage stakeholders in the assessment process;
- Data analysis and report;
- Develop and present a draft evaluation report to SFCG staff and other stakeholders;
- Produce a 6-10 page evaluation summary report, covering key findings, major conclusions and recommendations, for organizational sharing and learning;
- Write a report specifically covering the results of SFCG's UNICEF-funded project;
- Write and submit an overall final evaluation report; and
- Recording and submitting financial expense report with original receipts for expenses.

Qualifications for evaluators

- Fluent in written and spoken English and Nepali.
- Technical expertise in monitoring and evaluation of peacebuilding/social change programs
- Understanding of the dynamics of conflict and the children's situation in Nepal
- Evaluation methods and data collection/analysis skills (including in SSPS) in conflict context
- Facilitation skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Available in May for travel and data collection and in June for writing of reports.

4 Final Product

The final output of this contract will:

1. Identify what worked well and what were the lessons learnt.
2. Assess the change in environment in terms of community attitude and behavior change for the safe return and reintegration of children.
3. Identify the role and contribution of SFCG for the change in environment.
4. Give comprehensive recommendation of the whole children's program.
5. Be reflective in the way SFCG has contributed to the CAAFAG environment.
6. Assessed the listenership of *Sunnau Bolau* and impact of other media outputs.
7. Offer other relevant recommendations.

1.7 BUDGET GUIDELINES

The total budget ceiling including logistics, translators, interviewers, data processors, etc is Rs. 160,000.

ANNEXE 2: EVALUATION FRAMEWORK: INDICATORS OF ANALYSIS

Evaluators' Questions by Activity

Project Activity	Questions	Sources of Information	Target
<i>Sunau Bolau</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many people listen to <i>Sunau Bolau</i> and other media outputs in general, and how many from the target group? • What are people's responses to the show (like/ dislike / interest /relevance/ entertaining/ useful?) • How many people create discussions 	Focus group discussions, key informant interviews and informal listenership survey.	Target of <i>Sunau Bolau</i> .

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> around the program, and how/what do they discuss? • Topics - which have been the most and least popular topics of the shows? 		
Change in community perception towards CAAFAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is CAAFAG? What is the children's situation compared to before? • How has the project helped in developing skills of CAAFAG and other members of the community in terms of their activities around children in armed conflict? • How has the community's perception towards adults changed? Who helped create this change? • What are other external factors that helped in creating change in community perception towards CAAFAG? • How has the project contributed towards children raising their issues in their community? 	Focus group discussions, key informant interviews.	Beneficiaries of reintegration support, and community members of conflict-affected areas.
Media outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you heard/seen anything in the media about children affected by conflict? • What have you heard/seen? • What was the message? How 	Focus group discussions, key informant interviews, desk review of scripts.	Community members, local government, children, project participants.

	<p>relevant was it to your community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the campaign contributed to children raising their issues in their communities? • How many people create discussions around the program? And how? 		
Intergenerational Dohori	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you think of the messages raised in Dohori? • Did you discuss the issues raised in the Dohori with anyone in your community • What did you discuss and how? • Do you think the Dohori has changed the community's perception towards children in armed conflict? • What percentage has changed? • How do you know this? • Do you think the Dohori has sparked intergenerational dialogue in the community? What percentage? How do you know this? 	Focus group discussions, key informant interviews, desk review of scripts.	Community members, local government, children, project participants.
Project Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How were the partners and participants selected? Why? • How did the process impact the outcomes? How do we know this? • How has it affected the changes in the community? 	Focus group discussions, key informant interviews, desk review of scripts.	<i>Sunau Bolau</i> journalists, adult producers, Antenna Foundation representative, intergenerational Dohori festival organizers and SFCG project field

- What have the partners and participants learned? What skills have they developed?
 - What change has happened to them? How do they view conflict?
 - What feedbacks do they have?
- implementers.