Conducting Feasibility Study: Overview Methods and Tools *(in the context of assessing vulnerabilities of children in Asia)*

SOS-Children's Villages International (also known as SOS-Kinderdorf International) in Asia commissioned this assignment to Four X 4 to develop a handy and simple-to-work-out document in order to assist its focus countries (14 in total) in Asia to develop its projects in a scientific and logical way by using participatory, bottom up processes aimed at enabling target groups to define the developmental challenges and chart plans for overcoming them. Through a Feasibility Study (FS), action plans can be developed for a period of time. These action plans are developed based on the identification of root causes and the time that is required to bring about changes in the situation.

In the context of SOS Children's Villages the key areas that key beneficiaries that one specifically looks at are: children who have lost their parental support and children who are at the risk of losing parental support. Apart from these two key target groups the organisation also looks for innovative childcare approaches which are called 'additional approaches' to respond to a specific phenomenon like children as riot victims, children affected by natural disasters and other children who need short term care. The core programmatic service areas are health, nutrition, education, capacity building and advocacy.

The feasibility study document has attempted to bring forth:

- The social environment of the target group in the proposed geographical area by providing an in-depth analysis of the situation of children without parental care or at risk of losing parental care, children in special situations, the response from government, NGOs and other stakeholders and gaps which will provide an entry point to the organisation to engage itself in suitable forms of childcare, child well-being and child protection
- Analyzing main child rights violations and decide which programme would better address the problems of children
- Recommending the most suitable (location-specific) action and service delivery

The simple to follow and slim document explains very succinctly how to analyze the magnitude of the complexity of child development issues; the tools and methodologies to be applied while doing feasibility study; how to factor in various relevant issues at the field level; and how to take into account various costs associated with starting and running a programme.