

**No.15-12/2012-WBP (Assam)**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Women & Child Development**  
**(ICDS APIP Cell)**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Hotel Janpath  
Janpath, New Delhi 110 001

*Dated: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2012*

**Subject: Review of ICDS Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) for 2012-13:  
Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 November 2012 to discuss the State ICDS  
APIP with Govt. of Assam - Reg.**

A copy of the minutes of the above cited meeting is enclosed herewith for information and necessary action.



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To

- i. Secretary & Commissioner, Social Welfare Department, Government of Assam, Block - D, 1st Floor, Civil Secretariat, Dispur, Guwahati - 781 006
- ii. Director, Directorate of Social Welfare, Govt. of Assam, Uzanbazar, Guwahati - 781 001.

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- i. PPS to Secretary (WCD)
- ii. PS to JS (S)
- iii. Dir (NIPCCD)
- iv. DS (GL)
- v. Dir (RK)
- vi. DS (HSN)
- vii. FNB
- viii. US (CD-I)/US (CD-II)/US (Trng)/Sr. Programmer (ME)

**Minutes of the meeting to discuss  
State ICDS Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) for 2012-13  
with Government of Assam held on 2 November 2012**

A meeting to discuss the State ICDS Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) for 2012-13 submitted by Govt. of Assam was held under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Govt of India (GoI) on **2 November 2012** (*Venue: Shastri Bhawan, Secretary's Chamber*). Commissioner and Secretary, Social Welfare Dept., Govt. of Assam made a PowerPoint presentation on the State's annual implementation plan for 2012-13 outlining the key programmatic issues relating to ICDS implementation. *List of participants is annexed.*

2. In the APIP document, the State Govt. has identified and highlighted some of the key constraints in programme implementation. State with its difficult terrain is unable to reach out to the cut off areas, especially during floods and about 12% of AWCs are difficult to reach due to poor road connectivity. A substantial population belonging to Tea Garden Tribes is still to be fully covered by ICDS projects. Proper AWC Infrastructure continues to be a major constraint with absence of toilets, safe drinking water and kitchen for cooking. The APIP document has also highlighted some of the good practices in the State viz., State is implementing PSE in coordination with *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA); has formed Mother's Support Group (MSG) or *Matri Sahayak Gut* in all AWCs for improved management of AWCs; for proper care of severely malnourished children 4 Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) have been established under NRHM and these NRCs will be extended to 6 more districts in the current year; and the State is developing selected focus AWCs as 'Field Learning Sites' (FLSs) in 2 districts, etc. A brief appraisal note on the State APIP is enclosed.

3. Following major issues emerged during the discussion:

- a) It was noted that though all projects have been operationalized, 4035 no. of AWCs are yet to be made operational. The State Govt. informed that due to delay in getting approval of the finance as well as several court cases on recruitment of AWWs, such backlog has occurred. Efforts are being taken to dispose off about 5-6 cases every day and AWWs are being appointed. The latest status of operationalization of AWCs will be provided by the State by **30 Nov 2012** and it was stated by the State Govt. that except a few court cases, which may go up to **31<sup>st</sup> March 2013**, most of the AWCs will be made operational by **31 December 2012** after recruitment of AWWs.
- b) The State Govt. informed that due to merger of one project (Nalbari), total no. of operational projects in the State stands at 230, against the sanction of 231. Necessary reconciliation in Ministry's database will be made to reflect this merger.

- c) It was observed that there are significant vacancies at the level Supervisors and mini-AWWs. The State Govt informed that the recruitment guidelines for selection of AWWs have been modified keeping in view the GoI guidelines. They have already appointed 545 supervisors and still need to fill up positions of 15 CDPOs and 21 ACDPOs. The State Govt. was requested to expedite the recruitment process and fill up all remaining vacancies by **31 December 2012**.
- d) Secretary, MWCD directed that the operationalization and other critical issues of programme implementation may be closely monitored at the Secretary & Commissioner level on a regular basis.
- e) The State has about 30,453 AWC buildings (52%) constructed by the Department, whereas another 46% AWCs run from a separate room in the primary schools. However, only 29% AWCs have drinking water and toilet facilities. State was requested to prepare a detailed list of AWCs which do not have regular water supply/toilet facilities and share the same with the Deptt. of Drinking Water Supply in the State as well as at the centre and also with the MWCD to ensure that all AWCs are provided with drinking water and toilet facilities. The list may also be uploaded onto the DWCD's website.
- f) It was highlighted that the State has established a strong mechanism of conducting VHNDs in 24,953 cluster sites in the hard-to-reach areas with the support of NRHM where 2-3 AWCs are combined to form a cluster. There has been a 40% increase in VHND coverage in the Tea Garden areas. State was requested to conduct VHNDs in all AWCs, as VHNDs in clusters might not be able to provide focused attention to all children in villages. GOI will follow up with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to ensure coordination between ICDS and NRHM in the State. It was suggested to send a letter from Secretary, MWCD to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam to organize VHNDs in all AWCs on regular basis and to issue direction to State NRHM for better convergence.
- g) It was noted that the State has not been able to provide fortified THRs as there is only one processing unit, raising the cost of fortification. It was suggested that the supplementary nutrition menus and recipes of each district should be made available on the State DWCD website for dissemination to general public.
- h) It was suggested that Regional Centre, NIPCCD may sample check calibration and functionality of the weighing scales at the AWCs and also the process of growth monitoring using WHO Growth Chart. Besides they may check usage of MCP Card by the families and submit a report on these issues to the State Govt. and MWCD by **31 December 2012**.
- i) State Govt. is taking measures for roll-out of revised MIS; tenders for printing of AWC registers have been issued. After obtaining approval of finance, it is

expected that the contract will be awarded shortly and the printing process would be completed by December 2012/Jan 2013.

- j) The State Govt informed that they have already notified constitution of 5-tier monitoring and supervisions committees as per GoI guidelines.
- k) It was pointed out that SOE for SNP has not been received without which further release would not be approved.
- l) The State Govt. was informed about the issuance of guidelines on strengthening and restructuring of ICDS by GoI and was requested to take necessary measures to implement the revised norms in respect various existing items of expenditure from the current year itself. All other new interventions may be included in the next year's APIP.

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## **Annex: List of Participants**

### **Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt of India**

- 1) Shri Prem Narain, Secretary (WCD)
- 2) Dr. Shreeranjana, Joint Secretary (CD)
- 3) Dr. Dinesh Paul, Director (NIPCCD)
- 4) Shri Gulshan Lal, Dy. Secretary
- 5) Shri Rakesh Kumar, Director
- 6) Shri JH Panwal, Joint Technical Advisor (FNB)
- 7) Shri Surendra Singh, Assistant Technical Advisor (FNB)
- 8) Dr. Saroj K. Adhikari, Asstt. Director
- 9) Shri Mrinmoy Thakur, Consultant
- 10) Ms. Nidhi Dhingra, Consultant

### **Govt. of Assam**

- 1) Shri H. K. Sharma, Commissioner and Secretary, Social Welfare Department
- 2) Shri Syed Esme Alam, Programme Officer
- 3) Dr. Vandana Joshi, Nutrition Specialist