

**Minutes of the meeting to discuss
State ICDS Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) for 2012-13 with
Government of Madhya Pradesh held on 3 October 2012**

A meeting to discuss the State ICDS Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) for 2012-13 submitted by Govt. of Madhya Pradesh was held under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Govt of India (GoI) on 3 October 2012 (*Venue: Shastri Bhawan, Secretary's Chamber*). Commissioner, Deptt of Women and Child Development, Govt of Madhya Pradesh made a PowerPoint presentation on the State's annual implementation plan on ICDS for 2012-13 outlining the current health and nutrition situation of women and children in the State, and key programmatic issues. *List of participants is annexed.*

2. It was noted that the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has taken up special initiatives to improve the health and nutritional status of women and children in the State through *Atal Bal Mission* which has been operational since the past 11 months. Some of the key gaps/constraints in programme implementation identified by the State in the APIP are: (i) lack of adequate AWC infrastructure; (ii) staff vacancies especially at the district and block level; (iii) competencies of the Anganwadi Workers (35% AWWs hold less than the recommended educational qualifications, which includes 16% AWWs who are either illiterate or have minimum education); (iv) low enrolment of children in pre-school education at AWCs, etc.

3. Following major issues emerged during the discussion:

- a) It was noted that the lack of AWC infrastructure is a major constraint in effective programme implementation in the State, where majority of the rented buildings (about 50%) are without basic facilities of toilets. It was suggested that no building should be taken on rent that are without toilet and water facilities. State Govt. was requested to prepare and submit a detailed perspective plan of action to GoI on enhancing the AWC infrastructure including the current status of facilities available in the AWCs.
- b) State Govt was requested to upload onto their website details of facilities available at the AWCs, qualification of AWWs etc.
- c) Findings of a State-wide nutrition survey undertaken by the State Govt. through the National Institute of Nutrition were highlighted. It was noted that there have been about 11 percentage point reduction in proportion of underweight children below 5 years between 2005-06 (NFHS-III) and 2010-11 (NIN survey). The NIN survey revealed significant improvements in respect of IYCF indicators. However, it was pointed out that these findings are at variation with the findings

of the Annual Health Survey (AHS), though they were conducted during the same period.

- d) The State has significant shortfalls in the positions of the ICDS functionaries especially at the district and block level. At the district level there are 32% vacancies of different positions whereas at the block level, there are vacancies of CDPOs (41%), Statistical Assistants (41%) and Supervisors (14%). The State Govt. informed that the process is on to fill up these vacancies and will be completed by Feb-March 2013.
- e) Regarding the new joint MCP Card, it was noted that there are still gaps in supply of these cards to each and every beneficiary family. The State Govt intends to complete this task within next 3 months time. It was suggested that NIPCCD may issue the guidelines on usage of the MCP card immediately to the States. Secretary (WCD) emphasised the need for putting in place a system of usage of the MCP cards, to make its implementation effective and meaningful.
- f) The State has proposed to establish a linkage between the ICDS MIS and MCTS (Mother & Child tracking system) of NRHM, through which several common indicators can be tracked like early registration, immunization etc. The growth monitoring data can also be integrated into the MCTS. It was suggested to constitute a core committee/task force at the central level to look into the issues of integration between the new ICDS MIS (web-based) and MCTS.
- g) It was suggested that the weekly menus/recipes of the supplementary nutrition provided at the AWC may be uploaded on the State Govt's website for wider dissemination. Also, the State was requested to ensure diversified daily recipes of supplementary food.
- h) The State's approach of providing supplementary food to AWC children in linkage with the MDM Programme of Education Deptt., through the *Sanjha Chulha* mechanism was discussed. It was observed that there are disruptions in supply of SNP whenever the schools are closed and also the time-gap between the distribution of morning snacks and hot-cooked meal is often minimised due to one-time transportation of food from *Sanjha Chulhas*. The State was suggested to look into this issue and ensure that the deficiencies are addressed immediately.
- i) It was noted that the State Govt. funded *Atal Bal Mission* is an initiative to plug the gaps and will act as an overarching institution to fight against child under-nutrition. The Mission focuses on decentralised planning, life cycle approach and also has the provision of a 3rd meal of additional 500 Kcal. Skill test is conducted for AWWs and it is a multi-sectoral approach and focused on HR, IEC and capacity building. The process being followed by *Atal Bal Mission* is Community

mobilisation and at present each district is being given an amount of Rs 2 to 2.5 crore by the State Govt.

- j) The State Govt. requested for an indicative budget allocation for the State within which the State can propose their interventions/ activities in the next APIP.
- k) It was informed that the additional interventions proposed by the State Govt. that are currently not permissible under the existing norms, would be considered as and when the administrative approval and guidelines on the restructured ICDS are issued indicating the revised norms and flexibility to the State.

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Annex

List of Participants

Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt of India

- 1) Shri Prem Narain, Secretary (*Chair*)
- 2) Dr. Shreerajan, Joint Secretary
- 3) Shri Gulshan Lal, Dy. Secretary
- 4) Shri H. S. Nanda, Dy. Secretary
- 5) Ms. Kumkum Marwah, JTA, F&B
- 6) Shri Rakesh Kumar, Director
- 7) Dr. Dinesh Paul, Director, NIPCCD
- 8) Shri Surinder Singh, ATA, F&B
- 9) Dr. Saroj K. Adhikari, Asstt. Director
- 10) Shri Mrinmoy Thakur, Consultant
- 11) Ms Nidhi Dhingra, Consultant

DWCD, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh

- 1) Shri B.R. Naidu, Principal Secretary
- 2) Dr. Manohar Agnani, Commissioner
- 3) Mr. Akshay Shrivastava, Joint Director