

**Minutes of the meeting to discuss
State ICDS Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) for 2012-13 with
Government of Maharashtra held on 5 October 2012**

A meeting to discuss the State ICDS Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) for 2012-13 submitted by Govt. of Maharashtra was held under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Govt of India (GoI) on 5 October 2012. Principal Secretary, Deptt of Women and Child Development, Govt of Maharashtra made a brief PowerPoint presentation on the State's annual implementation plan on ICDS for 2012-13 outlining the key programmatic issues. *List of participants is annexed.*

2. In the APIP, the State Govt. has highlighted several initiatives which have been undertaken with the State budgets to help improve the ICDS service delivery. Some of these initiatives are: (i) launching an innovative scheme called malnutrition free village campaign which focuses on community participation and creating awareness on child malnutrition (ii) launching of the Crèche Scheme, which is being implemented through the Gram Panchayat in 6 tribal districts on pilot basis, with budgetary support from Tribal Development Department; (iii) mobile Anganwadi project for migrated population in construction sites in collaboration with NGO and the private company; (iv) development of ECE curriculum for children of 3-5 years and training manuals with the help of experts and ICDS functionaries (v) as part of online MIS development of a training software that is linked to MPR. The software is capable of generating reports on training needs of the ICDS functionaries.

3. Following major issues emerged during the discussion:

- a) It was noted with concern that about 4,200 AWCs are yet to be operationalized in the State since the past 2-3 years. The State Govt. informed that this is due to problem in the selection process for the AWWs. The State has since taken measures to resolve the issue and assured expeditious operationalization of the remaining AWCs. However, on the issue of converting the existing mini AWCs into AWCs, it was informed that such conversion is not permissible. It was suggested that if not required, the State may surrender the mini AWCs to GoI. Also, a concrete plan of action on operationalization of the pending AWCs may be submitted to the GoI by 31 October 2012.
- b) The State has 43,501 own building, 21,786 rented building while 22,300 is community building. About 7,658 have no building at all. State is taking

initiative in this matter. They were also requested to mobilise other programme fund as well as convergence with *Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan* and DWS.

- c) Significant gaps were observed in the positions of CDPO (20%), Supervisors (17%), AWWs (4%), AWH (8%) and mini-AWWs (21%). The State was asked to expedite the process of filling-up these vacancies and send an action plan on this to GoI by 31 October 2012. It came to light that ban on recruitment was operated on these plan schemes also (for CDPO, Supervisors etc) which needs to be removed immediately.
- d) The State Govt informed that 2 AWCs in the State received ISO certification. The State was suggested to make a video of these model AWCs and upload it on their website and also send process document and how they would maintain standards for wider circulation to the State.
- e) The State has two types of administrative set-up for ICDS Programme management - rural areas are managed by the Rural Development Dept. while the urban projects are managed by State WCD. It was noted that the DWCD has no administrative control or authority to transfer or promote the ICDS functionaries in the rural and tribal projects. It was suggested that the State Govt. may review this arrangement to ensure optimal programme management and coordination as well as consider forming coordination committees both at the rural and urban areas having representatives of PRI and Municipal Bodies respectively. For this, the 5-tier monitoring and review committees as per the GoI Guidelines may be constituted. In respect of urban local bodies the coordination and monitoring mechanism could be analogous and should be created as Maharashtra has urban problem.
- f) The State Govt. flagged the issue of rapid urbanisation and therefore involvement of urban local body in programme implementation and urban specific models including day care centre would have to be evolved and put in place.
- g) The State does not have a separate ICDS Directorate. It was considered that this may be required in order to give due attention to the programme.
- h) It was noted that under the SNP, THR for 6 m to 3yrs, P&LW and adolescent girls are given as extruded food in different packages, supplied by Mahila Mandals run food processing units through expression of interest and due to tender process quality is good. Hot cooked meals are provided by women SHGs where mothers committees are also involved. Menu of SNP is fixed according to district preferences and the District Collectors have been given the power to

choose/modify the SNP menu as per needs. It was suggested that the district wise SNP menu/recipes may be uploaded on the website of the State Govt. at the earliest. Similarly, details of AWCs, AWWs, their qualification and contact numbers may be uploaded onto the website.

- i) The State Govt is in discussion with the National Skills Development Mission to train the AWWs on preparation of various recipes from THR materials and to build recipe books for the same.
- j) It was highlighted that the prevalence of under nutrition in the tribal areas of Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Thane, and Amravati is still acute. The State has set up the *Rajmata Jijau* Mother-Child Health and Nutrition Mission, fully funded by UNICEF with a focus on the under-2 children. It was suggested that close coordination between the ICDS and Mission Teams may be ensured to optimize the programme outcomes and improve service delivery.
- k) It was noted that the State has conducted a nutrition survey with support from UNICEF and the results are likely to be released in Oct-Nov 2012. The trends are quite encouraging.
- l) There is biannual micronutrient supplementation.
- m) The State's proposal of hiring of the vehicles from the *Zilla Parishad* as per the approved norms of GoI in the tribal areas was agreed to.
- n) The State Govt. requested for opening up of a regional centre of NIPCCD in Maharashtra for which they are ready to provide necessary land. It was agreed in-principle that the centre can be opened in Maharashtra and the State Govt. may send a formal proposal to GoI.

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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. Shreeranjana, Joint Secretary
- 3) Shri Gulshan Lal, Dy. Secretary
- 4) Shri H. S. Nanda, Dy. Secretary
- 5) Shri Rakesh Kumar, Director
- 6) Dr. Dinesh Paul, Director, NIPCCD
- 7) Shri Surinder Singh, ATA, F&B
- 8) Dr. Saroj K. Adhikari, Asstt. Director
- 9) Shri Mrinmoy Thakur, Consultant
- 10) Ms Nidhi Dhingra, Consultant

DWCD, Govt. of Maharashtra

- 1) Shri Ujjwal Uke, Principal Secretary
- 2) Shri D.J. Mundhe, Dy. Commissioner (ICDS)