

No.15-9/2012-WBP (West Bengal)
Government of India
Ministry of Women & Child Development
(ICDS APIP Cell)

1st Floor, Hotel Janpath
Janpath, New Delhi 110 001

Dated: 12 November 2012

Subject: Review of ICDS Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) for 2012-13: Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th November 2012 to discuss the State ICDS APIP with Govt. of West Bengal - 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, Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal, Writer's Building, Kolkata - 700 001
- ii. Director, Directorate of Social Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal, Juvenile Court Building, Salt Lake City, Sector - 1, Kolkata - 700 064

Copy:

- i. PPS to Secretary (WCD)
- ii. PPS to Addl. Secretary (NS)
- iii. PS to JS (S)
- iv. Dir (NIPCCD)
- v. DS (GL)
- vi. Dir (RK)
- vii. DS (HSN)
- viii. FNB
- ix. 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 West Bengal held on 6 November 2012**

A meeting to discuss the State ICDS Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) for 2012-13 submitted by Govt. of West Bengal was held under the **Chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Govt of India (GoI) on 6 November 2012** (*Venue: Shastri Bhawan, Secretary's Chamber*). **Secretary, Department of Women Development and Social Welfare, Govt. of West Bengal** 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 some of the key constraints in programme implementation such as insufficient AWC infrastructure including sanitation and water supply that renders service delivery difficult particularly during monsoon; low focus on pre-school education, poor knowledge and skill of AWWs in PSE - as SNP occupies maximum time, the AWWs do not give enough time for PSE; inadequate monitoring -55% of vacancy in Supervisory cadre resulted in weak monitoring of AWC level activities and supportive supervision to AWWs; low awareness among people on ICDS services and weak public image of ICDS resulted in low community participation and monitoring; absence of guidelines regarding retirement of AWWs resulting in compromise on quality of service delivery, etc. The State has been following some good practices to improve better community participation, e.g., implementation of a pilot project of Positive Deviance (*keno parbo na*) which works at addressing child under nutrition through household level behaviour change of caregivers; AWWs act as a catalyst and mobilize & empower community in management of child under nutrition. Till March 2012, 9 district, 126 blocks and 17912 AWCs have been brought under the intervention with financial support of NRHM. The State has recently introduced 'Tagore award' to motivate AWWs and AWHs.

3. Following major issues emerged during the discussion:

- a) It was noted that the State has operationalized 575 projects and one project could not be operationalized due to court case. There are no mini-AWCs in the State. However, some discrepancy was found in the number of total AWCs (117170) sanctioned by GoI and reported by the State (116390), resulting in a total of 780 AWCs that are unaccounted. It was suggested that the State may reconcile this data by cross-checking with the administrative sanction orders issued by GoI. Similar action will be undertaken by the M & E Unit in MWCD. State was requested to ensure full operationalization of all AWCs by 31st December 2012.

- b) The State has insufficient AWC infrastructure. Only 25% of AWCs run from its own buildings, 14% from rented buildings, 17% from primary schools, 27% in private buildings such as AWWs' house or community buildings/clubs and another 15% AWCs operate from make-shift shelters or in the open. Of the existing AWCs, only 8% have electricity, 56% have drinking water and 32% have toilet facility. It was pointed out that the AWCs that are run in primary schools face the problem of insufficient operational time as the school begins at 11 in the morning thus AWCs could operate only for 3-4 hours. It was suggested that the State may take all measures to improve the AWC infrastructure on priority and ensure convergence with water and sanitation programmes to provide these facilities to AWCs. A complete list of AWCs giving details of its infrastructure, potable water and sanitation facilities may be prepared on priority and the same be shared with the Deptt of Water Supply, Ministry of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation and MWCD, Govt. of India and also be uploaded on the website.
- c) The State Govt informed that efforts are being made to construct AWC buildings at the cost Rs. 6.19 lakh per AWC using funds from BRGF, MSDP, RIDF and also from the 13th Finance Commission.
- d) It was noted with concern that a large number of vacancies exist at the field level, with 57% vacancies in posts of CDPOs and 53% for Supervisors. The State Govt informed that recruitment to fill up existing vacancies has been delayed due to a number of court cases. Existing CDPOs are having additional charges. It was suggested that GoI will take up this issue at the Chief Minister level for its early resolution, as well as for full operationalization and making provision for dedicated team for ICDS in the Directorate.
- e) State in collaboration with *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA) and UNICEF is revising its ECCE curriculum. This curriculum will be pilot tested in 100 AWCs and then scaled up. State was requested to adequately build capacities of AWWs for effective implementation of the new ECCE curriculum. It was suggested that the State may also participate in the pilots tests of ECCE curriculum initiated by the MWCD.
- f) It was noted that the State provides only hot cooked meal under the SNP component, which is also treated as THR for the pregnant and lactating women. The State does not provide any morning snacks. It was pointed out that the State must adhere to the SNP guidelines, as per Supreme Court Order of providing three types of SNP, viz. Morning snacks, HCM and THR. State Govt. was requested to make necessary measures to introduce THR for the children 6 months to 3 years and P & LW, like in other States.
- g) State was requested to upload weekly/daily SNP menus/recipes on its website for wider dissemination to general public.

- h) It was suggested that the State may create separate Directorate of ICDS to ensure proper and effective implementation of the programme. Pending the same, an Addl. Director may exclusively be deputed for ICDS.
- i) The State may ensure full computerization of the Directorate and use of ICT in strengthening monitoring of programme implementation.
- j) The State was requested to expedite contracting for printing of the revised MIS registers immediately and the printing and delivery of printed registers may be ensured by 31 Dec 2012 and immediate roll-out of revised MIS be done.
- k) It was noted that the procurement of medicine kits has been made this year, after a gap of three years. The State has rolled out WHO Growth charts and MCP Cards to each of the AWCs. The State may now emphasize on quality in growth monitoring of children and usage of joint MCP card by the families.
- l) The State Govt. was informed about the launch of the nation-wide IEC campaign scheduled on 19 Nov and was suggested to include related IEC activities in the next year's APIP.
- m) The State Govt. was also informed about the recent 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 of various existing items of expenditure from current year itself. All other new interventions may be included in 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) Shri Nilanjan Sanyal, Addl. Secretary
- 3) Dr. Shreerajan, Joint Secretary (ICDS)
- 4) Dr. Dinesh Paul, Director (NIPCCD)
- 5) Shri Gulshan Lal, Dy. Secretary
- 6) Shri Rakesh Kumar, Director
- 7) Dr. Saroj K. Adhikari, Asstt. Director
- 8) Shri Mrinmoy Thakur, Consultant
- 9) Ms. Nidhi Dhingra, Consultant

Govt. of West Bengal

- 1) Ms. Roshni Sen, Secretary, Department of Women Development and Social Welfare
- 2) Shri Partha S Bandhopadhyay, Joint Secretary
- 3) Shri Swarup Kumar Paul, Additional Director
- 4) Shri Sanjoy Dey, Consultant