

WBP-29/86/2017-O/o PM(WB) (e-44365)
Government of India
Ministry of Women and Child Development

3rd Floor, Jeevan Vihar Building
Sansad Marg, New Delhi

Dated: 26th February, 2019

To

The Chief Secretaries/Administrators - All States/UTs

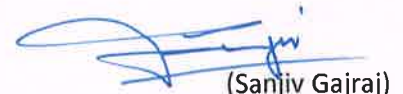
Subject: Discontinuation MUAC (Mid Upper arm Circumference) measurement of children at Anganwadi Centre.

Sir/Madam,

This is regarding discontinuation MUAC (Mid Upper arm Circumference) measurement of children at Anganwadi Centre.

2. Under POSHAN Abhiyaan there is provision of four Growth Monitoring Devices viz., Infantometer, Stadiometer, Weighing Scale (Mother and Child) and Weighing Scale (Infant) under POSHAN Abhiyaan for measuring the height and weight of the Children and other beneficiaries. The growth monitoring data is being captured on real time basis through ICDS-Common Application Software which captures the data and send alerts to the parents of the child as well as to the other concerned authorities for taking appropriate action. A dedicated training is also being given for using the Growth Monitoring Devices.
3. During the recent visit to Jaipur and some other States, it has been noticed that some Anganwadi Workers are using MUAC for growth measurement of children. In this regard, it is stated that introducing MUAC or continuing with MUAC by AWW would not only nullify but also be at a cross purpose of POSHAN *Abhiyaan* under which a regular monthly recording of height and weight is done to monitor growth for children upto 6 years at AWCs.
4. Ministry of Women and Child Development is not supporting the use of MUAC (Mid Upper arm Circumference). In this regard, a D.O. letter No. 15-5/2016-CD.III (Part.3) dated 15th January, 2019 addressed to UNICEF is **enclosed** herewith in which it has been clearly mentioned that MWCD does not support the use of MUAC.
5. It is, therefore, requested to direct the Principal Secretary/ Secretary of the concerned Departments to ensure that Mid Upper arm Circumference (MUAC) is not being used by any Field Functionaries henceforth.
6. This has approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours sincerely,


(Sanjiv Gajraj)

Executive Director, POSHAN Abhiyaan

Enclosure : As above

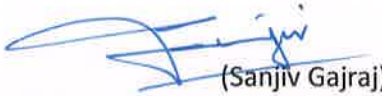
Copy to:

1. The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries, Department of Social Welfare/Women & Child Development, all States/UTs of India

2. All Directors (ICDS/POSHAN Abhiyaan) - All States/UTs

Copy also to:

1. Secretary, Health & Family Welfare
2. Adviser, Health & Nutrition - NITI Aayog
3. Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque, Representative of UNICEF
4. Country Director, World Bank
5. Dr. Rajan Sankar, Tata Trust
6. Representative of CARE India


(Sanjiv Gajraj)

Executive Director, POSHAN Abhiyaan

324511/2019/O/O SECRETARY, WCD



राकेश श्रीवास्तव
सचिव
Rakesh Srivastava
Secretary

भारत सरकार
महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय
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Government of India
Ministry of Women & Child Development
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
Website : <http://www.wcd.nic.in>

Dated: 15th January, 2019

D.O. No.15-5/2016-CD.III (Part-3)

Dear Dr. Haque,

Please refer to UNICEF's letter No. DRP/MWCD/2018, dated 27th December, 2018 regarding review of the progress against GoI-UNICEF Work Plans for Nutrition, Social Policy and Early Childhood Education. As per the statement enclosed therein, the UNICEF is supporting use of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) method of screening of malnutrition status in various States.

2 In the light of GoI-UNICEF Country Programme Action Plan 2018-2022 and Rolling Work Plans 2018-19 on Nutrition, Social Policy and Early Childhood Education and the policy of this Ministry, it is intimated as under:

i. The aforesaid Country Programme do not support food supplement in the form of RUTF and MUAC method of screening of malnutrition status among children.

ii. Under the recently launched POSHAN Abhiyaan , Growth Monitoring is measured on Real Time by using ICDS-Common Application Software which captures the data and sends the alerts to the parents of the child as well as to the other concerned authorities for taking appropriate action. Introducing MUAC for the aforesaid purpose would be at a cross-purpose of POSHAN Abhiyaan and will also create duplicity in the data collection and confusion.

iii. For the use or otherwise of RUTF by the States/UTs, National Technical Board on Nutrition has been constituted for making technical recommendations on the use of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) for the management of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition. The States/UTs have to refer the matter to the NTBN for using or otherwise of RUTF for SAM children.

iv. This Ministry has prepared the detailed guidelines for the Community Management of SAM children and the same is at an advanced stage of finalisation. These guidelines provide the protocol in detail for the management of these children. Once these guidelines are issued, States/UTs are to follow the same.

v. The nutritional norms for various age of children have been prescribed in the Schedule II of National Food Security Act which is mandatory to be followed in the country. The aforesaid Schedule II do not mention RUTF.

3. In view of the above position, the proposal of UNICEF to support use of RUTF and MUAC may be deferred. Accordingly, necessary measures may be taken to ensure adherence to GoI-UNICEF Country Programme Action Plan 2018-2022, Rolling Work Plans 2018-19 on Nutrition, Social Policy and Early Childhood Education and nutritional guidelines.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Rakesh Srivastava)

Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque,
Representative,
UNICEF India Country Office,
73, Lodi Estates, New Delhi-3