

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

A meeting to discuss the State ICDS Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) for 2012-13 submitted by Govt. of Chhattisgarh was held under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Govt of India (GoI) on 5 October 2012. Secretary-cum-Commissioner, Deptt of Women and Child Development, Govt of Chhattisgarh 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. The State has identified gaps in almost all the areas of programme implementation. Some of the key gaps are: (i) in remote districts (Bastar/Dantewada), women SHGs are either unwilling or unable to involve themselves in SNP programme; (ii) capacity building of women SHGs on SNP arrangement is insufficient; (iii) owing to departmental work load/other duties, AWWs get very less time to focus on PSE; (iv) on the job support to AWWs is weak in the context of PSE. During monitoring visits, supervisors hardly focus on PSE activities which reinforce the already existing notion of AWWs that basic priority should be given to SNP; (v) there is no tool to assess the progress of the children in PSE activities; (vi) meetings between ANMs and AWWs on Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHND) at AWCs do not yield the desired results because of inadequate focus on prior planning; (vii) low analytical skills of Supervisors/CDPOs; (viii) lack of M & E cell at the state and other levels due to which the existing system is not able to provide relevant, essential and timely feedbacks to districts and blocks; etc. It was observed that the State has not spelt out strategies to address the aforesaid identified gaps in the APIP document.

3. Following major issues emerged during the discussion:

- a) The State has operationalized 98% of the sanctioned AWCs/mini-AWCs in the 220 projects. However, about 1.5% AWCs could not be operationalized mostly in the LWE areas, for want of AWWs, who are not willing to join AWC out of fear. The State Govt. was suggested to consider engaging the local NGOs to run AWCs in these areas.
- b) The State Govt. has earlier reduced the number of sanctioned AWCs by more than 14,000 which were projected based on rough estimates and later found to be not required. However, the State has now requested for sanctioning of 50 new AWCs as AOD. It was suggested that the State may take out 50 AWCs as AOD from the 14000 AWCs and also ensure fullest coverage and after due diligence, may surrender the remaining sanctioned at the earliest.
- c) It was noted that the State is funding a new programme called 'Phulwari' in the areas where no. of children is above 10 but less than 40, through which

identical services of ICDS are provided by the State Govt. from its own budget.

- d) It was noted that the State Govt has provided bi-cycles to AWWs and also weighing machines have been provided to all AWCs.
- e) With regards to delegation of power to the State Govt., to reallocate AWCs/min-AWCs from one project to another in view of terrain or other difficulties, the State was requested to send a proposal to GoI in this regard.
- f) State's demand for a DPO cell in Bijapur district will be approved in the restructured ICDS, on which administrative guidelines is being issued separately.
- g) The State has significant vacancies at the district and block level, which are being filled-up and to be completed by December 2012.
- h) Supply of SNP has been completely decentralized in the State through the SHGs. However, it was noted that the fortification of THRs is deficient as SHGs do not have the technical capacity for micro nutrient fortification. It was suggested that the State may seek technical guidance from CFTRI, CSIR or any other technical body to address this issue and ensure compliance and adherence to the guidelines as safety, standards and norms of SNP are paramount.
- i) Under WBNP, the State requested for an advance quarterly release of food grains or a half yearly allotment as it will speed up the process and prevent interruption in SNP supply. It was agreed that the MWCD will take action on this and issue circular to the States accordingly.
- j) It was agreed that the State may get their food samples tested through any Govt. labs, instead of sending the sample only to FNB Laboratory in Mumbai. A letter to this effect would be sent immediately.
- k) State's new initiative called '*Wajan Tyohaar*' was appreciated. Under this initiative, using a campaign mode like in Pulse Polio, about 40 lakh children (covering entire child population of the state, except nomadic tribes) were weighed by the ANM/AWW/Mitanin across the State on a single day (6 June 2012), to collect baseline data on age and weight of the children. Using specially developed software, nutritional status of these children by name were calculated and uploaded in the website for viewing by general public. The initiative will be carried out every 6 months. Data collected from this campaign reveals significant variations in the actual number of underweight children as compared to the routine ICDS monitoring data. As per this campaign there is significant improvement in nutritional status indicated. It was suggested that a separate presentation on this initiative may made before Secretary, WCD in due course. A write up documenting the key processes would be shared for circulation to other States as a potential good practice.
- l) State has introduced an initiative called '*Nawa Jatan*' for providing extra care and services to the malnourished children through community based

management practices. There is Community Worker (*Suposhan Mitra*) for adoption of undernourished children based on incentive for care, counselling and working with family. The State has requested for additional funds for an amount of Rs. 5 crore during 2012-13 to carry out this initiative. However, it was noted that the proposal contained in the APIP on this initiative does not spell out the processes involved and how the results would be achieved. The State also has '*Mukhyamantri Bal Sandarva Yojana*' for free medicine, referral and wage loss to parents for treatment in NRC (20 Centres). It was suggested that a separate presentation on these initiatives may be made before Secretary, WCD in due course.

- m) State requested for flexibility to use the approved rents of AWCs as lump sum fund wherein the State can reallocate the fund as per needs or use it for maintenance of already constructed AWCs. It was informed that such flexibility is not allowed as per the existing norms.
- n) It was also informed that the additional interventions or revision of norms in respect of various items of expenditure as proposed by the State Govt. 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. Shreeranjana, Joint Secretary
- 3) Shri H. S. Nanda, Dy. Secretary
- 4) Shri Rakesh Kumar, Director
- 5) Dr. Dinesh Paul, Director, NIPCCD
- 6) Shri Surinder Singh, ATA, F&B
- 7) Dr. Saroj K. Adhikari, Asstt. Director
- 8) Shri Mrinmoy Thakur, Consultant
- 9) Ms Nidhi Dhingra, Consultant

#### **DWCD, Govt. of Chhattisgarh**

- 1) Shri Subrat Sahoo, Secretary-cum-Commissioner
- 2) Ms. Christeena S. Lal, Joint Director
- 3) Shri Sajid Memon, Asstt. Director
- 4) Shri A.K. Dewangan, Asstt. Director
- 5) Ms. Yamini Tiwari, Consultant