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स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली – 110011
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
NIRMAN BHAVAN, NEW DELHI - 110011

D.O.No.7(84)/2014-NRHM-I
18th May, 2015

Dear *Mission Director,*

As already communicated earlier, a project for Certification of ASHAs to enhance competency of ASHAs through knowledge and skill assessment is being undertaken by the Ministry in collaboration with National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) and the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). The certification process envisages accreditation of training sites and trainers and certification of ASHAs through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

2. In this regard, Guidelines for Accreditation of State and District training Sites and Certification of State and District trainers and estimated state component of budget are enclosed as Annexure I and Annexure II respectively. May I request you to budget for accreditation costs for training sites and certification of trainers and registration cost for ASHAs in the Supplementary PIP.

With *regards,*

Yours Sincerely

(Manoj Jhalani)

To,
Mission Directors, NHM (All States/UTs)

Copy to:

Dr.Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Director, NHSRC
Dr.Rajani Ved, Advisor, NHSRC

**Guidelines for Accreditation of Training Sites and Trainers for ASHA Training
under the National Health Mission**

1. Introduction

1.1. National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), launched in 2005, introduced 'ASHA' as a key component of its strategy to achieve its outcomes to address the health care needs of the rural population. NRHM has now been subsumed as a Sub-Mission of the National Health Mission with the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) as its other Sub-Mission.

1.2. The ASHA is a woman who is selected by the community, educated upto class X, which could be relaxed in areas where women with this qualification is not available, as in tribal, or remote or underserved areas. All ASHAs are expected to undergo modular training to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies that enables them to perform their three roles of facilitator, activist and community level care provider. In addition continuing or refresher training is also conducted to prevent loss of acquired skills and knowledge.

2. Why Certification

2.1. The certification of ASHAs has been envisaged to provide a legal and administrative framework within which the ASHA would be eligible and responsible for providing community level care for a range of illnesses. This would enhance the competency and professional credibility of ASHAs, allow her to use a set of drugs and point of care diagnostics appropriate to that level of care and also provide an assurance to the community on the quality of services being provided by the ASHA. Above all, it would promote a sense of self recognition and worth within the ASHA.

3. Components of Certification

- 3.1. There are four program components that would be certified / accredited. These are:-
- (i) Training curriculum
 - (ii) Training Sites
 - (iii) Trainers
 - (iv) ASHAs and ASHA Facilitators

4. Institutional Framework for Accreditation/Certification

4.1. A tripartite arrangement between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) and the National institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) to undertake the process accreditation of trainers and training sites and certification for ASHAs, is intended to ensure improvement in the quality of training and enable desired programme outcomes.

4.2. The Project Steering Committee is the advisory body for implementing the roll out of ASHA Certification. Under the supervision of Project Steering Committee, two committees would function, (a) Technical Advisory Committee for 'Standardization of Curriculum' for ASHA Certification and (b) Accreditation Guidelines Committee - for Sites and Trainers (State and District level).

4.3. In the roll out of certification, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) would provide the overall policy and funding support to the process. National Health Systems Resource Center (NHSRC) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) would be responsible for overall technical oversight of the processes of accreditation and certification, to ensure conformity with broader programme principles and certification of state trainers and training sites. NIOS would also be responsible for the certification of ASHAs.

5. Accreditation of State Training Sites

5.1. NHSRC would be responsible for undertaking the process of accreditation of state training sites in the following manner.

5.2. Steps

- The eligibility criteria for qualifying as a training site are placed as Annexure I.
- The states would develop a database of state training sites that are ready to be taken up for accreditation, based on the criteria.
- Any Government training institute or a non-government institution (registered as a society or a public trust) can be a training site provided it meets the relevant eligibility criteria.
- The state would intimate MoHFW / NHSRC about the status of readiness.
- NHSRC, in consultation with states, would develop a calendar for accreditation of training site

5.3. Process

5.3.1. **Submission of Documents:** The states (through MD, NHM) have to submit the copy of necessary documents to MoHFW, for preliminary scrutiny whether the training institution is eligible to be considered for accreditation. The documents will include:

- a) Registration of agency
- b) Turnover of the agency and annual audited statement of accounts for the last 3 yrs

(Government organizations like SIHFW, CHC and PHC which could serve as training are not required to submit any document of registration and turnover of agency).

- c) Proof of the agency's presence in the state (Regional presence will also be considered)
- d) Details of partnerships with training NGOs in the districts, and documented proof of such partnerships with each.

