

Regional review meeting of the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) and Management Information System (MIS) training held on 24th & 25th March, 2012 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala-A Report.

A regional review meeting of National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) and HMIS training was held under the chairpersonship of Ms. Sujaya Krishnan, Joint Secretary (NPCB), on 24th and 25th March, 2012 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. All SPOs along with District Programme Managers (DPMs) and other officials of selected states/UT, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry attended the meeting. List of participants is annexed.

Objectives of the meeting were:

1. To review the programme performance in respect of service delivery, funds utilization, infrastructure development, human resource and capacity development.
2. To understand the issues related to programme implementation and solve them accordingly.
3. To know the current status of implementation of new initiatives under NPCB and issues pertaining to their implementation.
4. To provide hand on training for operationalizing of MIS.

Dr.P.K. Jameela, Director of Health Services, Kerala, welcomed all the representatives from the MoH&FW and from all the states. She informed the participants that National Programme for Control of Blindness is doing well despite the many constraints especially the lack of manpower. She said that National Programme for Control of Blindness is a very well implemented programme in the state and introduction to MIS will bring transparency about the policy, planning and implementation of the programme and state will try its best to implement the same as soon as possible.

Ms Sujaya Krishnan, JS (NPCB) welcomed all the participants and highlighted the aims and objectives of the meeting. She informed that from the cataract centric approach, constant attempts have been made to make it a comprehensive programme by including other components like treatment of Diabetic Retinopathy, Glaucoma, Keratoplasty and Childhood blindness, Retinopathy of Prematurity etc. which were initiated during the 11th five year plan. Though the new initiatives introduced in the 11th plan has not been picked up to a satisfactory level, all attempts should be made to make it popular and useful for the benefit of needy persons. The emphasis of the programme should be on comprehensive eye care and quality of service delivery. She stressed that all the health facilities should be upgraded for the benefit

of the people. She also raised her concern about resurgence of trachoma in many states and urged participant states to be vigilant about trachoma in their respective states and to send reports regarding its status to MoHFW regularly. She also briefed participants about the objective of introducing MIS in NPCB. She informed that in a RTI era, it is necessarily a very important component, as it provides a transparent and clear picture of what is being done at any given point of time. MIS ensures reporting by the end users, which can be easily monitored by the States as well as the Centre. It also provides a clear picture of the flow of funds and its utilization in each and every district.

This was followed by presentation by Dr. N.K. Agarwal, DDG, NPCB. In his presentation DDG (O) emphasized on the quality and reach of the eye care services to the poor people residing in the remotest area of the country. He also stressed that quality in the delivery of eye care services must be on high priority and there should be a standard design for operation theaters. He stated dictums and factor affecting the outcome of surgery done.

This was followed by presentations made by all by the State Programme Officers as per the agenda. Copies of the presentations are annexed.

State specific issues which were discussed are as follows:

Kerala

Dr. Sherly.V.V, SPO Kerala representing the state made the presentation.

- Prevalence of blindness in the state is 0.95% as per survey conducted in 2006.
- There are total 56 existing Operation Theater out of which 40 are separate and 16 shared OTs. All are state funded.
- There are 21 regular and 1 contractual eye surgeons in the state and 32 more eye surgeons are required. Out of 21 regular eye surgeons 2 are trained in Phaco, 11 in SICS & IOL and 8 are trained in sub-specialities. A total 5180 teachers have been trained in School Eye Screening Programme, and 246 PMOAs have been trained in providing of comprehensive eye care.
- While informing about status of contractual manpower in the state SPO informed that there is one Eye Surgeon, 1 PMOA and 5 Eye Donation Counselors working in NPCB.

Component wise grant in aid provided to the state and its utilization

STATE/UT	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Medical College	Medical Collage Kozhikkode 2008-11 funds was provided . Equipments procured are working		Medical Collage - Alappuzha, Medical Collage - Thrissur & Medical Collage - Kottayam Equipments procured & working	Medical Collage - Thrissur Cryo unit is working Procurement of Green laser- under process
RIO	Eye Ball Thermo Cole box, Slit lamp, Fridge, Computer, Printer & UPS,AC (6), Furniture and Curtain cloth, Flash Autoclave, Surgical Instruments Procured & working		ECG Machine, Cardiac Monitor, Slit Lamp with Camera , Slit Lamp, Humphrey Refractometer, A Scan, YAG Laser , Table top flash Autoclave	
GIA for strengthening of Distt Hospital	-	-	-	-
GIA for strengthening of Sub Distt Hospital/ Vision centre		GH Areacode PHC Valanchery PHC Kalikavu CHC Panamaram GH Kalpatta	PHC Kattakada, Thamarasserry, Nadapuram,	CHC Thykatussery PHC Andoorkonam PHC Edava PHC Neyyardam CHC Purathur &13
Non-recurring GIA for NGOs	-	-	-	-

Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Trivandrum

Dr. P.S.Girija Devi, Director (RIO) made a brief presentation on the status of RIO. She informed that

- Director RIO informed that it provide care to patients from Kerala and southern districts of Tamil Nadu, since 1906. The Institute was upgraded as RIO in the year 1995.
- She also informed that specialty clinics like Squint Clinic, Retina Clinic, Glaucoma Clinic, LVA Clinic, Cornea & Eye Bank and Uvea Clinic have been established the with support from NPCB.
- While informing about Human resource she informed that there are total 22 ophthalmologists in RIO

- She informed that along with other surgeries 5256 cataract surgeries were performed during the year 2010-11.
- While informing about mobile Tele-Ophthalmology Unit “SUNAYANAM”, stated that 5 fixed field visits per month are done on all Tuesdays & last Friday. Additional visits may be planned on demand.

Component wise grant in aid provided to the RIO and its utilization

STATE/UT	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
RIO				Rs. 40 lakh was provided. Equipments procured &functional	
GIA for Eye Bank		(Rs. 5 Lakh) renovation of Eye Bank		(Rs. 10 Lakh) Equipments procured &functional	

Puducherry (UT)

Dr. D. Sendhamizhan Rene, SPO (Puducherry (UT)) briefed the participants about the status of NPCB implementation in the UT.

- Prevalence of blindness in the UT is not known.
- There are 4 Districts, 4 CHCs and 39 PHCs in the UT. There are total eight separate OTs in Puducherry and 3 in other three District Hospitals. All are state funded.
- While mentioning about contractual man power, SPO informed that there are two contractual ophthalmic Eye surgeons, 3 PMOAs and 3 Eye Donation Counselors are working with NPCB.
- There are 17 regular & 2 contractual Ophthalmic Surgeons and 39 regular and 3 contractual PMOAs working in the UT. Eight more PMOAs are required in the UT for better functioning of the programme.
- Out of total 19 surgeons, 14 are trained in Phaco, 17 trained in SICS & IOL and 7 trained in sub-specialty. Along with it 70 Medical officers were given refresher training in management of primary eye care.

Component wise grant in aid provided to the state and its utilization

STATE/UT	2007-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Medical College						Procurement of equipments under process
GIA for strengthening of Distt Hospital	6 equipments Procured & functional	Ultrasonic Emulsifier Was procured & functional	2008-09 No equipments procured	Ultrasonic Emulsifier, Direct Ophthalmosc ope	8 equipments are procured, all are functional	5 equipments are procured, all are functional
GIA for strengthening of Sub Distt Hospital/ Vision centre				In each year Trial set and Trial Frame, Schiotz Tonometer and Rotating Vision Drum procured, functional		
Non-recurring GIA for NGOs (Aravind Eye Hospital, Puducherry was supported)				Specular Microscope Was procured and functional		

Tamil Nadu

Dr.M.S.Rajarathinam SPO TN representing the state made the presentation.

- Prevalence of blindness in the state is 0.03%.
- There are 31 District Hospitals. All 35 DHs have separate Eye OT. Out of total 35 OTs 25 have been supported by NPCB.
- While mentioning about contractual manpower 9 Eye Donation counselors who were already working in the programme were re-designated.
- There are 171 regular Ophthalmic Surgeons and 477 regular PMOAs working in the state. Fifteen Ophthalmic Surgeons and 20 PMOAs are more required in the state for better functioning of the programme.
- Out of total 171 surgeons, 48 are trained in Phaco, 23 trained in SICS & IOL and 25 trained in sub-specialty.
- Total 91 NGOs are working with NPCB.

Component wise grant in aid provided to the state and its utilization

STATE/UT	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Medical College	Stanley Medical College 9 equipments procured and functional Kanyakumari Medical College 6 equipments procured and functional	Chengleput Medical College 7 equipments procured and functional	Kilpauk Medical College Slit lamp procured and functional	Coimbatore Medical College 19 equipments procured and functional	
		2009 & 2010 RIO was supported, one equipment in the 2009, & 9 equipments during 2010 were procured.			
GIA for strengthening of Distt Hospital				Royapettah Hospital Slit lamp procured and functional	
GIA for strengthening of Sub Distt Hospital/ Vision centre					
Non-recurring GIA for NGOs (Aravind Eye Hospital, Puducherry was supported)	Adhi Parasakthi Medl. College Hospital. Maruvathur, CSI Hospital, Kancheepuram was supported during 2006-07. Allequipments procured are functioning. CSI Hospital, Kancheepuram was supported for streangthening of Eye Bank.				

Andaman & Nicobar Island

Shri. Mohd. Ismail, State Programme Manager (NRHM), made the presentation while representing the Island.

- Prevalence of blindness in the Island is not known.
- There are three Districts, 4 CHCs and 22 PHCs and 23 vision centres in the Island. There is one DH having separate Eye OT which is funded by the state. There are two DHs having shared eye OTs.
- There is no Medical College and RIO in the state.
- Referral Hospital has been upgraded with Ref. Unit, Auto Ref., A- Scan, B- Scan, NCT, Keratometer, Slit lamp Ophthalmoscope (Direct & Indirect), Humphrey field, Lasers (Argon, & Yak), Operating Microscope, Phaco machine, Instruments for Cataract, glaucoma, Lid & Sac Surgeries.

- Dr. R.P. Hospital:- Slit lamp, A- Scan, NCT, Auto Ref.
- B. J. R. Hospital:- Slit lamp, A- Scan, NCT, Auto Ref, Keratometer, Ophthalmoscope, Operating Microscope, Instruments For Cataract & entropion surgery
- Regarding status of trachoma in the Island SPO informed that 2 rounds of Mass Drug Administration have been conducted successfully with coverage off approximately 88% of population. Ten patients were also operated for lid correction.

Component wise grant in aid provided to the state and its utilization

STATE/UT	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Medical College	No MC and RIO in the Island			
Regional Institute of Ophthalmology				
GIA for strengthening of Distt Hospital			Dr. R. P. Hospital, Mayabunder , BJR Hospital, Car Nicobar and G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair Supported. Equipment procured are functional	
GIA for strengthening of Sub Distt Hospital/ Vision Centre			CHC Diglipur , CHC Bambooflat were supported. Equipment procured are functional	
Non-recurring GIA for NGOs	No NGO			

Andhra Pradesh

- Prevalence of blindness in the state is 1%.
- There are 13 Medical Colleges, 11 Add. Hospitals, 17 District Hospitals, 309 CHCs. All are state funded.
- While mentioning about contractual manpower, against 11 sanctioned posts of Ophthalmic surgeons only 5 can be recruited. Twenty four PMOAs and seven Eye Donation Counselors could be recruited against 50 and 12 sanctioned posts of PMOAs & EDCs respectively.
- There are 185 regular & 15 contractual Ophthalmic Surgeons and 352 regular & 50 contractual PMOAs working in the state. Ten more Ophthalmic Surgeons are required in the state for better functioning of the programme.

- Out of total 185 surgeons, 23 are trained in Phaco and 23 trained in SICS & IOL. Along with it Orientation workshop for low vision services, refresher training for PMOAs, Eye Bank Technicians Training and Teachers trainings were also conducted.

Component wise grant in aid provided to the state and its utilization

STATE/UT	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Medical College	Kurnool, Tirupathi Warangal Equipments procured & functional				
Regional Institute of Ophthalmology		Equipments procured & functional			
GIA for strengthening of Distt Hospital	Microscope, A-Scan, Slit Lamp procured & functional	Operating Microscope, Yag Laser, A-Scan, Anterior Vitrectomy, Slit Lamp, Keratometer Tendering is under process			
GIA for strengthening of Sub Distt Hospital/ Vision Centre	Tonometer, Direct Ophthalmoscope, Streak Retinoscope, Trail Lenses with Trail Frames, Lid Speculum, Foreign Body Spud and Needle, Epilatory Forceps, Battery Operated Torches, Snellen NV Charts, Vision drum procured during the year 2007-08, 2009-10 and 2010-11. The support provided during the year 2011-12 – procurement is under process.				
Non-recurring GIA for NGOs		Shankar Foundation, Visakhapanam (construction purpose)	Shankar Foundation, Visakhapanam (construction purpose) R.R. Lions Eye Hospitals, Palakollu (equipments procured)		

Karnataka

- Prevalence of blindness in the state is 1.99%.
- There are total 29 Eye OTs in the state, all are state funded.
- While mentioning about contractual manpower, SPO informed that 4 PMOAs have been appointed under NPCB in Karwar District.
- There are 115 regular Ophthalmic Surgeons working against 195 sanctioned posts. Eighty posts are vacant. Total 502 PMOAs are working against sanctioned 568 posts and 66 are vacant. Recruitment process is undergoing.
- Out of total 115 surgeons, 6 are trained in SICS & IOL and seven slots have been allotted during the year 2011-12. Orientation trainings for 502 PMOAs, and eye screening training to 500

teachers have been imparted during the year 2011-12. Total 245 Medical Officers have been trained in providing Primary Eye care.

Component wise grant in aid provided to the state and its utilization

STATE/UT	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Medical College	VIMS, Bellary, KIMS, Hubli Equipments procured and functioning.		MMC, Mysore Equipments procured and functioning	VIMS, Bellary, KIMS, Hubli Equipments procured and functioning.	
Regional Institute of Ophthalmology					
GIA for strengthening of Distt Hospital			Dist. Hospital Koppal, Kolar, Karwar, Uttara, Kannada, Gadag, Equipments procured and functioning		
GIA for strengthening of Sub Distt Hospital/ Vision Centre		80 Vision centres	30 Vision Centres	30 Vision Centres	
Non-recurring GIA for NGOs	Lions Eye Hospital, Holenarasipur, Hassan District during 2010-11 and Chintamani Lions Eye Hospital, Boorgamakalahalli, Chickballapur, Dr. Rajkumar Eye Bank, Narayana Nethralaya, Bangalore, Justice KS Hegde Charitable Eye Hospital, Deralakatte, Mangalore were supported during the year 2011-12.				

*Mysore Medical College was supported during the year 2006-07. Equipments procured are functional.

MIS presentation

In the afternoon session. Dr. V. Rajshekhar, eye Specialist Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi, outlined the objectives of introduction of MIS for NPCB, gave a web based presentation and demonstrated the working of the MIS. He demonstrated the working of the MIS online highlighting the MIS designed and the various modules covered by the application. He briefed the participants about concept of MIS and its advantages. He informed that it will hasten the reimbursement procedure to the NGOs. Along with it there are certain quality checks incorporated in the system which will help in transparency and monitoring and

evaluation. It was emphasized that it is mandatory for NGOs to furnish information through MIS system for timely payments.

Mr. Ringe also addressed the participants about MIS Software and its needs. It was explained that this web-based application has the capacity to capture all the data from the field level i.e. the input formats to be filled up by the NGOs district hospital, Govt. Hospital etc. The data will be collated and viewed by the DPM who will validate the data and the data shall be visible at the state and the Central Cell. It has feature of financial and infrastructure details to be included.

Subsequently a hands on training was provided to the participants and their queries were solved accordingly by the resource persons from Delhi.

Some Common issues discussed during open session:

1. Enhancement in salary of contractual staff

Action: Participants were informed that there is provision of enhancement in salary of contractual staff in the 12th five year plan. Till then they can manage it through NRHM funds.

2. Most of the SPOs demanded for enhancement in the reimbursement rates for cataract surgery and other eye diseases.

Action: There is proposal for increase of the same in 12th five year plan.

3. Most of the SPOs are finding it difficult to implement NPCB under NRHM umbrella. There is slow or non transfer of money to State Blindness Control Societies. It was demanded that NPCB should be separated from NRHM as a distinct programme.

Action: This will be discussed with concerned authorities.

4. SPOs are unable to procure because of difficult procurement policy. They requested for either central procurement or establishment of rate contract for easy procurement.

Action: JS (NPCB) assured that this would be taken up in the 12th five year plan.

5. State Programme Officer Tamilnadu informed that a decision has been made by NRHM Tamilnadu for payment of only Rs. 2000 to an Eye Donation Counselor. Hence state is finding it very difficult to hire Eye Donation Counselor.

Action: SPO was informed that as per NPCB guidelines State Blindness Control Society the remuneration for an eye Donation Counselor is Rs. 10,000/ month and this should continue.

6. State Programme Officer Andhra Pradesh informed that there is slow reimbursement to NGOs due to rechecking by local Panchayat.

7. There is no provision of money for District Blindness Control Societies.

Action: It was explained that activities are done through District Blindness Health Societies (DBHS) and funds should be released in installments of Rs. 5 lakhs, to reimburse for cataract surgeries and other activities.

8. Karnataka informed that though they had balance, NRHM was not allowing payments to NGOs for cataract surgeries done.

Action: State was requested to utilize the unspent balance already with them to liquidate the pending liabilities. State agreed that with the fresh release adequate money is available with the state to do so.

9. Mostly states informed that there is shortage of trained man power.
10. States were informed that no reimbursement of expenditure for cataract and other activities would be made unless data is available on MIS. States are directed to complete trainings for all districts and to ensure data entry.

Meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

List of participants

1. Ms. Sujaya Krishnan, Joint Secretary (NPCB), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
2. Dr. V. Rajshekhar, Eye Specialist Safdarjung Hospital-NPCB, New Delhi
3. Mr. V. Ringe, Director, NIC, Delhi
4. Dr. K.Nagaraja, SPO, Karnataka
5. Dr. Renuprasad, DPM (BCD), Dist Devenagere, Karnataka
6. Dr.Surandrababu, DPM (BCD), Dist. Raichur, Karnataka
7. Shri. Sasidharan.P.P, Manager, State Blindness Control Division, Karnataka
8. Dr. MS Rajarathinam, SPO, Tamil Nadu
9. Dr. Greedharan, DPO Tanjavur, Tamil Nadu
10. Dr. Ashok Bhaskar, DPO Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu
11. Shri N Manavalan, DEO, Tamil Nadu
12. Dr.Sendhamizhan Rene,SPO , Puducherry
13. Mr. N.Kasinathan, Ophthalmic Technician, Puducherry
14. R.Senkadir, Budget Officer, Puducherry
15. Dr. C.Sankaraiah,SPO, Andhra Pradesh
16. Dr.Mansingh,DPM, Andhra Pradesh
17. Dr.Prabhkar Sastry,DPM, Andhra Pradesh
18. Mr.Srinivasulu Reddy, Dy.Director, Andhra Pradesh
19. PJJ Paul, BFO, Andhra Pradesh
20. Shri. Ram Mohan, Dy. SO, Andhra Pradesh
21. Shri. Mohd. Ismail, State Programme Manager (NRHM), Andaman & Nicobar Island
22. Mr. Jai Bhagwan Tanwar, Consultant Blindness, MOHFW, New Delhi