

## **Regional review meeting of the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) and Management Information System (MIS) training held on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012 at Ahmadabad, Gujarat -A Report.**

A regional review meeting of National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) and MIS training was held under the chairpersonship of Ms. Sujaya Krishnan, Joint Secretary (NPCB), on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012 in Gujarat for the west region. All SPOs along with District Programme Managers (DPMs) and other officials of six selected states /UT Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Daman & Diu and Dadar Nagar Haveli 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.

Mr. P.K. Taneja, Principal Secretary & Commissioner, Gujarat welcomed all the representatives from the MoH&FW and from all the states. He stressed the need for blindness survey in the state Gujarat. He also said that National Programme for Control of Blindness is a very well implemented programme in the state and introduction to MIS will add another wing in the crown of the programme. It 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), in her opening remarks, also welcomed all the participants and highlighted the aims and objectives of the meeting. She also informed that since its inception from 1976 National Programme for Control of Blindness is one of best running Public Health Programme in the country. The programme has been revamped and along with quality cataract surgeries with IOL implantation other components like treatment of Diabetic retinopathy, Glaucoma, Keratoplasty and Childhood blindness were also included during 11th five year plan. The emphasis of the programme should be on comprehensive eye care, quality of service delivery, infrastructure development, procurement of advanced equipments and human resource development. 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. An introduction to MIS was initiated and she informed the participants that, with the advancement in technology, MIS will give a transparent and clear picture of what is being done at any given point of time, which is an essential requirement especially in the RTI era. 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 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:**

**Gujarat**

Dr. B. S. Jesal Pura, SPO (Gujarat) gave a brief presentation on the existing progress in implementation of National Programme for Control Blindness. Main highlights of the presentation are as follows:

1. Prevalence of blindness in the state is 0.95% as per survey conducted in 2006.
2. State is consistently achieving its targets of cataract surgeries and during the current year total 5,60,498 cataract surgeries have been performed against the target of 5,70,000.
3. He also informed that majority of the cataract surgeries have been performed by private practitioners and other partners (57%), 40% by NGOs and only 7% by the Govt. sector.
4. Against the target of 9000 eye collection state is able to collect only 5891 corneas up to December 2011.
5. There are 12 medical Colleges, 25 District hospitals and 10 Sub- District Hospitals-all are state funded.
6. While informing about status of contractual manpower in the state, he mentioned that against the sanctioned posts of 22 there are only 3 Ophthalmic Surgeons, against 22 sanctioned posts of Eye Donation Counselors, 17 Eye Donation Counselors are working and against 50 PMOAs posts, 50 PMOAs are working. He also mentioned that 40 more PMOAs are required for better implementation of the programme in the state.
7. There are 35 regular and 3 contractual eye surgeons in the state out of which 35 are trained in Phaco, SICS & IOL and five are trained in sub-specialities. Over last three years 6000 teachers

have been trained in School Eye Screening Programme, and 250 PMOAs have been provided refresher trainings in management of comprehensive eye care.

8. Trainings for Medical Officers and ASHA/field workers are also been organized at District levels.
9. There are no NGO pendency in the state.

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

STATE/UT	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Medical College</b>	<p><b>Medical Collage - Rajkot</b></p> <p>Equipments procured in 2009-10, all are functional</p> <p><b>Medical Collage - Jamnagar</b></p> <p>Equipments procured in 2011-12, all are functional</p>	<p><b>Medical Collage - Jamnagar</b></p> <p>Equipments procured during the year 10-11, All equipments are functional</p>		
<b>GIA for strengthening of Distt Hospital</b>		9 District Hospitals were strengthened Equipments procured in 2010-11, all are functional	Four Phaco machines were procured during the year 2011-12 and provided to the eligible District hospitals	-
<b>GIA for strengthening of Sub Distt Hospital/ Vision centre</b>			50 autorefractometers were procured during 11-12	Procurement for 10 auto refractometer with Keratometer is under process
<b>Non recurring GIA for Eye Bank</b>			In the process of procurement, tendering has been done	No eye bank
<b>Non-recurring GIA for Eye Donation Centre</b>			NO EDC in Amritsar and Taran Taran District	
<b>Non-recurring GIA for NGOs</b>	4 NGOs supported All funds have been utilized	5 NGOs Funds utilized	4 NGO Funds utilized	2 NGO UC awaited

## Goa

Dr. Vasudev Devari Dy. Director (Medical) made a brief presentation on the status of NPCB in Goa. He informed that

1. Prevalence of blindness in the state is 1.39 as per NPCB survey 1986-89.
2. Goa has been achieving its physical targets every year.
3. There is one state funded Medical College, District Hospital and sub- District Hospital. These are all equipped with functional eye equipments as per the guideline.
4. While informing about status of contractual manpower in the state, he mentioned that there are 2 sanctioned posts for Ophthalmic Surgeons and PMOAs respectively. State is able to employ only PMOAs, posts for Ophthalmic surgeons have not been filled up due to salary issue.
5. There are 8 regular Ophthalmic Surgeons and 19 PMOAs (17 regular and 2 contractual) in the state. Six more Ophthalmic surgeons and 10 PMOAs are required in the state for better functioning of the programme.
6. Out of total 8 Ophthalmic surgeons 4 are trained in Phaco, 4 in SICS and 1 is trained in sub-specialty. Training of school teachers is ongoing.

### Component wise grant in aid provided to the UT Goa and its utilization

STATE/UT	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Medical College			Equipments procured and functional	Equipments procured & functional	
GIA for strengthening of Distt Hospital		DH North Goa, equipments procured & functional	DH North Goa equipments procured & functional	DH south Goa& DH North Goa Equipments functional	
GIA for strengthening of Sub Distt Hospital/ vision Centre	2 Equipments procured &functional		6 Equipments procured &functional	1 Equipments procured &functional	
Non-recurring GIA for NGOs	No NGO in the UT				

## **Daman & Diu (UT)**

Dr. Usha S. Heranjali, Eye Surgeon (Daman & Diu (UT)) briefed the participants about the status of NPCB implementation in the UT.

1. Prevalence of blindness in the UT is 0.56% as per NPCB survey 1986-89.
2. There is one District Hospital and 3 vision centre in the UT. The available equipments at the facilities are sufficient enough to carry out cataract + IOL operation & refraction.
3. SPO requested for an extra set of instruments for replacement in case of break down if any. He also requested for YAG laser and Green laser needed for Glaucoma and medical retina.
4. There are 2 Ophthalmic Surgeons and 1 PMOA in the state. One more Ophthalmic surgeon and one PMOA is needed in the UT. There is shortage of trained manpower.
5. Daman & Diu (UT) performed 232 cataract surgeries against the target of 450. During the current year 370 cataract surgeries had been performed till date against the target of 1100 surgeries. SPO also informed that due to non availability of eye surgeon at District Hospital Marwad and high target allotted to the UT, state is unable to achieve its targets.
6. Total 8429 school children were screened at various schools during 2011-12.

## **Dadra & Nagar Haveli (UT)**

Dr. L.N.Patra made a brief presentation on the status of NPCB in the Dadra & Nagar Haveli (UT).

1. Prevalence of blindness in the UT is not known.
2. Equipment purchased for District Hospital during 2008-09 and for Vision Centre during 2009-10 are functional
3. There is only one contractual eye surgeon and one regular PMOA & 3 contractual PMOAs in the UT.
4. Only one NGO is working under National Programme for Control Blindness.
5. The pending liabilities of NGO for 2010-11 is Rs.3.27 lakh only.
6. State Health Society utilized only 31.82 % funds upto December, 2011.

## Maharashtra

Dr. Satish D. Pawar, SPO gave a brief presentation on the current status of NPCB in Maharashtra.

1. Prevalence of blindness in the state is 1%.
2. Against the annual target of 7,25,000 Cataract Surgeries, state performed 5,30,863 (73%) up to December, 2011.
3. All 109 OTs in the state are funded by state.
4. There are total 50 Ophthalmic Surgeons (47 regular+3 contractual) and 663 PMOAs (654 regular + 9 contractual) in the state.
5. While mentioning status of contractual manpower SPO informed that against sanctioned posts of 10 Ophthalmic Surgeon only 3 ophthalmic surgeons could be appointed due to less salary. He also informed that there are 28 vacant posts for PMOAs and 2 posts are vacant for Eye Donation Counselors. Nineteen Data Entry Operators have been appointed through MFP Funds under NRHM, Process is still ongoing.
6. There are 33 contractual Eye Donation counselors and 19 Data Entry Operators in the state. Two Eye Donation counselors and 16 more Data Entry Operators are required.
7. Out of 47 ophthalmic Surgeon five are trained in Phaco and 47 are trained in SICS & IOL. Sixty PMOAs have been trained during the current year.
8. The equipments purchased for NGOs are functional. SPO was informed that NGOs pending liabilities are state's responsibility.
9. SPO requested for increase in grant in aid being given for cataract surgeries from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1150.
10. Issue of enhancement in the salary of contractual eye surgeon was discussed.
11. There is urgent need to provide mobility support to Ophthalmic Surgeon Team
12. SPO requested for change of old equipments for better performance.
13. SPO also suggested for addition of new and advanced equipments in the Program like – OT table, Air Purifier, Non-contact tonometer, imaging system, I-chart, Auto perimeter for District Hospital.
14. SPO requested for more Phaco-machines in the state.

STATE/UT	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Medical College</b>	34 equipments procured All are functional	Equipments procured and functional	Equipments procured & functional	
<b>Regional Institute of Ophthalmology</b>	15 equipments procured All are functional			
<b>GIA for strengthening of Distt Hospital</b>				10 equipments procured All are functional
<b>GIA for strengthening of Sub Distt Hospital</b>				6 equipments procured All are functional
<b>GIA for strengthening of vision Centre</b>				8 equipments procured All are functional
<b>Non-recurring GIA for NGOs</b>	7 equipments procured All are functional	12 equipments procured All are functional	20 equipments procured All are functional	9 equipments procured All are functional

## Rajasthan

District Programme Manager representing the state made the presentation.

1. Prevalence of blindness in the state is not known.
2. There are 9 Medical Colleges, 1 RIO, 34 District Hospitals, 23 (9govt. 14 Pvt.) Eye Banks, 17 Eye Donation Centres and 107 Vision Centres.
3. There are total 750 Ophthalmologists in the State, out of which 50 Ophthalmologists are in Medical Colleges & 91 are at District and Sub District hospitals. He also informed that 20% are non operating eye surgeons.
4. SPO also informed that out of total 157 sanctioned posts for Ophthalmic surgeons only 91 are posted and rest (76) are vacant at various levels like District Hospital, Sub-district Hospital, Satelite Hospital, CHC, Mobile units and Others.
5. While mentioning status of contractual manpower SPO informed that against sanctioned posts of 10 Ophthalmic Surgeon only 3 ophthalmic surgeons could be appointed due to less salary. He also informed that there are 6 vacant posts for Eye Donation Counselors due to courts stay on contractual postings.
6. SPO requested for enhancement in the recurring grant in aid being given from Rs. 750 to Rs.1000.
7. SPO also requested for enhancement in the salary of Contractual Eye Surgeon.
8. SPO also informed that state is having shortage of Eye Surgeons and NGOs.

9. Against the annual target of 2,85,000 Cataract Surgeries, state performed 1,82,756 (73%) surgeries till Dec. 2011. SPO also informed that only 18.11% surgeries were performed in Govt. Sector, 34.32% in Private and 47.57% in NGO sector.
10. Under NPCB School Eye Screening Programme, total 2,31,057 students were screened for refractive error, 9925 were detected with Refractive error and 6565 students were provided free spectacles.
11. Against the annual target of Eye Collection of 2000 for the current year, total 1016 eyes have been collected till Dec. 2011, out of which only 359 have been utilized reflecting poor status of Eye banking.
12. Out of 23 Eye Bank 13 Eye Bank are functional & 10 are non functional Eye Bank.
13. During the year 2011- total 1485 operations were done for other eye diseases which includes 812 Glaucoma, 219 Diabetic Retinopathy, 95 Childhood Blindness and 359 Keratoplasty. Along with it 256 Patients of Trachoma were also examined.

STATE/UT	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
<b>Medical College</b>			Jaipur, Ajmer & Kota Medical College Equipments procured and functional	Udaipur & Jodhpur Medical College Order for required equipment has been placed	Ajmer & Bikaner Medical College Order for required equipment has been placed
<b>Regional Institute of Ophthalmology</b>					
<b>GIA for strengthening of Distt Hospital</b>		4 ND yag laser ,12 Operating Microscopes and 17 Phaco machines have been procured for eligible District and Sub District Hospitals.			
<b>GIA for strengthening of Sub Distt Hospital</b>					
<b>GIA for strengthening of vision Centre</b>	25	19	20	13	8
<b>Non-recurring GIA for NGOs</b>	Three applications for support have been received. Selection is under process				

## **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 informed that the MIS is a planned, integrated and a computerized system for gathering relevant data of various components of NPCB, from the field in the specified developed formats and transmitting it to the central cell of NPCB. 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 only 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> five year plan.

5. 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.

6. State Programme Officer Maharashtra requested for procurement of new Phaco machines and advanced eye equipments. SPO also requested for change of old equipments for better performance.
7. There is huge amount of unspent balance i.e. 33 crore with the state Maharashtra. This is to be utilized for the purposes for which the grant was given and NGO liabilities to be liquidated.
8. Daman & Diu UT, there is no regular State Programme Officer.
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. Ms. Gayatri Mishra, Director NCD, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
3. Dr. V. Rajshekhar, Eye Specialist Safdarjung Hospital-NPCB, New Delhi
4. Mr. V. Ringe, Director, NIC, Delhi
5. Dr. V. Devari, Dy. Dir. (Medical ) & CMO (NPCB), GOA
6. Dr. Pradeep Naik, Prof. & Head (Ophth.), GOA
7. Mr. Kumar Manish, State Programme Manager, Dadra & Nagar Haveli
8. Mr. Kirit Parmar, State Data Manager, Dadra & Nagar Haveli
9. Mr. Atul Varma, Data Manager (IDSP), Dadra & Nagar Haveli
10. Dr. Satish D. Pawar, State Programme Officer, Maharashtra
11. Dr. P. Jogewar , District Programme Manager, Dist. Bhadara, Maharashtra
12. Dr. V. N. Aphale District Programme Manager, Dist. Sangli, Maharashtra
13. Mr. P. V .Birari, Statistical Assistant, Maharashtra
14. Mr. M.M. Dagale, Admin. Assistant, Maharashtra
15. Dr. Pradip Bhargav, District Programme Manager, Rajasthan
16. Dr. Usha Heranjal, State Programme Officer, Daman & Diu
17. Mr. Hiral Patel, Computer Assistant, Daman & Diu
18. Mr. Jai Bhagwan Tanwar, Consultant Blindness, MOHFW, New Delhi
19. Ms. Sonia Tanwar, Technical Assistant, MOHFW, New Delhi