

Cross-Learning Workshop on Incremental Learning Approach and Other Innovations for the Project States under IDA assisted ISSNIP

Organized by

*Directorate of Social Welfare and ICDS, Govt. of Bihar and BMGF/ CARE
In association with Technical Assistance Agency under ISSNIP*

16-18 January 2014: Patna, Bihar

Brief Note

Under the IDA assisted ICDS Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP), it has been envisaged that the project states and districts will evolve and implement a number of *innovative approaches* to make the ICDS Programme operationally more effective and focused in meeting its goals. Several such approaches have been anticipated on the basis of past experience, and budgetary provisions have been made under the project, for each of the 8 project States.

Of these, two specific programme implementation approaches and an approach to strengthening monitoring systems in ICDS are already being implemented in some districts in Bihar:

1. *Sub-Centre Platform*: The creation and use of a platform for review, planning and capacity building at the sub-centre level, involving front line functionaries of both ICDS (AWWs, LS) and Health (ASHA, ANM) is being implemented in selected districts since the last 18 months, and is due to be scaled up to the entire state soon.
2. *Incremental learning*: An approach that combines practical training and monitoring is part of the sub-centre platform process.
3. *Programme monitoring through small-sample rapid household surveys*: Using a Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) approach, critical outcomes and process data are being generated independently of the existing MIS, to provide 'pass-fail' results at the block level, and point estimates at district and higher levels, and are used to track progress of programme implementation. This is similar to the use of LQAS approaches by Lady Supervisors envisaged under the ISSNIP.

Keeping in view of the above and the priorities in the project Annual Action Plans for 2013-14 wherein the above pilots have already been planned, it is proposed to provide an on-site exposure of the State Project Teams of other 7 States under ISSNIP to the processes and steps involved in these innovations, so that actions can be taken for necessary adaptations by the respective States. Accordingly, a 3-day workshop-cum-exposure visit has been scheduled from **16-18 January 2014** in Bihar.

The Integrated Family Health Initiative (IFHI), a CARE/BMGF project, is working closely with Govt. of Bihar since nearly three years to facilitate these processes, and has agreed to provide support to the proposed cross-learning workshop for the ISSNIP States leadership in Patna, including facilitation of field visits to observe these processes.