



# Health Awareness



For Service Providers 2014  
Tamil Nadu

## Circular No. 13 / 2014

Village Health Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee - Guidelines



**NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION**

State Health Society - TN  
DMS Complex, Chennai

# **Circular No.13 / 2014**

**Roc No: 3543 / P5 / SHS / 2014,  
Dated 24.06.2014**

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*"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission  
can alter the course of history"*

- Mahatma Gandhi

**Sub: Functions of the Village Health Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee -  
Guidelines issued – reg.**

One of the key elements of the National Rural Health Mission is the Village Health, Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHWSNC). As the name suggests this committee is expected to take collective action on issues related to health and its social determinants at the village level. They were particularly envisaged as being central to 'local level community action' under NRHM, which would gradually develop to support the process of Decentralized Health Planning. Thus VHWSNCs are expected to-

- Act as leadership platforms for improving awareness and access of community for Health Services, support the ASHA,
- Develop Village Health Plans, specific to the local needs, and
- Serve as a mechanism to Promote Community Action for Health, particularly for social determinants of health.

In the past, VHWSNCs have been set up at panchayat level across Tamil Nadu. In this second phase of NRHM 2014 - 2017, it is important to incorporate such learning to streamline the functioning of the VHWSNC and support capacity building so that these institutions can emerge as vibrant village level organizations to improve the health status of their communities.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE VHWSNC**

To provide an institutional mechanism for the community to be informed on health programmes and government initiatives and to participate in the planning and implementation of these programmes, leading to better outcomes.

To provide a platform for convergent action on social determinants and all public services directly or indirectly related to health.



To provide an institutional mechanism for the community to voice health needs, experiences and issues with access to health services, such that the institutions of local government and public health service providers can take note and respond appropriately.

To provide support and facilitation to the community health workers – ASHA and other frontline health care providers who have to interface with the community and provide services.

### **VHWSNC AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO GRAM PANCHAYAT**

The VHSNC is to be formed at the level of Gram panchayat. The VHSNC will function under the ambit of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI).

Elected members of the panchayat resident in the village should be enabled to lead.

All those working for health or health related services should be able to participate. The voices of service users of health services- especially of mothers should find place.

There should be a representation from all community sub-groups, especially from poorer more vulnerable sections.

About 50% should be women members and SC/ST sections should be well represented.

All habitations/hamlets should have representation. There is considerable over-lap between these categories- thus a woman with a small child given membership on the committee could be also representative of a distant hamlet and belonging to a marginalized community etc.

### **COMPOSITION OF THE VHSNC**

S.No	Designation	Status
1.	Town Panchayat Chairman	Chairperson In the absence of chairperson the Vice chairman shall act as chairperson of the committee.
2.	Village Health Nurse	Member Secretary
3.	Executive Officer	Member
4.	Health Inspector	Member
5.	SHG women representative to be nominated by the chairperson in rotation for one year	Member Separate person to each committee.
6.	Anganwadi worker to be nominated by Chairperson in rotation for one year If sufficient Anganwadi workers not available elected PRI member to be selected (Ward Councilor)	Member Separate person to each committee.

## **FUNCTIONS OF VILLAGE HEALTH, WATER SANITATION AND NUTRITION COMMITTEE:**

Every village panchayat with the population of upto 1500 can form Village Health, Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee

The Committee should work along with the Development Committee of the Panchayat on matters relating to **Health, Water and Sanitation**.

The Committee can have special invitees as required to enable them to function better and achieve the goals. Special invitees can include other elected representative of the panchayat, including Panchayat Union or District Panchayat, any official connected with the issues, any individuals the Committee decided to invite.

The Committee can form sub-committees as required and include in it special invitees as members.

The Committee should try to have all hamlets represented and covered in its members/special invitees/sub-committees.

The Committee will meet every month and the chairperson may himself /herself all, meeting of the committee any time and on the receipt of such requisition, from the members.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF VILLAGE HEALTH, WATER SANITATION AND NUTRITION COMMITTEE:**

Assessing, analyzing prioritizing and developing area specific health plans for each village/habitations.

Building awareness on key issues on health and determinants of health

Community mobilization.

Community resource mobilization.

Facilitating the delivery of RCH outreach services.

Promoting community involvement in disease prevention activities.

Community monitoring of referral compliance of high risk mother and high risk newborn

Emergency transportation of high risk mother and newborn

Surveillance and notification of communicable disease for organizing control measures.

Promoting family welfare services with special focus to non-scalpel vasectomy.

Ensuring the provision of protected drinking water.



Encouraging the unreached to avail the basic services.

Demand generation for basic services.

Community analyses of causes of infant deaths and maternal deaths and taking necessary action to prevent them.

Contacting medical emergency and referral control room in case of emergencies/arranging for vehicle.

Community surveillance for prevention of female infanticide/foeticide.

Facilitating Birth and Death registration.

Facilitating the identification and distribution of cash benefits to the eligible beneficiaries under Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy maternity benefit scheme, JSY, female child protection scheme etc.,

Facilitating growth monitoring and feeding of ICDS children and ante natal mothers

Full support and follow up to all health interventions and needs in the area.

Community monitoring of utilization of basic services like

- Conduct and utilization of monthly immunization clinics
- Daily water chlorination
- Availability of ORS packets
- Conduct of BCC meetings
- Weighing of new born children
- Regular school attendance of every child Cash benefits to all beneficiaries

#### **VILLAGE HEALTH FUND:**

As a part of NRHM the GOI have provided to each Village Health, Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee Rs. 10000/- annually as Untied grant with the intention to enable local action and ensure that public health activities at the village level receive priority attention.

The fund could be used for any of the following activities:

- For any village level public health activity like cleanliness drive, sanitation drive, school health activities, ICDS, Anganwadi level activities household surveys etc.,
- Emergency transportation of poor patients.
- The untied grant is a resource for community action at the local level and shall only be used for community activities that involved and benefit more than one household.
- Nutrition, Education & Sanitation, Environmental protection, Public Health Measures shall be key areas where these funds could be utilized.
- For emergency transportation of high risk pregnant women and newborn children.

- Every village is free to contribute additional grant towards the Village Health, Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee.
- The united grant is a resource for community action at the local level and shall only be used for community activities that involve and benefit more than one household.
- For creating awareness, Prevention and Control of Vector borne disease such as Dengue, Chinkungunya, Malaria, etc., at the PHCs and Sub-Centres.

#### **MAINTENANCE OF BANK ACCOUNT:**

- The Village Health, Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee fund shall be credited to a bank account to be opened in a Nationalized bank which will be operated with the joint signature of Village Health Nurse and the Chairperson of Village Health, Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee.
- At the district level the fund flow will be from the District Health Society through District Project Manager Unit to the block medical officer and to the Village Health, Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee.
- The Village Health, Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee shall maintain a register of funds received and expenditure incurred. The register shall be inspected from time to time by the Sector Health Nurse Community Health Nurse, PHC Medical Officer and Gram Panchayat

#### **MONTHLY MEETING:**

**Atleast one meeting per month should be conducted.** One third of the members are the quorum for the meeting. Minutes to be recorded properly by the VHN.

#### **REPORTS AND REVIEWS:**

- Every Village Health, Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee needs to maintain updated household survey data to enable need based interventions.
- Village Health, Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee will maintain a register with complete details of activities undertaken, expenditure incurred etc., and produced for public scrutiny whenever required.
- The physical performance and financial report of the VHWS & NC to be reviewed monthly by the concerned PHC medical officer and block PHC medical officer and panchayat.
- Block level panchayat committee will review the functioning and progress of activities undertaken by the Village Health, Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee.
- The District Health Mission shall periodically guide, supervise and review the functions of Village Health, Water Sanitation and Nutrition Committee by developing suitable mechanism.



All the officers are requested to adhere the instructions and submit their report within time – Concerned HOD is requested to ensure whether all the above said instructions are carried out on time.

**Sd/ ...**  
**(Dr.C.N. Mahesvaran)**  
**Mission Director,**  
**National Health Mission-TN.**

To

The All District Collectors  
The Director of Medical Education  
The Director of Medical & Rural Health Services  
The Director of Public Health & Prevention Medicine  
All Joint Directors in the District  
All Deputy Director of Health Services  
Medical Superintendent of Taluk & District Hospitals & Non-Taluk Hospitals  
All Primary Health Center Medical Officers  
Programme Officers and HOD's of Vertical Programme  
Copy Submitted to Secretary to Government  
Health & Family Welfare Department,  
Secretariat, Chennai.