



Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission

CONVERGENCE STRATEGY REPORT

Introduction

The Central and State Governments are spending large amounts for the development of rural areas and improving the living conditions of the people. Several programmes have been launched to achieve these objectives. Many of the programmes planned and executed by different ministries /departments/agencies have almost similar objectives and targeting the same groups/areas. These programmes are for creating employment opportunities, social security measures, providing basic minimum services, building infrastructure and managing land and water resources for sustainable development and thereby alleviating poverty. This strategy is facilitating the village economy to emerge from subsistence to self-sustenance.

In order to use resources efficiently and involve the local governments actively, i.e., to apply the principle of subsidiary in practice, co-existence of horizontal coordination and vertical consolidation are instrumental, where local governments and other planning entities work together and plan development together. They are implementing various rural development programmes through a set of guidelines and by separate set of administrative and institutional mechanisms. In order to facilitate the horizontal planning process at various local governments' level, the tendency to build scheme-specific guidelines needs to be modified to bring uniformity in planning, sanctioning, release of funds, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the programmes. Interestingly, all the guidelines stipulate inter programme coordination and convergence. Broad procedures and processes are similar in many ways in these programmes. But the approval system and implementing agencies are different. In this context, the Ministry of Rural Development has taken a major initiative to converge its various programmes with programmes implemented within the Ministry and other Ministries like agriculture, environment and forest, etc.

Convergence

Convergence at the grassroots implies integrated grassroots planning and implementation. Convergence planning can achieve multiple goals such as maximization of returns from the investment, promotion of public private-community partnerships, sustainable development, meeting the unmet needs of the community and emergence of good governance. The instruments include pooling of resources, both human and capital, transfer of productive and eco-friendly technologies and value addition through provision of backward and forward linkages. The achievement of objectives without compromising on essential conditionalities of the converging programmes will form the bottom line of partnership(s). The discussions would facilitate realization among the stakeholders that convergence approach would help everyone to realize the common goal of poverty reduction and creation of quality and durable assets for PwDs.

Bottom Up approach has been the hallmark of decentralization. On similar lines, participation of PwDs in planning and implementation of MSRLM programmes specifically planned for them will

ensure space to the socially and economically disadvantaged group in the decision making and assigning priorities. Since technical upgradation or introduction of appropriate technologies is envisaged as an integral part of the convergence planning, the characteristics and consequences including risks, if any have to be shared with all the partners. The line departments have to provide technical support in user-friendly manner to the district team.

Initiatives with focus on PwDs in the convergence planning would deserve special attention by all the districts to reach the unreached. Keeping this in view, Action Plan for pilot districts has already been prepared. Majority of the activities are to be performed in convergence with the government departments. Hence convergence with following government departments and organizations needs to be ensured by the MSRLM team members while implementing the planned activities. Few schemes have been listed out under each department;

1. Social Justice and Empowerment department

- i. Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP)
- ii. Post Matric Scholarship for students with disabilities
- iii. Scholarship for top class students with disabilities

2. Health Department

- i. Disability Certificate
- ii. Specialized Health Services
- iii. Corrective Surgery

3. Women & Child Development Department

- i. Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)

4. Education department

- i. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
- ii. Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC)
- iii. Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS)
- iv. Scholarship to class I to VIII standard

5. Rural Development department

- i. Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)
- ii. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MGNREGA)
- iii. Special Projects for Placement Linked Skill Development of Rural Youths under Aajeevika (NRLM)
- iv. Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI)
- v. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)
- iv. Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension
- v. Indira Gandhi National Handicap Pension Scheme
- vi. Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Anudan Yojana

6. Labor and Employment department

- i. Special Employment Exchanges for Physically Handicapped
- ii. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

7. Public Works department

- i. Barrier free built environment
- ii. Construction of accessible toilets

8. Tribal Department

- i. Scheme of coaching for scheduled tribes

9. Youth Affairs & Sports

- i. Scheme of sports and games for the disabled
- ii. National Programme for Youth Adolescent Development (NPYAD)

10. Human Resources Development, Department of Higher Education

- i. Fellowship Schemes of UGC

11. Defence Department

- i. Disability Pension

12. Drinking and Water Sanitation

- i. Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan

13. MSHFDC

- i. Individual Direct Loan Scheme
- ii. Fixed loan scheme (small and medium scale business)
- iii. Vehicle loan scheme for travel business
- iv. Mahila Samruddhi Yojana
- v. Sukshma Patpuravtha Yojana
- vi. Educational Loan Scheme
- vii. Yuva Swavalamban Yojana
- viii. Self Employment scheme for PwDs with mental illness / cerebral palsy / autism
- ix. Financial Assistance scheme for Parents Association of PwDs with mentally retardation
- x. Krushi Sanjeevan / Horticulture Yojana for disabled farmers
- xi. ADIP scheme
- xii. District Disabled Rehabilitation Centre

14. National Institutes

Convergence with National Institutes for disabled is necessary for facilitating the development of human resources and category-wise expert advice to individual PwDs and all other departments.

15. Panchayati Raj Institutions

The Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) play a pivotal role in ensuring the implementation of various social and economic schemes of both Central and State Governments. In addition, being a local self government, they are responsible for generating as well as appropriate use of resources for the people. It is extremely crucial that the issues and interest of PwDs are appropriately addressed by the PRI structure. Only by doing so it is possible to realize proper inclusion of PwDs in the rural society.

Strategy for Convergence

To make the convergence more effective and trend setters, the following suggestions deserve attention of the MSRLM team, State Government Departments and other stakeholders;

1. **Identify the schemes of each department that involve PwDs as target group / beneficiary**
2. **Identifying potential areas/activities/schemes of each department for convergence** - The existing perspective/annual plans of various schemes in the selected area will be studied and discussed in the district/block level consultations of the district team with the concern district / block government department functionaries to address the identified needs.
3. **Social Mobilization/Sensitization** - Disability sensitization programme for the District and block officials of the concerned departments/organizations should be undertaken by the district MSRLM team. A special module/session on 'Attitudes and behavioural change' is necessary to sensitize the functionaries. To make convergence planning more people centric, the activities planned in convergence with the line departments/organizations should be discussed in the Gram Sabhas. This intervention may enable the community to suggest a set of related activities to be taken up in the Gram Sabha which will form the basis for designing of convergence projects with line departments/agencies.
4. **Fund Provision/Mobilization** – As per the plan, the funds required for activities that would be carried out in convergence with the government departments/institutions would be allocated by the concern department/institution. If any activity of the plan that needs to be carried out in convergence and fund provision is not available with the department/ institution, then MSRLM should extend funding for such activities.
5. **District Coordination Team (DCT)** - To make the process of planning, implementation and monitoring more effective, MSRLM has gone for formation of the District Coordination Team. The DCT will develop initial recommended design options for a new disability livelihoods program to begin implementation in 2014-15. This would include options relating to the following:
 - 1) Program design and access to entitlements;
 - 2) Eligibility and assessment processes; and
 - 3) Program communication/requirements (e.g. reporting, awareness generation).

The District Coordination team will assist in recommending a phased approach to implementation with a primary focus on 2014-15 deliverables, but also providing recommendations for 2015- 2018 work, keeping in view the multi-year approach. The District Coordination team will develop a discussion guide on the recommended options, which will be used to gather feedback from the disability community prior to making final

recommendations to the State office by March 31, 2014. The issue of adequacy and benefit levels will be well within the scope of the work of the District Coordination team. The focus of the District Coordination team's work in the first year will be to provide recommended options regarding the design of the new livelihoods program and demonstrate by rolling out as pilot intervention.

Decisions taken by the DCT regarding its work will be based on the support of the majority of members. Minority opinions will be noted on request. DCT will functionally report to District Magistrate administratively and for programmatic report to the MSRLM State office. The activities to be performed by the District Coordination Team is enclosed as Annexure – I and the members constituting the DCT is enclosed as Annexure – II. Functions of DCT is enclosed as Annexure - III

6. **Utilization of Human Resources of other department/organization** - Support of human resource of the concern department would be sort for administrative and technical purpose. Other resources such as medical equipments, medicines, vehicles, available infrastructure etc would be utilized on need basis. MSRLM block and cluster teams would be coordinating with the concern department officials for the activities to be carried out in the field.

Such thematic convergence with the government departments and other government organizations envisaging a variety of tasks to be undertaken by the team in coordination with the departments and organizations is an illustration. This type of convergence interventions would benefit the PwDs for improving their livelihood support systems on a sustainable basis. Several innovative activities would be undertaken for livelihoods of severely disabled persons which would set an example for other districts to replicate.

Annexure I: Responsibilities of District Coordination Team

The District Coordination team will undertake the following activities:

- 1) Provide advice to design implementation program for Inclusion of Person with Disability (PwD) in MSRLM and other government programs.
- 2) Provide guidance for social mobilization, sensitization and capacity building to the field functionaries and promote to form Self Help Groups of PwDs under Village Organization of MSRLM.
- 3) Arranging certification and assessment camp for personal assistive devices.
- 4) Ensuring entitlements/benefits to all eligible PwDs as per government norms.
- 5) Coordinate and assist disability functional assessment with help of MSRLM and their partners.
- 6) Provide advice and input reading models of service delivery for the Livelihoods, skill development and other new program of PwDs.
- 7) Monitor the program activities undertaken for PwD in the block and provide guidance as required.
- 8) Liaison with various agencies for arranging for the assistive devices in consonance with the State Disability Team.
- 9) Make livelihood opportunity assessment in terms of available trades and market.
- 10) Define assessment and eligibility processes for determining who the work-limiting disability population is and design appropriate program with the help of expert wherever required.
- 11) Develop a discussion guide on the recommended options for the disability livelihoods program and plan and facilitate consultations/discussions with the disability community.

Annexure – II: Composition of District Coordination Team Members

Sr.No.	From Govt. departments & Financial Institution	
1.	Chief Executive Officer, Zillah Parishad, Ratnagiri / Yavatmal	Chair person
2.	District Social Welfare Officer, Ratnagiri/ Yavatmal	Member
3.	Block Development Officer, Sangameshwar/ Ratnagiri/ Ghatanji/ Kalamb/ Pandharkavda	Member
4.	Medical Officer In-charge (MOIC), PHC, Sangameshwar/ Ratnagiri/ Ghatanji/ Kalamb/ Pandharkavda	Member
5.	Block Education Officer, Sangameshwar/ Ratnagiri/ Ghatanji/ Kalamb/ Pandharkavda	Member
6.	Child Development Projects Officer, Sangameshwar/ Ratnagiri/ Ghatanji/ Kalamb/ Pandharkavda	Member
7.	Bank representative , Sangameshwar/ Ratnagiri/ Ghatanji/ Kalamb/ Pandharkavda	Member
MSRLM Officials		
1.	District Mission Manager, Ratnagiri/ Yavatmal	Convener
2.	District Manager (SI&IB), Ratnagiri/ Yavatmal	Secretary
3.	District Manager (Livelihoods), Ratnagiri/ Yavatmal	Member
4.	District Manager (Jobs & Skills), Ratnagiri/ Yavatmal	Member
5.	Block Mission Manager- MSRLM, Sangameshwar/ Ratnagiri/ Ghatanji/ Kalamb/ Pandharkavda	Member
6.	NGO representative, Sangameshwar/ Ratnagiri/ Ghatanji/ Kalamb/ Pandharkavda	Member
7.	State Coordinator (Disability)	Permanent Invitee
Representatives from Person with Disability (PwD)		
1.	One Parent Representative of Mentally Challenged, Sangameshwar/ Ratnagiri/ Ghatanji/ Kalamb/ Pandharkavda	Member
2.	One Parent Representative of Multiple Disability, Sangameshwar/ Ratnagiri/ Ghatanji/ Kalamb/ Pandharkavda	Member
3.	4 DPO /VO representatives, Sangameshwar/ Ratnagiri/ Ghatanji/ Kalamb/ Pandharkavda	Member

Annexure III: Functions of DCT

1. Household level survey of PwDs in the blocks completed and all identified PwDs linked with SHGs i.e. Disabled Persons Groups (DPGs) formed.
2. DPGs linked to Village Organizations of MSRLM.
3. All identified children with special needs (CWSN) have been referred for necessary early intervention programme including therapies.
4. Completion of certification of all identified PwDs in the blocks.
5. All PwDs having certificate, received their basic entitlements like scholarship, assistive device, disability pension etc as may be applicable.
6. Functional assessment of identified PwDs completed with ability matrix
7. Capacity building training given to all DPGs.
8. PwDs have been linked with any of the Livelihoods program.
9. Establishing sheltered workshop per block for persons with severe disability.
10. Ensuring setting up therapy centres at the appropriate location in collaboration with the Gram Panchayats