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State Plan of Action for Children (2014-18)

Department of Child Development and Women Development & Social Welfare
Government of West Bengal



सत्यमेव जयते
पश्चिमबङ्ग सरकार

State Plan of Action for Children (2014-18)

October, 2014

**Department of Child Development and Women Development & Social Welfare
Government of West Bengal**

মমতা বানার্জী
মমতা বৈনর্জী
ممتا بنرجی
Mamata Banerjee



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مغربی بنگال وزیراعلیٰ
CHIEF MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

28th October, 2014

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that the Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare will shortly publish the State Plan of Action for Children (2014-2018).

Our State is committed to improve the social and economic condition of our children and ensure their overall well being. This action plan will be a significant step towards that direction.

I wish the initiative all success.

(Mamata Banerjee)

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Message from HMoOS (IC), Child Development and Women Development and Social Welfare, GoWB

West Bengal is home to more than 32 million children. They are our most valued possession; the future of our state. The government is committed towards providing the strongest start possible for our children and ensuring their well-being and safety. There has been significant progress on several fronts for women and children in the state. We have been able to reduce maternal and under-five mortality and have a better performance in comparison to the national average. The SCPCR has been established and Kanyashree Prakalpa, a scheme for the empowerment of adolescent girls has been launched. However, while we take note of our achievements, we all must be deeply concerned by the evidence that we are failing to care for and protect some of our children. Malnutrition and lack of access to basic services like immunisation and health care for the newborns is a matter of concern. Similarly, growing incidence of trafficking of women and children needs special attention. The state has taken a proactive step to address these concerns. The State Plan of Action for Children has been developed by the Department of Child Development and Women Development and Social Welfare; keeping in alignment with the National Policy Children 2013 and priorities of the 12th Five Year Plan. It has been developed in consultation with all other concerned government departments like Health and Family Welfare, School Education, Labour, Planning, Panchayats and Rural Development, Public Health and Engineering, Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education, and Backward Classes Development as well as UNICEF, INGOs, NGOs, and other civil society organisations. It intends to maximize the benefits of various programmes and schemes for the welfare and development of women and children and bring forth better co-ordination and convergence between different departments and development partners.

I hope that through the proper implementation of State Plan of Action for Children, we will be able to achieve and ensure a better and brighter future for our children. Let us hold the hands of our children for some time and their hearts forever.

Shachi Panja

DR. SHASHI PANJA

HON'BLE MINISTER-OF-STATE (INDEPENDENT CH)
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MESSAGE

It is indeed a pleasure and a privilege for me to present the State Plan of Action for Children (SPAC), 2014-2018, for this is a document that re-affirms the West Bengal Government's commitment towards the well-being of its children, and provides a result-oriented actionable framework for improving their status over the next five years.

While the Department of Child Development & Women Development & Social Welfare has, under the guidance of the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary, necessarily taken the lead in the development of the document, this plan is the collective effort of a number of partners, and I take this opportunity to acknowledge their valuable contributions. The State Plan of Action for Children has been collaboratively prepared with inputs from all key Government Departments, and their commitment and actions will be critical to attaining the outcomes defined herein. These include the Departments of Health and Family Welfare, School Education, Labour, Planning, Panchayats & Rural Development, Public Health & Engineering, Minority Affairs & Madrasah Education, and Backward Classes Welfare.

A plan of action that works for the holistic development of children necessarily requires multi-sectoral perspectives and support, and I thank all civil society organizations and partners who have been a part of the consultative process of designing this plan. Special mention must be made of the UNICEF Office for West Bengal, whose technical expertise and support has been crucial in the ideation, formulation and completion of SPAC. And last but not least, I acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the officials of the Department of Child Development and Women Development & Social Welfare and the consultants placed with the Department who have contributed to the preparation of the SPAC.

The current SPAC provides us all tangible goals to work towards, and indicators to measure our progress. Let us all commit, individually and collectively, to work towards achieving these goals in a collaborative manner.

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Message from the Chief, UNICEF Office for West Bengal

The formulation of the State Plan of Action for Children (SPAC) for West Bengal (2014-18) by the Department of Child Development and Women Development & Social Welfare in consultation with line Departments, Civil Society and with Technical support from UNICEF, is a great achievement.

The current SPAC is strategically aligned to the priorities of the revised National Policy for Children (2013) and the National Plan of Action for Children of 2005 (revised in 2013). It is a renewal of commitment, from the highest echelons of Government, to better the situation of women & children of West Bengal.

The Planning Commission and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) emphasizes upon the decentralized implementation of plans of actions and their regular monitoring and evaluation. In response, SPAC for West Bengal has been prepared as a multi-sectoral, actionable document, aligned to the Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) of all key flagship schemes for women and children. It contains measurable and time-bound indicators and outcomes endorsed by the heads of all concerned departments.

Another strength of the current SPAC is that line Departments intend to conduct regular progress reviews and strengthen multi-sectoral implementation of initiatives, in collaboration with civil society partners at state as well as district levels. In the context of the latter, it is commendable that the Government has formulated the District Plan of Action for children (DPAC) for Malda (completed) and Purulia (in progress) with technical support from UNICEF. It is much appreciated that the Department of Child Development and Women Development & Social Welfare has written to all districts for the replication of DPAC across West Bengal.

This processes are landmark achievement for the Government in strengthening accountable governance and promoting equity-focussed, relevant efficient, effective and sustainable programming. They are a move towards fostering greater ownership, amongst duty bearers and rights holders alike, of the goals and objectives of SPAC, thereby bringing us all a step closer to their achievement.

M. Asadur Rahman

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unite for
children



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Acronyms

ADD	Acute Diarrhoeal Disorder
AHTU	Anti Human Trafficking Unit
AI	Additional Inspector of School
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANC	Antenatal Care
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
ARI	Acute Respiratory Infection
ARSH	Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
AWC	Anganwadi Centre
AWW	Anganwadi Worker
BaLA	Building as Learning Aid
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
BEmOC	Basic Emergency Obstetric Care
BPHC	Block Primary Health Centre
BRP	Block Resource Person
CARA	Central Adoption Resource Authority
CCE	Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation
CCI	Child Care Institution
CCIs	Child Care Institutes
CD&WDSW	Child Development and Women Development and Social Welfare
CDPO	Child Development Project Officer
CEmOC	Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care

CHC	Community Health Centre
CII	Confederation of Indian Industry
CLPRA	Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act
CLRC	Circle Level Resource Centre
CRC	Cluster Resource Centre
CRP	Cluster Resource Person
CSR	Child Sex Ratio
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CWSN	Children With Special Needs
DCPS	District Child Protection Society
DH	District Hospital
DI	District Inspector
DIET	District Institute of Education and Training
DSWO	District Social Welfare Officer
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
FIR	First Information Report
FPS	Fair Price Shop
FRU	First Referral Unit
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GoI	Government of India
GoWB	Government of West Bengal
GP	Gram Panchayat
H&FW	Health and Family Welfare
HH	Household
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMIS	Health Management Information System
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme

ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme
IEC	Information Education Communication
IFA	Iron and Folic Acid
IGMSY	Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana
IMNCI	Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness
IMR	Infant Mortality Ratio
INGO	International Non-governmental Organization
IPC	Interpersonal Communication
IPHA	Indian Public Health Association
IPHS	Indian Public Health Standard
ITI	Industrial Training Institutes
IUD	Intrauterine Device
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JJ Act	Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act
JSSK	Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram
JSSY	Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojana
JSY	Janani Suraksha Yojana
KGBV	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya
KSY	Kishori Shakti Yojana
LBW	Low Birth Weight
MCTS	Mother and Child Tracking System
MDM	Mid-Day Meal
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MO	Medical Officer
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
MWCD	Ministry of Women & Child Development

NBA	Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan
NCF	National Curriculum Framework
NCLP	National Child Labour Project
NCPCR	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NER	Net Enrolment Ratio
NGOs	Non Governmental Organization
NHM	National Health Mission
NIC	National Informatics Centre
NNMR	Neonatal Mortality Rate
NPAC	National Plan of Action for Children
NPC	National Policy for Children
NRC	Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre
NRDWP	National Rural Drinking Water Programme
NSSO	National Sample Survey Organisation
NVBDCP	National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme
OBC	Other Backward Class
OCP	Oral Contraceptive Pills
ODF	Open Defecation Free
OOS	Out of School
ORS	Oral Rehydration Solution
ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
PCMA	Prohibition of Child Marriage Act
PCPNDT	Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act
PDS	Public Distribution System
PHC	Primary Health Centre
PHED	Public Health & Engineering Department
PNC	Postnatal Care
POCSO	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act

PPFP	Postpartum Family Planning
PPH	Postpartum Haemorrhage
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
PPTCT	Prevention of Parent To Child Transmission
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
PSE	Pre School Education
PTR	Pupil Teacher Ratio
PWD	Public Works Department
RBSK	Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram
RI	Routine Immunization
RKSK	Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram
RMNCH+A	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child Health plus Adolescents
RMSA	Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan
RSBY	Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
RSM	Rural Sanitary Mart
RTE Act	Right to Education Act
RTI	Reproductive Tract Infection
SABLA	Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls -SABLA
SACS	State AIDS Control Society
SARA	State Adoption Resource Agency
SBCC	Social and Behavioural Change Communication
SC	Sub- Centre
SC	Scheduled Caste
SCERT	State Council of Educational Research and Training
SCPCR	State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
SDP	School Development Plan
SFCAC	Sponsorship and Foster Care Approval Committee
SHG	Self Help Group

SHP	School Health Programme
SI	Sub Inspector of School
SLSA	Sate Legal Services Authority
SMC	School Management Committee
SMDC	School Management and Development Committee
SNCU	Sick New Born Care Unit
SNP	Supplementary Nutrition Programme
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedure
SPAC	State Plan of Action for Children
SPQEM	Scheme for Providing Quality Education In Madrasa
SRS	Sample Registration System
SSA	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
ST	Scheduled Tribe
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
TLM	Teaching Learning Material
TT	Tetanus Toxoid
U5MR	Under-5 (or Under-five?) Mortality Rate
UIP	Universal Immunization Programme
ULB	Urban Local Body
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
VHND	Village Health Nutrition Day
VHSNC	Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee
VLCP	Village Level Child Protection Committee
WB RTE	West Bengal Right to Education Act
WBSPAC	West Bengal State Plan of Action for Children
WIFS	Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation

The future of any nation can be bright if the state invests wisely in children. India is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and its Optional Protocols. The formulation of the National Policy for Children (NPC) (1974) and the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) (2005) is evidence of India’s commitment to recognising and protecting the rights of children. This commitment was further reinforced through the 2013 consultative revision of the NPC and the NPAC.

In addition to this, India has a progressive legal framework to help realise its policy mandates. Over the last decade and a half, India has passed various progressive legislations such as the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act (JJ Act) (of 2000; amended in 2002), established the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

(2005), formulated the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules (2007), and passed the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (2009), and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act (2012). All states have been advised to prepare corresponding state rules for several of these legislations and to set up State Commissions for the Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR). The South Asian Report on the Child-friendliness of Governments (2013), which is based on research carried out in eight South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka), recognises that among these countries, India has achieved the most in establishing an enabling legal and policy framework for children in the region. The challenge now lies in implementing the provisions of these frameworks in an inclusive manner.

Guiding Principles: National Policy for Children (2013) (Endorsing the UNCRC)

- (i) *Every child has universal, inalienable and indivisible human rights.*
- (ii) *The rights of children are interrelated and interdependent, and each one of them is equally important and fundamental to the well-being and dignity of the child.*
- (iii) *Every child has the right to life, survival, development, education, protection and participation.*
- (iv) *Right to life, survival, and development goes beyond the physical existence of the child and also encompasses the right to identity and nationality.*

- (v) *Mental, emotional, cognitive, social and cultural development of the child is to be addressed in totality.*
- (vi) *All children have equal rights and no child shall be discriminated against on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, class, language, and disability, social, economic or any other status.*
- (vii) *The best interest of the child is a primary concern in all decisions and actions affecting the child, whether taken by legislative bodies, courts of law, administrative authorities, public, private, social, religious or cultural institutions.*
- (viii) *Family or family environment is most conducive for the all-round development of children and they are not to be separated from their parents, except where such separation is necessary in their best interest.*
- (ix) *Every child has the right to a dignified life, free from exploitation. Safety and security of all children is integral to their well-being and children are to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect, violence, maltreatment and exploitation in all settings including care institutions, schools, hospitals, crèches, families and communities.*
- (x) *Children are capable of forming views and must be provided a conducive environment and the opportunity to express their views in any way they are able to communicate, in matters affecting them.*
- (xi) *Children's views are to be heard in all matters affecting them, in particular judicial and administrative proceedings and interactions, and their views given due consideration in accordance with their age, maturity and evolving capacities.*

In acknowledgement of India's emphasis on child rights and child-centred concerns, another notable change over the last few years has been the increase in allocations for children in the Union Budget, which rose by 8.7 per cent between 2012 and 2013 (Budget for Children 2013-14, HAQ: Centre for Child Rights). Nationally, there is also an emphasis on results-based planning, programming, monitoring, and effective management of schemes and programmes aimed at women and children. Greater decentralisation of funds, functions and functionaries, coupled with improved governance and accountability mechanisms to achieve equitable outcomes for human development have been prioritised just as much as has been the need for an increased growth rate for the country.

Despite these constructive developments at the national level, the effective, efficient, and equitable delivery of key services in the social sector and the achievement of child-centred outcomes remain underachieved. While social sector budgets have increased, the monies are still to be optimally utilised at the national and state levels. Governance related challenges—such as the need for adequately trained human resources, greater investments in infrastructure, especially for marginalised or last-mile communities and groups, and the need for research and evaluation to improve existing interventions—remain to be addressed.

The revised National Policy for Children (2013) reflects a paradigm shift from a “need-based”

to a “rights-based” approach. It emphasises that the state is committed to take affirmative measures—legislative, policy, or otherwise—to promote equal opportunities for all children, and to safeguard their rights to live and grow with equity, dignity, security, and freedom. In alignment with the 2013 NPC, the modified and streamlined NPAC (2013) attempts to build on this commitment and aims at effectively responding to the broader challenges outlined above.

West Bengal’s State Plan of Action for Children (SPAC) (2014-18) has been prepared in alignment with the priorities of the revised NPC and NPAC and takes into account the unfinished agenda of the 11th Five Year Plan as well as the priorities outlined in the 12th Five Year Plan of India. The State Plan prioritises the holistic and life-cycle based approach to achieve overall child development. It aims at facilitating the reduction of inequity in service provision and the inclusion of all vulnerable and excluded children—especially the girl child—under the ambit of government programmes. It lays especial focus on adolescents and views their growth and development as a crucial investment in the nation’s youth and its future. In order to attain this goal, the State Plan also seeks to capacitate and strengthen institutions at the state, district, and local levels in promoting, protecting and fulfilling children’s rights. It aspires to facilitate improved

functioning of government flagship schemes that cater to women and children through improved decentralisation and monitoring, especially in emphasising the role of the state, district, and sub-district review mechanisms. Finally, the State Plan is especially focussed on empowering communities and families and increasing their role and involvement in local level committees and processes related to Panchayati Raj Institutions.

In alignment with the revised National Policy for Children, the key priority areas for the State Plan of Action for Children for West Bengal (2014-18) are:

- i. Survival and Health
- ii. Childcare and Nutrition
- iii. Development and Education
- iv. Protection
- v. Participation
- vi. Advocacy and Partnerships
- vii. Inter-sectoral Convergence
- viii. Research, Documentation, and Capacity Building
- ix. Monitoring and Evaluation

Over and above the Government of West Bengal’s adherence to the national guidelines for the consultative formulation of SPAC (based on priorities of the NPAC and the 12th Five Year Plan), the state government has also set

up the SCPCR and prepared the State Rules for Right to Education (RTE) in 2012. Additionally a State Policy for Women for West Bengal was formulated in 2013. Simultaneously, the state government has also undertaken capacity building of SCPCR members and stakeholders involved with implementing the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act of 2012.

Important Welfare Schemes for Children

- *National Health Mission*
- *Integrated Child Development Services*
- *Janani SurakshaYojana*
- *Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram*
- *Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahayog Yojana*
- *Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram*
- *Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram*
- *Integrated Child Protection Scheme*
- *Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls – SABLA*
- *Kishori Shakti Yojana*
- **UJJAWALA:** *Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking for Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-Integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation*
- *Sarva Shiksha Mission*
- *Mid-Day Meal*
- *Madhyamik Shiksha Mission*
- *Short Term Vocational Training (S.T.V.T.)*
- *Kanyashree Prakalpa*
- *Scholarships/infrastructure from departments of Backward Classes Welfare, Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education, and Mass Education Extension and Library Services*

Methodology of Preparation of the State Plan of Action for Children

The Department of Child Development and Women Development and Social Welfare, GoWB, is the nodal department for the formulation of the State Plan of Action for Children. Based on the guidance received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India (GoI), the SPAC for West Bengal was formulated through a consultative and participatory process and in alignment with the priorities mentioned in the NPAC matrix shared by the GoI. The SPAC for West Bengal was then finalised by the Department of Child Development and Women Development and Social Welfare based on the active participation and feedback of key line departments including that of Health and Family Welfare, School Education, Panchayats and Rural Development, and Public Health and Engineering. It also involved several other departments including the Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department, and incorporated crucial technical inputs from UNICEF. Contributions from civil society organisations were also solicited and have been incorporated.