

bhavis̥hyavani

A Monthly Newsletter of Bhavishya Alliance

15th June 2007

Whats In...

Updates June'2007

- Progress report for June'2007
- 25th May Bhavishya Alliance Gathering
- Introducing a new staff

Welcome Sangeeta...



Sangeeta Dasmohapatra joined Bhavishya Alliance as Program Officer on 16th May'07. She holds a Post Graduate degree in Rural Development (Specialisation- Project Management) from Xavier Institute of Social Service and has been working on various issues in the Rural as well as the urban setting since seven years. In Bhavishya Alliance she will be a communication link between the coreteam and partners and her other duties will include Project scoping and Documentation.

If you have any feedback, suggestions or contributions, feel free to write to Sangeeta Dasmohapatra at sangeetadm@yahoo.com Mobile: +919821421554

Progress Report for June 2007

June 2007 was a busy month for the partners in the Alliance, with Teams firming up the initiatives and progress shown on other fronts, too. The following paragraphs summarize the progress.

1. The Baseline Survey:

This is in progress in Mokhada, Peth and Dharni Blocks of Thane, Nasik and Amravati Districts; and in L Ward in Mumbai. Dr. Shobha Udipi of the Department of Food and Nutrition at SNTD University, Mumbai is in charge of the process. Data collection has been completed in Thane and Nasik. A draft report is expected by the second week of July 2007.

2. Village Level Microplanning:

The process had been completed earlier in Nandurbar, and some villages in Amravati. YASHADA has completed the data entry for these two districts, and is presently working with the District Administration to act upon the results. The process has now been completed in Mokhada in Thane, Peth in Nasik and Mulchera in Gadchiroli Districts. Data entry is presently in progress. Funds have been identified for Microplanning in Dhanora in Gadchiroli (from the HDI Mission), and for Surgana in Nasik (from the Department for Women and Children); work is yet to commence. There has been no progress with Jawhar in Thane. In the L Ward in Mumbai, micro-planning has been completed in 8 out of 13 Health Posts.

3. Strengthening Supply Chain Management of the Health Sector and ICDS:

Over a 4 month period, a detailed study has been completed in Nasik District, by Business Leadership Trainees of HLL. Recommendations have been made for improving the systems at the District Level and at the PHC Level. These have been accepted by the Government, and permission is now awaited from the Government to commence work with a computer software for further strengthening the systems.

4. Home based Fortification of Food:

A proposal to fortify food given to children aged 6 months – 3 years, at the home level, has been submitted to GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition). The fortificant will be Sprinkles™, which is a multivitamin powder with Iron, Vitamin A, Zinc and Folic Acid. The program will be implemented in the Bhavishya pilot blocks through the ICDS, and in addition, Sprinkles will be available for sale through the SHGs in the area.

Progress Report June 2007 cont...

5. A campaign to promote hand washing:

Bhavishya partners are working with HLL to utilize their campaign "Swasthya Chetna" program in 200 villages of Akkalkua and Dhadgaon Blocks of Nandurbar district. The program will work with the volunteers trained under UNICEF's Microplanning process to promote use of safe water and hand washing among village communities. School children will also be involved in the process. The program is due for a roll out in the last week of July 2007.

6. Promoting nutritious recipes at the Anganwadi level:

Bhavishya is working with the Taj Group of Hotels to promote the preparation of a range of nutritious recipes in Anganwadis. The pilot will commence in L Ward in Mumbai. Anganwadi workers and Supervisors will be trained in the process. In addition, a film on nutritious recipes for children is planned to be prepared and screened on the television, to reach larger numbers of people.

7. Capacity Building of the Health and ICDS Sector:

This initiative is being planned by the ICICI Team, in association with the Government, UNICEF and other Partners. Capacity building programs are being planned for the Anganwadi Workers and ANMs, as well as for Program Managers of the Health Sector and ICDS. In addition, capacity building of the trainers at Anganwadi Training Centers is being planned. The ICICI Team is in the process of setting up a Resource Group to plan the capacity building programs.

8. Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres

More than 15,000 children in the state of Maharashtra are severely malnourished (In grade III and Grade IV). The pilot initiatives has been taken up in those blocks which are among the worst affected ones in terms of malnutrition. Primarily the nutrition rehabilitation centers would reach out to almost 600 worst effected children, those who are severely malnourished and empower around 6000 mothers. We are proposing to start with 15 NRCs (2 per block) and 5 for the urban areas, each center with 30-40 children. BA partners have begun in Nasik and Amravati.

9. Girls Gaining Ground

Nike Foundation has made a grant to BA through Synergos Institute to develop with its partners and pilot a low-cost and replicable girls' component within a larger, comprehensive child malnutrition program in India. The girls' component will test whether investing in girls' empowerment, knowledge of and access to government programs/services, and nutrition/health education before girls have children can affect the health of their children, rates of girls' anemia, age at the time of first pregnancy, age of marriage, and retention rates of girls in school. BA will begin a two month exercise of scoping the current programs in Maharashtra.

Bhavishya Alliance Gathering- 25th May 2007



Sharing and reflections by lab team members

The Bhavishya Alliance began more than a year ago with the advent of the Maharashtra Change lab. The lab ended in June 2006 and our gathering on May 25th held in Belapur, Navi Mumbai marks a day for the Lab Team Participants, Champions and other partners to come together to learn from and share with each other the learnings in the past year.

The goals were to:

- Strengthen the Alliance.
- Get an insight into what has been happening post lab- for the issue and also for each other.
- Deepen the reflective space to understand what could be the role one could play in the current context.

24 partners representing the organisations- Vachan, Tata Teleservices, RSCD, ICDS, Dr. M L Dhawale Memorial Trust, Micronutrient Initiative, Aga Khan Health Services, SNEHA, Chetna, PFI, MAHAN, GMC, RJMCHN Mission, UNICEF and Sraddha attended the meeting.



Ujjwal Uke, Commissioner, ICDS discussing role of Bhavishya Alliance

Sharing and Discussion

The progress on different activities and events was shared which included a general overview, progress in the rural, urban progress, corporate engagement, baseline survey, supply chain management, and the development of a 'Nutrition and Development Home' by Vachan as an example

of NGO-Government partnership and actions taken by ICDS based on ideas that emerged in discussions with BA.

Discussions evolved around issues in partnership, involving lab members, best practices of other organisations, need for strengthening database, developing mechanism to measure impact, monitoring and evaluation tool, documentation, sharing of initiatives and strengths of organisations which can be helpful.

Bhavishya Alliance continues to evolve. Following way forward were suggested by the members:

Way Forward For Bhavishya Alliance

- Utilise the skills, collective wisdom and time of Lab team members to take things forward.
- Define roles of members; establish systems for overseeing of roles to ensure accountability.
- Prepare database of best practices, existing initiatives, study lab teams work, match individuals, local strengths and involve members.
- Quarterly meetings need to be more productive with regard to decisions on action steps. Governing council and trustees to participate in these meetings.
- Revisit the ideas, complaints and suggestions given in the lab process.
- Documentation, baseline data, logical framework of outcomes, monitoring and evaluation tools needs to be put in place. Also measurable indicators, strategy and plan of action to be defined.
- Develop mechanisms for improving external and internal communication.
- Strengthening its role as a catalyst in the tri-sectoral partnership. Ensure partners align, have concrete plans and responsibility. Also expand the forum by including more people and organisation.
- Guiding principles to work as a group and MOU between partners to be developed.

Thought Of The Month

"In a line that never ends, come an army of Bhavishya friends, and they jabber, and they chatter, and they tell what the matter is with you!!"