

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Qn1. What does the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) seeks to provide ?

Ans. NRHM seeks to provide effective health care to the rural population, especially the disadvantaged groups including women and children, by improving access, enabling community ownership and demand for services, strengthening public health systems for efficient service delivery, enhancing equity and accountability and promoting decentralization.

Qn2 Does NRHM covers the entire country ?

Ans. The NRHM covers the entire country, with special focus on 18 States where the challenge of strengthening poor public health systems and thereby improving key health indicators is the greatest.

Qn3 Which are the focus states under NRHM?

Ans The States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura are covered under NRHM.

Qn4. What does NRHM basically means and what are the programmes covered under this?

Ans The NRHM is basically a strategy for integrating ongoing vertical programmes of Health & Family Welfare and addressing issues related to the determinants of Health like Sanitation, Nutrition and Safe Drinking Water.

Qn5 What are the key National health programmes covered under NRHM?

Ans NRHM subsumes key national programmes, namely, the Reproductive and Child health II project (RCH II), the National Disease Control Programmes (NDCP) and the Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP).

Qn6. What are the core strategies of NRHM?

Ans The core strategies of NRHM include, decentralized village and district level health planning and management, appointment of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) to facilitate access to health services, strengthening the public health service delivery infrastructure, particularly at village, primary and secondary levels, mainstreaming AYUSH, improved management capacity

to organize health systems and services in public health, emphasizing evidence based planning and implementation through improved capacity and infrastructure, promoting the non-profit sector to increase social participation and community empowerment, promoting healthy behaviours and improving intersectoral convergence.

Qn 7. Does it include private sector regulation?

Ans The supplementary strategies of NRHM include regulation of the private sector to improve equity and reduce out of pocket expenses, foster public-private partnerships to meet national public health goals, reorienting medical education, introduction of effective risk pooling mechanisms and social insurance to raise the health security of the poor and taking full advantage of local health traditions.

Qn8. Who heads the steering group for NRHM?

Ans The Mission Steering Group under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare will provide policy guidance and operational oversight at the National level.

Qn9. Are state government's key stakeholders in this? What is their role?

Ans The State Governments have been part of the Stakeholder Consultations for finalization of the strategy of the Mission.

Qns10. Who issues the guidelines for NRHM ?

Ans The NRHM provides broad operational framework for the Health Sector. Suggestive guidelines are being issued on key interventions like ASHA, Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), institutional deliveries, immunization, preparation of District Action Plan, role of Panchayati Raj Institutions etc.

Qn11. Which are the other related departments for implementing NRHM?

Ans The NRHM is being launched as a framework of partnership among Government of India, related Departments of the Government, especially Departments of Women & Child Development, Drinking Water Supply, Panchayati Raj and Development of North Eastern Region State Governments, Panchayat Raj Institutions, NGOs and private health providers.

Qn12. What is ASHA

Ans ASHA will be a health activist in the community who will create awareness on health and its social determinants and mobilize the community towards local health planning and increased utilization and accountability of the existing health services.

Qn13. What are Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS)?

Ans These are a set of standards envisaged to improve the quality of health care delivery in the country under the National Rural Health Mission.

Qn14. On whose recommendations is the task force constituted?

Ans Task Group under the Director General of Health Services was constituted to recommend the Health Standards. The IPHS is based on its recommendations.