No. EDN-SE (10) F (13) 03/2026
Directorate of School Education
Himachal Pradesh

Dated: Shimla-171001 the July, 2026

To

All the Deputy Directors of School Education (Secondary/Elementary)
Himachal Pradesh.

Subject:- **(1)Joint Advisory on Inter-Departmental Convergence for the Implementation and Strengthening of Family, Nutrition, Health and WASH (FNHW) & General Activities in the State of Himachal Pradesh.**

(2) Minutes of the Joint meeting of Line Departments conducted under Food Nutrition Health Wash (FNHW) & Gender held on 13/5/2026 at RDD HQ and sharing the Joint advisory of HPSRLM with DoWCD/ICDS, DoEE, DoHE, DoH and DoNHM, H.P. with a focus on Nutrition and Gender.

Memo;

Please find enclosed herewith two copies of letter No. HPSRLM-B012 (05)/1/2025-NRLM-12/6-20 dated 9th July, 2026 received from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, H.P. State Rural Livelihood Mission, Rural Development Department, Shimla, H.P, on the subject cited above.

In this context, you are requested to examine the contents of the aforesaid letters and circulate the same to all the Heads of schools under your jurisdiction for necessary compliance. Further, it shall be ensured that:-

- Adequate availability of sanitary napkins and functional WASH facilities is maintained in schools for adolescent girls.
- Awareness activities relating to nutrition, health, hygiene, menstrual hygiene management, and gender sensitization are conducted through teachers and School Management Committees (SMCs).
- Engaging HPSRLM cadres in livelihood-related activities, such as school toilet cleanliness, campus gardening etc.
- SMCs may be advised to involve HPSRLM cadres during Bag-Free Days and schedule interactive sessions on child-centric themes, including nutrition, health, hygiene, life skills, and other relevant topics.

Addl. Director School Education
Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. Even dated Shimla-171001 the July, 2026
Copy for information and necessary action to:-

1. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer , H.P State Rural Livelihood Mission, Rural Development Department, H.P., Shiml-9.
2. The Nodal Officer-IT Cell, Directorate of School Education, H.P, Shimla-1 with the remarks to upload the same on departmental website.
3. Guard file.

Directorate of School Education
21 JUL 2026
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171001

Addl. Director School Education
Himachal Pradesh

HPSRLM-B012(05)/1/2025-NRLM – 12176-20
HP State Rural Livelihood Mission
Rural Development Department, Himachal Pradesh

To

1. Director, Women & Child Care, Himachal Pradesh
2. Director, Health & Family Welfare, Himachal Pradesh
3. Mission Director, National Health Mission, Himachal Pradesh
4. Director, Higher Education, Himachal Pradesh
5. Director, Elementary Education, Himachal Pradesh

Dated: Shimla-171009 9th July, 2026

Subject: **Joint Advisory on Inter-Departmental Convergence for the Implementation and Strengthening of Family, Nutrition, Health and WASH (FNHW) & Gender Activities in the State of Himachal Pradesh – Reg.**

Madam/Sir,

Himachal Pradesh continues to face few challenges in the areas of nutrition, health, sanitation, safety and overall well-being of women, children, and adolescent girls. Despite the implementation of several flagship programmes and schemes, the desired outcomes in the reduction of malnutrition, anaemia, and related health indicators remain a priority area requiring intensified, coordinated action.

In recognition of the multidimensional nature of these challenges, the Government of India's joint advisory of January 2018 had clearly articulated the need for Inter-Ministerial convergence across the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), and the National Health Mission (NHM). Improved outcomes are achievable only when Departments pool their resources, capacities, and outreach networks towards a unified purpose.

The Food, Nutrition, Health, and WASH (FNHW)& Gender activities framework is one such structured mechanism that enables community-level action on health, nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, safety through convergent delivery. The implementation of FNHW& Gender activities requires the active, coordinated, and sustained participation of the following four Departments of H.P: (i) Rural Development (NRLM), (ii) Health and Family Welfare, (iii) Women and Child Development,(iv) National Health Mission (NHM) and (v) Education(Higher &Elementary).

This Joint Advisory is therefore issued to formally establish the roles, responsibilities, and collaborative modalities among these five Departments for the effective implementation of FNHW& Gender activities across the State.

Sml Ratwi
14/07/2026

I. Departmental Roles under FNHW & Gender Activity Framework

The following table summarises the key responsibilities of each participating Department:

Sr. No.	Department	Implementation
1	**Department of Rural Development (NRLM)**	Ensure mobilisation of Self Help Groups (SHGs), Village Organisations (VOs), and Cluster Federations for FNHW awareness and community action and reporting at grassroot level. Formation of Gender Resource Centre at Bock level is mandate for the safety of the rural women and children. Utilisation of DAY-NRLM platform for community-level behaviour change communication (BCC). Share consolidated monthly activity calendar and intervention areas with departments; facilitate coordination meetings at District & Block level.
2	**Department of Health and Family Welfare (NHM)**	Strengthening health service delivery at the community level through ASHAs and ANMs, conducting Village, Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs), maternal and child health monitoring, home visits, vaccination,institutional delivery, and referral of Severely Acute Malnourished (SAM) children to PHC's. Also, ASHA/ ANMs should occasionally participate in the CLF meetings of SHG. Community mobilization for health camps and programmes, awareness generation, support in VHSNDs and health-related campaigns
3	**Department of Women and Child Development (ICDS)**	Share IEC material, activity calendar, and departmental hierarchy; issue directions to field staff for coordination with HPSRLM.Tie up with the One - stop centre and the Gender Resource Centre if any case requires more assistance/shelter and technical help. Growth monitoring of children under 5 years at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), supplementary nutrition, promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, tracking of malnourished children, etc.
4	**Department of Education (Higher & Elementary)**	Integration of nutrition, hygiene, and WASH messages in school curricula and programmes; ensuring availability of sanitary napkins and WASH facilities in schools for adolescent girls; supporting awareness activities through teachers and school management committees.Livelihood can be generated if HPSRLM cadre is paced in schools for toilets cleanliness, gardening etc. Letter to SMC's for HPSRLM cadre to be part of Bag free Day and to schedule a session by our cadre on specific topics pertaining to Children

II. Modalities for Convergence

All the Departments mentioned above are hereby advised to adopt the following modalities to ensure effective and sustained convergence in FNHW & Gender activity implementation:

a) Convergence through Village, Health, Sanitation, and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs):

The VHSND platform shall be utilised as the primary community-level convergence point for all four Departments. VHSNDs shall include registration of pregnant and lactating women, growth monitoring, immunisation, nutrition counselling, WASH awareness, and dissemination of government scheme benefits. SHG members, VOs, and Cluster Federations under NRLM shall actively participate in VHSNDs to maximise community reach. Field functionaries – ASHAs, ANMs, and AWWs – shall maintain regular coordination and cross-inform community groups of upcoming VHSND events.

b) Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) and Community Awareness:

Contextualised and locally adapted IECmaterials developed under ICDS, NHM, and NRLM shall be shared across all four Departments for wider dissemination. Information on exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, hand hygiene, safe water usage, institutional deliveries, anaemia prevention, adolescent health, rights and entitlements of women, safety and security of women (GRC and One - Stop Centre) shall be regularly communicated through SHG meetings, school programmes, and Anganwadi Centres. Indigenous community knowledge channels, such as local cultural events, street plays, and community gatherings, shall be leveraged by field functionaries to amplify health and nutrition messages.

c) Monitoring and Management of Nutritional Status:

All four Departments shall maintain an integrated monitoring mechanism at the village and block level. SHGs and VOs shall coordinate with ASHAs to track families of children discharged from hospitals and support their continued linkage of livelihood programmes.

d) Common Use of Infrastructure:

Panchayat buildings, community centres, Anganwadi Centres, and school premises shall be used as shared infrastructure for conducting joint meetings, FNHW training sessions, VHSNDs, Gender Resource Centre and awareness events. This will minimise resource duplication and enhance community visibility of convergence efforts.

e) Promoting Livelihoods for Women's Collectives through FNHW Integration:

Under the NRLM framework, Women's SHGs and VOs shall be encouraged to engage in nutrition-supportive livelihood activities such as the supply of vegetables, eggs, milk, and Take-Home Rations under ICDS. Supply of sanitary napkins to schools for adolescent girls shall also be explored through women's self-help collectives, ensuring both livelihood opportunities and improved health outcomes.

f) Role of Education Department in FNHW Activities:

The Education Department shall actively embed FNHW messages into school-based health and life skills programmes. Teachers and School Management Committees (SMCs) shall collaborate with AWWs and ASHAs to identify out-of-school children, particularly girls, and link them to relevant nutrition and health services. WASH facilities, including functional toilets, handwashing stations, and

provision of sanitary napkins, shall be ensured in all government schools under the Department's purview.

III. Joint Monitoring and Reporting

All the Departments shall monitor the progress of FNHW activities under their respective frameworks and submit monthly progress reports. A Joint Review Meeting of all four Departments shall be convened at the State level on a quarterly basis to review progress, address inter-departmental bottlenecks, and initiate corrective action. The CEO/Deputy CEO/ Chairman of the Committee, shall chair these review meetings.

All Departments are requested to take note of the above advisory and initiate immediate action for implementation, as well as designate a nodal officer for FNHW convergence activities. The details of the designated nodal officers may be communicated to this office at the earliest.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer
H.P State Rural Livelihood Mission
Rural Development Department, Shimla H.P
Telephone No. 0177-2629900, 2626400

HPSRLM-B012(05)/1/2025-NRLM - 1216-20
HP State Rural Livelihood Mission
Rural Development Department, Himachal Pradesh

From:

Chief Executive Officer
HP State Rural Livelihood Mission

Rural Development Department
Himachal Pradesh Shimla-171009

To

1. Director, Women & Child Care, Himachal Pradesh
2. Director, Health & Family Welfare, Himachal Pradesh
3. Director, National Health Mission, Himachal Pradesh
4. Director, Higher Education, Himachal Pradesh
5. Director, Elementary Education, Himachal Pradesh

Dated: 9th July, 2026 Shimla

Subject: **Forwarding of Minutes of the Joint meeting of Line Departments conducted under Food Nutrition Health Wash (FNHW) & Gender held on 13/05/2026 at RDD HQ and sharing the Joint advisory of HPSRLM with DoWCD/ICDS, DoEE, DoHE, DoH and DoNHM, H.P with a focus on Nutrition and Gender-regarding.**

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2026, on the subject cited above along with a copy pf the Joint Advisory to bring convergent efforts in NHM, Education, Health, WCD/ICDS and HPSRLM for improving nutritional outcomes. For information and further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Deputy Chief Executive Officer
H.P State Rural Livelihood Mission
Rural Development Department, Shimla H.P
Telephone No. 0177-2629900, 2626400

Smt Ritu J.
14/07/2026

Minutes of the Joint Meeting of Line Departments under Food, Nutrition, Health & WASH (FNHW) and Gender

Date: 13/05/2026
Venue: RDD Headquarters
Chairperson: CEO-HPSRLM (Virtual Mode)

- The Joint Meeting of Line Departments under Food, Nutrition, Health & WASH (FNHW) and Gender was held on 13/05/2026 at RDD Headquarters under the chairmanship of CEO-HPSRLM, who joined the meeting virtually.
- The meeting commenced with a warm welcome address by the SPM-Social Development, HPSRLM, who welcomed all representatives from the Line Departments and participants present during the meeting.
- The following State Resource Persons (SRPs) also joined the meeting virtually:
  - Ms. Bhavita-DFM, DRDA Solan
  - Mr. Yaseen-AC, Block Tissa
  - Ms. Dimple-AC, Block Rajgarh
- Thereafter, a detailed presentation was delivered by the SPM-Social Development, HPSRLM. The presentation commenced with an overview of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission and its objectives, followed by a detailed explanation on the functioning and interventions under Food, Nutrition, Health & WASH (FNHW) and Gender.
- During the presentation, emphasis was laid on the convergence approach being adopted with various Line Departments for effective implementation of FNHW and Gender interventions at the grassroots level through community institutions and cadre under HPSRLM.
- It was further highlighted that the development of FNHW Immersion Sites shall be the next key focus area under the initiative, aimed at demonstrating best practices and strengthening community-led interventions in the identified thematic areas.
- The meeting proceeded with detailed discussions and deliberations regarding departmental convergence, coordination mechanisms, and future action points for implementation of FNHW and Gender-related activities across the State.

Key Points Discussed in the meeting: -

1. During the discussion with the Line Departments, it was informed that this Core Committee at the State Level has been formed under Food, Nutrition, Health & WASH (FNHW) and Gender to strengthen coordination and convergence.

2. The SPM- SD also outlined the expectations and the mutual works which are already being performed by NRLM cadre and other department staff at grass root level should be coordinated and implementation together.

3. IEC material of the line departments such as, WCD, NHM, Education needs to be shared with HPSRLM for convergence purpose and to reach every HH.

4. Hierarchy of the converged departments needs to be shared with HPSRLM so that we know where and to whom the information should be shared.

6. The Department of Health-NHM, WCD requested support from CRP-HNGs in mobilizing communities for gatherings, programme, and events organized by the department, as mobilizing adequate participation remains a major challenge for the Line Departments.

7. Month wise activity shall be shared by all the departments for which an empty calendar has been shared with all of them by us.

8. The concerned departments are requested to issue formal instructions to their respective field functionaries at all levels, directing them to actively coordinate and collaborate with the HPSRLM cadre and Block-level staff. This

ordination should be aligned with the identified Focused Nutrition, Health, and WASH (FNHW) intervention areas, ensuring convergence of efforts, optimal resource utilization, and effective implementation of activities at the grassroots level.

9. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by SPM-SD, HPSRLM. It was also proposed that the next meeting be held in the forthcoming quarter. frame as joint advisory in tabular form specifying the department wise convergence with HPSRLM.

List of Participants who attended the Meeting

Sr. No.	Name of the Participant	Designation	Department
1.	Mr. Sachin Kanwal	CEO-HPSRLM	HPSRLM
2.	Dr. Poonam Sandhu	Deputy Director	Health Services
3.	R.K Sharma	DCFA	HPSRLM
4.	Dr. Nirupama Gupta	Asst. Director	Education
5.	Ms. Rekha Devi	BDO-cum-PO	HPSRLM
6.	Ms. Vandana	Nodal IT	Education
7.	Ms. Anjana Dhiman	-	Education
8.	Dr. Tanya Sharma	Consultant	NHM
9.	Mr. Ajay Sharma	Suptd G-I	Higher Education
10.	Mr. Lal Chand	JOA (IT)	Higher Education
11.	Mr. Vineet Agnihotri	Consultant	WCD
12.	Dr. Parul Sharma	SPO	NHM
13.	Ms. Nirmla Chauhan	SPM	HPSRLM
14.	Ms. Minakshi Sharma	DPM	HPSRLM
15.	Ms. Ashmita Thakur	SRP-SD	Block Dhanotu
16.	Ms. Mamta Thakur	CO	HPSRLM