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Government of India
Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
NULM Division

215B, Nirman Bhawan,
New Delhi, dtd.27th September 2018

To,
The Mission Directors, SULM
All States/UTs

Subject: Advisory on formation of informal sanitation workers' SHGs and allocation of targets by States

I am directed to refer to the subject cited above and to say that there are certain occupations prevalent in Indian cities wherein the conditions of work are particularly hazardous, threatening the life and health of workers. These vulnerable occupations include sanitation sector workers, construction labour, cycle-rickshaw pullers, and many others involving manual labour in harsh conditions with serious health consequences. Particularly with respect to manual scavengers, rag pickers and other informal sanitation workers, there is an urgent need to ensure that DAY-NULM benefits are made available and a pathway out of poverty is provided. States are advised to ensure that these communities are brought into the fold of DAY-NULM.


2. SHGs of informal sanitation workers and other vulnerable occupations may be formed as per the following guidelines -

1. States are advised to allocate targets for formation and support to SHGs of informal sanitation workers and other vulnerable occupation groups, with the minimum target being 10% of the State's annual group formation target. ULB wise targets may be fixed by States as per the local population engaged in vulnerable occupations.
2. Target allocation would be done annually, with the aim to cover 100% of the population of informal sanitation workers and the urban poor in other vulnerable occupations in all ULBs where DAY-NULM is active, by 2022.
3. Appropriate number of Community Organizers (CO) and/or Resource Organizations (ROs) may be dedicated to working with vulnerable occupation groups
4. The details of SHGs of informal sanitation workers and other vulnerable occupation groups may be entered in the DAY-NULM MIS. A drop-down menu is available in the MIS for entering the sector of livelihoods activity of SHGs, with an additional drop-down menu for sub-sectors within sanitation work. These details may be updated promptly for all groups of sanitation workers.

5. SHGs of informal sanitation workers and other vulnerable occupation groups may include male members as per the revised Social Mobilization and Institutional Development (SMID) guidelines.
6. The groups must be federated into registered Area Level Federations (ALFs) following the usual processes as per the DAY-NULM guidelines. ULBs may decide the minimum number of groups for an ALF based on local conditions.
7. States may offer the benefits available to vulnerable occupation groups in convergence with other welfare programs of the central and state government departments.

3. It is, therefore, requested that necessary action may kindly be taken at the earliest.

Your sincerely,


(Niraj Kumar)
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