

## **Deliver Now /White Ribbon Alliance GUIDELINES FOR ORGANISING PUBLIC HEARINGS AT DISTRICT LEVEL**

WRA-Orissa in collaboration with WRA India is advocating for delivery of quality health services and sensitizing community to demand quality health services in order to establish a responsive health delivery mechanism. Deliver Now Campaign for Mother + Child is a global campaign being rolled out in 12 districts of Orissa. The campaign aims at

- Build political commitment and accountability for improved health services,
- Create community demand for action
- Engage media to act as public watchdogs/ raising media awareness

A Public Hearing is a process in which interested parties/ stakeholders and any other persons who may be affected by the result have the opportunity to make submissions, ask questions or register objections to a development application or other matter. A Public Hearing body is comprised of elected officials or citizen members, facilitators, women, ANMs/ AWWs, community members and all those who are directly or indirectly involved or affected by the issue

Organizing public hearings is a major component of the Deliver Now campaign in Orissa and a sequence of activities with details thereto, is as follows-

### **Pre-Public Hearing -**

#### **1. Use of check list**

District level orientation for all block level partners will be organized to build their capacities for using of checklists and ensuring proper collection of both quantitative and qualitative information pertaining to maternal and child health situation of the district. Two sub-centers from each block and one PHC from the block will be covered. The district coordinating agency will use the checklist to gather information of the district head quarter hospital and collect the secondary information available. The checklists will be collected and information will be compiled at the district level.

#### **2. Preparatory meeting & Identification of issues**

Preparatory meeting will be conducted prior to the public hearing to identify the issues that will be addressed during the public hearing. The district coordinating agency will involve district health administration and media during the preparatory meeting to enhance their participation in the process. In this preparatory meeting the planning and proposed agenda for public hearing will be finalized and the date for public hearing will be fixed with distribution of responsibilities among the partners.

#### **3. Rally**

A rally will be organized on the same day of the public hearing. This rally will involve women from different parts of the district to attract public attention on the issue of ensuring entitlements and other aspects of safe motherhood. It will facilitate community mobilization for averting maternal deaths, sensitization of different stakeholders on ensuring maternal

health services, mobilization of people’s support, invitation of media attention etc. The women will march ahead in a rally from the starting point of district head quarter or the District Head Quarter Hospital to the location where public hearing will be organized. The women will lead the rally with messages on safe motherhood. The CDMO/Collector/ Elected Representatives will also be requested to participate in the rally.

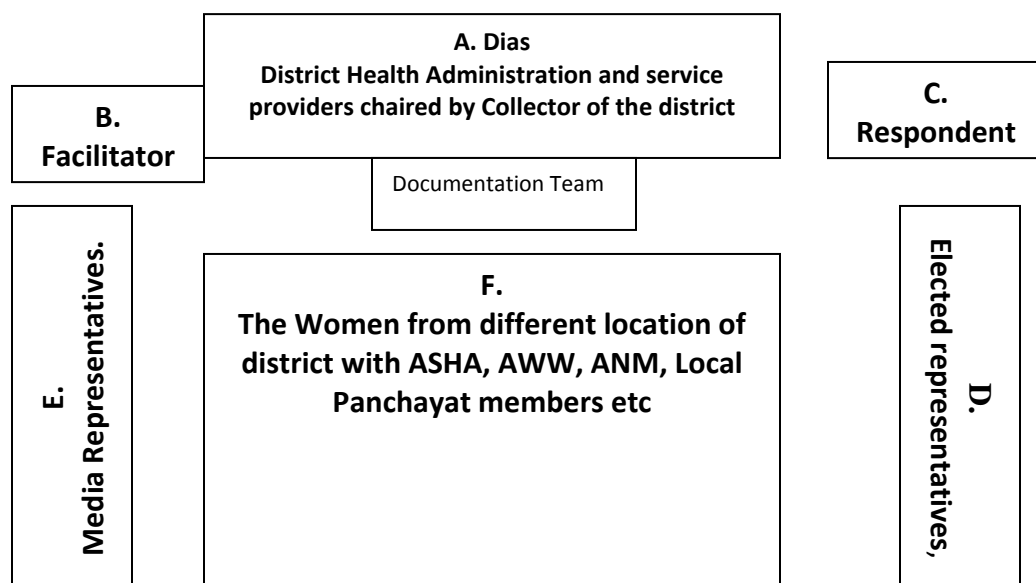
#### 4. Public Hearing

Public hearing can amplify the voice of women and helps in identifying critical implementation gaps. At the same time women get a platform to raise their voices and in a public hearing first, an ambient environment is created to enable and empower them to raise their voice, ask for redressal of concerns pertaining to service delievery etc of the service providers, media and elected representatives. The public hearing will be attended by

- Women from different locations of the district
- ASHA, AWW, ANM, SHG leaders and other Community Based Organizations
- Service providers like PHC doctors, BPOs, Nurses
- Elected representatives like Zilla Parisad Chairperson and members, MLAs, MP, Panchayata Samiti Chairman, Gram Panchayat Sarapanch etc
- District administration like Collector, Sub-Collector, ADM, DSWO
- District Health Administration like CDMO, ADMO (FW), DPM
- Media representatives

#### Process:

An ideal sitting arrangement during Public Hearing will make the process more interactive and help women to maintain eye-to-eye contact with the stakeholders and participants. An example is below:

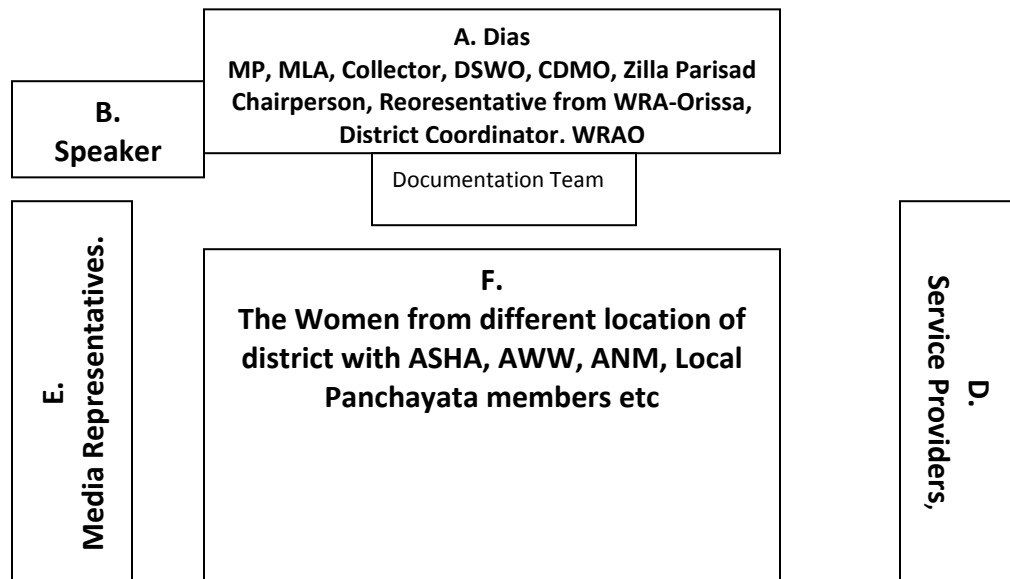


Before starting the public hearing, the representative from WRA-Orissa with welcome address will brief all on the objectives of Public Hearing and share mission and vision of WRA-Orissa. Then the public hearing will be facilitated by a group of professionals with clear understanding on the issue and the facilitator will initiate the process by sharing the district specific issues and entitlements under different plans and schemes on safe motherhood. The facilitator will initiate the discussion and will help in identification of problems pertaining to maternal and child health in the district where public hearing is held. District collector, officer from the health department and service providers will be invited to clarify on the doubts and give their comments updating the participants on the MCH programme implementation.

The documentation team will write all the process, discussions, issues raised and responses. The process will continue for 1-2 hours. The media and elected representatives will be welcomed to put their queries and remarks on the implementation process of MCH and gaps identified in different places.

### 5. Public meeting

The public hearing will be followed by public meeting to seek commitments from the guests like Elected Representatives, District Administration and CDMO and call for action for safe motherhood in the district. The seating arrangement in the public meeting is as follows



The commitments received/ actions decided to be taken from different speakers in the public meeting will be documented and shared at the end with vote of thanks by concerned district nodal agency.

### 5. Press meet:

The print and media plays an important part in the deliver Now campaign, especially in disseminating the information on safe motherhood and success stories on the lives saved. Therefore, it will be very fruitful to involve the local media in the campaign. The media representatives will be briefed on the district specific MCH gaps, the public hearing process

and the outcome/ commitments in a press meet after the public meeting. The district coordinating agency will prepare a press note in the context of initiatives to address issues for necessary circulation among the media people for wider dissemination further.

Post Public hearing:

**6. Monitoring of PHC for three months:**

One PHC located near to the district head quarter will be regularly monitored and guided and counseling services will be provided. Facilitation for smoother implementation of MCH interventions in the PHC will be done by a staff engaged for the purpose. The process will be for three months to measure impact of physical monitoring in the PHC. The details of responsibility of the staff will be provided separately.

**7. Use of checklists and measuring impact**

At the end of the process the checklists will be used again to measure impact of the advocacy initiatives. Two Sub-centres & community, one block PHC will be covered along with DHH as done prior to Public Hearing.

**8. Reporting and Documentation:**

The report will be prepared as per the format given in Annexure-1 by using the entire process starting from the use of check list at pre public hearing to the use of checklist finally at the end.

**Participant's coverage:**

- 1000 women from different locations of the districts including SHG leaders, panchayata representatives.
- MP, MLAs, Zilla Parisad Memebbers and Chairperson, Panchayata Samiti Chair persons, Sarapanches, Collector, ADM, Sub-collector.
- Service providers like CDMO, ADMO (FW), DPM, Medical Officers, Gynecologists, DSWO, BPO, ANM, ASHA, AWW
- Media Representatives of the district
- Alliance members and other NGOs, development partners working on safe motherhood.