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Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
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JOINT SECRETARY

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Dear *AH*,

This is with regard to probability and possibility of linkages between the Mahila Arogya Samitis (MAS), constituted under the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) and Self Help Groups (SHG) under the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM).

You are aware under the NUHM, MAS is one of the key community interventions to promote community participation in health activities. The Framework for Implementation envisages that community level institutions such as MAS can be strengthened by effectively aligning them with the NULM/JnNURM structures. You may also be aware that states like Orissa have already taken steps to ensure such convergence.

We suggest that, efforts should be made to form MAS in a way that members of SHGs in its area also become members of the MAS, while ensuring the principle of representation. Also, if efforts are made to ensure that existing SHGs of a slum area are linked to the MAS of that area, then MAS can also potentially become the federation of these SHGs. Thus acting as an 'Area Level Federation' (a mechanism envisaged in the NULM) the MAS can also access resources and benefits, including, livelihood development support, available under NULM.

Such convergence will also enable SHGs created in the NULM to possibly play the role of social mobilization for improved health seeking behaviour and better access to health services. Also, MASs formed under NUHM will have access to livelihood support systems under NULM, and this in turn will assist sustainability and effectiveness.

I urge that you reach out to the state counterparts in NULM so as to initiate steps for convergence and better access of the scheme by these beneficiaries within framework/guidelines of NUHM/NULM. Please let me know if any additional assistance is required.

*With regards*

Yours sincerely,

*K. Rao*  
30/9/16

(Dr. K. Rajeswara Rao)

Principal Secretaries (H&FW) - All States/UTs  
Mission Directors- All States/UTs