

Convergence Protocols

NRLM is mobilising the poor into their institutions. These institutions are expected to provide services to their members – savings, credit, livelihoods support and accessing rights and entitlements. To achieve increased access to their rights, entitlements, social service benefits, public services and other schemes.

NRLM facilitates community institutions to converge with PRIs, Block and district level line departments and offices. A list of entitlements and schemes is attached as Annexure-1.

The domains of convergent action include health, education, women and child development, agriculture, animal husbandry, creation of wage employment, creation of community assets, accessing credit for livelihoods and other needs, creation of water resources, etc.

Target Groups:

- Households for mandatory inclusion (Households without shelter, destitute, manual scavengers, PVTGs, legally released bonded labourers).
- Households with deprivation on any of the 7 criteria (only one room with *kuchha* walls and roof, no adult member, female headed household with no male adult member, disabled member and no able bodied member, SC/ST households, no literate above 25 years, landless households surviving through labour) as priority.
- Other vulnerable people/communities like PwDs, Elderly, PVTGs etc
- Households of the SHG members
- Other households as per eligibility criteria for accessing various NSAP and other benefit schemes.
- Their SHGs, Federations and other collectives

Steps for Comprehensive Convergent Actions include -

- Sensitise and train Mission staff on Convergence, Rights, Entitlements, Schemes, Convergence Processes etc.
- Sensitise stakeholders
- Develop and train Resource Pool and trainers at State, District, Block levels and community trainers.
- Facilitate to develop appropriate cadre and organizational mechanisms at Federation Level
- Develop locally relevant IEC materials on Rights, Entitlements, Schemes, Convergence and make them available to SHGs and federations.
- Develop CB plans and calendars for training (including sensitisation, exposure) members, leaders, cadres, village level/field level functionaries.
- Facilitate identification and planning for target groups as per the norms of Rights, Entitlements and Schemes.
- Initiate Convergence Planning in Blocks with one year implementation, 40% mobilization and presence of VOs, CLFs.
- Facilitate Participatory Identification of Poor / Participatory Poverty Assessment (PIP-PPA) tracking.
- Facilitate Vulnerability Reduction Plans (VRPs) in villages
- Facilitate GP and Block Convergence Plans, on a periodic basis.

- Encourage individuals to demand their Rights, Entitlements, and Schemes directly.
- Facilitate participation of SHG women in Gram Sabha
- Facilitate mainstreaming of Panchayat – SHG convergence
- Facilitate GP, Block, District, State, Convergence Committees to guide, support, review and monitor the progress on the convergence plans.
- Facilitate SHGs and federations to work with PRIs and convergence as a separate agenda in their regular meetings to discuss, review and monitor participation, planning, implementation and benefits by/to members. The agenda items may include - Gram Sabha, GPDP, Poverty free GP, MGNREGS-IPPE, Swachh Bharat Mission, functional committees of GPs, Village Health Plan, ICDS, etc.
- Facilitate constituting a subcommittee or strengthen Social Action Committee (SAC) for the convergence, social inclusion and social development
- Facilitate SHGs and federations working with GP
- Assign/designate an anchor at State, District and Block levels to conduct/facilitate Convergence processes
- Take services from technical agencies or resource agencies to support convergence processes at State, district and Block levels
- Institute Review and Monitoring mechanisms at State, District, Block and Community levels on a quarterly basis.
- Take Convergence Plans and its progress into Reporting and MIS.
- Leverage funding within the SHGs, VOs, CLFs funds, or at the GP level, other sources beyond Rights, Entitlements, and Schemes.

Specific protocols to work with PRIs is attached in Annexure 2

Annexure-1: Major schemes and entitlements that could be achieved through convergence

Sector	Key Areas	Schemes / Programs	Department
Health & Nutrition	HSC/SC/CHC VHSNC AWC PDS Mid-day meal	NRHM ICDS TPDS MDMS	Health & Family Welfare WCD Food & Civil Supplies Education
Water & Sanitation	Safe drinking water Toilets Drainage	SBM (G)	RWS / RD
Employment & Livelihoods	Wage Employment Self-Employment Skills SME Land Irrigation Agriculture & allied NTFPs Non-Farm	MGNREGA RSETIs, KVIC DDU-GKY, PMKY ITI, Polytechnics Land distribution Watershed Mission ATMA, KVK, MKSP, SVEP	Rural Development MSME Agriculture Technical Education Revenue Irrigation Forest Department Industry Department
Shelter	Housing	IAY (Housing for all)	Rural Development
Violence & Protection	Law & Order Domestic violence Prevention of sexual harassment Violence against SC/ST Child Labour & Rights Bonded Labour	Police Mitra Social Justice Committee Free legal aid NCLP / Child Marriage Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Scheme	Home Social Defence Social Welfare Women & Child welfare Tribal Development Labour Department/W& CD Labour Department
Social security	Pensions Insurance Maternity entitlement	NOAPS, RSBY, IGMSY (Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana), NSAP, Atal Pension Scheme	Revenue Finance Social Welfare Health
Education	Literacy Schools Vocational & technical education ST/SC Education	SSA, RMSA SC/ ST Pre & Post Scholarship Program	Education Social Welfare / Welfare
Financial services	Savings Access to credit Insurance	MUDRA, RMK, KCC, Interest subvention PMJDY, PMJJBY, PMSBY, RSBY	Finance NABARD RBI Banks
Infrastructure / community assets (road, energy, market, etc)	Roads Energy Markets Community Buildings	PMGSY, Village Haats RBMRS MGNREGA	Rural Development
Local governance	Grama Sabha Mahila Sabha GPDP	PRI, GPDP, IPPE-II IAP (Integrated Action Plan), Poverty free GP	RD & PR
Forest & Environment	Forest Protection and Afforestation. NTFPs	FRA (Forest Rights Act) NAP CAMPA	Forest Department

Annexure - 2**Protocol for Panchayat – SHG Convergence**

NRLM envisages that the SHGs and their village level federations shall work closely with the Gram Panchayats – to access rights, entitlements and schemes of the Government for their members and also to lend constructive support to the efforts of the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) for public good. As a result, NRLM envisages women asserting their rights for inclusion in the economy, for accessing resources, for addressing powerlessness and exclusion, for enabling participation and most significantly for realizing equity.

Gram Panchayat and SHGs and SHG Federations can work together in the following areas -

1. **PRIs** could facilitate/support in social mobilization, institution building, Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP) and its endorsement in Gram Sabha, allocating resources to the priority demands of the SHGs and their federations in the annual plans/activities of the PRIs and Coordinating with different departments and agencies on behalf of the SHG network.
2. **SHGs and their Federations** could encourage their members to **attend the Gramsabha** for placing their demands and needs. Amsabha of the VO conducted before Gram Sabha can discuss the needs and demands of the community and prioritize for placing before Gram Sabha. SHG federations need to participate actively in the functional committees of GP (if they are members/invitees), in planning processes and in community monitoring of implementation of projects by/through GPs.
3. Participatory **Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and Planning for Poverty Free GP** need to have a clear integrated poverty reduction plan with a component addressing vulnerabilities of poor and marginalized people and their livelihood opportunities. For this, Federations need to have ready consolidation of SECC Data, MCP/MIP of their SHGs, Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA)/Participatory Assessment of Entitlement (PAE)/ Participatory Poverty Tracking data and Vulnerability Reduction Plan(s) that meet the social development needs of the members individually/collectively. To ensure this integration, SHG Federations need to have space to actively participate in different meetings, functional committees and other forums of GPDP process such as 1. Identifying resource envelopes, 2. Environment generation, Situation Analysis and participatory planning, 3. Gram Sabha, 4. Projectisation, 5. Implementation of projects and 6. Community based monitoring etc. It includes contributions from GP and provides stake to poor in infrastructure development, livelihood asset building and public utility services. It also provides direction for converging with all schemes and programmes beneficial to poor. GP and Federation make the demand on these programmes/departments.
4. With the same token, Federations need to participate in preparing workplan and labour budget for MGNREGS through **Integrated Participatory Planning Exercise (IPPE)**. SHG Members need to be encouraged to participate in Gram Sabha to facilitate suitable works identification (for livelihoods assets and wage employment) and job cards and availing work to the needy.

For this, Specific activities of Panchayat Raj Institutions may include -

1. Help social mobilization process of SHG formation by Identifying and mobilizing poor households with initial priority for poorest and most vulnerable amongst them;
2. Facilitate and support Federations of women to conduct Participatory Identification of Poor and Poverty Assessment/Tracking (PIP-PPA) and get endorsed in Gramsabha;
3. Lease out panchayat resources (like fish ponds, common properties, market yards etc.) to SHGs and their Federations;

4. Entrust SHGs and their Federations with responsibilities for managing select civic amenities, executing civil works, extension and outreach mechanism for delivery of services etc.;
5. Provide accommodation (office space etc.) and other basic facilities to SHG federation(s) and support them at various levels for their effective functioning;
6. Make suitable financial allocations to the priority demands of the SHGs and their federations in the annual plans/ activities of the PRIs;
7. Give priority to the demands of SHG federations in GPDP, MGNREGS etc.;
8. Coordinate with different departments and agencies on behalf of the SHG network.

For this, Specific activities of SHGs and their Federations may include -

1. Participate actively in Gram Sabha with consolidated demands agreed in Aamsabha;
2. Participate in all functional committees of GPs and planning process of Panchayats;
3. Take up the service delivery responsibilities of GP by claiming appropriate fees;
4. Participate in community monitoring mechanisms of GP project implementation;
5. Work with GP for accessing the common resources of GPs (like fish ponds, vested land, common properties, market yards etc.) as livelihood base for SHGs.

For this, Specific activities of the SRLM may include –

1. Develop a local RPs/Local Resource Groups, well-versed and trained in all aspects of SHGs, GPs and different local planning exercises;
2. Develop a team of trainers at the Block Resource Cell exclusively to undertake such trainings;
3. Develop master trainers at District Resource Cell;
4. Develop and State Resource Team in association with PRD and SIRD.
5. Facilitate Training to all Federations and SHGs;
6. Conduct campaign(s) before each Gram Sabha;
7. Facilitate Sensitization and Information dissemination about schemes and entitlements and mobilization for gram sabha by using IEC materials – Poster, wall writings, Pham/leaf lets, etc.;
8. Develop and provide handbook (to SHGs and their federations) on gramsabha, rights and entitlements and planning process.
9. Train all community leaders on this planning process;
10. Train all elected representatives (especially elected women representatives) on NRLM and its functioning and importance on working together with SHGs;
11. Facilitate GPs and Federations for accessing the common resources of GPs (like fish ponds, vested land, common properties, market yards etc.) as livelihood base for SHGs;
12. Facilitate for placing appropriate convergence platforms at different levels –gramsabha, wardsabha, pallisabha, etc. with the help of GPs and PRD. PRIs are already mandated to set up functional committees related to various subject areas such as health, sanitation, education, water, welfare, social security, etc. These functional committees/sub-committees need to have federation leaders as their members. This needs to be facilitated;
13. Facilitate setting up co-terminus levels of joint committees chaired by Gram Panchayat President and members from GP and SHG federations for planning, implementing and monitoring the convergence activities at GP level and getting maximum entitlements and demands SHGs placed;
14. Facilitate setting up Convergence Committees at Block, District and State level to guide, support, review and monitor the convergence agenda for the benefit of the poor;
15. Facilitate GPs and PR departments to provide independent space at the premises of GP office for federations to operate their office;