

EVALUATION OF THE ASHA (ACCREDITED SOCIAL HEALTH ACTIVIST) COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MISSION (NRHM) KERALA (2013-14)

BUDGET: 940,000

FUNDING AGENCY: GOVERNMENT OF KERALA (STATE HEALTH SYSTEMS RESOURCE CENTRE, KERALA, TRIVANDRUM)

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The project was funded by the State Health Systems Resource Centre, Kerala, the technical support unit for the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala to evaluate the ASHA component of NRHM in Kerala. It was the first such evaluation of the component to be carried out by the State government since its launch in 2007-8. The objectives of the evaluation were to understand the current status of the implementation of the ASHA programme in Kerala, assess the stakeholder perspectives regarding the role of ASHA and their effectiveness and review the structures, processes and mechanisms of the key functions of this component. The project was carried out in seven districts of Kerala; in primary health centres and subcentres that were randomly selected. The evaluation was carried out through a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods among the ASHA workers, junior public health nurses, supervisory staff, district and state level program managers and beneficiaries. The project is completed and the findings are due to be disseminated in a state level workshop at Trivandrum.