

Capacity Building Programme
On
'Prevention of Vector-Borne Diseases'
Mode: SATCOM Programme
Dates: 01st July 2025

1. BACKGROUND

Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs) such as Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya, Lymphatic Filariasis, Japanese Encephalitis, and Kala Azar are major public health concerns in India. These diseases are closely linked to environmental factors, vector breeding patterns, and human behaviour.

Certain community groups—such as pregnant women, young children, the elderly, and persons with chronic illnesses—face higher risks of complications and mortality due to VBDs.

ASHA Workers and Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), being the first point of contact with the community, play a critical role in spreading awareness, promoting preventive measures, and facilitating early detection and referral of cases. They are also vital in mobilizing communities for environmental management and vector control.

1.1 In Context to Gujarat

In Gujarat, the onset of the **monsoon season**, typically between **mid-June and September**, marks a **critical window** for **preparedness and prevention** efforts against Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs). The **increased rainfall** and **subsequent waterlogging** during this period create **ideal breeding grounds** for mosquitoes and other disease vectors. As a result, this season consistently sees a **surge in VBD cases**, including **Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya, Lymphatic Filariasis**, and **Japanese Encephalitis**, across both **urban** and **rural** areas of the state.

Gujarat's **geographical diversity**—ranging from **high-density urban centres** like Ahmedabad, Surat, and Vadodara, to **coastal regions**, **tribal-dominated districts**, and **remote rural belts**—poses unique challenges for VBD control. Each region demands **localized strategies**:

- **Urban areas** face issues of **unplanned construction**, **improper waste disposal**, and **water stagnation** in containers, rooftops, and building sites.
- **Rural and tribal areas** often experience challenges related to **limited sanitation infrastructure**, **open water storage practices**, and **difficulty in accessing remote populations** for health interventions.
- **Coastal regions** and flood-prone areas witness **seasonal water stagnation** and frequent outbreaks post-monsoon.

In this context, **community-based interventions** remain the **backbone of VBD prevention and control**. With their deep presence and trust within communities, **ASHA Workers** and **Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)** play a vital role in:

- Conducting **household-level awareness drives**
- Mobilizing communities for **source reduction and environmental management**
- Promoting **personal protection measures**
- Ensuring **early identification and referral** of suspected cases
- Supporting the implementation of **government-led VBD control campaigns**

Strengthening the capacity of these frontline workers ahead of the monsoon season is therefore crucial for ensuring **timely community action, minimizing disease transmission**, and protecting the **most vulnerable populations** across the diverse regions of Gujarat.

To enhance their capacity in this role, a **Half-Day SATCOM-based Capacity Building Programme** has been proposed to impart targeted knowledge of ASHA and AWWs.

2. WHY IS THERE A NEED?

Capacity building on prevention of vector-borne diseases is crucial for several reasons:

- The monsoon season significantly amplifies the risk of VBD outbreaks in both urban and rural Gujarat.
- Unplanned urbanization, construction sites, and poor sanitation add to mosquito breeding grounds.
- Vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, young children, the elderly, and persons with comorbidities require targeted preventive measures and tailored communication.
- ASHA and AWWs need to be equipped with:
 - Updated knowledge on VBD symptoms and management.
 - Strategies for mitigating VBD risks for different population groups.
 - Strengthening ASHA and AWW capacities now — at the onset of the monsoon — will ensure that proactive community action is undertaken when it is most needed, helping to curb the seasonal spike in VBD cases across Gujarat.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

- To enhance knowledge of **common Vector Borne Diseases** and their public health impact in Gujarat.
- To provide ASHA and AWWs with **group-specific mitigation strategies** (pregnant women, children, elderly, general population).
- To improve skills in **community mobilization, household surveillance, and early referral** during the monsoon season.
- To reinforce their roles in **reporting, monitoring, and participating in VBD control campaigns** at the village/ward level.

4. TARGET DEPARTMENTS

Sr. No.	Department	Target Groups
1.	Women & Child Development Department	Aganwadi Workers

5. LIST OF PROPOSED PROGRAMMES

It is proposed to conduct a SATCOM programmes on “**Prevention of Vector-Borne Diseases**” as per the following details:

Sr. No.	Date	Department	Target Participants
1.	01 st July 2025	Women & Child Development Department	Anganwadi Workers

6. Programme Duration & Details

- **Mode:** SATCOM Live Broadcast
- **Duration:** 3.5 hours (Half-Day)
- **Participants:** Anganwadi Workers across Gujarat
- **Expected Output:** Improved capacity of frontline workers to conduct targeted VBD prevention and control activities in their communities, particularly during the **high-risk monsoon period**.
