

Inclusive Livelihood Program-BRAC

The **BRAC Inclusive Livelihoods Program** is a transformative initiative aimed at addressing **extreme poverty and social exclusion** across three Indian states—**Telangana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra**. Implemented in collaboration with state governments and supported by **BRAC International**, the program draws on the globally acclaimed **Graduation Approach**, adapting it to local socio-economic contexts. The **Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies (CRISP)** has been engaged as a **strategic partner and concurrent evaluation agency** to ensure that the program remains grounded in evidence, responsive to field realities, and adaptive to emerging needs. Over a three-year engagement, CRISP's role includes **real-time evaluation, performance assessment, and strategic advisory** for program improvement and policy alignment. The overarching goal is to support the **most marginalized households** in achieving **sustainable livelihood pathways** through a carefully sequenced approach that integrates **social protection, financial inclusion, capacity building, and market linkages**, while ensuring convergence across **multiple government departments**. The program stands as a key model of **inclusive development**, rooted in community engagement and systemic support.

Strategy and Approach



Figure 1: Photos from ILP Activities

Key Highlights and Activities

Maharashtra

- Insights from the Samruddhi Sakhi (Coach) Training were shared with the SPMU and BRAC team, resulting in planned improvements for upcoming training batches and the launch of a refresher training module for the current cohort to enhance coaching effectiveness.
- Conducted field visits and documented PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal) processes and household interactions, focusing on community engagement, inclusion of vulnerable groups, and quality of facilitation. Identified specific challenges faced by special category households, contributing to targeted support planning.

Karnataka

- Actively participated in two high-level progress review meetings chaired by the Development Commissioner in April, contributing to strategic decisions and enhancing inter-agency coordination. The first meeting facilitated the official signing of the MoU between BRAC and the RDPR Department, aligning implementation frameworks among key partners—CRISP, PRADAN, RDPR, and Sanjeevini (KSRLPS)—for a unified approach to project delivery.
- In the second meeting, contributed to finalizing essential project tools, including the household survey questionnaire and the coach training module, setting the foundation for standardized data collection and capacity-building. Additionally, conducted a comprehensive review of the draft questionnaire, providing detailed feedback to improve its clarity, relevance, and contextual accuracy for field applicability.

Telangana

- Participated in the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) Training on the identification of the Poorest of the Poor (PoP), contributing to strengthened understanding of selection criteria, community-based targeting mechanisms, and ensuring alignment with inclusive identification protocols.
- Attended the TGILP Staff Induction Training organized by SERP, gaining insights into the programme framework, implementation structure, and roles and responsibilities, thereby supporting smoother onboarding and alignment with project goals.

Challenges

Delays in **communication and document** sharing from PMU/SPMU teams in Maharashtra and Karnataka have impacted efficient planning and timely progress.

Learnings and Way Forward

In Maharashtra and Karnatak, delays in receiving timely updates from the PMU impacted CRISP's planning of observation visits, highlighting the need for a more structured communication protocol. Establishing clear timelines and focal points for document sharing and approvals is essential for smooth execution.

In Telangana, no significant challenges have been encountered as the programme is in its early stages. The PMU is finalizing the identification handbook, which will guide the Concurrent Evaluation plan. Once approved, the plan will be adapted, with BRAC's feedback helping inform the next steps.