

Monthly Updates- June 2025

Inclusive Livelihood Program-BRAC

Overview

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.

Project Goal



The objective is to conduct concurrent evaluation and strategic advice to projects in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana for identifying the poorest of poor households and graduating them out of poverty.

Strategy and Approach

Graduation Approach

Adapts BRAC's model to integrate social protection, livelihood support, and financial inclusion for ultra-poor households.

State-Specific Strategies

Customizes interventions for Telangana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra based on local needs.

Real-Time Evaluation

Utilizes concurrent evaluation to monitor progress and provide data-driven recommendations.

Government Convergence

Promotes inter-departmental collaboration and builds capacity for sustainable program impact.

Photo Gallery



Key Highlights and Activities

Maharashtra

- The CRISP team presented the **concurrent evaluation methodology to the CEO of UMED–MSRLM on June 5, 2025**. Master Trainers for Maha Samruddhi Yojana attended an **aspiration-building training** from June 9-12, 2025 in Nashik, and a District-level coordination meeting was held on June 24th to strengthen convergence efforts in Nashik.
- Key Informant Interviews were conducted with **SRLM officials and PMU representatives** at the state, district, and block levels in Nashik. An **inclusion and exclusion validation survey** is currently being carried out in Nashik, followed by Nandurbar. Lastly, a document capturing best practices for the PRA process is in progress.

Karnataka

- The CRISP team interacted with the District Coordinator of Koppal to understand the socio-economic conditions, activities undertaken, and the **district's overall engagement with SRLM** as part of the concurrent evaluation process. As a result the team, gained insights into the district's current progress and challenges in relation to SRLM.
- The team carried out field visits to Vijayanagara and Ballari districts to **observe transect walks by enumerators and NARI CRPs, interact with GP officials about the project**, conduct FGDs with GPLF and SHG members to assess their preparedness, and meet CRPs to understand their selection process and program knowledge. This resulted in gaining valuable feedback for refining the project's approach and improving local engagement.

Telangana

- A meeting was held with the **SERP CEO on May 28, 2025 to discuss support from SRLM and a potential study on health**. The CEO agreed to convene a consultation with District-level medical Health officers in July to explore this further.
- The **half-yearly review of TGILP with partners (SERP-Telangana, AKF, BRAC International, CRISP, and J-PAL) was held from June 16-18, 2025 in Hyderabad**, where the Telangana team presented findings from the concurrent evaluation. The review facilitated the **sharing of insights and strengthened collaborative efforts** for the next phase.

Key Learnings and Way Forward



- ✓ Key learnings from the field revealed that **better timing, stronger local participation, and improved support for Sakhis are needed in the PRA process**. In Telangana, the disconnect between policymaking and rural realities highlighted the **importance of direct engagement with remote communities to develop effective, context-specific solutions**. Issues like DBT challenges and basic unmet needs show the importance of participatory approaches to ensure policies address real, local challenges.
- ✓ Field visits in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Telangana will continue, **focusing on inclusion and exclusion errors, stakeholder engagement, and report preparation**. Key activities also include health intervention planning, coordination with SRLMs, and preparation for the second phase of identification.