

## Monthly Updates- May 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. **Over a period of 24 months the project aims to focus on 18000 poorest of the poor households for graduating 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

Concurrent evaluation drafts were shared with the respective SPMUs of Telangana, Maharashtra and Telangana. The CRISP team also attended the **Annual all Partners National Meeting** in Delhi between May 12-14, 2025. State specific highlights are provided below,

### Maharashtra

- The CRISP team conducted concurrent evaluations of the identification phase in Nashik. The CRISP team also conducted a meeting with BRAC and SPMU to share immediate field observations and recommendations.
- Tools for conducting FGD and document for capturing best practices for PRA process in under development.

### Karnataka

- The team has submitted Concurrent Evaluation Proposal to the SRLM and SPMU for discussion with MD-NLM on CRISP's role as concurrent evaluation partner. A review meeting with the Development Commissioner was also held to update on progress of the program.
- The CRISP team attended a joint meeting chaired by the Development Commissioner with ISEC, PRADAN and BRAC. The discussion mainly focused on finalizing the research methodology for impact evaluation.

### Telangana

- A meeting with SERP CEO was conducted to discuss the details and support sought from the SRLM. In addition to this, the CRISP team discussed a study on health for which the CEO agreed to convene a meeting with SERP Office with all District Level Medical Health Officers associated with the Tribal Welfare Department.
- The team conducted translation of PMU resources from Telegu to English including Household Identification Handbook. The concurrent evaluation tools were also digitized and the team has started field work for concurrent evaluation.

## Challenges Faced



- Challenges in conducting the Concurrent evaluation were experienced due to the overlap in timelines and delays in communication from SPMUs. The CRISP team has discussed with respective SPMUs and the teams have agreed to address this issue in next phase. It was also advised that CRISP team visits SRLM office weekly for ease of communication.

## Key Learnings and Way Forward



- ✓ A key learning from the first phase of household identification in Maharashtra was importance of refining PRA processes through field observations. The observations highlighted gaps in timing, VO participation, Samruddhi Sakhis performance and clarity around recruitment and inclusion criteria. Recommendations shared with the SPMU focused on enhancing participation, representation, sensitivity, and documentation to ensure a more inclusive and effective identification process.
- ✓ Going forward the CRISP team will focus on the analysing inclusion and exclusion errors in Maharashtra. In Karnataka, the team will review FRS for the development of M&E module and concept note on Role of Gram Panchayats in ILP Program. In Telangana, half yearly review of TGILP will be conducted with all partners at Hyderabad from 16-18 June, 2025.