

Annual Action plan for the CRISP Karnataka Team

2024 – 25

Action plan under the State FY 24 -25

Key Projects undertaken:

1. Rural Libraries
2. Concurrent evaluation of Crèches
3. Gram Panchayat -Self Help Group convergence in Solid Waste Management
4. Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Raj Fellowship

New Projects for the upcoming year:

5. Study of Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) in Karnataka
6. District Outreach Programme for all the flagship projects of Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR), Karnataka
7. Promotion of Sports in Gram Panchayats
8. Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)
9. Karnataka Inclusive Livelihoods Program (KILP)
10. Exploring Sustainable Solutions: A Pilot Project for Repurposing Plastics into Construction Materials

Project 1 : Rural Libraries

a) Project Background

Rural libraries initiative is one among the flagship initiatives of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Karnataka. With 5895 libraries spread across the state at the Gram Panchayat level, these institutions provide access to books, periodicals, and educational materials. They play an important role in nurturing literacy, education, and cultural awareness in rural areas. The Department has collaborated with various non-governmental organizations in supporting and enhancing the quality of service delivery through libraries. Through such a partnership with an NGO named Sikshana Foundation (and through various grants), the Department has digitized more than 90% of libraries across the state. These libraries are provided with digital equipment such as computers, smartphones, laptops etc. Furthermore, 583 libraries have been upgraded into Beacon Libraries, disabled friendly libraries equipped with materials such as braille books and magnifiers.

CRISP's role in the project is to study various aspects of the program, including their administration, resources, accessibility, funding patterns and requirements, community involvement, any innovative practices in place and provide recommendations aimed at enhancing the program effectiveness.

b) Work done so far in the last FY

- 1) A concurrent evaluation of libraries, with a specific emphasis on NGO interventions, was carried out. The team engaged with 200 stakeholders from 36 visited libraries statewide for this study. The report was submitted to the Department in July 2023.
- 2) A concurrent evaluation of *Grama Digi Vikasana* (a library digitisation initiative headed by Sikshana Foundation) was conducted. The team visited 50 libraries, interacted with 371 individuals, and conducted an online survey among 4430 librarians as part of the study. The report was submitted in November 2023.
- 3) To establish local-level monitoring of Gram Panchayat libraries, five libraries were selected across Yadgir and Kalaburagi Districts to set up Gram Panchayat level monitoring committees. Throughout January and February 2024, all committees were set up, with three of them conducting inaugural meetings post formation.

c) Key accomplishments

- 1) As the evaluation pointed out that the users from villages away from the main GP village is finding it difficult to travel to the library due to the long distance, the team has written a proposal to Ministry of Finance, Govt of India on behalf of the Department to provide funding required to set up additional libraries in Gram Panchayats. As a result, the Department has received a grant of Rs. 264 Crores to establish 6599 more libraries.
- 2) Actions have been taken on the recommendations given through the report. Main ones among them are;
 - The study recommended that the library timings should be extended in order to cater the needs of students beyond regular school hours. As a result, the Department has extended the library timings until 7 PM in the evening.
 - A key finding from the study was the need for training with special focus on digital skills for the librarians. The Department has started providing training to the librarians through RDPR university and multiple NGOs with whom the Department has partnered with.
 - During the *Grama Digi Vikasana* concurrent evaluation, the survey conducted among librarians highlighted a significant issue: many digital libraries throughout the state lack proper internet connectivity. In response, the Department has asked the team to compile the list of digital libraries without Wi-Fi access. District CEOs have been directed to expedite the provision of internet connections to these libraries without delay.

d) Proposed plan for FY 24 – 25**1) Initiation of Local Level Monitoring in Selected Libraries:**

- Convert five libraries across Yadgir and Kalaburagi districts, where efforts are being made to facilitate the establishment of local-level Library Management Committees, into model libraries for local-level monitoring.
- Demonstrate the impact of such committees through the operation of these five libraries and present the outcomes to the Department for scaling it up across the state.

(These committees are in accordance with a [circular issued](#) to librarians on 14.07.2023 by the Department, requesting the formation of local-level committees for GP libraries (A document developed by the team on the basis of the circular can be accessed through this link, <https://rb.gy/2wzzjv>). The team undertook this task upon noticing the absence of such committees in the libraries visited yet.)

e) Key Objectives:

1) Initiation of Local Level Monitoring in Selected Libraries:

Input:

- Facilitation of setting up and activation of Library Management Committees by coordinating with librarians and GP officials.
- Prepare a training module required for capacity building of these committees.
- Capacity building of committee members through training sessions using the module developed.

Outputs:

- Actively functioning Library Management Committees in 5 Gram Panchayats.
- Minimum of 4 committees conducted by each Library Management Committees.
- Trained committee members capable of monitoring and enhancing library operations.

Expected Outcomes:

- Strengthened oversight and governance of libraries through the active engagement of the committees.
- Enhanced efficiency of library operations due to the oversight by the committees, positively impacting library services.
- A sense of ownership among Gram Panchayats, encouraging sustained commitment to continue the committee operations effectively.

Theory of Change:

Theory of Change for library project can be accessed by clicking this link, [GP Library- Theory of Change \(1\).xlsx](#)

Tentative timeline for the project is as follows:

For the project aimed at initiating local-level monitoring via the establishment and activation of Library Management Committees, the team will coordinate with librarians and GP officials through visits and phone calls.

June 2024: Activation of library management committees.

July - August 2024: Preparation of training module and commencement of the capacity-building training sessions.

September 2024: Documentation and presentation of the project's findings and outcomes to the Department for potential statewide scale-up.

Project 2: Concurrent evaluation of Crèches

a) Project Background

Provision of effective day care for young children is essential as it provides support to both mothers and young children. Lack of proper day-care services (crèches) is, often, a deterrent for women to go out and work. Expanding quality childcare can yield multi-generational impacts by promoting equity and improving women's employment and productivity, child outcomes, and overall economic development.

Recognizing this need, the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) took the initiative to pilot 62 crèches throughout the state of Karnataka, in convergence with the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and the Women and Child Development (WCD) Department. In the following year's budget, it was decided to expand the crèche facility to 4000 GPs with a budget allocation of Rs.40 Crores.

The roll out of 4000 new crèches was initiated in the month of September and they were started in a phased manner. The aim is to start all the 4000 crèches before the ending of the current financial year.

The convergence with NREGA allows for payment of wages to the caretakers in the crèches under the NREGA scheme – women with NREGA job cards would be trained as caretakers for the crèches. WCD would provide support for tasks like growth monitoring and nutritional assessment of children.

b) Work done so far in the last FY

In the last financial year, the team was tasked with concurrent evaluation of the pilot program. The objective was to understand the features and process of setting up such crèches, assess their usage in the pilot phase, and suggest any changes or improvements that would benefit the roll out of 4000 new crèches in the financial year 2023-24.

To fulfil this, the team visited 16 crèches across 11 districts to look at the quality of infrastructure, mode of selection and payment to caretakers, funding etc. Additionally, it included community engagement to collect qualitative information on their perceptions of the centres, awareness of presence of the crèche, willingness to send their infants to the facility, and in general, the demand for such a facility. Based on these visits, a consolidated study report including some actionable recommendations were submitted to the department. These recommendations were integrated into the implementation of the expansive phase involving 4000 crèches.

After the implementation of the expansionary phase, the department anticipates gaining valuable field insights regarding overall functioning of the crèche and its operations from CRISP in addition to assistance in monitoring them. So far, the team has conducted visits to 22 crèches across 7 districts in the months of January and

February 2024. A comprehensive summary of these visits has been compiled and submitted to the department for their reference and subsequent actions.

c) Key accomplishments

1. Acceptance of the recommendations presented after the study of the pilot program.
2. Implementation of these recommendations by way of assistance in preparation of policies and framework for the rollout of expansion.

d) Proposed plan for FY 24 – 25

The team plans to conduct process monitoring at various stages of the scheme and recommend adjustments, if necessary. The team attends weekly review meetings conducted by the department and attended by district personnel via VC, to gather information from the districts that present progress, challenges, and any other conceptual and operational issues in the initiative.

e) Key Objectives:

1. Providing periodic short summary based on real time monitoring of the operations of crèches.

Activity:

Visits to different crèches periodically for:

- Understanding Service Delivery- provisions for supplementary nutrition, perception of program amongst the public and adherence to timings.
- Interacting with the Beneficiaries to understand their level of awareness, satisfaction and finding scope of improvements based on their suggestions.
- Finding local innovations that may have improved the access or decreased the cost of operations.
- Ensuring convergence with PHCs for immunisation and health checkups of children.

Output:

- Compendium of Good Practices
- Real time field insights on operations of crèches to the department.

2. Assisting the department in monitoring of the crèches at state level

Activity:

- Development of an app for monitoring the work of creche workers and operations of the creche

Output:

- Data on attendance of caretakers, food provision and other operations of all the creches.

Outcome:

- Establishment of a systemic monitoring mechanism for the program

3. Documentation of the program

Activity:

- Preparation of a document that offers detailed information on its background, process, and overall design and execution.

Theory of change for the project can be accessed at:

[Theory of Change_Creches .pptx - Google Slides](#)

Tentative Timeline for the project is as follows:

Action	Timeline								
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Visits to creches for real time monitoring									
Development of App for caretakers									
Process Document for the program									

Project 3: Gram Panchayat – Self-Help Group Convergence in Solid Waste Management

a) Project Background

In rural areas of Karnataka, Solid Waste Management (SWM) initiative led by Self-Help Group (SHG) women began in the year 2021. The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj issued directives to the Gram Panchayats (GPs) that the SHG women be engaged in every stage of the SWM process, including collection, transportation, segregation, and processing of waste, by operating within an enterprise model. Over 13000 SHG women have been trained as drivers and segregation workers, thereby leading to the creation of green jobs. In the absence of SWM practices, waste disposal in villages typically involves either burning waste, which emits harmful pollutants, or the haphazard dumping of waste in open spaces, drains, and waterways. However, with the implementation of proper SWM practices, waste is now to be systematically collected, sorted, and disposed of. This initiative not only serves to mitigate environmental pollution but also promotes income generation for the SHG women managing solid SWM operations. This is achieved through the sale of recyclable materials and the collection of service fees from both residents and commercial establishments.

The viability of SWM as an economically sustainable activity for women involved hinges on the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders. SWM stands as an essential service to be provided by the GP. As a local government body, the GP must bear a pivotal role in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene within villages. Entrusting the execution of this crucial service to GPLF women establishes it as a shared responsibility between the GPLF and the GP, both of whom must fulfil their respective roles to ensure the success of the SWM initiative. However, our observations from the field point to inadequate convergence between GPs and SHGs, with each entity often attributing responsibility to the other. Lack of clear articulation of roles and responsibilities of GPs and GPLFs has resulted in an impasse in the implementation of the programme. The existing Government Orders (GOs) and Circulars have not addressed these gaps effectively.

SWM necessitates community ownership, where residents recognize their waste as their own responsibility. This sense of ownership should manifest in positive behaviours, such as handing over the waste to authorised GPLF women who conduct door-to-door collection, ensuring 100% source segregation, and promptly paying user fees for the services provided by the women engaged in SWM. Our field visits to GPs located in various districts in Karnataka have found that there is a huge resistance by waste generators to comply with segregation and payment of user fees. Compliance is low due to lack of awareness, inertia of habit that makes households resistant to changing their existing waste disposal practices, non-eco-friendly social norms, their scepticism and apathy to waste collection services and pecuniary constraints. Addressing this challenge entails fostering a behavioural change among the communities and continuous reinforcement of the importance of responsible waste management practices. This issue is yet to be addressed by the government, while the uptake of services is low and the SWM enterprise of SHG women grappling to make headway in revenue generation.

The SWM enterprise model requires the women involved to adopt an entrepreneurial approach in their efforts. However, there exists a substantial gap in the capacity of SHG women to effectively manage SWM operations within this enterprise model. This underscores the need for handholding support and reinforcement to strengthen their enterprise model. In the absence of a supportive ecosystem, the viability of the enterprise continues to be an uphill task. SHG women engaged in SWM have to be supported in enhancing the quality of their services as well, given that there is a persistent gap in this aspect. Lack of oversight has also compounded the problem. Institutionalising the monitoring and supervision structures is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the programme. The existing GOs and Circulars do not sufficiently address this concern.

CRISP, housed within the Karnataka Panchayati Raj Commissionerate, holds a strategic position to collaborate with the government in establishing systems for smoother implementation of programmes on the ground. In this regard, CRISP can provide valuable insights to the Department regarding the essential details and safeguards to be included in their Circulars and Government Orders to ensure effective implementation.

In the realm of evidence-based policymaking, CRISP Karnataka Team will work towards demonstrating best practices in selected GPs, including enhancing convergence between GPs and SHGs to collectively drive efforts, strengthening SHG women's enterprise model in SWM, fostering behaviour change communication to shift community attitudes towards waste, and enhancing supervision and oversight mechanisms. By demonstrating successful implementations in select GPs, CRISP can work with the Department to encourage other GPs to adopt similar practices and establish streamlined processes to support these efforts.

b) Work done so far in the last FY

Field visits were conducted to 36 GPs in 16 districts to understand the current status of SWM implementation within GPs, particularly focusing on collaboration with SHGs. Our observations include:

- Perceptions of elected members of the GPs with respect to SWM, level of priority accorded to SWM
- The process of selecting SHG women for engagement in SWM activities
- Support provided by GPs and GPLFs for women engaged in the work
- The financial sustainability of SWM enterprise, including factors necessary for their success
- Community involvement and the level of uptake of SWM services.
- Compliance of the community with SWM initiatives.

Field visits were also made to the GPs and SHGs that have demonstrated successful SWM operations and achieved self-sustainability.

Building upon our observations of the factors that facilitate successful implementation of SWM, we have developed a training module. This module is created to be utilized by the State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Mysuru, for training elected members of GPs and executive members of SHG Federations on SWM practices. The training content included several key components like roles and responsibilities of GPs and SHG Federations

in SWM, financial sustainability of SWM enterprises, community engagement strategies, and compliance and monitoring mechanisms for effective SWM implementation.

CRISP played an active role in the SWM workshop, collaborating closely with the Department to document the workshop's recommendations. Following this, we also assisted the Department in drafting new circulars aimed at addressing the shortcomings of previous ones. These new circulars were designed to enable effective convergence and implementation of SWM initiatives on the ground. Drawing from the field insights related to on-ground implementation, we have developed comprehensive content outlining the role of the Supervisory Committee for SWM. We have also developed detailed guidelines delineating the selection process and functions of supervisors within the SWM Team.

CRISP's proposal to demonstrate Resource Clusters for Solid Waste Management has been accepted by the Department. The objective of this initiative is to offer guidance and support to women involved in SWM operations, enabling them to efficiently manage operations while adhering to robust entrepreneurial principles. We also aim to promote behavioural change among residents, encouraging them to take ownership of waste management initiatives. The overarching goal is to foster collaboration between GPs and SHGs to collectively drive progress and sustainability in waste management practices, while also enhancing oversight and supervision. The insights and learnings gained from the activities planned in the resource clusters will serve to inform the convergence efforts in SWM and effective waste management practices in other GPs.

Five GPs (three in Bagalkote district and two in Davanagere district) have been selected to implement the Resource Cluster model. A baseline survey has been conducted in these Project GPs. Interns, hired by CRISP specifically for this project, administered the survey to residents. Focus Group Discussions were also conducted with women involved in SWM tasks, along with interactions with GP staff and elected members. The collected baseline data will be analysed to strategize future interventions and to measure key indicators of interest in the short-term, mid-term, and long-term. This analysis will guide the implementation of targeted interventions aimed at improving SWM practices and planning community engagement within the selected GPs.

To effectively plan and implement behaviour change communication activities in SWM, CRISP is collaborating with the Centre for Social and Behaviour Change (CSBC) at Ashoka University. Leveraging the expertise of CSBC, we aim to study the local context and come up with actionable strategies for implementation on the ground. By collaborating with CSBC, CRISP aims to enhance the impact of IEC activities by employing evidence-based behaviour change approaches tailored to the specific needs and dynamics of the communities involved. The scope of engagement with CSBC is currently being delineated.

The project activities, including training the SWM team to maintain records, initiating user fees collection, establishing processes for monitoring attendance and the work of collection and segregation, have been launched in two GPs. Efforts have been made to sensitize households to pay user fees and segregate waste at the source. Notably, user fees were collected from 28% of households in one of the GPs, marking a significant increase from zero.

Discussions on SWM have been incorporated into the agendas of the last two general body meetings in two of the GPs.

In one GP, the coverage of households by the waste collection team has surged from 60% to 100% through the deployment of route maps and waste collection schedules. Assistance has been provided to women working in SWM to sell segregated waste in two GPs. Training is underway to empower women to maintain and update records pertaining to income and expenditure, as well as waste collected and segregated.

Efforts are underway to increase the income generated from segregated waste by engaging in discussions with companies involved in SWM. These discussions aim to explore opportunities for enhancing the market value of segregated waste. Initiatives are being undertaken to assist women in disposing of low-value waste effectively and accessing markets for all types of waste.

The Department recently organised a workshop with a specific focus on leveraging the potential of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to tackle challenges related to SWM in GPs across Karnataka. CRISP, along with partnering NGOs and department functionaries, actively participated in the workshop, providing valuable insights and ideas on simplifying tasks for SWM frontline workers, enhancing citizen access, and developing real-time monitoring tools for governing bodies, through digitalization.

c) Key accomplishments

- Content development for SIRDPR training module on SWM – tailored for elected representatives and executive members of SHG federations
- Circular drafting for the Department to facilitate effective convergence and implementation of SWM processes on ground
- Delineating the role of the Supervisor in the SWM team and outlining the functions of the Supervisory Committee to be issued as circulars eventually. The Department accepted the recommendations and requested CRISP to demonstrate its efficacy in the Resource Clusters
- Baseline survey for households in the selected five GPs and analysis of survey data
- Deployed the attendance system and community monitoring of the services to improve the quality of waste management. Route map and waste collection schedule have been established in one GP to expand coverage
- Sensitisation of households to pay user fees in one of the GPs in the Resource Clusters – resulting in the collection of user fees from 28% of households, up from zero.
- Included SWM in the agenda for discussion in the general body meetings of two GPs within the Resource Cluster.
- Supervisor identified in 3 GPs and training is being imparted to the supervisor
- Initiated the sale of segregated waste in 3 GPs within the Resource Cluster by mapping local scrap dealers in the Taluk.
- Coordinating awareness activities through GPs and GPLFs

d) Proposed plan for FY 2024 – 25

The proposed action plan for the year 2024-25 is prepared in keeping with the priorities of the department, and in order to address gaps in programme implementation, and develop evidence-based policies for future interventions. Centred around supporting the SWM operations managed by SHG women, the plan focuses on strategic capacity building, community engagement, and robust monitoring systems.

The key goals of the project include strengthening the capacity of women to run SWM operations using a sustainable business model, thereby improving the services provided by their enterprises and increasing their revenue streams. In parallel, a Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) plan will be developed, with support from Ashoka University, to foster palpable shifts in community attitudes and behaviours towards waste management. This initiative aims to increase community compliance and engagement.

The plan also seeks to institutionalize monitoring systems through enhanced collaboration between SHGs and GPs. This will establish effective monitoring mechanisms that ensure accountability and optimize SWM operations.

Strategic interventions will be based on an analysis of collected baseline data to adopt local-specific initiatives. The GPs will be supported to prioritize SWM in their meetings, thereby integrating waste management into community discussions as a critical issue. Training will be provided to GPs to support and monitor the SWM teams effectively. An important intervention that is planned is to record the quantities of waste generated, collected, segregated, and disposed of, setting a foundation for planning and resource optimization.

The implementation of these strategies is expected to enhance the effectiveness of SWM services, increase incomes for women-led SWM enterprises, and promote a supportive community culture for sustainable waste management practices. This approach aims to create a model for community-driven environmental stewardship and economic feasibility in waste management, addressing immediate needs while laying groundwork for sustainable, long-term improvements.

Methodology:

To effectively execute the Project activities, it is planned to deploy three Research Assistants (RAs). These RAs will play a crucial role in ensuring that the objectives of the project are met efficiently. Specifically, their responsibilities will involve maintaining close communication with the SWM Teams and GPs to monitor the progress of the project implementation.

Further, the RAs will be tasked with documenting various aspects of the project, including its findings and any challenges encountered during the process. This documentation will serve as valuable reference material for future initiatives and policy recommendations as well as provide insights into the effectiveness of different strategies employed.

To optimize coverage and support, it is planned to allocate two RAs to the Bagalkote Cluster and one to the Davanagere Cluster for a period of 6 months starting from June. Planning and strategizing will be done by Project Lead Fellow.

e) Key Objectives:

1. To strengthen the SWM enterprise model
2. Greater collaboration between GP and GPLF in matters concerning SWM
3. Institutionalizing the monitoring processes for SWM
4. Achieving behavioural transformation by enhancing citizen awareness of proper waste management, thereby increasing the demand for SWM services.

Activities Planned:

I. To achieve the objective of strengthening the SWM enterprise model

Set of Activities to be Undertaken:

- i. Training on the enterprise model to the women engaged in SWM - including financial literacy, fund and resource management, book-keeping, digital literacy and conflict resolution
- ii. Offering initial handholding support to women in identifying potential vendors for the sale of segregated waste
- iii. Organise a meeting with the GP and the SWM Team to prepare and deploy a route map
- iv. Conducting periodic random visits during collection to verify adherence to route maps and proper coverage without any gaps
- v. Facilitating the identification of a suitable person as supervisor within the team based on skills, qualifications, and entrepreneurial inclinations
- vi. Engage with the GP to authorize user fee collection by SWM women and facilitate the issuance of receipts for payment
- vii. Visits to households and shops, along with elected members to inform the residents about collection, segregation and user fees
- viii. Preparing the templates for record-keeping and training the women to maintain records diligently
- ix. Establish a system to diligently record the quantum of waste flowing into the shed and categorize it by type
- x. Facilitate exposure visits for the SWM Team to GPs that excel in implementing effective SWM practices, providing valuable learning opportunities and insights.

Stakeholder-wise Short-term Outcomes Expected (0 – 6 months):

a) SWM Team:

- Identification of Supervisor within the team
- Dispose of the piled-up waste by finding vendors
- Stay updated on the competitive prices their segregated waste can command in the market
- Have capacity to identify & negotiate competitive prices with vendors for sorted waste
- Segregate the waste into multiple categories based on market demand
- Prepare a route map/ waste collection schedule with the support of the GP and follow it
- Cover 100% of waste generators regularly during collection
- Prepare a master list of waste generators to track for compliance
- Initiating the user fees collection and recording the transactions
- Maintain daily records of waste inflow into the shed, categorised by type

b) GP:

- Facilitate preparation of route plan for collection of waste from all waste generators and display it in common public areas for visibility
- Authorise SWM women to collect user fees and issue receipts
- Extend funding support to bridge the gap between income and expenditure

c) Users/ Waste generators:

- 30% of HHs actively practise source segregation and regularly pay user fees
- 50% of the commercial establishments and bulk waste generators practise source segregation and regularly pay user fees
- payment of user fees for all public institutions by GP

d) Vendors (To be engaged through SWM Team)

- Onboarding the vendors (handling different type of waste) for partnership
- Setting up of systems with mutually agreed terms for pick up and payment

e) SBM PD:

- Organise exposure visits for the SWM Team

Stakeholder-wise Intermediate Outcomes Expected (12 months – 18 months):

a) SWM Team:

- Supervisor overseeing the attendance of the waste collection staff
- Timely disposal of waste to the vendors at competitive prices
- Monthly user fee collection from households, commercial establishments and bulk waste generators
- Maintenance of separate logbooks for waste givers (residential units and commercial establishments), route coverage, user fees paid, upkeep and maintenance of Swachha Vahini vehicle and Swachha Sankeerna, income and expenditure of the SWM unit, and attendance of workers.
- Preparation of defaulters list every month for GP to take action

b) GP:

- Lead SBCC activities for improving uptake and compliance
- Engage with SHGs, Schools and Youth Clubs for awareness activities
- Create incentives for compliance and deterrence for non-compliance
- Develop alternative methods to collect pending user fees from households and remit to the SWM Team

c) Users/ Waste generators:

- Have felt-need for waste collection service from their houses/ streets
- Regular payment of user fees by 60% of households and 80% of commercial establishments
- Reducing number of defaulters with each month
- Appreciate the work of the SWM Team in keeping their neighbourhood clean

d) Vendors:

- Timely collection of segregated waste and payment

II. To achieve greater convergence between GP and GPLF in matters concerning SWM

Set of Activities to be Undertaken:

- Ensure the SWM Team submits their SWM records to the PDO on a monthly basis
- Capacitate SWM women to assess the level of non-compliance, identify households failing to adhere to solid waste management rules, and report such cases to the GP for necessary action.
- Facilitate regular discussion on SWM in GP general body meetings every month. Agenda to cover coverage, collection, compliance by households, income and expenditure statements, and grievances, if any.
- Work with GP to make announcements to citizens through collection vehicle
- Ensure the implementation of IEC activities according to the predetermined calendar and monitor progress for compliance and feedback through qualitative interviews conducted randomly with citizens.
- Develop content on SWM for discussion in monthly SHG meetings and work with NRLM Cluster Supervisor to institutionalize this practice
- Visit and observe a few SHG meetings randomly to check for adherence. The aim is to promote SHGs as vehicles for information dissemination
- Work with the GPLF to ensure that they regularly discuss the performance of the SWM Team of women, thereby fostering a sense of ownership among them. Attend GPLF meetings to incorporate this agenda item consistently, thereby institutionalizing the practice.
- Work with GP to take action on defaulters and violators

Stakeholder-wise Short-term Outcomes Expected (0 – 6 months):

a) PDO:

- Monthly supervision of SWM records by PDO/ anyone nominated by him
- Facilitation of support to SWM Team through GP members/ staff

b) GP:

- Supervise SWM services and route plan adherence by the collection team
- Set up dedicated bank account for SWM transactions
- Regular discussions on SWM operations and maintenance in GP general body meetings
- Regular announcements by GP to all citizens regarding source segregation and user fees payment
- Facilitate implementation of IEC activities as per the calendar

c) GPLF:

- Initiation of SWM awareness programmes in SHG meetings
- Internal review of the performance of SWM team of women by the GPLF Committee, based on feedback by GP. Regular meeting of SWM Team with GPLF

d) SWM Team:

- Monthly submission of records and registers to GP

- Seek assistance and collaboration with GP and GPLF for resolving their grievances

Stakeholder-wise Intermediate Outcomes Expected (12 months – 18 months):

a) PDO:

- Regular supervision of records submitted by the Supervisor of the SWM Team
- Organize monthly meetings of SWM Team members with the GP members

b) GP:

- Elected members assuming the responsibility to oversee collection service and user fees payment in their areas
- Timely disbursement of gap-funding based on assessment of income and expenditure of SWM enterprise, if required
- Sustain the SBCC activities to reinforce the message
- Publicise a contact number for registering compliants
- Address the grievances reported by SWM Team and citizens

c) GPLF:

- Regular SWM awareness programmes in monthly SHG meetings
- Regular quarterly internal review on the performance of SWM team by GPLF Executive Committee
- Presentation on the status of SWM collection, compliance and revenue-expenditure statement by GPLF President in Gram Sabhas

d) SWM Team:

- Regular submission of records for verification by PDO or anyone nominated by PDO
- Representation in GP monthly meetings and Gram Sabha to update on SWM services and grievances, if any

III. To institutionalize the SWM monitoring processes

Set of Activities to be Undertaken:

- Enable the formation of the Supervisory Committee for SWM
- Delineate the functions of the Committee
- Facilitate monthly meetings of the committee for 3 months
- Capacity building of the committee members to monitor and supervise the SWM activities
- Document the functioning of the committee, challenges, and outcomes for policy recommendations

Stakeholder-wise Short-term Outcomes Expected (0 – 6 months):

a) Supervisory Committee:

- Formation of Supervisory Committee as per the Department Circular

b) GPLF:

- Presentation of SWM end-to-end data and income and expenditure statement in Gram Sabha and supervisory committee meetings

Stakeholder-wise Intermediate Outcomes Expected (12 months – 18 months):

a) Supervisory Committee:

- Regular monthly meetings to discuss the SWM operations and efficiency aspects
- Recommend the gap funding to be provided by GP
- Forward the decision taken to GP for further action
- Timely redressal of grievances of citizens and SWM Team members
- Plan and monitor targeted awareness activities for reinforcement of the message

b) GPLF Committee:

- Presentation of data on collection, compliance, and income and expenditure to the Supervisory Committee

IV. To achieve behavioural transformation by enhancing citizen awareness of proper waste management

Set of Activities to be Undertaken:

- i. Qualitative studies among citizens to understand the barriers in compliance
- ii. Analysis of the baseline citizen survey data to plan the intervention areas
- iii. Dissemination of information on waste collection schedule
- iv. Identify and enlist the support of community monitors (Good number of aware, conscious and responsible citizens volunteers) to oversee the collection service and ensure the compliance of households
- v. Develop SBCC plan for 100% uptake, segregation and payment of user fees in rural context
- vi. Train the SWM Team to engage with larger community by leveraging the community monitors as agents of change
- vii. Facilitate regular implementation of SBCC activities as per the plan and document the learnings, challenges and outcomes
- viii. Work with the community to ensure that they see the SWM team's work as important and dignified, vital for cleanliness and health
- ix. Plan and coordinate targeted activities aimed at reducing plastic usage in firestoves

Stakeholder-wise Short-term Outcomes Expected (0 – 6 months):

a) Citizens:

- 80% of waste generators avail the waste collection service
- 60% of the households understand the significance of handing over the waste to the collection staff, its source segregation and the necessity of paying user fees
- 50% reduction in the dumping hotspots in the GP
- Appreciate the work done by the waste collectors
- Actively take part in awareness activities

b) SWM Team:

- Understanding the compliance levels among citizens
- Realise and appreciate the value of their work and contributions to the society and environment
- Begin to educate the waste generators on harmful waste disposal practices

- Collaboration with influencers in the community and elected members to persuade households
- Take up non-compliance issues with the GP/ Supervisory Committee

c) GP:

- Prepare an IEC plan for engaging and educating the residents for awareness on SWM
- Position and design SWM waste collection vehicle as effective IEC tool

d) SBM Consultants:

- Support the GP with standard IEC content for awareness generation

Stakeholder-wise Intermediate Outcomes Expected (12 months – 18 months):

a) Citizens:

- Regular feedback from community monitors on the waste collection service
- Participation of citizens in awareness activities
- 70% of Households segregating the waste
- 60% of Households paying user fees
- 80% of commercial establishments paying user fees
- 70% of residents understand the harmful effects of burning plastics
- 50% reduction in the households using plastics in fire stoves
- 70% reduction in the garbage hotspots

b) SWM Team:

- Capability to educate the waste generators on good practices in SWM
- Maintenance of complaints and feedback register for citizens
- SWM Team leading the awareness activities by engaging with GP and local associations

c) GP:

- Lead the awareness against the usage of Single-Use Plastics (SUP)
- Ban SUP in the GP and penalise the violators

Long-term Outcomes (3 years)

The activities for achieving long-term outcomes would be planned after assessing the short-term and intermediate outcomes. Following are the outcomes envisaged between 1.5 to 3 years of the implementation of the Project

- At least 85% of the expenditure of the SWM enterprise to be generated by the women through user fees, sales of segregated waste, and other allied activities
- Decreasing trend in Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and the same to be provided by the GP to sustain the SWM enterprise model
- 100% segregation of waste from all generators
- 90% user fee collection from all generators
- Zero dumping hotspots in the GP

- f) 100% elimination of burning of plastic
- g) Ban on single-use plastic
- h) SWM Team maintaining updated records on – attendance of the workers, waste inflow, quantity segregated by type, user fees collected, revenue from sales, and expenditure incurred
- i) Regular monthly verification of SWM records by PDO or anyone nominated by him
- j) SWM Team of women functioning as behaviour change communicators
- k) Regular feedback from community-based monitors feeding into Gram Sabha and Ward Sabha discussions
- l) Regular quarterly meeting of the Supervisory Committee, whose recommendations for VGF and actions to be taken are forwarded to the GP

Theory of Change:

✚ SWM Resource Clusters_Draft TOC

Activities	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
Baseline survey										
Training on the enterprise model to the women engaged in SWM - including financial literacy, fund and resource management, book-keeping, digital literacy and conflict resolution										
Offering initial handholding support to women in identifying potential vendors for the sale of segregated waste										
Organise a meeting with the GP and the SWM Team to prepare and deploy a route map										
Conducting periodic random visits during collection to										

verify adherence to route maps and proper coverage without any gaps										
Facilitating the identification of a suitable person as supervisor within the team based on skills, qualifications, and entrepreneurial inclinations										
Engage with the GP to authorize user fee collection by SWM women and facilitate the issuance of receipts for payment										
Visits to households and shops, along with elected members to inform the residents about collection, segregation and user fees										
Preparing the templates for record-keeping and training the women to maintain records diligently										
Establish a system to diligently record the quantum of waste flowing into the shed and categorize it by type										
Facilitate exposure visits for the SWM Team to GPs that excel in implementing effective SWM practices, providing valuable learning opportunities and insights.										
Facilitate the submission of SWM records to the PDO on a monthly basis										
Capacitate SWM women to assess the level of										

non-compliance, identify households failing to adhere to solid waste management rules, and report such cases to the GP for necessary action										
Conduct workshop for Panchayat functionaries and elected members on the importance of SWM, processes to be followed, roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders and monitoring										
Facilitate regular discussion on SWM in GP general body meetings every month. Agenda to cover coverage, collection, compliance by households, income and expenditure statements, and grievances, if any.										
Ensure the implementation of IEC activities according to the predetermined calendar										
Monitor progress for compliance and feedback through qualitative interviews conducted randomly with citizens.										
Develop content on SWM for discussion in monthly SHG meetings										
Organise SHG meetings and facilitate discussions on SWM, with special emphasis on the negative effects of burning and littering of waste										

Visit and observe a few SHG meetings randomly to check for adherence. The aim is to promote SHGs as vehicles for information dissemination										
Work with the GPLF to ensure that they regularly discuss the performance of the SWM Team of women, thereby fostering a sense of ownership among them. Attend GPLF meetings to incorporate this agenda item consistently, thereby institutionalizing the practice.										
Work with GP to take action on defaulters and violators										
Enable the formation of the Supervisory Committee for SWM										
Delineate the functions of the Committee										
Facilitate monthly meetings of the committee for 3 months										
Capacity building of the committee members to monitor and supervise the SWM activities										
Document the functioning of the committee, challenges, and outcomes for policy recommendations										
Qualitative studies among citizens to understand the barriers in compliance										
Analysis of the baseline citizen survey data to plan the intervention areas										

Dissemination of information on waste collection schedule										
Identify and enlist the support of community monitors (Good number of aware, conscious and responsible citizens volunteers) to oversee the collection service and ensure the compliance of households										
Conduct school awareness programmes and create a core group of students as cleanliness ambassadors										
Organise cleanliness drives and rallies with the support of youth groups, SHGs and students										
With the involvement and the leadership of the GP, conduct competitions for students in order to raise awareness on SWM and the materials developed, in turn can be used for interpersonal communication										
Organise ward-level and youth group meetings to emphasise primary segregation and payment of user fees as well as to dissuade open dumping and burning										
Facilitate street plays to enhance awareness										
Organise special awareness programmes for shopkeepers and bulk waste generators										
Develop SBCC plan for 100% uptake, segregation and										

payment of user fees in rural context										
Train the SWM Team to engage with larger community by leveraging the community monitors as agents of change										
Facilitate regular implementation of SBCC activities as per the plan and document the learnings, challenges and outcomes										
Leverage health camps and NCD camps to raise awareness on the repercussions of indiscriminate usage of plastics and its improper disposal										
Collaborate with local community influencers and leaders										
Tap the digital and social media platforms to push the IEC content										
Plan and coordinate targeted activities aimed at reducing plastic usage in fire stoves										

Project 4: Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Raj Fellowship

a) Project Background

CRISP is hand holding the department with the recruitment and selection process for the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Raj Fellowship and the training of the fellows.

CRISP will act as a facilitator in preparing the modules for the Orientation training programme.

b) Work done so far in the last FY

1. Job Description for the fellows and PMU
2. Application tool development
3. Designing the matrix for shortlisting, visual verification, physical document verification and interview
4. Shortlisting of candidates based on machine scoring
5. Setting the question paper for the written test
6. Document verification and Essay test conducted
7. Interviews conducted
8. Draft Orientation training module shared with the department

● Key accomplishments

1. The notification inviting applications for the Fellowship was released on 20th January 2024 on the official KPRC website and was open till 5th Feb 2024. CRISP developed the application for the recruitment process which would have otherwise been done manually.
2. 174 out of 2000 plus candidates were shortlisted by the machine based on educational qualification and professional experience. Document verification and Written test (for which the questions were set by CRISP) was successfully conducted for the candidates on 22nd February 2024
3. Interviews were conducted from 26th Feb to 28th Feb 2024
4. 51 fellows have been selected – paperwork of the process has been completed
5. Draft Orientation training module has been shared with the department and is further being developed.

c) Proposed plan for FY 24 – 25

1. Designing the Induction training programme for the selected fellows
2. Induction training to be conducted at SIRD, Mysore from 1st June 2024
3. Recruitment and Appointment of the PMU for the fellowship programme
4. Supporting the PMU with the Fellowship related work

d) Key Objectives:

1. Planning the Induction Programme

Activities:

1. Discussions and deliberations with the module development and approval committees
2. Coordinating with the suggested resource persons and the department to plan the sessions.
3. Developing a structured curriculum covering the topics that have been finalised

4. Planning and putting together the resources- including trainers, training materials, venues, and logistics for the induction program.

Outputs:

1. Induction Manual: comprehensive manual outlining the program objectives, schedule, session topics, resources, and guidelines for fellows.
2. Training Materials: Prepare handouts, presentations, case studies, and other training materials to support learning during the induction program.

2. Induction training to be conducted at SIRD, Mysore from 1st June 2024

Activities:

1. Arranging and facilitating the workshops, seminars, field visits, and sessions by subject matter experts, practitioners, and local community leaders.

Outputs:

1. Training Sessions conducted
2. Fellows provided with reading materials, case studies, and resources for further learning.
3. Action plans outlining goals, strategies, and timelines for fellows' engagement in the projects.

3. Recruitment and appointment of the PMU for the fellowship programme and supporting them

Activities:

1. Supporting the department with the recruitment and selection of qualified and suitable staff for the PMU.
2. Orientation of the PMU outlining their roles and responsibilities
3. Collaboration and Coordination as and when necessary

Outputs:

1. A dedicated team comprising project managers, coordinators, and support staff to oversee the implementation of the fellowship program.
2. Established administrative systems for managing finances, , human resources, documentation, and reporting in accordance with program requirements and regulations.

Theory of change for the project can be accessed at:

[TOC_RGPRF - Google Docs](#)

Tentative timeline for the project is as follows:

Action	Timeline 2024 - 25								
	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Planning the orientation programme and development of modules.									
Orientation at SIRD Mysore									
Recruitment and appointment of the PMU for the fellowship programme and supporting them									
Handholding support to PMU and Fellows									

Project 5: Study of Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) in Karnataka

a) Project Background

In 2009, the Ministry of Rural Development took up the initiative of RSETIs inspired by the RUDSETI model of entrepreneurship training. Managed by banks, and supported by the Union and State government, these institutes have been providing entrepreneurship development and vocational training to lakhs of rural youth in over sixty skill areas.

Currently, Karnataka has 31 RSETIs. CRISP is tasked with studying the functioning and performance of these institutes, with a major focus on the impact of skill training.

b) Work done so far in the last FY

Since this is a new project, no work has been undertaken in the last FY.

c) Key accomplishments

N/A

d) Proposed plan for FY 24 – 25

Scoping visits to RSETIs will be conducted during which a broad overview of the functioning and performance of RSETIs will be studied. This will be followed by the collection and analysis of secondary data from RSETIs. Based on this analysis, a study design and questionnaire will be finalised. Further, primary data will be collected from stakeholders such as trained candidates, RSETI Director and faculty, NRLM staff, Lead bank staff etc. Finally, the primary data will be analysed and a report will be prepared and the same will be submitted to the department.

For the success of this study, CRISP will seek regular inputs/feedback and support from officials at the National Livelihood Mission.

e) Key Objectives

General objective

- Evaluate the functioning and performance of RSETIs in Karnataka.

Specific objectives

- Study whether the RSETIs are following the Standard Operating Procedures issued by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Study the factors that contribute to good and poor settlement rates.

- Study the challenges faced by the trained candidates.
- Understand the types of hand holding activities done by the RSETI and assess their effectiveness.
- Study the role of Gram Panchayats and SHGs in the functioning of RSETIs.
- Assess the relevance of training programmes offered by the RSETIs.
- Document best practices followed by RSETIs.

Activities

- Conduct scoping visits to RSETIs (already visited 3 RSETIs in Kolar, Tumkur, and Hassan)
- Visit the first ever RUDSETI in Ujire to understand the background and origin story.
- Conduct literature review of studies on RSETIs.
- Collect data from RSETIs to understand their performance in training, settlement, and handholding of candidates.
- Conduct data analysis of available data from RSETIs.
- Design study methodology and questionnaire.
- Select enumerators to administer the survey.
- Conduct a survey of trained candidates to assess training experience, settlement status, and handholding done by the institute.
- Conduct interviews with stakeholders such as Directors and faculty members of RSETI.

Outputs

- A study report evaluating the functioning and performance of RSETIs.
- Recommendations to improve the functioning and performance of RSETIs.
- A plan to implement the recommendations, if requested by the Department.

Outcomes

- Better understanding of the performance and functioning of RSETIs among the stakeholders
- Recognition of gaps in the compliance of Standard Operating Procedures by RSETIs.
- Better identification of the challenges faced by the stakeholders, specifically the trained candidates.
- Increased awareness of the need to make training programmes more relevant by aligning with market demand.

- Identification of strategies to improve the handholding activities to maximize the potential of trained candidates.
- Enhanced recognition of the need to strengthen and formalise the collaboration between RSETIs, and SHGs and GPs.

Theory of Change

The Theory of Change for the study on RSETIs can be accessed below:

 Theory of Change_Study on RSETIs .pptx

TIMELINE FOR STUDY ON RSETIs									
S. No.	Action Items	May 1st half	May 2nd half	June 1st half	June 2nd half	July 1st half	July 2nd half	August 1st half	August 2nd half
1	Scoping Visits to RSETIs (Completed)	■							
2	STUDY DESIGN								
2.1	Finalising study methodology		■						
2.2	Finalising questionnaire			■					
2.3	Sample selection			■					
3	SURVEY								
3.1	Select enumerators			■					
3.2	Train enumerators				■				
3.3	Pilot Testing of Questionnaire				■				
3.4	Collection of data					■			
4	DATA CLEANING & ANALYSIS								
4.1	Clean and finalize dataset					■	■		
4.2	Conduct data analysis						■		
4.3	Prepare report on data analysis						■		
5	REPORT								
5.1	Draft findings and recommendation							■	
5.2	Submission of findings and recommendation to the department							■	
5.3	Prepare draft report								■
5.4	Get feedback on draft report								■
5.5	Prepare final report								■

Project 6: District Outreach Programme for all the flagship projects of Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR), Karnataka

a) Project Background

Since January 2023, Karnataka CRISP team has been working on the flagship initiatives of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. These include rural libraries, crèches, GP-SHG convergence in solid waste management, and Gram Panchayat Arogya Amruta Abhiyana, all under the purview of the MoU between the Department and CRISP. With extensive field visits in more than 100 Gram Panchayats across 27 districts, the team has acquired an in-depth understanding of these initiatives. Now, the Department is seeking CRISP's broader engagement to strengthen different aspects of PRIs and work towards enhancing local governance holistically.

During a review meeting the team held with the Department on 10 April, 2024, Additional Chief Secretary, RDPR Uma Mahadevan IAS has tasked the team to present the team's understanding of various flagship initiatives, associated challenges, best practices and strategies for improving the program implementation at the district level. This presentation will be delivered to District C.E.Os, Taluk E.Os and other stakeholders in each district. For this, the team will conduct field visits to the Gram Panchayats prioritising districts where the team's field understanding is limited, followed by the districts where the team possess better field understanding. The primary data gathered from field visits will be complemented by secondary data collected at the district level through designated nodal officers appointed by the Department. Once the district level presentations are done, the findings from districts will be consolidated and presented to the Department. In contrast to the prior arrangement, where each fellow was assigned a specific project, for this initiative, all fellows will be engaged in all the projects.

b) Work done so far in the last FY

Since this is a new project, no work has been undertaken in the last FY.

c) Key accomplishments

N/A

d) Proposed plan for FY 24 – 25

CRISP will coordinate with the nodal officers appointed by the government for the flagship projects. The Fellows will access the data on the flagship projects via the nodal officer. Further, the Fellows will visit the GPs to analyse the performance of the projects. During this, the data collected from the nodal officer will be verified. Additionally, the Fellows will collect data based on the checklists prepared for each project. The result is that the quantitative data provided by the nodal officers will be supplemented by qualitative inputs from the Fellows.

As part of the outreach programme, the Fellows will visit all 31 districts. Initially, the Fellows will visit the districts in teams until each fellow is well equipped to handle it individually.

e) Key Objectives:

- To collate, integrate and rationalise the data obtained at various administrative levels with respect to the flagship programmes.
- To sensitise different stakeholders about the objectives of the programmes, highlight existing challenges, and share best practices for peer learning.
- To equip the districts with the necessary understanding and knowledge to effectively identify and address any deficiencies or gaps within the system.
- To provide a comprehensive road map outlining the future plan of action for effective implementation of the initiatives.

Activities

- Conducting scoping visits to 4-5 districts to gain a thorough understanding of all flagship programs, as fellows currently have only a basic knowledge of projects beyond their own.
- Developing the parameters and a standard template for collecting data essential to the flagship programs.
- Orienting the nodal officers on the template for them to collect the required data for their respective districts.
- District visits by fellows to gather additional qualitative information and validate the data collected by nodal officers.
- Compiling primary and secondary data, and preparing comprehensive presentations for both the state and individual districts. This will include data analysis, observations from visits, identification of deviations, highlighting persistent challenges, and showcasing effective practices that can be replicated across districts.
- Organising and conducting district-wise outreach programs in collaboration with nodal officers.

Outputs

- **Presentations on All Four Flagship Programs:**
One comprehensive presentation will be prepared for the entire state. Additionally, individual presentations will be crafted for each district, detailing the specific impact and progress of the flagship programs within their jurisdiction.
- **Data Repository on Performance Metrics:**
A centralised repository will be developed, compiling performance data for each district as well as for the state as a whole. This repository will provide detailed insights into how each district is performing across the various flagship programs, facilitating comparative analysis and targeted interventions.
- **Data Collection Template for Future Monitoring:**
A standardised template will be designed to streamline the data collection process. This template will ensure consistency and accuracy in data gathering, thereby enhancing the state's ability to monitor and evaluate the programs more effectively in the future.
- **Roadmap for Implementation and Execution:**
A strategic roadmap will be formulated, outlining the steps necessary to implement the given recommendations. This roadmap will focus on ensuring the effective execution of the flagship programs, providing clear guidelines and timelines for achieving the desired outcomes.

Outcomes

- A consolidated dataset facilitating clearer insights and better decision-making at various administrative levels.
- Enhanced awareness among stakeholders regarding programme goals, identification of challenges, and dissemination of success stories to promote mutual learning and collaboration.
- Enhanced district capacity to identify and address system gaps through improved understanding and knowledge of the programmes.
- Overall improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness in program implementation at the field level.

Tentative timeline for the project is as follows:

Activities	May	June	July	August	Sep
Conducting scoping visits to 4-5 districts					
Developing the parameters and a standard template for collecting data					
Orienting the nodal officers on the template and data aggregation					
District visits for qualitative study					
Data analysis and preparation of presentations					
District-wise outreach programmes					

Project 7: Promotion of sports in GPs of Karnataka

Section to be updated Project-wise:

<p>a) Project Background</p> <p>The promotion of sports in Gram Panchayats is vital for fostering community development, enhancing public health, nurturing local talent and empowering women. To realize this vision, diverse needs and challenges of rural communities need to be addressed. This Action Plan intends to adopt a holistic approach that addresses infrastructure development, capacity building and community engagement.</p>
<p>b) Work done so far in the last FY</p> <p>NA</p>
<p>c) Key accomplishments</p> <p>NA</p>
<p>d) Proposed plan for FY 24 – 25</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Scoping study to check existing sports infrastructure, willingness of the GP, and community interest and shortlisting 4-5 GPs where activities can be carried out.2. Implementation of the proposed activities in the selected GPs
<p>● Key Objectives under each project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To promote sports culture and physical fitness among rural communities <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Organize community sporting events involving children and adults in 3-4 GPs that already have playgrounds. The events can be held on occasions like Independence Day, National Sports Day, etc.● Chess and Carrom Board Trainings: Libraries will be utilized for promoting indoor sports like chess and carrom board. Training for playing chess and carrom board, along with educational resources will be provided to interested individuals, especially students, to encourage their participation in these activities.● Conduct sports awareness through Gram Sabhas and community events. Posters and pamphlet activities outlining the benefits of sports can be undertaken in libraries and these posters can be displayed in various public places and library rooms. <p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Chess and other indoor games training programs initiated through libraries.● Sports tournaments organized at the GP level.

- People become aware of the benefits of sports

2. To identify and nurture local sporting talent

Activities:

- Identify promising athletes within the community and provide them with specialized training and mentorship through qualified coaches with GP support and collaboration with NGOs and CSR of companies.
- Explore partnerships with NGOs working in sports development to leverage their expertise and support.

Outputs:

- Identification and training of local sporting talent
- Establishment of partnerships with NGOs and CSR wings of organisations
- Implementation of the Sports Scholarship Program

3. To improve the participation of women in sports activities and provide training and mentorship for aspiring athletes

Activities:

- Special tournaments for women to foster inclusivity (Mother’s Day, International Girl Child Day, etc.)
- Explore partnerships with NGOs working to empower women through sports to leverage their expertise and support.

Outcomes:

- Enhanced sports culture and infrastructure within selected Gram Panchayats.
- Improved physical fitness and overall well-being of community members.
- Increased opportunities for aspiring athletes, especially from marginalized backgrounds.
- Empowerment of women and girls through active participation in sports activities.

Tentative timeline for the project is as follows:

ACTION	TIMELINE					
	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scoping Visits to the Gram Panchayats						
Selection of 5 Gram Panchayats and initiation of activities						

Community events, library activities and organization of sports tournaments						
Launch of sports awareness campaigns, talent identification programs and NGO collaborations						
Documentation of project outcomes and planning for sustainability and future expansion						

Project 8: Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)

a) Project Background

The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, a flagship program of the Ministry of Education, Government of India is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions. The mission of UBA is to enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth.

CRISP entered into an MOU with UBA in December 2023. CRISP's role would be to collaborate with the Regional Coordinating Institutes (RCI) to build the capacity of Participating Institutes (PI) to

1. Facilitate participatory planning in the adopted GPs
2. Facilitate GP-SHG convergence
3. Facilitate localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

b) Work done so far in the last FY

This is a new project that will be taken in the current year. Hence, no work has been done so far.

c) Key accomplishments

N/A

d) Proposed plan for FY 24 – 25

Plan for the current year can broadly be categorised under 2 heads:

1. Enhancing the capacity of the Participating Institutes (PI)

In collaboration with Regional Coordinating Institutes (RCI), empower the PIs to drive problem solving and solution implementation in rural development; involve them, along with their adopted GPs, to prepare effective GPDPs and VPRPs, and work towards localizing SDGs.

2. Increasing the number of PIs in Karnataka

3 Districts will be chosen for the implementation of UBA. All the colleges in these districts will be approached to enrol themselves as PIs under UBA. These PIs are required to adopt 10 villages each and take up programmes that create a lasting impact through community efforts.

e) Key Objectives under each project:

1. Understanding the current operational methods of RCI and PIs

Activity:

- Conducting meetings with the RCI and all the PIs to understand their current functional technique.
- Organise field visits to:
 - Understand activities undertaken by PIs in villages.

- o Assess GDPDs and VPRPs implemented by GPs adopted by PIs.

Output:

- Status report of functioning of RCI and PIs in Karnataka.
- Status report of Contribution of PIs in preparation of GDPDs and VPRPs of the adopted GPs.

2. Establishing a linkage between Academic Institutions and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs)

Activity:

- Organise a collaborative stakeholder meeting between PIs and PRIs
- Developing a framework for academic-practical partnerships.

Output:

- Established collaboration framework.
- Documentation of partnership guidelines.

3. Facilitate Participatory planning in the adopted GPs

Activity:

- Preparation of Development Status Report and Situation Analysis by PIs
- Preparation of training material for orienting the PIs in their contribution to preparation of GDPDs/VPRPs.
- Training of PIs

Outcome:

- Assistance to the GPs in implementation of GDPDs/VPRPs

4. Enrolment of additional colleges in the selected districts

Activity:

- Reach out to the colleges and encourage their participation in the program
- Organise an orientation program for the newly onboarded Participating Institutes (PIs) to familiarize them with the program's vision, mission, objectives, and their respective roles within the initiative.

Output:

- Increased number of PIs in Karnataka

5. Improve access and application of Technologies in rural areas

Activity:

- Identify PIs (ITI/Engineering Colleges) that have expertise and are willing to implement technology in rural areas.
- Identify the technologies that are required in these rural areas.

Output:

- Technology needs assessment report (by the PIs)
- Trained community members

6. Implement a monitoring system for ongoing activities and collect feedback for improvement.

The tentative timeline for the project is as follows:

Action	Timeline								
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Scoping visit to Tamil Nadu (IIT Madras) and Kerala, (St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam)									
Conducting meetings with the RCI and all the PIs to understand their current operational methods.									
Field visits to the adopted GPs to understand the extent of participation of PIs in various activities									
Preparation of training material to orient the PIs									
Establish monitoring framework for PIs									
Orientation to PIs									
Establishing a linkage between Academic Institutions and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs)									
Facilitate Participatory planning in the adopted GPs									
Reach out to the colleges and encourage their participation in the program, Enrolment of colleges									
Orientation to new PIs									
Identify PIs to implement technology in rural areas									
Assisting PIs in identifying the technologies that are required in these rural areas.									

NOTE: The action plan prepared for Project 7 and 8 are only tentative and will be taken after the completion of other projects.

Project 9: Karnataka Inclusive Livelihoods Programme (KILP)

The Karnataka Inclusive Livelihoods Programme (KILP) is spearheaded by BRAC and PRADAN, and the programme is set to be driven by the National Livelihood Mission, Karnataka. This programme aims to identify and support the ultra-poor in ten districts of Karnataka—Chamrajnagar, Bagalkote, Vijayapura, Koppal, Bellary, Vijayanagara, Kalaburgi, Yadgir, Raichur, and Bidar—through targeted interventions to help them escape poverty.

CRISP has been extensively involved in the programme's scoping visits and has contributed significantly to developing data collection tools and the intervention strategy. These scoping visits, carried out from February 2024 to April 2024 aimed to gain insights into the socio-economic characteristics of the Taluks, understand the exclusion of various social groups, and explore the dimensions of poverty experienced by these groups. Field insights have been instrumental in creating context-specific indicators of ultra-poverty, complementing the socio-economic indicators used to assess and measure poverty with the objective of enrolling the poorest of the poor in the ultra-poor graduation initiative.

The detailed scope of work and Terms of Reference for CRISP will be outlined based on further discussions with the relevant stakeholders.

Project 10: Exploring Sustainable Solutions: A Pilot Project for Repurposing Plastics into Construction Materials

CRISP Karnataka Team, along with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has submitted a proposal to Bengaluru Sustainability Forum (BSF) under its Small Grants Programme. The project proposal outlines a sustainable initiative that is being planned with the objective to produce paver blocks and hollow bricks by repurposing Multi-Layered Plastics (MLPs) and other Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE) materials. The proposed two-year project seeks to explore a model focussed on waste reduction and the promotion of a circular economy, thereby contributing to the overarching goal of sustainable resource management. The broader goal of the project is to prevent much of the plastic waste from going to landfills or incinerators by utilizing them for construction purposes while offering an eco-friendly substitute for conventional building materials.

The proposal has been shortlisted by BSF after two rounds of review, and a presentation will be made before a jury as part of the selection process. The awarding of the project is contingent on the final selection after the presentation round, which is scheduled for June 7th 2024. If awarded, the project will be implemented from 2024 to 2026.

Details of the project proposal are mentioned below:

Specific Objectives:

1. Pilot a research project in a peri-urban area to establish a unit for producing paver blocks/hollow bricks utilizing shredded plastic waste in the process.
2. Reduce the volume of plastic waste directed to incineration or landfills.
3. Develop a circular economy model by redirecting non-recyclable plastic waste from neighbouring areas to the unit, and repurposing them into construction materials.
4. Create a local market for construction materials that use plastic as a filler/binding material, encouraging nearby local governments to procure them for infrastructure building processes.
5. Document the insights gained, challenges encountered, and processes followed for broader dissemination, benefiting stakeholders in this field.
6. Assess the preconditions and feasibility of the project for potential replication in other locations.

Background:

The management of non-recyclable waste continues to be a challenge in both the rural and urban areas, more so because they constitute nearly 60% of the solid waste generation. MLPs and LDPE face challenges in being accepted by recyclers, leading them to become a significant portion of non-recyclable waste. As a result, local governments find themselves burdened with high processing fees to manage and dispose of this type of waste. Typically, these types of waste are sent for co-processing in cement kilns or relegated to landfills, both of which incur substantial expenses.

In their 2019 study titled ‘Utilization of Waste Plastic in Manufacturing of Paver Blocks’, Ghuge, J., Surale, S., Patil, B. M., & Bhutekar, S. B¹. find that the compressive strength of plastic paver block is almost equal to that of conventional cement paver block. In another research study conducted by Raghatate Atul M in 2012², it was concluded that the addition of plastic enhances the tensile strength of concrete. The study further adds that while the compressive strength of concrete may decrease with higher percentages of plastics, the reduction rate is observed to be minimal. According to a recent study conducted by Pathare, P., Shinde, Y., Shinde, S., Kamble, S., & Patil, S. T.³ in 2022, the optimal content of plastic for achieving better compressive strength is determined to be 15% of the total quantity of raw material used for the manufacturing of blocks. Therefore, the plastic paver blocks could potentially be used for sidewalks, pedestrian pathways, cycle pathways, and other light-traffic roads. This can address the problem of disposal of MLPs and LDPE to some extent. An organization based in Jakarta, Indonesia, named 'Rebricks,' has been successfully implementing this model since 2018, by turning plastic waste into building materials.

This project proposes a solution by utilizing non-recyclable plastics to produce construction materials, thereby reducing plastic waste and promoting sustainable practices.

Project Location:

Jalige Gram Panchayat (GP), located in Devanahalli Taluk of Bengaluru Rural District, is a peri-urban GP located approximately 15 km away from Yelahanka. This GP, owing to its close proximity to the city, encounters challenges akin to those faced by the city itself. More than 50 percent of private lands within the GP have been converted into plots and layouts. The current population of the GP is estimated to be around 15000. Consequently, the volume of waste generated has been increasing. The quantity of non-recyclable waste surpasses that of recyclables, necessitating the local government, like any other municipal body, to bear significant costs for its systematic processing.

The GP, open to fostering innovative initiatives, envisions developing a pathway encircling a lake within its jurisdiction, intended for use by pedestrians. During the initial phase of this project, the plan is to employ the paver blocks produced by repurposing plastic waste for the construction of this pathway and any other construction work to be taken up by the GP.

Collaborating Partners:

The project will be a collaborative initiative involving the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR), Government of Karnataka, and the Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies (CRISP).

The Department will oversee the project, facilitating its implementation in the selected Gram Panchayat (GP). CRISP, with its extensive experience in the domain of Solid Waste Management in rural areas of Karnataka, will play a pivotal role in the coordination and management of the project. CRISP will also actively engage with stakeholders on the ground, foster collaboration with institutions for knowledge support, and oversee the successful execution of the initiative.

¹ <https://www.irjet.net/archives/V6/i4/IRJET-V6I4427.pdf>

² https://www.academia.edu/30615363/USE_OF_PLASTIC_IN_A_CONCRETE_TO_IMPROVE_ITS_PROPERTIES

³ <https://ijcrt.org/papers/IJCRT2205543.pdf>

The Gram Panchayat will extend necessary support by assisting in identifying a suitable space for establishing the paver block manufacturing unit with plastic as filler/binding material and identifying local human resources to operate it.

Project Description and Activities:

I. Knowledge Gathering: June 2024 to Jan 2025

CRISP will collaborate with local educational institutions that have previously engaged in research related to utilizing plastics in construction materials. In the selected GP, MLPs and LDPE waste will be shredded and combined with concrete, to produce paver blocks and hollow bricks with shredded plastic serving as either a filler or binding material. The expertise of these educational institutions will be harnessed for conducting the testing of these bricks and paver blocks, specifically assessing their compressive and tensile strength.

For testing purposes, support may be sought from existing paver block manufacturing units to produce a few blocks for testing.

Given that the local government in Jalige presently lacks records on waste inflow into their collection facility and its categorization, the initial step will involve documenting the volume of generated waste. This includes recording data on segregation into recyclables and non-recyclables, and also determining the percentage of these non-recyclables that can be effectively repurposed for the production of plastic filler paver blocks.

II. Setting-up of the Unit: Feb 2025 to October 2025

The unit can be established in Jalige Gram Panchayat by acquiring the necessary machinery and equipment. Initially, the plastic waste generated within the GP can be shredded and employed as filler material to manufacture paver blocks and hollow bricks. The GP is already doing the waste collection and segregation process, which can be leveraged for sourcing the plastic waste to be used as filler material. The GP can exemplify sustainable practices by utilizing the blocks/bricks produced for its own construction needs, such as laying pathways. To operate the unit, local human resources can be hired, with the support and involvement of the Gram Panchayat.

III. Feasibility Study: November 2025 to December 2025

If the testing results validate the strength of plastic filler paver blocks for construction purposes, a cost-benefit analysis will be conducted, taking into account initial setup costs (machinery procurement, facility establishment, research and development, etc.), operational expenses (raw material procurement, labor costs, utilities, etc.), and revenue projections (projected sales revenue and return on investment). MLPs and other non-recyclable plastic can be sourced from neighbouring areas, cleaned, shredded, and then blended with concrete to produce paver blocks.

IV. Market Research and Expansion: January 2026 to February 2026

Subsequently, efforts in marketing and distribution can be initiated to facilitate expansion. Prior to that, a demand assessment for the produced blocks/ bricks in the local market will be conducted. Encouraging neighbouring GPs to procure their

construction materials from this unit can be part of establishing a local market, emphasizing cost-effectiveness and environmentally friendly alternatives.

V. Documentation: March 2026 to May 2026

Recording the quantity of plastic received from various sources and meticulously tracking the repurposing of this plastic into construction material will be followed. This real-time documentation will be conducted alongside the project, ensuring accurate and timely records of the entire process. The insights gained from the project, will be documented, by detailing out the challenges encountered and the procedural intricacies followed throughout the initiative. This documentation aims to facilitate wider dissemination, providing valuable knowledge and insights to stakeholders in the field.

The technical details of manufacturing plastic filler paver blocks, including the quantities of various raw materials utilized, curing methods, and other involved processes, will be thoroughly documented. Additionally, a process documentation will also be conducted to provide comprehensive information on the procedures to establish a similar facility at other locations.

VI. Potential Replication and Strategizing Expansion: June 2026

Following a thorough assessment of preconditions, cost-benefit analysis, and the local market for construction material derived from repurposed plastic waste, additional strategies will be developed to facilitate further expansion. These strategies will focus on identifying appropriate locations and potential opportunities for replicating the project on a broader scale.

Expected Outcomes

Short-term Outcomes (May – June 2024 to Jan 2025)

- Establishment of a collaboration between CRISP and local educational institutions for research on utilizing plastics in the manufacture of paver blocks/ hollow bricks. This endeavour will help us learn more about using plastics in construction materials and practical ways to repurpose plastic.
- Documentation of waste inflow and categorization in Jalige GP. This step will help us determine how much of non-recyclable waste is generated, and what quantity of it can be utilised for repurposing into construction material.
- Production of paver blocks/ hollow bricks using shredded MLPs and LDPE, for testing compressive and tensile strength. A few samples of plastic filler paver blocks will be produced for testing purposes.
- Validation of the feasibility of incorporating plastic waste as a filler or binding material in construction materials with the help of expert knowledge. The expertise of educational institutions will ensure we test these new construction materials well, looking specifically at how strong they are.

Mid-term Outcomes (Feb 2025 to Feb 2026)

- Establishment of the unit in Jalige GP for turning non – recyclable plastic into construction material
- Utilization of locally generated plastic waste as a filler material for manufacturing paver blocks and hollow bricks.
- Demonstration of sustainable practices by using the produced blocks/bricks for the GP's construction needs.
- Demand assessment in the local market
- Efficient sourcing, and blending of MLPs and non-recyclable plastic with concrete for producing paver blocks. Tie-up with neighbouring GPs, and waste generators for sourcing the plastics required for blending.
- Real-time and meticulous recording of the plastic quantity received and its conversion into construction material.
- Initiation of marketing and distribution efforts to promote the expansion of the project and undertake a demand assessment. Looking at costs and benefits will help us see if our project makes financial sense
- Explore the model of selling the produced blocks/ bricks to neighbouring GPs, establishing a local market for cost-effective and eco-friendly alternatives.

Long-term Outcomes: (March 2026 to June 2026 and beyond)

- Comprehensive documentation of project insights, challenges faced, and procedural intricacies for wider dissemination.
- Detailed technical documentation of the manufacturing process, including raw material quantities, curing methods, and other involved processes.
- Formulation of effective strategies for further expansion and replication based on a thorough assessment of preconditions, cost-benefit analysis, and local market dynamics. Looking at all the details, costs, and the local market will help us plan to expand.
- Identification of suitable locations for potential replication and broader-scale implementation of the project.
- Contribution to the broader knowledge base in the field of sustainable construction using repurposed plastic waste through dissemination of project outcomes and insights.

Budget Plan:

Cost Category	Estimated Budget
May – June 2024 to Jan 2025	
For exploring collaboration with educational institutions, testing the strength of the plastic filler paver block, research and transportation costs	Rs.300000
From Feb 2025 to June 2026	

Capital cost (involving shredder, mixer, paver block manufacturing equipment, Mould etc.)	Rs. 1300000
Operational costs (involving human resources for 6 months and raw material)	Rs.600000

The costs over and above the budget grant from BSF will be raised through the department/ CSR