

Monthly Updates- April 2026

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**. It will focus on 18000 poorest of the poor households for graduating out of poverty. 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.

Project Goal



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

Strategy and Approach

Graduation Approach

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

State-Specific Strategies

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

Real-Time Evaluation

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

Government Convergence

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

Progress this Month

Major Highlights

- The Livelihoods Concurrent Evaluation proposal was shared with IFMR for IRB approval.
- The **2nd Strategic Advisory Meeting was held on 24th April 2026 at UMED-MSRLM**, in the presence of CRISP mentor Mr. Sitaram Kunte, along with the UMED CEO, COO, FI team, IGS PMU team, and CRISP team members.
- The CRISP team, along with the **TGILP SPMU team, undertook an exposure visit to Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, to Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RYSS) under APCNF**. The visit focused on understanding natural farming practices, food and nutrition security, and their adaptability for ultra-poor households. Climate-resilient farming practices and nutri-gardens emerged as key components with strong potential for replication across programme geographies.

Maharashtra

- The **2nd Strategic Advisory Meeting at UMED-MSRLM reviewed progress under the Maha-Samruddhi Yojana (ILP & SAY)**, covering community mobilisation, entitlement facilitation, livelihood planning, capacity building, and asset transfer processes.
- Discussions **emphasized strengthening convergence with departments and livelihood initiatives**, improving entitlement saturation and MIS systems, and promoting sustainable livelihood strategies, while also identifying areas requiring further advisory support.

Telangana

- A workshop on **Graduation Indicators was conducted on 6th April at the CRISP office by J-PAL** in partnership with BRAC, CRISP, and SPMU. The workshop focused on detailing the Theory of Change, key assumptions, and graduation indicators, along with their distribution across the programme timeline to support monitoring.
- Data collection for **Phase 1 of the Livelihoods Concurrent Evaluation is currently underway, covering livelihood planning processes** such as district planning, seasonal calendars, trade analysis, resource mapping, micro-planning, and assessment of coaches' experiences and VO engagement.
- The CRISP team facilitated a learning visit to **Nagarkurnool (10th–11th April) with Karnataka and Tamil Nadu ILP teams**, focusing on PMU-led livelihood planning processes and field-level implementation of farm and non-farm livelihoods.
- The CRISP team also participated in a **Training of Trainers (ToT) on Gender and FNHW concepts under DAY-NRLM**, held from 22nd to 24th April 2026 at NIRDPR.

Progress this Month

Karnataka

- CRISP team members participated in a **BRAC NPMU-led workshop** for District Coordinators, DPMs, and SPMs, focusing on Gram Panchayat-level profiling, micro-planning, and identification of locally relevant livelihood opportunities.
- The team completed drafting the **concurrent evaluation report on the identification process, incorporating field insights**.
- Continued participation in **daily SRLM review calls enabled close tracking of implementation progress, identification of field-level challenges, and alignment of evaluation activities** with programme developments.

Photos



Key Learnings



Strengthening the local livelihoods ecosystem—including **community cadres, technical support systems, access to inputs, and market linkages**—is critical for programme success, particularly in remote tribal and PVTG areas. At the same time, livelihood interventions need to move beyond **individual asset transfers towards more collective, market-linked approaches to ensure long-term sustainability**. Ensuring entitlement saturation alongside livelihood support is equally essential to reduce vulnerability and enable participants to sustain and protect their assets.

Way Forward

- Share Entitlement Study designs for IRB approvals.
- Submit the Phase 1 Livelihood Planning Concurrent Evaluation report for Maharashtra to BRAC and PMU.
- Plan and execute the inclusion–exclusion survey in Karnataka.
- Continue data collection for Phase 1 Livelihood Planning Concurrent Evaluation in Telangana.