Monthly Updates- August 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/Steps

Inclusion–Exclusion Survey

- The CRISP team completed and submitted the **Inclusion–Exclusion Survey Report for NARI KILP to BRAC for review**. The report analyses inclusion and exclusion errors, their underlying causes, and provides recommendations for future participant identification rounds.

Livelihood Planning

- The CRISP team completed and shared the **Livelihood Planning Concurrent Evaluation Report for TGILP with BRAC and CRISP** mentors. The report captures findings from r**esource mapping, seasonal calendars, trade-in/trade-out, and microplanning exercises**, along with FGD findings from coaches, CLFs, and VOs and recommendations for strengthening subsequent livelihood planning.

Maharashtra

- The CRISP team held **weekly coordination calls with the SPMU to review MSY progress and participated in the Coach Training on Books of Records and Monitoring Tools** (11–12 August).
- The CRISP team also participated in the **monthly SPMU–NPMU review meeting** on 25 August to assess overall programme progress.

Telangana

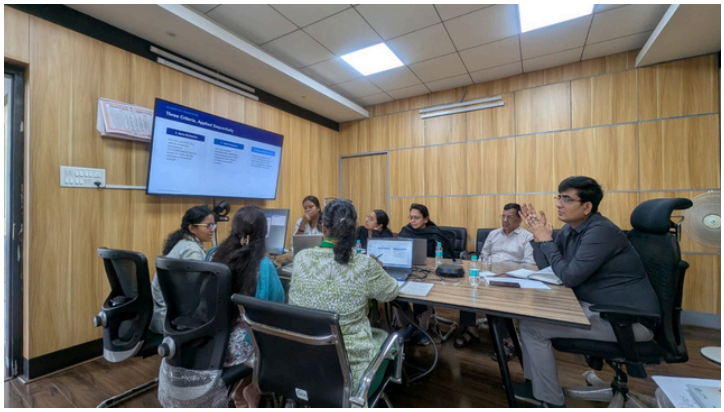
- The CRISP team conducted **FGDs with MS and VOs in Amrabad and Padara mandals, Nagarkurnool**, to assess the functioning of Livelihood and Procurement Committees and clarify the roles of VOs and MS bodies.
- The CRISP team also consolidated findings from FGDs across Mulugu, KB Asifabad, and Nagarkurnool into the Livelihood Planning CE Report, which was completed and shared with BRAC and mentors for review.

Karnataka

- The CRISP team presented findings from the **Inclusion–Exclusion Survey** to the Additional Mission Director and discussed their implications for programme implementation and participant identification.
- The team discussed the findings and recommendations from the **Identification Phase CE and Inclusion–Exclusion Survey with the PMU** and translated them into actionable recommendations for the SRLM/SPMU, districts, taluks, and Nari Sakhis.
- The CRISP team participated in a **two-day livelihoods brainstorming workshop (5–6 August) with District and Block Coordinators to identify suitable livelihood options, develop participant profiles, and prepare action plans.**
- The team also finalised the **tools and evaluation approach for the Concurrent Evaluation of Livelihood Planning** and conducted a field visit to Gundlupet to observe market assessment and understand the livelihood-planning process and challenges faced by Nari Sakhis.

Photos





Key Learnings

- Livelihood **planning requires differentiated approaches based on the profiles, capabilities, and circumstances of programme participants**. The brainstorming workshop in Karnataka highlighted the importance of identifying appropriate livelihood options and developing clear action plans before implementation.

- Since the programme has extremely vulnerable participants, **including single/ destitute women and participants with disabilities**. Special attention needs to be given to coaches to engage better with the vulnerable households; further, coaches need to be supported better to take on this very critical role.

- CLFs and VOs need to be more actively engaged in the **livelihood planning and asset distribution phase.** Communication between the Block-level representatives, coaches, MS OB members, and VO members is extremely important to ensure ownership and sustainability of this initiative.

Way Forward

- In **Karnataka**, the team will undertake the Concurrent Evaluation (CE) of the Livelihood Planning stage, using the tools and evaluation framework developed during the month. As part of the CE, the team will continue to provide inputs on livelihood planning, including developing participant profiles, identifying suitable livelihood options, conducting market assessments, and preparing action plans.

- In **Maharashtra,** the Microplanning Phase 1 report will be submitted to UMED and the PMU. The team will engage with the PMU on entitlements, the CE study design, and evaluation tools. The CRISP team will also participate in the annual review meeting of MSY in Nashik from 1–3 September and initiate the Coach Capacity Dipstick Study.

- In **Telangana,** the team will share the livelihood study findings with the PMU and initiate the Access to Entitlements Study. A Theory of Change (ToC) workshop will also be conducted with the PMU at the CRISP office, in partnership with BRAC, ahead of the state-level Indicator Workshop scheduled for 9–10 September.