

Monthly Updates- July 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

- The CRISP team participated in the NARI KILP Annual Joint Review, chaired by **the Development Commissioner, on 15 July**. The meeting focused on reviewing the programme's progress across the documentation, entitlement, and livelihood phases. During the review, the CRISP team presented key findings from its concurrent evaluation of the Identification Phase and the Inclusion–Exclusion Survey.
- The team also participated in the **J-PAL Process Evaluation Workshop held in Nashik during the first week of July**. The workshop focused on strengthening the process evaluation framework, developing the programme's Theory of Change (ToC), and formulating state-specific graduation indicators to support programme monitoring and evaluation.

Maharashtra

- The CRISP team participated in the **monthly review meeting with the SPMU and BRAC on 3 July**. Discussions centred on the progress of asset transfers, procurement processes, consumption grant disbursement, and ongoing support for livelihood implementation.
- The team also conducted a **dissemination meeting with the PMU to present the findings of the Microplanning Report**. The meeting was attended by state-, district-, and block-level PMU officials and provided an opportunity to share key insights and recommendations ahead of the commencement of Phase II of the microplanning process.

Telangana

- The CRISP team facilitated focus group discussions (**FGDs**) with **Mandal Samakhyas (MSs) and Village Organisations (VOs) in Mulugu on 15–16 July and in Asifabad on 21–22 July**. The discussions aimed to assess the functioning of the Livelihood and Procurement Committees, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the MSs and VOs.
- On **17 July, the team met with the PMU to discuss the Entitlement Study** tool. In addition, the findings from the Livelihood Planning Concurrent Evaluation (CE) Report for Telangana will be consolidated and shared with BRAC for review.

Karnataka

- The team completed data collection for the **Inclusion–Exclusion Survey during the first week of July 2026** and is currently drafting the survey report.
- On 13 July 2026, the CRISP team, together with the **SPMU and BRAC teams, undertook a field visit to Badami**. The visit included interactions at Gram Panchayats with GPLC members, programme participants, and NARI Sakhis to better understand programme implementation on the ground.
- The team also held an internal meeting with the Programme Associate (Livelihoods) to review the current status of livelihood interventions in Karnataka.

Photos



Key Learnings



- Findings from the **Livelihoods Concurrent Evaluation** underscore the importance of strengthening the integration of community institutions, particularly **Village Organisations (VOs) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs)**, into programme planning and implementation. Enhancing their participation through sustained capacity building will be critical to fostering community ownership and ensuring the long-term sustainability of programme interventions.
- The process of **refining and adapting the programme's graduation indicators** should incorporate dimensions of system embeddedness, gender inclusion, and climate adaptation. Integrating these aspects will enable the programme to better monitor progress, strengthen implementation, and measure outcomes aligned with its long-term objectives.

Way Forward

The CRISP team will initiate the planning of **state-specific dipstick studies**, in consultation with the respective PMUs, to complement the ongoing research activities.

- **Karnataka:** The team will finalize and share the Inclusion–Exclusion Survey report with BRAC and initiate the Concurrent Evaluation of the Livelihoods Planning phase.
- **Maharashtra:** The Phase I Microplanning Report will be submitted to UMED and the PMU. The team will also engage with the PMU on the Entitlements Study design and tools.
- **Telangana:** The team will consolidate and share the Livelihoods Planning Concurrent Evaluation findings with BRAC, discuss the results with the PMU, and initiate the Entitlements Study.