

Monthly Updates- March 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.

Photo Gallery



Central Updates

- The CRISP team shared the second **Strategic Advisory Notes with UMED & SERP, BRAC and respective SPMUs on the 11th of March 2026**, outlining key observations, recommendations, and considerations to strengthen programme implementation.
- The CRISP team had a meeting with the **TNILP livelihoods team on 10 March 2026 to exchange perspectives on livelihood strategies**, implementation approaches, and lessons from different programme contexts.
- Livelihoods Concurrent evaluation design has been finalised, it includes components of livelihoods planning, asset distribution & management, coach capacity, along with provision and utilisation of consumption grant. Livelihood planning-related components are currently in process in Telangana. Concurrent evaluation design for the Entitlement study has also been finalised internally; the study will be undertaken in Telangana

Maharashtra

- The CRISP team attended the **CLF orientation on Procurement Committees on 5 March 2026** to understand the processes being established for procurement under MSY. The session provided insights into roles, responsibilities, and systems being put in place to support transparent and efficient asset procurement.
- The CRISP team participated in the **Sarathi App baseline training** on 6 March 2026 to understand the application's functionality, data capture processes, and its role in supporting programme monitoring and decision-making.
- The CRISP team had **weekly meetings with the SPMU to review field updates and ongoing implementation progress**, with a focus on resolving operational challenges and ensuring alignment across stakeholders.
- The CRISP team conducted a field visit to Nashik from 12 to 13 March 2026 to observe **CLF Procurement Committee orientations**. The visit focused on understanding how procurement processes were being communicated at the community level, the preparedness of CLF members, and potential challenges in operationalisation.

Karnataka

- During March, the **CRISP team initiated preparatory work for the inclusion–exclusion survey** as part of the concurrent evaluation. Relevant data-sharing formats were developed and shared with the programme team, followed by a detailed discussion with the Chief Operating Officer (COO) to align on the scope, approach, and data requirements for the exercise. In addition, an online tool was designed and developed to facilitate systematic data collection for the survey.
- The team also prepared a **draft concurrent evaluation report** covering the identification and preparedness phases of the programme. The report has been circulated internally for review and feedback.

Telangana

- The team conducted a **field visit was conducted to Padara and Amrabad blocks** in Nagarkurnool district to assess the functioning of Mandal Mahila Samakhyas (MMS) and the progress of Livelihood and Procurement Committees under the TGILP programme. Discussions focused on participant identification, fund utilisation, asset procurement, and grievance redressal systems. While the programme is in early stages, with 664 participants in Padara and 798 in Amrabad, progress on asset transfers has been slow.
- The team conducted a **monthly meeting with PMU on March 13**, which highlighted key programme updates included a review of MIS progress and the status of entitlement coverage. The Mahua Laddu initiative has benefited 19 participants, generating an estimated profit of ₹8 lakhs, with a detailed case study to follow. In the month of March, Identification of programme participants under SAY is being prioritised by the PMU. Progress on micro planning and livelihood grounding remains limited for the 500 households being prioritised as part of the pilot.
- A field visit was undertaken on **March 17-18, 2026 to conduct a Livelihood Ecosystem Assessment in Mulugu District**. We also attended a training session organised for participants engaged in mahua flower collection. The assessment covered participants involved in poultry (2), tailoring (1), mahua flower collection (2), and kirana shops (1), with a focus on evaluating both asset performance and the enabling ecosystem, including input supply, market linkages, and access to credit. Assets show positive returns, but high costs, limited capital, and skill gaps underscore the need for stronger ecosystem support.

Key Learnings

Programme success hinges on **strengthening the livelihoods ecosystem, especially in PVTG and tribal hamlets where it remains weak**. Close coordination **between SRLMs and CLFs** is essential to ensure access to cadres, raw materials, and market linkages. Simultaneously, prioritizing convergence with entitlements is critical to enhance income security and improve overall outcomes.

Way Forward



- CRISP will be sharing the study designs for IRB approvals.
- In **Karnataka**, the team will plan and undertake an inclusion-exclusion survey and participate in the upcoming training for NARI Sakhis on micro-planning.
- In **Maharashtra**, a state-level meeting with UMED MSRLM will be conducted to discuss the advisory note and define next steps.
- In **Telangana**, the focus will be on progressing the livelihoods/micro-planning study and compiling key findings.