

## Monthly Updates- May 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 MSY Livelihoods CE (Phase 1) report and NARI KILP – Identification CE reports were shared with BRAC for feedback.
- IRB approval has been received for the livelihoods study, which includes aspects related to asset transfer and the Consumption Grant.

### Maharashtra

- CRISP conducted weekly review meetings with the SPMU on 4th, 11th, and 18th May to review **on-ground progress related to procurement processes, asset transfer timelines, entitlement efforts, BRAC's aspiration app "Aamche Sapne", and MSY baseline timelines.**
- On 5th May, the CRISP team shared details with **BRAC from the advisory meeting held on 24th April**, including updates and next steps for strengthening livelihoods interventions.
- The MSY monthly review meeting with **BRAC and CRISP, held on 26th May, focused on updates related to livelihood procurement, asset transfer timelines, microplan readiness, refresher trainings, entitlement camps and efforts**, and the status of entitlement data compilation.

### Telangana

- A monthly review meeting with the SPMU was held on 12th May. The SPMU shared updates on entitlements, the consumption grant/food basket, MIS pilot testing, and the natural farming polycropping campaign. Discussions were also held on **the need for further clarification of the Graduation indicators and the coach capacity assessment study.**
- The team **conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with coaches** on 14th, 15th, 16th, 20th, and 21st May in Mulugu and Kumuram Bheem Asifabad districts to understand the microplan process (MCP), challenges in MCP implementation, livelihood planning, and future visioning.

### Karnataka

- A monthly review meeting with the SPMU was held on 7th May, **during which the programme team shared updates on implementation progress, including the finalisation of the list of programme participants** who would be taking up livelihood activities. The CRISP team also provided updates on the proposed entitlement study and discussed the planned approach for the exercise.
- During the month, the first **Concurrent Evaluation report covering the Identification Phase was submitted to BRAC.** The report documented findings from direct observations across various stages of the identification process and assessed system preparedness through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) conducted with community institutions, as well as SRLM and SPMU staff.
- Members of the CRISP team attended the training programme on **Livelihood Planning and Execution conducted on 25th, 26th, and 27th May 2026 for District Coordinators, Block Coordinators, and Training Coordinators.** The training included detailed sessions on integrating livelihood interventions within the programme framework, adopting an ecosystem approach to livelihood promotion, conducting livelihood assessments, preparing microplans, and incorporating climate adaptation and resilient livelihood practices into programme implementation.
- The team also **undertook preparatory activities for the Inclusion–Exclusion Survey.** This included developing the sampling framework, preparing the online data collection tool, and initiating the process for identifying and onboarding enumerators for data collection.

## Photos



## Key Learnings



- Indicators across all states need to be further detailed, clearly defined, and reflected in programme outputs and outcomes. This exercise will help PMUs move from **activity tracking towards outcome-focused monitoring**.
- Adopting an ecosystem approach to livelihoods is **imperative for the success of the programme**. As many assets emerging from the microplanning process include goats, livelihood planning should account for climate-related risks prior to asset transfers.
- Continuous training and refresher support for frontline staff, coaches, CLFs, and community institutions remain **important for improving the quality of livelihood planning, stakeholder engagement, procurement processes**, and overall programme implementation.
- While livelihood and entitlement activities are progressing well, there remains a **need to strengthen data compilation, tracking systems, and monitoring of household-level outcomes** and benefit utilisation.

## Way Forward

- In Karnataka, the team will conduct the **Inclusion–Exclusion Survey**.
- In Maharashtra, the CRISP team will begin field visits to understand **on-ground progress related to entitlements** and to plan the entitlement study.
- In Telangana, the **Livelihood Planning CE report** will be consolidated and shared with BRAC for review. To better support the PMUs, an outline document for understanding coach capacity-building needs will be prepared and shared for inputs.