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Monthly Updates- October 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 within a period of 24 months. 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

- **In Maharashtra:** Completed the fieldwork for the Coach Enablement Dipstick study and is currently conducting thematic analysis and drafting the report.
- **In Telangana:** A discussion on the key findings from the Livelihood Planning Concurrent evaluation was held with the CEO, SERP, on the 17th of October.
- **In Karnataka:** As part of the ongoing Concurrent evaluation of livelihoods, data collection, including FGDs and stakeholder mapping exercises, was undertaken in Karnataka.

Maharashtra

- The **Maharashtra Coach Enablement Dipstick field visit** was carried out in Nashik from 8th to 10th October. The study aims to **understand the support and enabling conditions available to coaches, including their training and capacity-building needs, workload, support systems, and challenges** in working with EVHHs, including PVTGs, single/destitute women and households with persons with disabilities. The study includes interactions with coaches and BRPs, along with a review of relevant programme documents and resources.
- CRISP team participated in the **monthly review meeting with the SPMU and NPMU** on 27th October to discuss overall progress under MSY, actions taken by the PMU based on CRISP's livelihoods concurrent evaluation recommendations and CRISP also shared insights from the recent coach dipstick study.

Telangana

- The CRISP team attended a **Reflective Workshop organised by the PMU at the SERP office** on 30 September and 1 October 2026. The workshop gave the team an opportunity to reflect on programme progress, field learnings and gaps they have and the way forward for the TGILP evaluation work plan.
- On 9 October 2026, the team **conducted two FGDs with coaches in Nagarkurnool district** as part of the Entitlement Study. A participatory exercise was used to understand the documentation gaps faced by programme participants, how coaches facilitate access to various entitlements, and which departments and functionaries they approach to obtain them.
- The team attended **a training session on the SARATHI app** at the SERP office on 12 October 2026 to understand the app's features and how it supports monitoring and programme implementation.
- On 17 October 2026, the team presented the **findings of the Livelihood Concurrent Evaluation Report to the SERP CEO, Divya Devarajan**. The presentation also covered the key issues that emerged from the evaluation.
- The team **received all coach training modules developed by the PMU**; these cover livelihoods-related and social-issue aspects in detail. Components from these modules will be adapted to the asset transfer study. The team used this time to review the modules to understand the content, coverage, and approach of the capacity-building support provided to coaches.
- On 29 October, the team **met the PMU to review the Entitlement Study tools** (HH Survey, Coach FGDs, IDIs with line departments, and KIIs with district/block coordinators). The team also took inputs from the PMU on sampling, on specific aspects they would want to understand and would add value to their programme.

Karnataka

- The team conducted a **field visit to Aurad and Kamalnagar taluks in Bidar district** on 5th and 6th of October as part of **the ongoing concurrent evaluation** of the livelihoods planning phase under NARI-KILP. The team conducted FGDs with members of Gram Panchayat Level Federations (GPLFs), Gram Panchayat Level Committees (GPLCs), and NARI Sakhis to understand the various stages of the livelihoods planning process, the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, and their involvement in facilitating the process at the grassroots level

- Additionally, **a stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken with NARI Sakhis** to assess their engagement with and access to various stakeholders involved in the programme, particularly in the context of supporting livelihood planning for Extremely Vulnerable Households (EVHHs). The team also conducted In-depth Interviews (IDIs) with block coordinators and training coordinators to understand the institutional support, capacity-building efforts, and implementation processes. Discussions were also held with EVHH families to gain insights into their experiences and perspectives on the livelihoods planning process.
- During the month, **field-level data collection and observations by enumerators as part of the Livelihoods planning study** continued across 5 Gram Panchayats in two districts. The enumerators observed household-level visits for microplan preparation and livelihood screening tool preparation.
- A meeting was held with the consultant working on documentation and entitlements to discuss **the tools developed by CRISP for the proposed Entitlements Study under NARI-KILP.** The discussion focused on reviewing the prepared tools, understanding their coverage of key entitlements and documentation-related aspects, and incorporating relevant inputs to strengthen the study's approach and data collection process. (27th October 2026)
- The team participated in **a workshop organised by the State PMU for its district- and block-level staff, focusing on various aspects of livelihoods.** The workshop included discussions on different livelihood opportunities, ecosystems for different livelihoods, importance of livelihood diversification, and technical considerations involved in identifying and promoting sustainable livelihood options. (29th and 30th October, 2026)

Key Learnings

- **Livelihood preparedness, asset procurement, training regarding use of assets, market linkages, and post-transfer maintenance** need to be managed as one **integrated** process. Consistent hand-holding adapted to the choice of livelihoods is integral to ensuring success for each household. By prioritising transfer of assets without building on coach capacity and surrounding ecosystems, long-term sustainability of livelihoods cannot be ensured.
- Special **attention needs to be given to households with disabled members and single women households**, especially in terms of mobility and time allocation. Capacity building support for coaches is critical in ensuring that these households move out of poverty.

Way Forward

- In **Karnataka**, the team will continue to undertake the Concurrent Evaluation of the Livelihood Planning stage. As part of the CE, the team will continue to conduct some FGDs and Key Informant Interviews.

- In **Maharashtra**, the team will submit the dipstick study report to BRAC and UMED-MSRLM along with a strategic advisory note. The team will also conduct a Coach Enablement Dipstick study Dissemination Meeting with the SRLM. In parallel, rework on the Livelihood Phase 2 Study tools by incorporating more in-depth asset procurement and use components, adapted specifically to the choice of livelihoods (farm/ non - farm).

- In **Telangana**, the team will initiate the Access to Entitlements study on the ground. This includes survey roll-out, conducting FGDs with the Coaches and KIIs with District Coordinators and Line departments. Team will also work on the adaptation of Livelihoods study tools as per choice of livelihoods (farm/ non farm).