Monthly Updates- September 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

- **In Maharashtra:** Attended the MSY Annual Review on 1–2 September to review programme progress and implementation updates, and submitted the Microplanning Concurrent Evaluation report to SRLM on 4 September for feedback and dissemination.
- **In Telangana:** Participated in the TGILP Indicators Workshop on 9–10 September to finalise graduation indicators and measurement approaches; visited Tirupati with BRAC on 16–17 September to understand PVTG households' vulnerabilities and livelihood needs, followed by an AP SERP workshop on 18 September to co-design the AP SAY Graduation Programme.
- **In Karnataka:** The Inclusion–Exclusion Survey Report was submitted to NLM during the month, documenting the findings from the survey and key observations emerging from the assessment. Field-level data collection and observations as part of the Livelihoods planning Study were undertaken across 20 Gram Panchayats in five districts. The enumerators observed household-level visits, as well as GPLC and GPLF meetings.

Maharashtra

- **Weekly coordination calls with the PMU were held on 7 and 18 September** to share updates and review programme implementation and follow-up actions. Discussions covered the Coach Dipstick Study, Sarthi baseline completion, livelihood and micro-planning activities, upcoming trainings, social entitlement activities, and the extension of the pilot phase.
- The **Maharashtra Coach Enablement Dipstick** field visit commenced in Nandurbar from 29 September to 1 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.

Telangana

- The team attended the **Livestock Management Training at NIRD** on the 3rd of September.
- The data on **Acess to Entitlements** was received from the PMU, this will help in planning roll out of the entitlements CE.

Karnataka

- The team Held the **monthly PMU coordination call on 1 September to review field activities and the proposed Concurrent Evaluation approach**; also discussed revised procurement guidelines, roles of Taluk Procurement Committees and GPLFs, and alternative procurement mechanisms.
- The CRISP team conducted a field visit to Mangala GP on 9 September to observe **household-level micro-planning and livelihood screening** with NARI Sakhis across five households.
- The team trained and deployed **five enumerators across five districts, followed by field-level data collection across 20 GPs in five districts, covering household visits and GPLC/GPLF meetings** to assess implementation and document emerging practices and challenges.
- The CRISP team also submitted **the Inclusion–Exclusion Survey Report to NLM,** capturing key findings and observations from the assessment.

Photos





Key Learnings

- The importance of maintaining a **working ToC, clearly defined indicators and measurement approaches to support consistent tracking of programme outcomes**. The value of regular and sustained engagement with stakeholders to develop and refine these foundational documents and ensure that programme implementation remains aligned with its intended direction is crucial for the program's success.

- 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.

- Engagement of community stakeholders needs to be ensured for **programme implementation and long-term sustainability** of the initiative. Their sensitisation towards the programme participants holds the key towards ensuring results of the programme.

Way Forward

- In **Karnataka,** the team will continue to undertake the Concurrent Evaluation of the Livelihood Planning stage, using the tools and evaluation framework prepared during the month. As part of the CE, the team will continue to provide inputs on livelihood planning, development of participant profiles, identification of suitable livelihood options, market assessments, and preparation of action plans.

- In **Maharashtra,** the team will undertake the Coach Enablement Dipstick Study in Nashik and Nandurbar, followed by planning for the Entitlements Study. In parallel, the team will follow up with the SRLM to take forward the PO/SDM meeting to ensure that the entitlements component of ILP is appropriately taken up. The team will also conduct a Microplanning Dissemination Meeting with the SRLM.

- In **Telangana,** the team plans to initiate the Access to Entitlements study on the ground. It will begin with FGDs with Coaches and KIIs with District and Block Coordinators. The surveys for the Entitlements will also be initiated.