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Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies

Monthly Updates- August 2026

SHGs Undertaking Health-promoting activities for Achieving Sustainable growth (SUHAAS)

Overview

Project SUHAAS is being implemented across Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Telangana in partnership with The Gates Foundation. The project works to position women's Self-Help Groups as active health knowledge intermediaries in their communities; strengthening both the demand for and access to public health services among rural poor households. CRISP shall provide technical guidance, curriculum development, and field support, with the SRLMs and health departments owning implementation.

Project Goal

To bring about active participation of rural women in public health service delivery and, through that, enhance health and nutrition outcomes in the villages. The project seeks to achieve this by imparting skills of Allied Health Workers (AHWs) to SHG members and empowering them through knowledge transfer and organizational skills. The role of such empowered SHGs will strengthen both the demand-side and the supply-side by supporting the frontline health workers.

Strategy

The project works by securing buy-in from NRLM, WCD and NHM leadership to work together toward agreed health and nutrition outcomes. Selected SHG volunteers are then trained in allied healthcare, equipped with IEC materials like handbooks and picture books, and health and nutrition is formally embedded as a standing agenda item in their periodic meetings. Coordination is institutionalised through regular meetings between Village Health and Nutrition Committees, PHC review meetings, and joint sessions between SHGs, Anganwadi and Health and Wellness Centre staff. Progress is tracked through annual evaluations, with lessons documented and disseminated to inform future scaling.

Progress this Month

Madhya Pradesh

Morena

- **SHG orientation completed across both project blocks**: 7 NHM medical officers conducted 20 sessions between 9–16 July 2026, orienting 930 SHG women of 69 SHGs (Kamtari cluster, Ambah – 598 members from 44 SHGs; Dharamgarh cluster, Porsa – 332 members from 25 SHGs).
- 69 Arogya Sakhis (one nodal per SHG) nominated for coordination, social audit of NCD work, liaison with ANMs/CHOs/ASHAs and raising health issues at VO level; a combined district-level one-day training is planned, with a separate training for CHOs the following day (agenda finalised with JHPIEGO on 6th August).
- NCD screening data (1 Apr – 21 Aug) of the three project SHCs analysed and shared with the district: screening coverage stands at 31% (HTN) and 34% (diabetes) of the 30+ target population, with 100% treatment initiation and ~71% control among diagnosed patients; Dharmgarh flagged for focused mobilisation (~12% coverage).
- Data correction activities started in all three SHCs; CHOs are filling ABHA ID gaps of existing patients first. Portal enrolment gaps (22 enrolled vs 3,500+ screening records) identified as the key backlog.

Balaghat

- A district-level briefing meeting on the SUHAAS project was taken with the Collector, Balaghat. However, following the meeting the Collector was transferred.
- Groundwork for Lanji block is ready: 2,350 SHG members of 179 SHGs across 6 village clusters mapped into 50 orientation batches with schedule and doctor rotation planned. However file is pending with CEO Zilla Panchayat, Balaghat.

Odisha

- Conversation initiated with Department of Mission Shakti to put the CRISP team in touch with the on-ground officials, including the Collectors and District Programme Managers, and provide necessary administrative support to execute the Arogya Sakhi training programme
- Upon the recommendation of Department of Mission Shakti, the pilot districts and blocks have been changed to Kosagumuda block in Nabarangpur district and Koraput block in Koraput district.
- Minutes of the technical review meeting for validating Arogya Sakhi training module have been published. Accordingly, the various responsibilities have been divided as follows:
  - Technical validation of the module - National Health Mission, Odisha
  - Translation of the module in Odia - State Institute of Health and Family Welfare
  - Field testing and final implementation plan - NCD Cell, Directorate of Public Health
- First round of feedback received from National Health Mission - Odisha regarding the Arogya Sakhi training module, and has been incorporated. Audio-visual material, in line with low-literacy adult learning principles is being prepared to be added in the module.

Telangana

- A State-level Orientation Meeting for Project SUHAAS was held on 28th July 2026 with CRISP, SERP, and the Department of Health, Medical and Family Welfare (DoHMFW), Government of Telangana, to review developments since the June consultation and finalise the implementation roadmap for the pilot.
- Key decisions included NHM and SERP nominating 2-3 State Master Trainers, sharing aggregated baseline NCD data for the pilot blocks, communicating with the DMHOs of Nagarkurnool and Mulugu, CRISP sharing the revised Arogya Sakhi training modules and IEC/BCC materials for validation, and SERP coordinating with ITDA and district administration.
- A virtual meeting with the State NCD Cell, NHM, and SERP was convened on 25th August to review and validate the SUHAAS Facilitator Training Module ahead of the Training of Trainers. Participants were walked through all seven days of the module.
- Following the meeting, State NCD Cell shared a few suggestions and feedback on the training module, based on which revisions are being incorporated.
- Logistical requirements for the ToT have been shared with SERP. The training dates are to be confirmed in alignment with NHM.

Way Forward

Madhya Pradesh

- On 25th August, the Collector took a district-level review meeting, in which the following next steps were decided:
  - In Morena, correction of all data to take place by 15th September by District NCD Team.
  - SRLM to complete distribution of households among SHG members by 15th September.

Odisha

- Secure official validation, translation and final implementation plan from NHM, SIHFW and NCD Cell respectively
- Coordinate for logistical/administrative arrangements for the Arogya Sakhi training programme and baseline assessment
- Undertake detailed profiling of the new district-block options recommended by Department of Mission Shakti

Telangana

- Training of Trainers (ToT) for Aroghya Sahis to be conducted in Hyderabad in September 2026.
- Block-level training of Arogya Sakhis, ASHAs, and ANMs to follow the ToT.

Key Learnings

- **Training of Aroghya Sakhis needs to be adapted through field and stakeholder feedback:** The training module was revised after field testing with SHG women, ASHAs and ANMs, and was subsequently taken through technical validation with NHM and SERP. This reinforced that a training package needs to be contextually relevant and iteratively refined with inputs from both frontline users and technical stakeholders before scale-up.

Photo Gallery







Image 1,2 and 3: Orientation of SHG women on NCD at Morena.