

Monthly Updates- June 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, double 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.

Madhya Pradesh

Balaghat

- The re-screening exercise was concluded on 13th June in 5 villages on the outskirts of PHC Karanja, Balaghat, Sadra, Devalgaon, Dahegaon, Kareja, and Badgaon.
- These villages have a combined population of 10,450, covering 2,017 households, with an estimated 5,000 individuals aged 30 years and above forming the target population.

Morena

- A pre-project baseline assessment was presented to the District Collector, highlighting key gaps in NCD follow-up care (approximately 75% follow-up gap) and findings from community screening of 880 individuals across the pilot geography.
- A district-wide implementation framework for Project SUHAAS was approved, defining responsibilities across NHM, SRLM, and CRISP for NCD screening, community awareness, follow-up care, and SHG-led health interventions.
- The Arogya Sakhi model was operationalised, under which approximately 500 SHG women will act as community health volunteers, each supporting neighbouring households for health awareness, follow-up, and linkage with public health services.
- Technical development and field planning for the Arogya Sakhi Sahayika mobile application were initiated to digitise family folders, enable follow-up reminders, and strengthen coordination between SHG volunteers, ANMs, and CHOs.
- District-level milestones were finalised for ABHA ID saturation, Family Folder creation, CBAC completion, NCD screening, and health worker training across the pilot blocks, with implementation timelines extending up to September 2026.
- Project SUHAAS progress was reviewed and acknowledged during the district review meeting, with continued technical and field support planned in coordination with NHM and SRLM.

Odisha

- The Training Module and Facilitation Guide for Arogya Sakhi capacity building were submitted to the National Health Mission (NHM), Odisha, for review and approval.
- Consultative meetings were held with the Mission Shakti Department to initiate the process of nominating SHG women as Arogya Sakhis and to explore training logistics. In-principle approval has been received; formal written directives are awaited.
- Comprehensive stakeholder engagement meetings were conducted with senior government officials, including the Director of Public Health, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Mission Shakti Department, Additional Secretary of the Mission Shakti Department, Chief Development Officer of Mayurbhanj, and the Chief Secretary to the Government of Odisha, to brief them on Project SUHAAS and secure their institutional support ahead of the formal MoU execution.

Telangana

- A pre-implementation consultation was held on June 4th 2026, with DoHMFw and SERP, where Project SUHAAS received support from the Principal Secretary, DoHMFw, the Special Chief Secretary, PR&RD, and the CEO, SERP.
- A phased rollout strategy was agreed upon, with implementation commencing in pilot mandals of Nagar Kurnool and Mulugu, leveraging SERP's existing SHG networks.
- It was agreed that the scope of the programme shall be expanded to include alcoholism, dietary diversity, lifestyle modification, and harmful informal health practices alongside NCD awareness.
- A detailed overview of the training materials was presented to Ms Madhuri Shah, Director (Human Development), SERP, on 24th June 2026. It was agreed that the materials would undergo field testing through FGDs and KIs in the pilot locations before finalisation.

Way Forward

Madhya Pradesh

Balaghat

- Field data collection has been completed and is being analysed.
- The report is being prepared to be presented during an all-stakeholder meeting planned in the first week of July.

Morena

- NHM and SRLM will commence health worker training and a master training exercise that brings together the Arogya Sakhis, NHM representatives, and frontline health workers.
- Commencement of saturation exercise: ABHA ID linkage, Family Folder updation, and CBAC Form A completion for all households in the programme area.
- Completing the development and deployment of the Arogya Sakhi Sahayika mobile application.

Odisha

- Conduct a baseline situational analysis across the two pilot blocks prior to commencement of field activities.
- Secure NHM's formal approval for the Training Module, followed by translation into Odia and contextual field-testing within Odisha.
- Coordinate with the Mission Shakti Department to screen and finalise Arogya Sakhis from among the nominated SHG women, based on agreed selection criteria.
- Execute the MoU with the Department of Health and Family Welfare to formalise the institutional framework for Project SUHAAS.

Telangana

- Conduct field testing of the training materials through FGDs with SHG women and KIs with frontline health workers.
- Revise and contextualise the training modules based on field feedback.
- Organise a state-level orientation workshop with SERP, NHM, and district stakeholders to finalise the implementation roadmap.
- Finalise and execute the MoU between CRISP and SERP.

Key Learnings

- Field testing training materials before scale-up is essential to ensure contextual relevance and improve adoption by community-level cadres.
- Government personnel transitions, including leave and administrative transfers, can delay approvals. Securing key approvals and institutional commitments early from senior leadership helps reduce dependency on individual officials.

Photo Gallery



All-stakeholder meeting at the District Magistrate's office in Morena, Madhya Pradesh



Re-screening exercises at Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh