CRISP Deliberate. Design. Deliver. | Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies

Monthly Updates- September 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 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

- A one-day NCD training was conducted in Ambah on 23 September for 58 SHG women, covering hypertension and diabetes, risk factors, screening, referral pathways, family folders, CBAC forms, line lists, continuity of treatment, and dietary practices.
- The training was conducted by Mr Manohar Agnani (retd IAS), Mr RS Julaniya (retd IAS), and Ms Bhoomika Seerwani (Jhpiego).
- The participating SHG women took responsibility for mobilising households assigned to them, indicating early ownership of the Arogya Sakhi role.
- On September 24, a review of three project sub-centres was conducted with the CHOs, ANMs, and the district NCD team.
- A screening plan has been developed with the objective of achieving complete population coverage in the selected villages through door-to-door visits.

Odisha

- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha, has formally approved the Project SUHAAS proposal, marking a key milestone for the project's rollout in the state.
- After the approval, the Department of Health & Family Welfare sent official communications to the Chief District Medical Officers (CDMOs) of the pilot districts (Koraput and Nabarangpur).
- The Department of Mission Shakti was officially invited via a letter dispatched, to collaborate on the project and converge with the Department of Health & Family Welfare for effective implementation.
- The Arogya Sakhi Training Module has been translated into Odia and submitted to the State Institute of Health and Family Welfare (SIHFW) via the NCD Cell.
- Validation of the Arogya Sakhi training module is underway. The first round of feedback from NHM Odisha has been incorporated, and the revised module has been resubmitted for final validation.
- A field visit was made to Hyderabad to attend the Training of Trainers (ToT) programme conducted in Telangana pilot of Project SUHAAS. Best practices were documented in a report to guide the design of the ToT and cascade training programme to be held in Odisha.
- A field visit was made to Koraput to orient district- and block-level government functionaries about Project SUHAAS. A baseline Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) assessment was also carried out with community members in one village of the pilot area. This establishes a behavioural baseline before the interventions begin and will inform how the behaviour change interventions are adapted to the local context.

Telangana

- A 3-day Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted from 15-17 September 2026 at BRK Bhavan, Hyderabad, covering key components of the 7-day Arogya Sakhi training curriculum and preparing Master Trainers for the subsequent training.
- 5 Master Trainers participated, comprising 3 representatives from SERP and 2 from NHM. The programme was inaugurated by the Director, Human Development, SERP.
- Sessions were facilitated by the Project Advisor, NHM/WHO NCD consultants, the RySS Andhra Pradesh team, and CRISP Fellows for SUHAAS in Telangana and Odisha.
- The programme concluded with joint planning between SERP, CRISP, and NHM. Based on the joint planning, the Arogya Sakhis training is scheduled for 12–16 October 2026 in Hyderabad, with 101 participants planned, including Arogya Sakhis, ASHAs, and ANMs.
- A subsequent meeting with Mrs. Divya Devarajan, CEO, SERP, provided an opportunity to review the progress of Project SUHAAS.

Way Forward

Madhya Pradesh

- The District Collector will monitor progress on a weekly or fortnightly basis.
- A review meeting is scheduled after one month, with Mr. RS Julaniya and Mr. Manohar Agnani participating in the virtual review.

Odisha

- Plan a joint meeting between the Department of Health & Family Welfare and the Department of Mission Shakti to agree on convergence, next steps, and the responsibilities of each department. The agenda should cover the stipend structure for Arogya Sakhis and Master Trainer nominations.
- With the support of the Department of Mission Shakti, hire Arogya Sakhis from Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) in the pilot blocks.
- Visit the second pilot district to orient district- and block-level staff on Project SUHAAS and conduct a baseline KAP assessment, as was done in Koraput.
- Follow up with SIHFW and NHM Odisha to complete final validation of the Odia training module so that it is ready for the ToT.
- Use the best practices documented in Hyderabad to plan the Training of Trainers and the Arogya Sakhi training programme for Odisha.

Telangana

- Complete preparations for the 12-16 October Arogya Sakhis training, including venue, logistics, training materials and participant coordination.
- Coordinate with NHM for the deputation of ASHA and ANM participants and ensure availability of the required frontline health workers.

Key Learnings

- The government order and official letters from the Department gave the project legitimacy with district officials and made it easier to engage with them.
- In Telangana, a seven-day curriculum was condensed into a three-day ToT, and the SERP-led convergence worked well. Both offer a practical model for Odisha, where Mission Shakti plays a similar role.

Photo Gallery



Image 1: Concluding remarks by CEO SERP in Telangana ToT

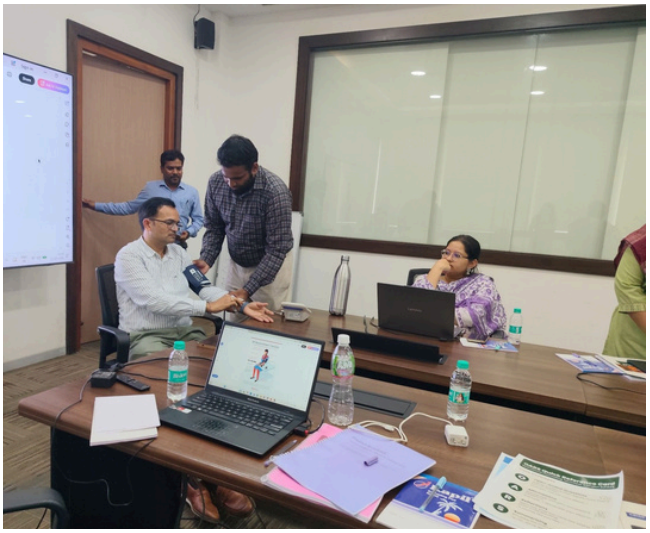


Image 2: Demonstration of screening for blood pressure measurement by WHO NCD consultants during Telangana ToT



Image 3: Mr Manohar Agnani (retd IAS) conducting a session during NCD training in Morena



Image 4 : Mr RS Julaniya (retd IAS) conducting a session during NCD training in Morena