

Located in the south-central of Bangladesh, Bhola district lies under Barisal division, have an area of 3,737 kilometres. It is bounded by the Bay of Bengal to the south. It includes Bhola island, the largest island of Bangladesh alongside Monpura island and Dhalchar.

Main rivers are Meghna, Tentulia and Ganeshpura. BRAC works at Bhola with quite a few components such as microfinance, targeting the ultra poor (TUP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), and human rights and legal aid services (HRLS). Among them, microfinance offers two types of loan – dabi (microloan) and progoti (enterprise loan) to the clients. HNPP is providing health education through *shasthya shebika* (health volunteer) and *shasthya kormi* (health worker). BRAC's education programme is also identifying the marginalised kids and providing them the education through informal schools. TUP is focusing on tackling the poverty with multiple fronts. HRLS



Children attend BRAC non formal pre-primary school in village.

and CEP works at Bhola to create women empowerment. Notable tourist destinations include Monpura Island and Char Kukrimukri.

General information

Population	2,037,201
Unions	68
Villages	473
Children (0-15)	789,753
Primary schools	958
Literacy rates	47%
Hospitals	11
Banks	62
Bazaars	245
NGOs	46

At a glance

(as of December, 2015)

Microfinance

Branches	27
Village organisations	1,348
Members	66,064
Borrowers	35,355

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	1,163
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Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	5,950
Asset and training received	5,950
Health care availed	236

Education

Pre-primary schools	215
Primary schools	172
ADP Centres	189

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	1,107
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	56

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	176
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	11

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	287
HRLE graduates	42,692
Legal aid clinics	6