

Bogra, known as ‘Pundra Bardhan’ in ancient times, is one of the oldest towns in northern Bangladesh, situated on the bank of the famous river Karatoya. This historic city is mostly popular for the old archaeological sites like Mahasthangarh, Behularbashorghor, Nawab Palace (called Neelkuthi during the British period), etc.

This district also represents north Bengal’s vibrant cultural attractions such as Baul, Marfati, Lalon and Sufi music. It is also the hub of northern Bangladesh because of its utmost importance regarding trade and commerce for the region. BRAC runs some of its core programmes such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), among others, in Bogra district. Among them, microfinance is the largest programme, that offers three types of loans – dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers’ development loan (agricultural loan). BEP stands as the second largest programme in the district, running around 350 schools, an innovative adolescent development programme and *gonokendros* (community library). HNPP is another core programme, which is a combination of preventive, curative, rehabilitative



Photo credit: BRAC/MNI Chowdhury

BRAC Maize Processing Centre, Bogra, BRAC’s agriculture research centre develops the best maize varieties suitable for the local environment.

and promotional health services. It focuses on improving maternal, neonatal and child health (IMNCS), as well as combating communicable diseases and common health problems, forming the key component of essential healthcare. BRAC’s new initiative, the skills development programme, is providing holistic skills development training and decent employment opportunities to enable young women and men to realise their full potential. BRAC also runs human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), community empowerment (CEP), and agriculture and food security programme (AFSP) successfully.

General information

Population	3,400,874
Unions	108
Villages	2,695
Children (0-15)	244,554
Primary schools	1,539
Literacy rate	49%
Hospitals	83
NGOs	100
Banks	68
Bazaars	310

At a glance

(as of December, 2015)

Microfinance

Branches	62
Village organisations	3,487
Members	221,985
Borrowers	97,577

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	11,262
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Tenant Farmers' Development Project

Village organisations	630
Population covered	12,365
Money disbursed	88,901,000

Education

Pre-primary schools	172
Primary schools	201
Adolescent development programme (ADP) centres	210
Community libraries	69

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	970
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	92

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	307
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	26
Popular theatre team	13

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	167
Number of trades	7
Number of graduate learners	200

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) shebikas	583
HRLE course completed	5,420
HRLE graduates	127,001
Legal aid clinics	16

Agriculture and food security

Agricultural extension programme

Population covered	6,560
Name of technologies/ Crops introduced to the area	Hybrid paddy, Vegetable, Sunflower, Carp fish

Social enterprises

Sericulture	1
Fisheries	2
Poultry rearing farms	3