

One of the seven divisions of Bangladesh, Chittagong is the second most populous city and a major industrial and commercial hub. It is also known for its indigenous community and hill tracts. Located on the bank of the Karnaphuli river, the city is located 249 kilometres away from Dhaka. In Chittagong, Bengalis represent the largest ethnic group followed by tribal ethnicities such as Chakmas and Marmas. Chittagong is surrounded by hill tracts and the Bay of Bengal.

BRAC operates most of its programmes here, including microfinance, targeting the ultra poor (TUP), education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), community empowerment (CEP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), gender justice and diversity (GJD), skills development and migration. BRAC has also established few of its social enterprises in the area, helping to create job opportunities in rural areas. Like in other metropolitan cities, BRAC is working both in rural and urban areas of Chittagong. The Microfinance programme has the biggest impact in the area with



Our malaria control activities inform and educate people at community level, promote use of insecticide treated bed nets and increase early diagnosis and prompt treatment.

Photo credit: BRAC/Shehzad Noorani

over 200,000 dabi and progoti clients. In this area, WASH has achieved 92 per cent of sanitation coverage and installed latrines at schools and villages. WASH has also installed several tubewells in rural areas. BEP also works as a large unit in Chittagong, targeting children who can not afford formal education from mainstream schools. BRAC's new initiative, the skills development programme, provides holistic skills development training and decent employment opportunities to enable young women and men to realise their full potential. Additionally, HNPP, CEP, TUP, GJD and migration work in this area. A BRAC learning centre (BLC) was also established in Chittagong. The BLC is a residential learning centre used as a training centre for BRAC employees.

Chittagong is at the centre of all tourist attractions in Bangladesh, including the Patenga Sea Beach, Foy's Lake, Khoiyachara Waterfall, the Commonwealth War Cemetery and the Ethnological Museum of Chittagong.

General information

Population	7,913,365
Unions	192
Villages	1,267
Children (0-15)	2,180,000
Primary schools	2,997
Literacy rate	59%
Hospitals	37
NGOs	159
Banks	182
Bazaars	265

At a glance

(as of December 2015)

Microfinance

Village organisations	4,612
Members	276,512
Borrowers	132,630

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	18,950
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Education

Primary schools	418
Pre-primary schools	265
ADP centres	240
Community libraries	48

Gender justice and diversity

MEJNIN (meyeder jonno nirapad nagorikotta - safe citizenship for girls)

Student watch groups	44
Student watch group members	1,155
Community watch groups	37
Community watch group members	552

Health, nutrition and population

Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	377
Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	3,754

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	176
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	4
Popular theatre	6

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Sanitation coverage	92%
Deep tubewell installed	57
Sanitary latrines installed in schools	294

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	479
HRLE graduates	66,671
Legal aid clinics	10

Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	250
Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members	1,000
Asset and training received	250
Healthcare availed	180

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	208
Number of trades	7
Number of graduate students	460

Migration

Safe migration facilitation centre (SMFC)	1
Community-based organisation (CBO) facilitators	5
Volunteers	40

Social enterprises and investments

Aarong outlet	2
BRAC Poultry	2
BRAC Nursery	2
BRAC Tea Estates	5