

Located north of Rangpur, Dinajpur district lies under Rangpur division, and has an area of 3,440 square kilometres. Dinajpur is bound by Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts in the north, Gaibandha and Joypurhat districts in the south, Nilphamari and Rangpur districts in the east, and India in the west. The main rivers of the district are the Dhepa, the Punarbhaba, and the Atrai.

Dinajpur is very rich in agricultural production. Katharivog, one of the best varieties of rice in Bangladesh is produced in Dinajpur. The district's mango and lychee are famous throughout the country. Dinajpur is also rich in natural resources. Among the five coal fields discovered so far in Bangladesh, three are located here. BRAC operates in Dinajpur with components such as the microfinance, targeting the ultra poor (TUP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), and integrated development programmes (IDP). Among them, microfinance offers three types of loans – dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers' development loan (agricultural loan). HNPP provides

health education through health volunteers (*shasthya shebika*) and health workers (*shasthya kormi*). BEP identifies children from marginalised families and provides them with basic education through its informal schools. TUP focuses on tackling extreme poverty in multiple fronts. HRLS serves the disadvantaged community through its human rights and legal education (HRLE) *shebikas*. CEP is building and strengthening community institutions to ensure socio-political empowerment of poor women. WASH mainly deals with encouraging people to drink pure water and use hygienic sanitary latrines. IDP has been working here since 2013 at Nawabganj sub-district, offering livelihood training and support, education support, health and sanitation support. A BRAC learning centre (BLC) was also established in Dinajpur. The BLC is a

residential centre used as a training centre for BRAC employees.

The Kantajew temple, Ramsagar, and the Shopnopuri Artificial Amusement Park are some of the tourist attractions in the city.



Realising the importance of training BRAC developed BRAC Learning Centre (BLC) at Basherhat, Dinajpur.

Photo credit: BRAC

General information

Population	3,109,628
Unions	102
Villages	2,131
Children (0-15)	528,636
Primary schools	1,831
Literacy rates	52%
Hospitals	147
Banks	168
Bazaars	273
NGOs	79

At a glance

(as of December 2015)

Microfinance

Branches	73
Village organisations	5,016
Members	258,603
Borrowers	168,783

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	7,496
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Tenant farmers' development project

Village organisations	1,319
Population covered	26,615
Amount of money disbursed	879,040,000

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	2,198
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	315

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	512
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	43
Popular theatre team	16

Education

Pre-primary schools	230
Primary schools	238
ADP Centres	110
Community libraries	11

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	683
HRLE graduates	62,079
Legal aid clinics	16

Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) member	7,977
Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) member	6,394
Asset and training received	7,977
Health care availed	1,566

Integrated development

Nawabganj sub-district area

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	27,621
Sanitation coverage	84%
Loans for sanitary latrines	12,191
Sanitary latrines installed in school	311

Social enterprises

Dairy and food project

Chilling centres	5
Fisheries	1
Sericulture	1
Nursery	1