

Habiganj district is located in the Sylhet division. It is a historic place where freedom fighters started the first guerrilla movement against the Pakistan Army during the Bangladesh liberation war. Although 98 per cent of the population are Bengalis, Habiganj has some indigenous groups like the Khashia, Monipuri and Tipperah people. Since the Sylhet division is famous for its tea gardens, Habiganj is no exception. Habiganj has around 24 tea gardens with rubber gardens, fruit gardens etc.

This district is also famous for indigenous handmade weaving products and bamboo work. BRAC runs some of its core programmes such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the district. Among them, microfinance is the largest programme that offers three types of loans – dabi (micro loan) and progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers’ development loans (agricultural loan). BEP stands as the second largest programme in this district running around 1,000 schools, the adolescent development programme and *gonokendros* (community libraries). HNPP is



BRAC health forum meeting to identify cataract cases by mobilising the community

another core programme which is a combination of preventive, curative, rehabilitative and promotional health services focusing 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. Another core programme is BRAC WASH, which mainly deals with water and sanitation services. In Habiganj, the WASH programme has an outstanding 82 per cent sanitation coverage through installing sanitary latrines in the schools and villages. 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. Apart from these programmes, BRAC also runs

human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), targeting the ultra poor, (TUP), community empowerment (CEP), integrated development (IDP), skills development, and gender justice and diversity (GJD) programmes successfully.

General information

Population	2,089,000
Unions	77
Villages	2,284
Children (0-15)	819,944
Primary schools	1,027
Literacy rate	42%
Hospitals	9
NGOs	57
Banks	51
Bazaars	121

At a glance

(as of December, 2015)

Microfinance

Branches	36
Village organisations	2,721
Members	147,123
Borrowers	54,774

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	4,662
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Tenant farmers' development project

Village organisations	129
Population covered	2,687
Money disbursed	78,098,000

Education

Pre-primary school	485
Primary school	605
ADP centres	393
Community libraries	67

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	1,035
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	137
Health centres	1

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Sanitation coverage	82%
Sanitary latrines installed in school	108
Deep tube-wells installed	204

Integrated development

Area (Baniachong)

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal aid services (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	487
Legal aid clinics	19
HRLE graduates	71,718

Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	6,458
Asset received	6,934
Healthcare availed	8,934
Training received	6,935
Others targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members	3,030

Gender justice and diversity

Gender quality and action learning (GQAL)	
Gender <i>kormi</i>	30

MEJNIN (*meyeder jonno nirapad nagorikotta* - safe citizenship for women)

Community watch groups	20
Community watch group members	400

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	80
Number of trades	9
Number of graduate students	158

Social enterprises

Ayesha Abed Foundation	1
Sanitary napkin and delivery kits	1