

Located in the south-west of Bangladesh, Jessore district lies under Khulna division, and has an area of 2,607 square kilometres. It is bordered by India to the west, Khulna district and Satkhira district to the south, Magura and Narail to the east, and Jhenaidah district to the north. Major rivers that flow through this region are the Bhairab, Chitra, Betna, Kobadak, and the Mukteshwari. Jessore is famous for its flower production and widely known as the capital city of flower in Bangladesh.

BRAC operates in Jessore with components such as the microfinance, health, nutrition and population (HNPP), education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), migration, and skills development programmes. Among them, microfinance offers three types of loans – *dabi* (microloan), *progoti* (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers' development loan (agricultural loans). HNPP provides health education through health volunteers (*shasthya shebika*) and health workers (*shasthya kormi*). BEP identifies children



Popular Theatre group in Keshabpur, Jessore.

from marginalised families and provides basic education through its informal schools. 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 people. WASH encourages people to drink pure water and use hygienic sanitary latrines. Migration works on ensuring easy access to services for Bangladeshi migrants to avoid exploitation. 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. A BRAC learning centre (BLC) was also established in Jessore. The BLC is a residential centre used as a training centre for BRAC employees.

Jessore is the birthplace of famous poet Michael Madhusudan Dutta. His large and beautiful villa located at Shaagordaari, set by the river Kopotak-kho, is a popular tourist spot.

General information

Population	2,764,547
Unions	91
Villages	1,419
Children (0-15)	334,308
Primary schools	1,285
Literacy rates	57%
Hospitals	10
Banks	154
Bazaars	297
NGOs	267

At a glance

(as of December 2015)

Microfinance

Branches	31
Village organisations	1,959
Members	184,599
Borrowers	51,487

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	15,725
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Tenant farmers' development project

Village organisations	1,474
Population covered	109,790
Amount of money disbursed	668,984,000

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	1,413
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	104

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	288
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	19
Popular theatre team	12

Education

Pre-primary schools	156
Primary schools	114
ADP Centres	169
Community libraries	98

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	31,885
Sanitation coverage	87%
Loans for sanitary latrines	8,240
Deep tubewell installed	500
Sanitary latrines installed in schools	317

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	134
Number of trades	9
Number of graduate students	413

Migration

Number of safe migration facilitation centre (SMFC)	1
Number of community based organisation (CBO) facilitators	4
Communication workers	4
Volunteers	52

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	447
HRLE graduates	98,251
Legal aid clinics	12

Social enterprises

Ayesha Abed Foundation	1
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