

Moulvibazar is a district in the division of Sylhet, located in north-eastern Bangladesh with an area of 2,800 square kilometres. It is surrounded by the Sylhet district in the north, Habiganj district in the west and Indian States of Assam and Tripura in the east and south respectively. The main rivers in the district are the Manu, the Dholoi and the Juri which flow from India.

Although most of the population is Bengali, Moulvibazar has some indigenous inhabitants like Khashia, Monipuri and Tripura people. The Sylhet division is famous for its tea gardens, and Moulvibazar is no exception. Moulvibazar has around 92 gardens including rubber, bamboo and fruit gardens, like pineapple, cane, jackfruit, oranges, agar, mango and lemon. The area is also home to the three largest tea gardens (size and production wise) in the world. The people of Moulvibazar mostly involved in agriculture and gardening for their source of income. Most of BRAC's core programmes, such as microfinance, targeting 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 skills development programme, operate in the district. Apart from this, BRAC established a few social enterprises like fisheries, poultry and poultry rearing farms, which directly help to create job opportunities for hundreds of



A community radio correspondent conducting an interview in Women Listeners Club.

people. With the aim to alleviate poverty, BRAC works in the region with a holistic approach.

Moulvibazar has a naturally green backdrop with scintillating tea gardens. There are a lot of places for tourists such as the Madhabkunda waterfall, Ham Ham waterfall, Hakaluki haor, Madhobpur Lake, Bilashchhara Lake and last but not the least, the Lawachara National Park.

General information

Population	1,994,252
Unions	67
Villages	2,134
Children (0-15)	270,852
Primary schools	2,093
Literacy rate	51%
Hospitals	7
NGOs	44
Banks	99
Bazaars	150

At a glance

(as of December 2015)

Microfinance

Village organisations	1,781
Members	60,778
Borrowers	46,276

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Small enterprise clients	4,601
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Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	4,310
Others targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members	860
Training received	4,210
Healthcare availed	2,888

Education

Primary schools	1,020
Pre-primary schools	505
Adolescent development programme (ADP) centres	246
Community libraries (gonokendros)	72

Health, nutrition and population

Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	54
Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	701

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	144
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	15
Popular theatre	6
Community radio station	1

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	14,608
Sanitation coverage	81%
Deep tube-well installed	20
Sanitary latrines installed in school	82
Loans for sanitary latrines	5,771

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	276
HRLE graduates	42,305
Legal aid clinics	6

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	34
Number of trades	5
Number of students	70

Social enterprises

Fisheries	1
Poultry	1
Poultry rearing farm	1