

Mymensingh is a district located in central Bangladesh, part of the Dhaka division. It is one of the closest districts to Dhaka, only 118 kilometres away from the capital city. Mymensingh is clearly marked by the old Brahmaputra river flowing along in the north. The people of Mymensingh are involved mostly in agriculture for their source of income.

Mymensingh district was also known for jute production. Jute is termed the 'golden fiber' due to the revenue it generated as a cash crop. Apart from Bengalis, Mymensingh has indigenous inhabitants like Garo, Hajong, Koch, Dhalu, Bangshi, Barman, Khumi and Malpaharipeople. BRAC operates most of the core programmes here such as microfinance, education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), gender justice and diversity (GJD), and migration programme. 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 that, BRAC also established few of its



Photo credit: BRAC

BRAC bull station in Mymensingh. Artificial Insemination enterprise was set up to create synergies with the BRAC Dairy enterprise as livestock is considered an important tool in poverty alleviation.

social enterprises such as artificial insemination, recycled handmade paper, sericulture, poultry and nursery. These are directly helping to create job opportunities for hundreds of women.

Many traditional rituals are observed every year in Mymensingh. Among them is the colourful Wanna (harvest) festival, held at the beginning of the harvesting season at Haluaghat. Garo Hilltracts, Muktagacha Jamider Bari, Mymensingh Museum, Alexandra Castle, Gospel Church, Shashi Lodge are some of the most visited tourist spots in the district.

## General information

<b>Population</b>	<b>5,313,163</b>
<b>Unions</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Villages</b>	<b>2,758</b>
<b>Primary schools</b>	<b>1,249</b>
<b>Literacy rate</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Hospitals</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>NGOs</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Banks</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Bazaars</b>	<b>571</b>

## At a glance

(as of December 2015)

### Microfinance

Village organisations	2,574
Members	147,007
Borrowers	72,009

### Progoti

Small enterprise clients	6,805
--------------------------	-------

### Education

Primary schools	283
ADP centres	297
Community libraries	71

### Health, nutrition and population

Health workers ( <i>shasthya kormi</i> )	585
Health volunteers ( <i>shasthya shebika</i> )	6,004

### Community empowerment

Community-based organisation ( <i>polli shomaj</i> )	490
Union-based organisation ( <i>union shomaj</i> )	49
Popular theatre groups	15

### Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	45
Number of trades	6
Number of graduate students	141

## Gender justice and diversity

### Gender quality action learning (GQAL)

Gender <i>kormi</i>	20
<i>Sampriti</i> centres	20
<i>Sampriti</i> centre members	600

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

Student watch groups	35
Student watch group members	875
Community watch group	35
Community watch group members	450

### Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	618
HRLE graduates	132,898
Legal aid clinics	15

### Migration

Safe migration facilitation centre (SMFC)	4
Community-based organisation (CBO) facilitators	4
Volunteers	44

### Social enterprises

Artificial insemination	1
Poultry	1
Nursery	1
Poultry rearing farm	1
Recycled handmade paper	1
Sericulture	2