

Located in northern Bangladesh, Naogaon is part of Rajshahi. The main rivers in the area are Atrai, Punarbhaba, Jamuna, Nagar, Chiri and Tulsī Ganga. Naogaon has a few notable tourist destinations. Among them, Paharpur Buddhist Vihara, Jagaddal Vihara, Halud Vihara and Agrapuri Vihara are quite popular. Paharpur Buddhist Vihara is known nationwide for its ancient archaeological significance.

Naogaon is also known as the bread basket of Bangladesh, and agriculture is the most common source of income. Crops grown in the district include paddy, jute, wheat, maize, sugarcane, potatoes, pulses, oil seeds, eggplants, onions, and garlic. It is also the top listed site for rice production and has the highest number of rice processing mills among all districts. BRAC operates various programmes in Naogaon such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), targeting the ultra poor (TUP), community empowerment (CEP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), gender justice and diversity (GJD), and integrated development (IDP) in Patnitala and Mahadevpur sub-districts. Among them, microfinance has reached the most clients through dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loans), the tenant farmers' development project and northwest crop diversification programme



Photo credit: BRAC

BRAC's beneficiary got livestock from BRAC CFPR-TUP programme in Naogaon

(NCDP). BEP has provided access to education for marginalised children in the area. IDP and TUP are operating in the area to tackle poverty on multiple fronts. CEP and HRLS are promoting human rights and legal empowerment, while HNPP provides healthcare services to rural women and children. GJD aims to eliminate violence against women through gender quality action learning (GQAL).

## General information

Population	2,700,000
Unions	99
Villages	2,780
Children (0-15)	760,000
Primary schools	794
Literacy rate	48%
Hospitals	11
NGOs	88
Banks	35
Bazaars	244

## At a glance

(as of December, 2015)

### Microfinance

Village organisation	2,792
Members	181,356
Borrowers	73,867

### Progoti

Small enterprise clients	9,568
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### Tenant farmers' development project

Village organisations	671
Population covered	15,508
Money disbursed	72,925,000

### Health, nutrition and population

Health workers (shasthya kormi)	67
Health volunteers (shasthya shebika)	560

## Gender justice and diversity

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

## Community empowerment

Community-based organisation ( <i>polli shomaj</i> )	327
Union-based organisation ( <i>union shomaj</i> )	48
Popular theatre	11

## Education

Primary schools	430
Pre-primary schools	169
Adolescent development programme (ADP) centres	102
Community libraries	70

## Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	353
HRLE graduates	100,066
Legal aid clinics	11

## Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	21,639
Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members	3,894
Assets and training provided	21,639
Healthcare provided	15,790