

Located in the south of Bangladesh, Patuakhali lies under Barisal division and has an area of 3,220 square kilometres. Kuakata – the famous beach located at Patuakhali, is also called the “Sagorkonnya” (the daughter of sea). It is the only beach in Bangladesh where both the sunset and sunrise can be seen. The two major rivers here are the Laukathi and Lohalia, which are directly connected with the Bay of Bengal. As this city is adjacent to the Bay of Bengal, agriculture and fishing are the most common professions for the people of Patuakhali.

BRAC operates the majority of its components at Patuakhali, such as microfinance, health, nutrition and population (HNPP), education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), targeting the ultra poor (TUP) programmes. Among them, microfinance is the largest programmes, offers three types of loans - dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers’ development loan (agriculture loan). BRAC’s



Photo credit: BRAC/Shehzad Noorani

*Sitting on a colourful jute matres she participated to paint, a girl child writes in her textbook in a BRAC primary school in a rural village.*

disaster management and climate change (DMCC) programme is also operating in the area since it is affected by natural disasters like cyclones, floods and tornadoes each year.

## General information

Population	1,557,137
Unions	72
Villages	882
Children (0-15)	416,689
Primary schools	1,101
Literacy rate	65%
Hospitals	8
NGOs	124
Banks	75
Bazaars	202

## At a glance

(as of December, 2015)

### Microfinance

Branches	24
Village organisations	1,233
Members	49,722
Borrowers	28,442

### Progoti

Small enterprise clients	1,765
--------------------------	-------

### Tenant farmers’ development project

Village organisations	270
Money disbursed	175,222,000
Population covered	9,335

### Education

Pre-primary schools	46
Primary Schools	19
ADP centres	45
Community libraries	40

## Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	248
Number of legal aid clinics	6
HRLE graduates	35,167

## Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	24,576
Asset and training received	24,576
Healthcare availed	10,799
Soft loan received	1,692

## Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers ( <i>shasthya shebika</i> )	1,016
Health workers ( <i>shasthya kormi</i> )	84

## Community empowerment

Community-based organisation ( <i>polli shomaj</i> )	124
Union-based organisation ( <i>union shomaj</i> )	11
Popular theatre teams	6

## Disaster management and climate change

Trained clients	2,000
Women groups	80
Women group members	2,000
Assets received	400
Distribution of trees for plantation	2,000