

Located on the banks of the Surma river, Sylhet is known for its tea estates, sub-tropical hills, rainforests and river valleys. This district is also home to various indigenous communities. BRAC runs some of its core programmes such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), among others in this district.

Among them, microfinance is the largest programme offering two types of loans – dabi (microloan) and progoti (enterprise loans). There are about 70,000 members and 40,000 borrowers. BEP stands as the second largest programme, running 800 schools, the adolescent development programme (ADP), and *gonokendros* (community library). HNPP is another core programme running successfully in the area. It is a combination of preventive, curative, rehabilitative and promotional health services focusing on improving maternal, neonatal and child health (IMNCS), and combating communicable diseases and common health problems, forming



*Folk song for community mobilization for identification of cataract cases.*

the key components of essential healthcare. WASH mainly deals with water and sanitation services. It has achieved 80 per cent sanitation coverage by installing sanitary latrines in schools and villages. BRAC also runs human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), targeting the ultra poor (TUP), gender justice and diversity (GJD), and agriculture and food security (AFSP) programmes in the area successfully. BRAC's new initiative, the skills development programme, provides holistic skills development training and decent employment opportunities to enable young women and men to realise their full potential.

## General Information

Population	3,567,138
Unions	105
Villages	3,497
Children (0-15)	1,543,502
Primary schools	1,961
Literacy rates	51%
Hospitals	24
Banks	251
Bazaars	302
NGOs	65

## At a glance

(as of December, 2015)

### Microfinance

Village organisations	1,520
Members	167,121
Borrowers	42,481

### Progoti

Small enterprise clients	6,921
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### Education

Pre-primary school	342
Primary school	663
ADP centres	166
Community libraries	42

### Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers ( <i>shasthya shebika</i> )	734
Health workers ( <i>shasthya kormi</i> )	111
Health centres	2

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

Sanitation coverage	80%
Sanitary latrines installed in schools	135

## Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikasa</i>	388
HRLE graduates	53,082
Legal aid clinics	8

### Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	3,319
Assets provided	3,319
Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members	750

### Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	180
Number of trades	9
Number of graduate students	440

### Gender justice and diversity

MEJNIN (*meyeder jonno nirapad nagorikotta* - safe citizenship for girls)

Schools	20
Students	12,000

### Social enterprises

Aarong	1
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