

Barisal, the Venice of Bengal, set on the famous river Kirtankhola, is located in the south-central of Bangladesh. It lies under Barisal division, and has an area of 2,784 square kilometres. As a major rice production hub in the country, it produces the famous Balam (basmati) rice at a very large scale. As this city is located near the coast, it is well known for producing fish and coconut on a large scale.



Children attend a BRAC pre primary school in a rural village.

There are several rivers flowing into the city eg, Arial Khan, Katcha, Tentulia, Naya Bhanga, Jayanti, Shwarupkathi and Amtali. Barisal is the second largest river port in Bangladesh. BRAC operates various programmes in Barisal, such as microfinance, targeting the ultra poor (TUP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme. Among them, microfinance offers three types of loans – dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loan) and agricultural loans such as – tenant farmers’ development project (BCUP) to the clients. HNPP provides

health education through health volunteers (*shasthya shebika*) and health workers (*shasthya kormi*). BEP identifies children from marginalised families and provides basic education through its informal schools. TUP focuses on tackling extreme poverty in multiple fronts. HRLS serves the disadvantaged community through its human rights and legal education (HRLE) *shebikas*. CEP is building and strengthening community institutions to ensure socio political empowerment to poor women. WASH is working on ensuring safe drinking water and basic sanitation for rural people. A BRAC learning centre (BLC) was also established in Barisal. The BLC is a residential centre used as a training centre for BRAC employees.

General information

Population	2,348,440
Sub-districts	10
Unions	85
Villages	1,173
Children (0-15)	1,049,456
Primary schools	1,749
Literacy rates	65%
Hospitals	69
Banks	36
Bazaars	152
NGOs	149

At a glance

(as of December 2016)

Microfinance

Branches	29
Village organisations	2,482
Members	67,395
Borrowers	54,973

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	5,346
--------------------------	-------

Tenant farmers' development project

Village organisations	41
Population covered	4,350
Amount of money disbursed	31,007,000

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	1,485
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	187
Health centres	18

Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) member	592
Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members	740
Asset and training received	592
Health care availed	450
Soft loan received	700

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	168
Popular theatre team	7
Human rights violation cases reported	211

Education

Pre-primary schools	95
Primary schools	75
Shishu niketon schools	25
Adolescent development programme (ADP) Centres	95
Community libraries (<i>gonokendros</i>)	62

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	296
HRLE graduates	1,400
Legal aid clinics	10

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	51
Number of trades	6
Number of learners	105

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	19,272
Sanitation coverage	62%
Loans for sanitary latrines	118
Deep tubewells installed	115