

Located in the south-central of Bangladesh, Bhola district lies under Barisal division, have an area of 3,737 kilometres. It is bounded by the Bay of Bengal to the south. It includes Bhola island, the largest island of Bangladesh alongside Monpura island and Dhalchar. Main rivers are Meghna, Tentulia and Ganeshpura.

BRAC works at Bhola with quite a few components 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). Among them, microfinance offers two types of loan – dabi (microloan) and progoti (enterprise loan) to the clients. HNPP is providing health education through *shasthya shebika* (health volunteer) and *shasthya kormi* (health worker). BRAC's education programme is also identifying the marginalised kids and providing them the education through informal schools. TUP is focusing on tackling the poverty with 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



Children attend BRAC non formal pre-primary school in village.

socio political empowerment to poor women. WASH is working on ensuring safe drinking water and basic sanitation for rural people. Notable tourist destinations include Monpura Island and Char Kukrimukri.

General information

Population	2,037,201
Sub-districts	7
Unions	68
Villages	473
Children (0-15)	254,658
Primary schools	958
Literacy rates	47%
Hospitals	11
Banks	16
Bazaars	245
NGOs	46

At a glance

(as of December, 2016)

Microfinance

Branches	28
Village organisations	2,561
Members	96,909
Borrowers	34,488

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	3,438
--------------------------	-------

Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	815
Asset and training received	815
Health care availed	815
Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members	1,247
Soft loan received	1,247

Education

Pre-primary schools	180
Primary schools	114
<i>Shishu niketon</i> schools	74
ADP Centres	222
Education support programme	69

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	922
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	292

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	176
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	11
Popular theatre	4
Human rights violation cases reported	430

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	287
HRLE graduates	43,692
Legal aid clinics	6

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	715
Sanitation coverage	58%
Deep tubewell installed	430