Bogra, known as ‘Pundra Bardhan’ in ancient times, is one of the oldest towns in northern Bangladesh, situated on the bank of the famous river Karatoya. This historic city is mostly popular for the old archaeological sites like Mahasthangarh, Behularbashorghor, Nawab Palace (called Neelkuthi during the British period), etc.

This district also represents north Bengal’s vibrant cultural attractions such as Baul, Marfati, Lalon and Sufi music. It is also the hub of northern Bangladesh because of its utmost importance regarding trade and commerce for the region. BRAC runs some of its core programmes such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), among others, in Bogra district. Among them, microfinance is the largest programme, that offers three types of loans – dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers’ development loan (agricultural loan). BEP stands as the second largest programme in the district, running around 350 schools, an innovative adolescent development programme and gonokendros (community library). HNPP is another core programme, which is a combination of preventive, curative, rehabilitative and promotional health services. It focuses on improving maternal, neonatal and child health (IMNCS), as well as combating communicable diseases and common health problems, forming the key component of essential healthcare. BRAC’s new initiative, the skills development programme, is providing holistic skills development training and decent employment opportunities to enable young women and men to realise their full potential. BRAC also runs human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), gender justice and diversity (GJD), community empowerment (CEP), and agriculture and food security programme (AFSP) successfully.

### General information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>3,400,874</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unions</td>
<td>108</td>
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<tr>
<td>Villages</td>
<td>2,695</td>
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<td>Children (0-15)</td>
<td>244,554</td>
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<td>Primary schools</td>
<td>1,539</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literacy rate</td>
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<td>Hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bazaars</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photo credit: BRAC/M N I Chowdhury
### At a glance

**Microfinance**
- Branches: 62
- Village organisations: 3,487
- Members: 239,304
- Borrowers: 97,479
- Progoti
  - Small enterprise clients: 12,234

**Tenant Farmers’ Development Project**
- Village organisations: 979
- Population covered: 12,234
- Money disbursed: 24,500,000

**Skills development**
- Number of master craft persons (MCPs): 264
- Number of trades: 7
- Number of graduate learners: 535
- Number of learners: 535

**Human rights and legal aid services**
- Human rights and legal education (HRLE) shebikas: 65
- HRLE course completed: 76
- HRLE graduates: 1,871
- Legal aid clinics: 13
- Cases filed (civil and criminal): 123

**Gender Justice and Diversity**
- MEJNIN (*meyeder jonno nirapad nagorikotta - safe citizenship for girls*):
  - Number of community watch group (CWG): 3
  - CWG members: 45
  - Number of students watch group (SWG): 4
  - SWG members: 100

**Agriculture and food security**
- Agricultural extension programme
  - Population covered: 45,000
  - Name of technologies/ Crops introduced to the area (rice, maze, masterd, wheat, fish)

**Social enterprises**
- BRAC dairy and food project
  - Chilling centres: 4
  - Sericulture: 1
  - Fisheries: 1

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Although every effort has been made to include and verify the accuracy of relevant information in this fact sheet, users are urged to check independently on matters of specific interest. Report any discrepancies/suggestions to visitors@brac.net. This document was last updated on 31 December 2016, is revised yearly and made available on www.brac.net/visitors.