Comilla is an eastern city in Bangladesh with history dating back to the reigning kings of the Shamatat, Harikel, and Deva dynasty. As a district, it was first called ‘Tripura’, and later in 1960, it was named ‘Comilla’. This district has notable memories related to the Second World War; Comilla’s cantonment was one of the most important military bases for the British Indian Army. It was the headquarters for the British 14th Army.

Mainamati, a famous war cemetery, was established after the Second World War to remember allied soldiers who died during the first and second world war. The district, which is located by the river Gumti, is an important junction for road communication for the eastern parts of the country. The famous Grand Trunk Road, one of Asia’s oldest and longest road, passes through the city.

BRAC runs some of its core programmes such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), migration, and community empowerment (CEP) in this district. Among them, microfinance is the largest programme offering three types of loans – dabi (micro loan), progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers’ development loans (agricultural loan). BEP stands as the second largest programme in this district running around 500 schools, the adolescent development programme and gonokendros (community libraries). 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. A BRAC learning centre (BLC) was also established in Comilla. The BLC is a residential learning centre used as a training centre for BRAC employees.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General information</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>5,602,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-districts</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unions</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villages</td>
<td>3,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (0-15)</td>
<td>1,512,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary schools</td>
<td>2,003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literacy rate</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospitals</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banks</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bazaars</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### At a glance
**(as of December, 2016)**

#### Microfinance
- **Branches**: 87
- **Village organisations**: 4,918
- **Members**: 315,787
- **Borrowers**: 136,738

#### Progoti
- **Small enterprise clients**: 31,978

#### Tenant Farmers’ Development Project
- **Village organisations**: 573
- **Money disbursed**: 460,654,000
- **Population covered**: 11,145

#### Education
- **Pre-primary schools**: 510
- **Primary schools**: 63
- **Shishu niketon**: 227
- **ADP centres**: 175
- **Community libraries**: 79
- **Education support programme**: 56

#### Health, nutrition and population
- **Health volunteers** *(shasthya shebika)*: 3,589
- **Health workers** *(shasthya kormi)*: 190

### Community empowerment
#### Community-based organisation *(polli shomaj)*: 290
#### Union-based organisation *(union shomaj)*: 19
#### Popular theatre team: 11

### Human rights and legal aid services
#### Human rights and legal education (HRLE) *shebikas*: 554
#### Legal aid clinics: 14
#### HRLE graduates: 108,889

### Migration
- **Safe migration facilitation centre (SMFC)**: 1
- **Community-based organisation (CBO) facilitators**: 3
- **Unions**: 21

### Skills development
- **Number of master craft persons (MCPs)**: 50
- **Number of trades**: 7
- **Number of graduate students**: 100

### Social enterprises
- **Aarong**: 1
- **Cold storage**: 1
- **Fisheries**: 1
- **Nursery**: 1