Located north of Rangpur, Dinajpur district lies under Rangpur division, and has an area of 3,440 square kilometres. Dinajpur is bound by Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts in the north, Gaibandha and Joypurhat districts in the south, Nilphamari and Rangpur districts in the east, and India in the west. The main rivers of the district are the Dhepa, the Punarbhaba, and the Atrai.

Dinajpur is very rich in agricultural production. Katharivog, one of the best varieties of rice in Bangladesh is produced in Dinajpur. The district’s mango and lychee are famous throughout the country. Dinajpur is also rich in natural resources. Among the five coal fields discovered so far in Bangladesh, three are located here. BRAC operates in Dinajpur with components such as the microfinance, targeting the ultra poor (TUP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), and integrated development programmes (IDP). Among them, microfinance offers three types of loans – dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers’ development loan (agricultural loan). HNPP provides health education through health volunteers (shasthya shebika) and health workers (shasthya kormi). BEP identifies children from marginalised families and provides them with 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 of poor women. WASH mainly deals with encouraging people to drink pure water and use hygienic sanitary latrines. IDP has been working here since 2013 at Nawabganj sub-district, offering livelihood training and support, education support, health and sanitation support. A BRAC learning centre (BLC) was also established in Dinajpur. The BLC is a residential centre used as a training centre for BRAC employees.

The Kantajew temple, Ramsagar, and the Shopnopuri Artificial Amusement Park are some of the tourist attractions in the city.

### General information

- **Population**: 3,109,628
- **Sub-districts**: 8
- **Unions**: 102
- **Villages**: 2,131
- **Children (0-15)**: 528,636
- **Primary schools**: 1,831
- **Literacy rates**: 52%
- **Hospitals**: 147
- **Banks**: 168
- **Bazaars**: 273
- **NGOs**: 79

[Realising the importance of training BRAC developed BRAC Learning Centre (BLC) at Basherhat, Dinajpur.]

[Photo credit: BRAC]
At a glance
(as of December 2016)

**Microfinance**
- Branches: 69
- Village organisations: 4,184
- Members: 110,705
- Borrowers: 103,772

**Progoti**
- Small enterprise clients: 6,890

**Tenant farmers’ development project**
- Village organisations: 1,875
- Population covered: 40,227
- Amount of money disbursed: 752,085,000

**Health, nutrition and population**
- Health volunteers (shasthya shebika): 3,296
- Health workers (shasthya kormi): 295
- Health centre: 1

**Community empowerment**
- Community-based organisation (polli shomaj): 512
- Union-based organisation (union shomaj): 43
- Popular theatre team: 16

**Education**
- Pre-primary schools: 153
- Primary schools: 56
- Shishu niketon schools: 450
- ADP Centres: 56
- Community libraries: 118

**Human rights and legal aid services**
- Human rights and legal education (HRLE) shebikas: 642
- HRLE graduates: 150,184
- Legal aid clinics: 16

**Targeting the ultra poor**
- Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) member: 9,004
- Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) member: 7,709
- Asset and training received: 9,004
- Health care availed: 1,187
- Soft loan received: 7709

**Integrated development**
- Nawabganj sub-district area

**Water, sanitation and hygiene**
- Committee members: 27,621
- Sanitation coverage: 82%
- Loans for sanitary latrines: 12,191
- Sanitary latrines installed in school: 311

**Social enterprises**
- Dairy and food project
- Chilling centres: 5
- Fisheries: 1
- Sericulture: 1
- Nursery: 1