

Habiganj district is located in the Sylhet division. It is a historic place where freedom fighters started the first guerrilla movement against the Pakistan Army during the Bangladesh liberation war. Although 98 per cent of the population are Bengalis, Habiganj has some indigenous groups like the Khasia, Monipuri and Tipperah people. Since the Sylhet division is famous for its tea gardens, Habiganj is no exception. Habiganj has around 24 tea gardens with rubber gardens, fruit gardens etc.

This district is also famous for indigenous handmade weaving products and bamboo work. BRAC runs some of its core programmes such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the district. Among them, microfinance is the largest programme that offers three types of loans – dabi (micro loan) and progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers’ development loans (agricultural loan). BEP stands as the second largest programme in this district running around 900 schools, the adolescent development programme and *gonokendros* (community libraries). HNPP is



BRAC health forum meeting to identify cataract cases by mobilising the community

another core programme which is a combination of preventive, curative, rehabilitative and promotional health services focusing 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. Another core programme is BRAC WASH, which mainly deals with water and sanitation services. In Habiganj, the WASH programme has an outstanding 85 per cent sanitation coverage through installing sanitary latrines in the schools and villages. 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. Apart from these programmes, BRAC also runs

human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), targeting the ultra poor, (TUP), community empowerment (CEP), integrated development (IDP), skills development, and gender justice and diversity (GJD) programmes successfully.

General information

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Population | 2,089,000 |
| Unions | 77 |
| Villages | 2,284 |
| Children (0-15) | 819,944 |
| Primary schools | 1,027 |
| Literacy rate | 55% |
| Hospitals | 9 |
| NGOs | 57 |
| Banks | 51 |
| Bazaars | 121 |

At a glance

(as of December, 2016)

Microfinance

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Branches | 38 |
| Village organisations | 2,827 |
| Members | 159,524 |
| Borrowers | 63,862 |

Progoti

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Small enterprise clients | 5,548 |
|--------------------------|-------|

Tenant farmers' development project

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Village organisations | 104 |
| Population covered | 4,119 |
| Money disbursed | 107,950,000 |

Education

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Pre-primary school | 286 |
| Primary school | 593 |
| Shishu niketon | 41 |
| ADP centres | 393 |
| Community libraries | 63 |
| Education support programme | 60 |

Health, nutrition and population

| | |
|--|-----|
| Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>) | 817 |
| Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>) | 205 |
| Health centres | 1 |

Water, sanitation and hygiene

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Committee members | 29,481 |
| Sanitation coverage | 85% |
| Sanitary latrines installed in school | 112 |
| Deep tube-wells installed | 215 |

Human rights and legal aid services

| | |
|--|--------|
| Human rights and legal aid services (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i> | 487 |
| Legal aid clinics | 17 |
| HRLE graduates | 78,880 |

Targeting the ultra poor

| | |
|--|-------|
| Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members | 7,299 |
| Asset received | 7,299 |
| Healthcare availed | 7,300 |
| Training received | 7,300 |
| Others targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members | 3,365 |

Gender justice and diversity

| | |
|---|-----|
| Gender quality and action learning (GQAL) | |
| Gender <i>kormi</i> | 130 |

MEJNIN (*meyeder jonno nirapad nagorikotta* - safe citizenship for women)

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Community watch groups | 441 |
| Community watch group members | 5,833 |
| Student watch group | 441 |
| Student watch group members | 5,833 |

Skills development

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of master craft persons (MCPs) | 52 |
| Number of trades | 6 |
| Number of graduate learners | 105 |

Social enterprises

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Ayesha Abed Foundation | 1 |
| Sanitary napkin and delivery kits | 1 |