

Located in the south-west of Bangladesh, Jessore district lies under Khulna division, and has an area of 2,607 square kilometres. It is bordered by India to the west, Khulna district and Satkhira district to the south, Magura and Narail to the east, and Jhenaidah district to the north. Major rivers that flow through this region are the Bhairab, Chitra, Betna, Kobadak, and the Mukteshwari. Jessore is famous for its flower production and widely known as the capital city of flower in Bangladesh.

BRAC operates in Jessore with components such as the microfinance, health, nutrition and population (HNPP), education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), targeting the ultra poor (TUP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), migration, and skills development programmes. Among them, microfinance offers three types of loans – *dabi* (microloan), *progoti* (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers' development loan (agricultural loans). HNPP provides health education through health volunteers (*shasthya shebika*) and health workers (*shasthya kormi*). BEP identifies children



Popular Theatre group in Keshabpur, Jessore.

from marginalised families and provides basic education through its informal schools. TUP works to tackle 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 people. WASH encourages people to drink pure water and use hygienic sanitary latrines. Migration works on ensuring easy access to services for Bangladeshi migrants to avoid exploitation. 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 Jessore. The BLC is a residential centre used as a training centre for BRAC employees.

Jessore is the birthplace of famous poet Michael Madhusudan Dutta. His large and beautiful villa located at Shaagordaari, set by the river Kopotak-kho, is a popular tourist spot.

General information

Population	2,764,547
Sub-districts	8
Unions	91
Villages	1,419
Children (0-15)	349,203
Primary schools	1,206
Literacy rates	57%
Hospitals	10
Banks	154
Bazaars	372
NGOs	267

At a glance

(as of December 2016)

Microfinance

Branches	32
Village organisations	2,139
Members	187,638
Borrowers	55,432
Progoti	
Small enterprise clients	6,025

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	2,702
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	328

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	288
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	19
Popular theatre team	12

Education

Pre-primary schools	185
Primary schools	15
<i>Shishu niketon</i> schools	80
ADP Centres	120
Community libraries	95
Education support programme	115

Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	843
Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members	1,205
Assets and training received	843

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	223,538
Sanitation coverage	90%
Subsidised latrines distributed	20,050
Loans for sanitary latrines	3,091
Deep tubewell installed	339
Sanitary latrines installed in schools	44

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	79
Number of trades	7
Number of graduate students	175
Number of students	175

Migration

Number of community based organisation (CBO) facilitators	4
Unions	26
Volunteers	26

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	447
HRLE graduates	100,151
Legal aid clinics	12
Complaints resolved	9,319
Cases filed (civil and criminal)	1,884

Social enterprises

Sericulture	1
BRAC dairy and food project	
Chilling centres	8
Ayesha Abed Foundation	1
Sub-centres	68