

Located in western Bangladesh, Kushtia is a district known for the Lalon shrine. BRAC runs some of its core programmes such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), and migration programme in this district. Among them, microfinance is the largest programme, offering three types of loans – dabi (microloan) and progoti (enterprise loans) and tenant farmers’ development loan.

There are more than about 150,000 members and 100,000 borrowers. BEP stands as the second largest programme, running 187 schools, the adolescent development programme (ADP), and *gonokendros* (community libraries). HNPP is another core programme running successfully in this district. It is a combination of preventive, curative, rehabilitative and promotional health services, focusing on improving maternal, neonatal and child health (IMNCS), and combating communicable diseases and common health problems, forming the key component of essential healthcare. HRLS serves the disadvantaged community through its human rights and legal education (HRLE) *shebikas*. Migration programme is working to ensure the rights



Students are playing and reading with happiness at BRAC primary school.

of migrants by providing an easy access to services that help them avoid exploitation as Bangladeshi migrants.

General Information

Population	2,023,657
Sub-districts	6
Unions	65
Villages	979
Children (0-15)	627,333
Primary schools	790
Literacy rate	46%
Hospitals	6
Banks	86
Bazaars	188
NGOs	249

At a glance

(as of December, 2016)

Microfinance

Branches	36
Village organisations	2,739
Members	131,788
Borrowers	69,689

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	5,923
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Tenant farmers’ development project

Village organisations	337
Money disbursed	176,053,000
Population covered	44,311

Education

Primary schools	5
Shishu niketon schools	182
ADP centres	126
Community libraries	54

Health, nutrition and population	
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	54
Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	1,305
Human rights and legal aid services	
Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	318
HRLE graduates	86,517
Legal aid clinics	9
Migration	
Safe migration facilitation centre (SMFC)	1
Community-based organisation (CBO) facilitators	5
Communication workers	4
Volunteers	24

Social enterprises	
Ayesha Abed Foundation	1
Sub-centres	66
Regular staff	47
Total workers	2,265
BRAC dairy and Food project	
Chilling centres	3
Average milk collection per day (litres)	1,500