

Manikganj is a district located in central Bangladesh. It is a part of the Dhaka division, with an area of 1,379 square kilometres. It is one of the nearest districts to Dhaka, only 70 kilometres away from the city. It is bound by the Tangail district in the north, Dhaka district in the east, Faridpur district in the south, the Padma and Jamuna rivers and the districts of Pabna and Rajbari in the west. The main rivers are the Padma, Jamuna, Dhaleshwari, Ichamati and Kaliganga.

This city is surrounded by rivers. As a result few of the sub-districts are affected by river bank erosion every year. The people of Manikganj are mostly involved in agriculture. BRAC started its operation here in 1974. Right now, most of BRAC's core programmes, such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), targeting the ultra poor (TUP), community empowerment (CEP), skills development and human rights and legal aid services (HRLS). Apart from that, BRAC has also established a few of its social enterprises here, directly helping to create job opportunities for hundreds of women.

Baliati Zamindar Place, Fort at Fordnagar, tomb of Shah Rustam and Gauranga Math are some of the tourist attractions in the district.



Ayesha Abed Foundation was started in 1978 as part of BRAC's development interventions to organise, train and support rural women through traditional handicrafts

## General information

Population	1,440,000
Unions	65
Villages	1,873
Children (0-15)	860,000
Primary schools	607
Literacy rate	56%
Hospitals	7
NGOs	83
Banks	35
Bazaars	98

## At a glance

(as of December 2016)

### Microfinance

Branches	31
Village organisations	1,835
Members	44,050
Borrowers	43,009

### Progoti

Small enterprise clients	8,266
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## Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	561
Others targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members	780
Asset received	561
Training received	561
Healthcare availed	561
Soft loan received	780

## Education

Primary schools	5
Pre-primary schools	170
Shishu niketon schools	176
Adolescent development programme (ADP) centres	159
Community libraries (gonokendros)	53

## Health, nutrition and population

Health workers (shasthya kormi)	51
Health volunteers (shasthya shebika)	537

## Community empowerment

Community-based organisation ( <i>polli shomaj</i> )	282
Union-based organisation ( <i>union shomaj</i> )	39
Popular theatre	8

## Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	32
Number of trades	5
Number of learners	70
Number of graduate learners	59

## Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	351
HRLE graduates	92,507
Legal aid clinics	9

## Social enterprises

Ayesha Abed Foundation	2
Sanitary napkin and delivery kits	1
Nursery	1