

Moulvibazar is a district in the division of Sylhet, located in north-eastern Bangladesh with an area of 2,800 square kilometres. It is surrounded by the Sylhet district in the north, Habiganj district in the west and Indian States of Assam and Tripura in the east and south respectively. The main rivers in the district are the Manu, the Dholoi and the Juri which flow from India.

Although most of the population is Bengali, Moulvibazar has some indigenous inhabitants like Khashia, Monipuri and Tripura people. The Sylhet division is famous for its tea gardens, and Moulvibazar is no exception. Moulvibazar has around 92 gardens including rubber, bamboo and fruit gardens, like pineapple, cane, jackfruit, oranges, agar, mango and lemon. The area is also home to the three largest tea gardens (size and production wise) in the world. The people of Moulvibazar mostly involved in agriculture and gardening for their source of income. Most of BRAC's core programmes, such as microfinance, targeting 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 skills development programme, operate in the district. Apart from this, BRAC established a few social enterprises like fisheries and poultry which directly help to create job opportunities for hundreds of people. With the aim to alleviate



A community radio correspondent conducting an interview in Women Listeners Club.

poverty, BRAC works in the region with a holistic approach.

Moulvibazar has a naturally green backdrop with scintillating tea gardens. There are a lot of places for tourists such as the Madhabkunda waterfall, Ham Ham waterfall, Hakaluki haor, Madhobpur Lake, Bilashchhara Lake and last but not the least, the Lawachara National Park.

General information

Population	1,994,252
Sub-districts	7
Unions	67
Villages	2,015
Children (0-15)	270,852
Primary schools	1,103
Literacy rate	51%
Hospitals	7
NGOs	47
Banks	99
Bazaars	150

At a glance

(as of December 2016)

Microfinance

Village organisations	1,833
Members	154,868
Borrowers	49,457

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	5,331
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Education

Primary schools	295
Shishu niketon	8
Pre-primary schools	229
ADP centres	82
Community libraries	62

Health, nutrition and population

Health workers (shasthya kormi)	31
Health volunteers (shasthya shebika)	325

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	144
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	15
Popular theatre	6
Community radio station	1

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	802
Sanitation coverage	68%
Deep tube-well installed	20
Loans for sanitary latrines	1,637

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	88
HRLE graduates	43,184
Legal aid clinics	6

Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	549
Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members	700
Asset and training received	549
Healthcare availed	400
Softloan received	640

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	54
Number of trades	5
Number of learners	120

Social enterprises

Fisheries	1
Poultry	1