Located in northern Bangladesh, Naogaon is part of Rajshahi. The main rivers in the area are Atrai, Punarbhaba, Jamuna, Nagar, Chiri and Tulsi Ganga. Naogaon has a few notable tourist destinations. Among them, Paharpur Buddhist Vihara, Jagaddal Vihara, Halud Vihara and Agrapuri Vihara are quite popular. Paharpur Buddhist Vihara is known nationwide for its ancient archaeological significance.

Naogaon is also known as the bread basket of Bangladesh, and agriculture is the most common source of income. Crops grown in the district include paddy, jute, wheat, maize, sugarcane, potatoes, pulses, oil seeds, eggplants, onions, and garlic. It is also the top listed site for rice production and has the highest number of rice processing mills among all districts. BRAC operates various programmes in Naogaon such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), targeting the ultra poor (TUP), community empowerment (CEP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), and skills development. Among them, microfinance has reached the most clients through dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loans), the tenant farmers’ development project and northwest crop diversification programme (NCDP).

BEP has provided access to education for marginalised children in the area. IDP and TUP are operating in the area to tackle poverty on multiple fronts. CEP and HRLS are promoting human rights and legal empowerment, while HNPP provides healthcare services to rural women and children.

### At a glance
(as of December, 2016)

#### Microfinance
- Branches: 48
- Village organisation: 2,917
- Members: 212,567
- Borrowers: 79,169

#### Progoti
- Small enterprise clients: 10,784

#### Tenant farmers’ development project
- Village organisations: 886
- Population covered: 16,903
- Money disbursed: 127,534,000

#### Northwest crop diversification programme
- Village organisation: 297
- Money disbursed: 95,548,000
- Population covered: 6,934

### General information
- **Population**: 2,600,157
- **Sub-districts**: 11
- **Unions**: 99
- **Villages**: 2,780
- **Children (0-15)**: 760,789
- **Primary schools**: 794
- **Literacy rate**: 48%
- **Hospitals**: 11
- **NGOs**: 88
- **Banks**: 35
- **Bazaars**: 244

*Photo credit: BRAC*
**Community empowerment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community-based organisation (polli shomaj)</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union-based organisation (union shomaj)</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popular theatre</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary schools</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shishu niketon schools</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-primary schools</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent development programme (ADP) centres</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community libraries</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education support programme</td>
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**Targeting the ultra poor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members</td>
<td>22,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members</td>
<td>4,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets received</td>
<td>22,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training received</td>
<td>22,348</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare received</td>
<td>8,003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Softloan received</td>
<td>4,944</td>
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</table>

**Health, nutrition and population**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health workers (shasthya kormi)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health volunteers (shasthya shebika)</td>
<td>57</td>
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**Skills development**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of master craft persons (MCPs)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of trades</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of learners</td>
<td>56</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Human rights and legal aid services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human rights and legal education (HRLE) shebikas</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRLE graduates</td>
<td>90,904</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal aid clinics</td>
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**Property rights initiative**

<table>
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<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of aminship training</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of land measurement</td>
<td>21,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of free land measurement</td>
<td>1,435</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cases filed</td>
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