

Part of Rajshahi, Pabna is located in northern Bangladesh. It is surrounded by Natore and Sirajganj in the north, Rajbari and Kushtia in the south, Manikganj and Sirajganj in the east and Kushtia in the west. The main rivers in the area are the Ganges, Ichamati, Gumani and Hurasagar.

BRAC operates most of its core programmes here including microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), targeting the ultra poor (TUP), community empowerment (CEP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), gender justice and diversity (GJD), skills development and migration. BRAC also established a few of its social enterprises in the area, which are creating livelihood opportunities. Among these programmes, microfinance has reached the most number of clients through its multiple wings – dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loans) and tenant farmers’ development project. BEP interventions target marginalised children, for whom it provides access to education. TUP is also operating in Pabna, tackling multiple fronts of poverty. CEP and HRLS are promoting legal empowerment, while HNPP is providing health services to rural women and children. TUP works to tackle poverty in multiple fronts. Skills development programme is providing holistic skills development training and decent employment opportunities to enable young women and men to



BRAC school students engaging in group work.

realise their full potential. Migration is promoting safe migration awareness in the area.

Pabna has some notable tourist destinations. Among them the three-domed mosque at Bharara, Jagannath Temple and Seth Kuthi are quite popular.

General information

Population	2,523,179
Sub-districts	9
Unions	73
Villages	1,562
Children (0-15)	755,673
Primary schools	1,337
Literacy rate	47%
Hospitals	9
NGOs	63
Banks	43
Bazaars	164

At a glance

(as of December, 2016)

Microfinance

Branches	55
Village organisation	3,135
Members	230,251
Borrowers	102,578

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	16,684
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Tenant farmers’ development project

Village organisations	812
Money disbursed	649,154,000
Population covered	50,395

Education

Primary schools	123
Pre-primary schools	187
Shishu nicketon schools	214
Education support programme	88
Adolescent development programme (ADP) centres	205
Community libraries	61

Health, nutrition and population

Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	61
Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	610

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	290
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	38
Popular theatre	11

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	84
Number of trades	6
Number of learners	177
Number of graduate learners	177

Gender justice and diversity

MEJNIN (*meyeder jonno nirapad nagorikotta - safe citizenship for girls*)

Number of community watch group (CWG)	3
CWG members	45
Number of students watch group (SWG)	3
SWG members	45

Migration

Community-based organisation (CBO) facilitators	4
Communication workers	4
Volunteers	5
Unions	23

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	383
HRLE graduates	93,079
Legal aid clinics	11
Complaints resolved	1,740
Cases filed (civil and criminal)	693

Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	10,733
Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members	4,950
Asset and training received	10,733
Soft loans provided	4,910
Healthcare availed	5,473

Social enterprises

Ayesha Abed Foundation	1
BRAC Dairy and food project	
Chilling centres	19
Fisheries	2
Nursery	1
Sericulture	1