

Located in northern Bangladesh, Rangpur is one of the poorest corners of the country with majority of the population living below the poverty line. The city is surrounded by the Teesta river. As a result, people are affected by riverbank erosion every year. The area is also known for tobacco cultivation. BRAC began operation in Rangpur in 1985.

Today, most of BRAC's core programmes have been established in the area, including 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 programme. Among them, microfinance is the largest, providing three types of loans as - dabi (micro loan), progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers' development loan (agricultural loan). TUP works to tackle poverty in multiple fronts. HRLS has graduated more than 100,000 people on human rights and legal education (HRLE). As the literacy rate is low in this region, BEP interventions have been providing access to informal education for marginalised children. CEP works to build and strengthen community institutions to assure the socio-political empowerment to rural women. BRAC's new initiative, the skills development programme, is providing holistic skills development training and



Photo credit: BRAC

Woman empowerment in Bangladesh. A woman driving power tiller to cultivation in a rural village

decent employment opportunities to enable young women and men to realise their full potential. As Rangpur is one of the oldest municipalities in Bangladesh (established in 1869), it is very rich in history and culture. Carmichael College, established in 1916 is located in Rangpur.

General information

Population	2,996,336
Sub-districts	8
Unions	76
Villages	1,492
Children (0-15)	629,230
Primary schools	1,361
Literacy rate	49%
Hospitals	9
NGOs	117
Banks	13
Bazaars	52

At a glance

(as of December, 2016)

Microfinance

Branches	56
Village organisations	3,790
Borrowers	103,253

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	4,974
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Tenant farmers' development project

Population covered	1,149
Money disbursed	3,717,384

Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	3,442
Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members	569
Training received	3,442
Healthcare availed	1,965
Asset received	2,873

Education

Primary schools	95
Pre-primary schools	352
<i>Shishu niketon</i> schools	438
ADP centres	68
Community libraries	72

Health, nutrition and population

Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	250
Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	2,429
Health centre	1

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	508
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	53
Popular theatre	9

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	77
HRLE graduates	45,501
Legal aid clinics	4

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	35
Number of trades	10
Number of graduate learners	200