Located on the banks of the Surma river, Sylhet is known for its tea estates, sub-tropical hills, rainforests and river valleys. This district is also home to various indigenous communities. BRAC runs some of its core programmes such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), among others in this district.

Among them, microfinance is the largest programme offering two types of loans – dabi (microloan) and progoti (enterprise loans). There are about 170,000 members and 55,000 borrowers. BEP stands as the second largest programme, running about 480 schools, the adolescent development programme (ADP), and gonokendros (community library). HNPP is another core programme running successfully in the area. It is a combination of preventive, curative, rehabilitative and promotional health services focusing on improving maternal, neonatal and child health (IMNCS), and combating communicable diseases and common health problems, forming the key components of essential healthcare. WASH mainly deals with water and sanitation services. It has achieved 85 per cent sanitation coverage by installing sanitary latrines in schools and villages. BRAC also launched integrated development programme (IDP) in Sylhet Sadar to tackle the various dimensions of poverty. BRAC also runs human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), community empowerment (CEP), and targeting the ultra poor (TUP) programmes in the area successfully. BRAC’s new initiative, the skills development programme, provides holistic skills development training and decent employment opportunities to enable young women and men to realise their full potential.

General Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>3,567,138</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-districts</td>
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<td>Unions</td>
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<td>Villages</td>
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<td>Children (0-15)</td>
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<td>Primary schools</td>
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<td>Literacy rates</td>
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<td>Hospitals</td>
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<td>Banks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bazaars</td>
<td>302</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>65</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Folk song for community mobilization for identification of cataract cases.
At a glance
(as of December, 2016)

Microfinance
Branches 31
Village organisations 1,567
Members 171,117
Borrowers 45,942
Progoti
Small enterprise clients 8,567

Education
Pre-primary school 250
Primary school 234
ADP centres 211
Community libraries 39
Education support programme 133

Health, nutrition and population
Health volunteers (shasthya shebika) 639
Health workers (shasthya kormi) 96
Health centres 3

Water, sanitation and hygiene
Committee members 21,131
Sanitation coverage 85%
Loans for sanitary latrines 5,705
Sanitary latrines installed in schools 135

Community empowerment
Community-based organisation (polli shomaj) 157
Union-based organisation (union shomaj) 7
Popular theatres 5

Human rights and legal aid services
Human rights and legal education (HRLE) shebikas 122
HRLE graduates 54,271
HRLE course completed 2,383
Legal aid clinics 8
Cases filed 465
Complaints resolved 1,098

Targeting the ultra poor
Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members 423
Asset and training received 423
Health care received 423
Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members 620
Soft loan received 620

Integrated development
Jibika project
Training received 747
Number of village development organisation (VDO) 29
VDO members 641
Seed fund received 244

Skills development
Number of master craft persons (MCPs) 96
Number of trades 8
Number of learners 215
Number of graduate learners 215

Social enterprises
Aarong outlet 1