

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



Folk song for community mobilization for identification of cataract cases.

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

Population	3,567,138
Sub-districts	13
Unions	105
Villages	3,497
Children (0-15)	1,543,502
Primary schools	1,961
Literacy rates	51%
Hospitals	24
Banks	251
Bazaars	302
NGOs	65

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
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Education

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

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	639
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	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 (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	157
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	7
Popular theatres	5

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	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

<i>Jibika</i> 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
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