

Located north of Rangpur, Dinajpur district lies under Rangpur division, and has an area of 3,440 square kilometres. Dinajpur is bound by Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts in the north, Gaibandha and Joypurhat districts in the south, Nilphamari and Rangpur districts in the east, and India in the west. The main rivers of the district are the Dhepa, the Punarbhaba, and the Atrai.

Dinajpur is very rich in agricultural production. Katharivog, one of the best varieties of rice in Bangladesh is produced in Dinajpur. The district's mango and lychee are famous throughout the country. Dinajpur is also rich in natural resources. Among the five coal fields discovered so far in Bangladesh, three are located here. BRAC operates in Dinajpur with components such as the microfinance, ultra-poor graduation (UPG), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), and integrated development programmes (IDP). Among them, microfinance offers three types of loans – dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers' development loan (agricultural loan). HNPP provides

health education through health volunteers (*shasthya shebika*) and health workers (*shasthya kormi*). BEP identifies children from marginalised families and provides them with basic education through its informal schools. UPG focuses on tackling extreme poverty in multiple fronts. HRLS serves the disadvantaged community through its human rights and legal education (HRLE) *shebikas*. CEP is building and strengthening community institutions to ensure socio-political empowerment of poor women. WASH mainly deals with encouraging people to drink pure water and use hygienic sanitary latrines. IDP has been working here since 2013 at Nawabganj sub-district, offering livelihood training and support, education support, health and sanitation support. A BRAC learning centre (BLC) was also established in Dinajpur. The BLC is a

residential centre used as a training centre for BRAC employees.

The Kantajew temple, Ramsagar, and the Shopnopuri Artificial Amusement Park are some of the tourist attractions in the city.



Realising the importance of training BRAC developed BRAC Learning Centre (BLC) at Basherhat, Dinajpur.

Photo credit: BRAC

General information

Population	31,09,628
Sub-distircts	9
Unions	103
Villages	2,131
Children (0-15)	17.12%
Primary schools	1,831
Literacy rates	52.4%
Hospitals	146
Banks	168
Bazaars	273
NGOs	76

At a glance

(as of December 2018)

Microfinance

Branches	80
Village organisations	10,635
Members	460,456
Borrowers	285,987

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	6,975
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Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	3,298
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	286
Health centre	3
Vision centre	2

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	522
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	43
Popular theatre team	14

Education

Pre-primary schools	38
<i>Shishu niketon</i> schools	140
Community libraries	119
Education support programme	72

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	642
HRLE graduates	138,503
Legal aid clinics	15

Cases filed	146
Complaints resolved	1056

Ultra Poor Graduation

Group - 1 members	146
Group - 2 members	1,056
Asset and training received	1,056
Health care availed	1,056
Group - 3 members	634
Asset and training received	634
Health care availed	634

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	27,621
Sanitation coverage	85%
Loans for sanitary latrines	12,256
Sanitary latrines installed in school	311

Gender Justice and Diversity

Community watch groups	15
CWG members	2195
Student watch groups	24
SWG members	600

Social enterprises

Dairy and food project	
Chilling centres	5
Fisheries	1
Sericulture	1
Nursery	1