

Located in the south-west of Bangladesh, Jashore district lies under Khulna division, and has an area of 2,607 square kilometres. It is bordered by India to the west, Khulna district and Satkhira district to the south, Magura and Narail to the east, and Jhenaidah district to the north. Major rivers that flow through this region are the Bhairab, Chitra, Betna, Kobadak, and the Mukteshwari. Jashore is famous for its flower production and widely known as the capital city of flower in Bangladesh.

BRAC operates in Jashore with components such as the microfinance, health, nutrition and population (HNPP), education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), ultra poor graduation (UPG), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), migration, and skills development programmes. Among them, microfinance offers three types of loans – *dabi* (microloan), *progoti* (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers' development loan (agricultural loans). HNPP provides health education through health volunteers (*shasthya shebika*) and health workers (*shasthya kormi*). BEP identifies children from



Popular Theatre group in Keshabpur, Jashore.

marginalised families and provides basic education through its informal schools. Ultra Poor Graduation works to tackle 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 people. WASH encourages people to drink pure water and use hygienic sanitary latrines. Migration works on ensuring easy access to services for Bangladeshi migrants to avoid exploitation. BRAC's new initiative, the skills development programme, is providing holistic skills development training and decent employment opportunities to enable young women and men to realise their full potential. A BRAC learning centre (BLC) was also established in Jessore. The BLC is a residential centre used as a training centre for BRAC employees.

Jashore is the birthplace of famous poet Michael Madhusudan Dutta. His large and beautiful villa located at Shaagordaari, set by the river Kopotak-kho, is a popular tourist spot.

General information

Population	29,41,915
Sub-districts	8
Unions	93
Villages	1,419
Children (0-15)	399,548
Primary schools	1,206
Literacy rates	57%
Hospitals	10
Banks	158
Bazaars	378
NGOs	261

At a glance

(as of December 2018)

Microfinance

Branches	33
Village organisations	3,268
Members	164,223
Borrowers	57,048
Progoti	
Small enterprise clients	8,300

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	880
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	88

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	293
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	64
Popular theatre team	12

Education

Pre-primary schools	52
Primary schools	6
<i>Shishu niketon</i> schools	17
ADP Centres	30
Community libraries	12

Ultra poor graduation

Group- 1 Members	65
Group- 2 Members	1,401
Assets and training received	1,401
Healthcare availed	1,401
Group- 3 Members	1,409
Assets and training received	1409
Healthcare availed	1,409

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	22,165
Sanitation coverage	81%
Subsidised latrines distributed	3,213
Loans for sanitary latrines	187

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	80
Number of trades	9
Number of graduate students	174

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	449
HRLE graduates	105,204
Legal aid clinics	12
Complaints resolved	128
Cases filed (civil and criminal)	81

Social enterprises

Sericulture	1
Artificial Insemination	8
Ayesha Abed Foundation	1