

Mymensingh is a district located in central Bangladesh, part of the Dhaka division. It is one of the closest districts to Dhaka, only 118 kilometres away from the capital city. Mymensingh is clearly marked by the old Brahmaputra river flowing along in the north. The people of Mymensingh are involved mostly in agriculture for their source of income.

Mymensingh district was also known for jute production. Jute is termed the 'golden fiber' due to the revenue it generated as a cash crop. Apart from Bengalis, Mymensingh has indigenous inhabitants like Garo, Hajong, Koch, Dhalu, Bangshi, Barman, Khumi and Malpaharipeople. BRAC operates most of the core programmes here such as microfinance, education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), gender justice and diversity (GJD), and migration programme. 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. Apart from that, BRAC also established few of its



Photo credit: BRAC

*BRAC bull station in Mymensingh. Artificial Insemination enterprise was set up to create synergies with the BRAC Dairy enterprise as livestock is considered an important tool in poverty alleviation.*

social enterprises such as artificial insemination, recycled handmade paper, sericulture, poultry and nursery. These are directly helping to create job opportunities for hundreds of women.

Many traditional rituals are observed every year in Mymensingh. Among them is the colourful Wanna (harvest) festival, held at the beginning of the harvesting season at Haluaghat. Garo Hilltracts, Muktagacha Jamider Bari, Mymensingh Museum, Alexandra Castle, Gospel Church, Shashi Lodge are some of the most visited tourist spots in the district.

## General information

<b>Population</b>	<b>5,313,163</b>
<b>Sub-districts</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Unions</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Villages</b>	<b>2,758</b>
<b>Primary schools</b>	<b>1,245</b>
<b>Literacy rate</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Hospitals</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>NGOs</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>Banks</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Bazaars</b>	<b>571</b>

## At a glance

(as of December 2018)

### Microfinance

Branches	50
Village organisations	4,070
Members	249,685
Borrowers	96,663
Progoti	
Small enterprise clients	12,629

### Health, nutrition and population

Health workers ( <i>shasthya kormi</i> )	247
Health volunteers ( <i>shasthya shebika</i> )	2,467
Health centres	2
Maternity centre	3
Vision centre	2

### Community empowerment

Community-based organisation ( <i>polli shomaj</i> )	490
Union-based organisation ( <i>union shomaj</i> )	49
Popular theatre groups	15

### Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs) in STAR	148
Number of trades	9
Number of graduate learners	300

## Human rights and legal aid services

HRLE graduates	2,744
Legal aid clinics	13
Complaints resolved	167

### Education

Pre-primary schools	339
Primary schools	50
Shishu niketon schools	328
ADP centres	165
Community libraries	57
Education support programme	216

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

Sanitation coverage	82%
Subsidised latrines distributed	1,165

### Social enterprises

Aarong	1
Artificial insemination	1
Nursery	1
Chichen	1
Fisheries	1
Recycled handmade paper	1
Sericulture	2
Seed & Agro	1
BRAC Learning Centre	2