

Located in the south of Bangladesh, Patuakhali lies under Barisal division and has an area of 3,220 square kilometres. Kuakata – the famous beach located at Patuakhali, is also called the “Sagorkonnya” (the daughter of sea). It is the only beach in Bangladesh where both the sunset and sunrise can be seen. The two major rivers here are the Laukathi and Lohalia, which are directly connected with the Bay of Bengal. As this city is adjacent to the Bay of Bengal, agriculture and fishing are the most common professions for the people of Patuakhali.

BRAC operates the majority of its components at Patuakhali, such as microfinance, health, nutrition and population (HNPP), education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), ultra poor graduation (UPG) programmes. Among them, microfinance is the largest programmes, offers three types of loans - dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers’ development loan (agriculture loan). BRAC’s



Photo credit: BRAC/Shehzad Noorani

*Sitting on a colourful jute matres she participated to paint, a girl child writes in her textbook in a BRAC primary school in a rural village.*

disaster management and climate change (DMCC) programme is also operating in the area since it is affected by natural disasters like cyclones, floods and tornadoes each year.

## General information

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Population      | 1,557,137 |
| Sub-districts   | 8         |
| Unions          | 72        |
| Villages        | 882       |
| Children (0-15) | 416,689   |
| Primary schools | 1,101     |
| Literacy rate   | 65%       |
| Hospitals       | 8         |
| NGOs            | 126       |
| Banks           | 75        |
| Bazaars         | 202       |

## At a glance

(as of December, 2018)

### Microfinance

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Branches                 | 24      |
| Village organisations    | 1,457   |
| Members                  | 103,003 |
| Borrowers                | 36,306  |
| <b>Progoti</b>           |         |
| Small enterprise clients | 5,031   |

### Education

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Pre-primary schools | 28 |
| ADP centres         | 25 |
| Community libraries | 40 |

### Human rights and legal aid services

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Human rights legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i> | 339    |
| Legal aid clinics                                   | 6      |
| HRLE graduates                                      | 38,554 |
| Cases filed   | 361    |
| Complaints resolved                                 | 2,901  |

### Ultra-poor graduation

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Group - 1 members           | 50    |
| Group - 2 members           | 1,333 |
| Asset and training received | 1,333 |
| Healthcare availed          | 553   |
| Group - 3 members           | 757   |
| Asset and training received | 757   |
| Healthcare availed          | 303   |

### Health, nutrition and population

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Health volunteers<br>( <i>shasthya shebika</i> ) | 490 |
| Health workers<br>( <i>shasthya kormi</i> )      | 49  |

### Community empowerment

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Community-based organisation<br>( <i>polli shomaj</i> ) | 156 |
| Union-based organisation<br>( <i>union shomaj</i> )     | 11  |
| Popular theatre teams                                   | 5   |

### Disaster management and climate change

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Trained clients                         | 2,000 |
| Women groups                            | 80    |
| Women group members                     | 2,000 |
| Assets received                         | 400   |
| Distribution of trees<br>for plantation | 2,000 |

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Committee members                        | 9,152 |
| Sanitation coverage                      | 70%   |
| Loans for sanitary latrines              | 568   |
| Deep tubewells installed                 | 69    |
| Sanitary latrine installed<br>in schools | 2     |