

Located in northern Bangladesh, Rangpur is one of the poorest corners of the country with majority of the population living below the poverty line. The city is surrounded by the Teesta river. As a result, people are affected by riverbank erosion every year. The area is also known for tobacco cultivation. BRAC began operation in Rangpur in 1985.

Today, most of BRAC's core programmes have been established in the area, including microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), ultra poor graduation (UPG), community empowerment (CEP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), and skills development programme. Among them, microfinance is the largest, providing three types of loans as - dabi (micro loan), progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers' development loan (agricultural loan). UPG works to tackle poverty in multiple fronts. HRLS has graduated more than 100,000 people on human rights and legal education (HRLE). As the literacy rate is low in this region, BEP interventions have been providing access to informal education for marginalised children. CEP works to build and strengthen community institutions to assure the socio-political empowerment to rural women. BRAC's new initiative, the skills development programme, is providing holistic skills development training and



Photo credit: BRAC

Woman empowerment in Bangladesh. A woman driving power tiller to cultivation in a rural village

decent employment opportunities to enable young women and men to realise their full potential. As Rangpur is one of the oldest municipalities in Bangladesh (established in 1869), it is very rich in history and culture. Carmichael College, established in 1916 is located in Rangpur.

General information

Population	2,996,336
Sub-districts	8
Unions	76
Villages	1,492
Children (0-15)	189,600
Primary schools	1,361
Literacy rate	49%
Hospitals	12
NGOs	117
Banks	84
Bazaars	210

At a glance

(as of December, 2018)

Microfinance

Branches	56
Village organisations	5,855
Borrowers	114,001

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	5,363
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Ultra poor graduation

Group - 1 members	191
Group - 2 members	2,066
Training and Asset received	2,257
Healthcare availed	8,264
Group - 3 members	1,914
Training and Asset received	1,914
Healthcare availed	7,656

Education

Primary schools	5
Pre-primary schools	94
<i>Shishu niketon</i> schools	90
ADP centres	27
Community libraries	7

Health, nutrition and population

Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	145
Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	1,450

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	508
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	49
Popular theatre	9

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	460
HRLE graduates	134,175
Legal aid clinics	13

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	115
Number of trades	6
Number of graduate learners	227