

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	91
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 2019)

Microfinance

Branches	33
Village organisations	4,143
Members	186,203
Borrowers	77,643
Progoti	
Small enterprise clients	10,746

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	860
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	86

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	293
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	17
Popular theatre team	12

Education

Pre-primary schools	265
Primary schools	12
<i>Shishu niketon</i> schools	14
ADP Centres	109
Community libraries	98

Ultra poor graduation

Group- 1 Members	78
Group- 2 Members	1,067
Assets and training received	1,145
Healthcare availed	575
Group- 3 Members	2,550
Assets and training received	2,550
Healthcare availed	804

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	8,957
Sanitation coverage	88%
Subsidised latrines distributed	47,693
Loans for sanitary latrines	8553

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs) in STAR	188
Number of trades in STAR	9
Number of graduate students in STAR	317

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	449
HRLE graduates	102,303
Legal aid clinics	8
Complaints resolved	100,77
Cases filed (civil and criminal)	2,221

Social enterprises

Sericulture	1
Dairy chilling center	8