

Manikganj is a district located in central Bangladesh. It is a part of the Dhaka division, with an area of 1,379 square kilometres. It is one of the nearest districts to Dhaka, only 70 kilometres away from the city. It is bound by the Tangail district in the north, Dhaka district in the east, Faridpur district in the south, the Padma and Jamuna rivers and the districts of Pabna and Rajbari in the west. The main rivers are the Padma, Jamuna, Dhaleshwari, Ichamati and Kaliganga.

This city is surrounded by rivers. As a result few of the sub-districts are affected by river bank erosion every year. The people of Manikganj are mostly involved in agriculture. BRAC started its operation here in 1974. Right now, most of BRAC's core programmes, such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), ultra poor graduation (UPG), community empowerment (CEP), skills development and human rights and legal aid services (HRLS). Apart from that, BRAC has also established a few of its social enterprises here, directly helping to create job opportunities for hundreds of women.

Baliati Zamindar Place, Fort at Fordnagar, tomb of Shah Rustam and Gauranga Math are some of the tourist attractions in the district.



Photo credit: BRAC

Ayesha Abed Foundation was started in 1978 as part of BRAC's development interventions to organise, train and support rural women through traditional handicrafts

## General information

Population	1,440,000
Unions	65
Villages	1,873
Children (0-15)	860,000
Primary schools	607
Literacy rate	56%
Hospitals	8
NGOs	41
Banks	38
Bazaars	98

## At a glance

(as of December 2019)

### Microfinance

Branches	33
Village organisations	2,265
Members	55,850
Borrowers	51,460

### Progoti

Small enterprise clients	12,645
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## Ultra poor graduation

Group - 1 members	18
Group - 2 members	187
Asset received	205
Training received	846
Healthcare availed	55
Group - 3 members	641
Asset received	641
Training received	846
Healthcare availed	221

## Education

Primary schools	41
Pre-primary schools	208
Shishu niketon schools	29
Adolescent development programme (ADP) centres	33
Community libraries (gonokendros)	51

## Health, nutrition and population

Health workers (shasthya kormi)	55
Health volunteers (shasthya shebika)	570

## Community empowerment

Community-based organisation ( <i>polli shomaj</i> )	316
Union-based organisation (union <i>shomaj</i> )	50
Popular theatre	7

## Human rights and legal aid services

HRLE graduates	16,170
Legal aid clinics	7

## Social enterprises

Ayesha Abed Foundation	1
Sanitary napkin and delivery kits	1
Nursery	1
Sericulture	1