

Moulvibazar is a district in the division of Sylhet, located in north-eastern Bangladesh with an area of 2,800 square kilometres. It is surrounded by the Sylhet district in the north, Habiganj district in the west and Indian States of Assam and Tripura in the east and south respectively. The main rivers in the district are the Manu, the Dholoi and the Juri which flow from India.

Although most of the population is Bengali, Moulvibazar has some indigenous inhabitants like Khashia, Monipuri and Tripura people. The Sylhet division is famous for its tea gardens, and Moulvibazar is no exception. Moulvibazar has around 92 gardens including rubber, bamboo and fruit gardens, like pineapple, cane, jackfruit, oranges, agar, mango and lemon. The area is also home to the three largest tea gardens (size and production wise) in the world. The people of Moulvibazar mostly involved in agriculture and gardening for their source of income. Most of BRAC's core programmes, such as microfinance, ultra poor graduation (UPG), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), and skills development programme, operate in the district. Apart from this, BRAC established a few social enterprises like fisheries and poultry which directly help to create job opportunities for hundreds of people. With the aim to alleviate



A community radio correspondent conducting an interview in Women Listeners Club.

poverty, BRAC works in the region with a holistic approach.

Moulvibazar has a naturally green backdrop with scintillating tea gardens. There are a lot of places for tourists such as the Madhabkunda waterfall, Ham Ham waterfall, Hakaluki haor, Madhobpur Lake, Bilashchhara Lake and last but not the least, the Lawachara National Park.

## General information

Population	1,999,062
Sub-districts	7
Unions	67
Villages	2,015
Primary schools	1,006
Literacy rate	51%
Hospitals	7
NGOs	44
Banks	18
Bazaars	150

## At a glance

(as of December 2019)

### Microfinance

Branches	32
Village organisations	3,015
Members	165,340
Borrowers	61,708
Progoti	
Small enterprise clients	8,899

### Education

Primary schools	51
Pre-primary schools	220
ADP centres	82
Community libraries	71

### Health, nutrition and population

Health workers (shasthya kormi)	44
Health volunteers (shasthya shebika)	440

## Community empowerment

Community-based organisation ( <i>polli shomaj</i> )	151
Human rights violation cases reported	162
Popular theatre	6
Community radio station	1

## Human rights and legal aid services

Cases filed	381
Legal aid clinics	6

## Ultra Poor Graduation

Group - 1 members	59
Group - 2 members	571
Asset & training received	630
Healthcare availed	264
Group - 3 members	1,324

Asset & training received	1,324
Healthcare availed	237

## Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs) in STAR	66
Number of trades in STAR	7
Number of learners in STAR	550

## Social enterprises

Fisheries	1
BRAC Learning Centre	1