

Located on the banks of the Surma river, Sylhet is known for its tea estates, sub-tropical hills, rainforests and river valleys. This district is also home to various indigenous communities. BRAC runs some of its core programmes such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), among others in this district.

Among them, microfinance is the largest programme offering two types of loans – dabi (microloan) and progoti (enterprise loans). There are about 170,000 members and 55,000 borrowers. BEP stands as the second largest programme, running about 480 schools, the adolescent development programme (ADP), and *gonokendros* (community library). HNPP is another core programme running successfully in the area. It is a combination of preventive, curative, rehabilitative and promotional health services focusing on improving maternal, neonatal and child health (IMNCS), and combating communicable diseases and common health problems, forming the key components of essential healthcare. WASH



Folk song for community mobilization for identification of cataract cases.

Photo credit: BRAC

mainly deals with water and sanitation services. It has achieved 85 per cent sanitation coverage by installing sanitary latrines in schools and villages. BRAC also launched integrated development programme (IDP) in Sylhet Sadar to tackle the various dimensions of poverty. BRAC also runs human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), community empowerment (CEP), and ultra poor graduation (UPG) programmes in the area successfully. BRAC's new initiative, the skills development programme, provides holistic skills development training and decent employment opportunities to enable young women and men to realise their full potential.

General Information

Population	3,957,000
Sub-districts	13
Unions	105
Villages	3,497
Children (0-15)	1,492,785
Primary schools	1,961
Literacy rates	66%
Hospitals	24
Banks	251
Bazaars	302
NGOs	68

At a glance

(as of December, 2019)

Microfinance

Branches	31
Village organisations	1,332
Members	85,656
Borrowers	64,850

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	16,230
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Education

Pre-primary school	455
Primary school	99
ADP centres	75
Community libraries	40
Education support programme	11

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	797
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	83
Health centres	3

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	5,500
Sanitation coverage	78%
Loans for sanitary latrines	300
Sanitary latrines installed in schools	5

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	162
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	30
Popular theatres	6

Human rights and legal aid services

HRLE graduates	1,300
Legal aid clinics	8
Cases filed	70
Complaints resolved	55

Migration

No. of SMFC	6
Number of unions	54
Migration center	1
No. of volunteers	108

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs) in STAR	95
Number of trades in STAR	7
Number of learners in STAR	210
Number of graduate learners in STAR	210
Number of graduate learners in PROSPER	38
Number of graduate learners in PROMISE	22

Social enterprises

Aarong outlet	1
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