

Integrated Development Programme:
Eliminating poverty in
Bangladesh's hard-to-reach areas
through holistic interventions

Three in every 10 people live in poverty in Bangladesh's hard-to-reach areas - haor (wetlands) and char (riverine islands) regions. Meanwhile, eight out of 10 of the plain land indigenous communities of northern Bangladesh live in extreme poverty. Distance, language barriers and lack of adequate infrastructure hinder access to mainstream services for these communities.

BRAC Integrated Development
Programme works with 1.7 million people
across these areas, creating diverse
livelihood opportunities and bringing
basic services to their doorsteps.

What we do

BRAC Integrated
Development
Programme focuses on
addressing inequalities
and ensuring access
to basic services
for people living in
Bangladesh's hard-to-

reach areas through needs-based, holistic interventions.

We support communities to form village development organisations, which act as one-stop service delivery centres. These platforms support people to access basic services and exercise their rights, in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 1 - inclusive growth, and BRAC's strategic priority of addressing inequality and leaving no one behind.

Why it works



Creating livelihood opportunities:

Equipping people with incomegenerating assets and skills, and ensuring access to financial services



Increasing access to basic services:

Improving access to basic services, including education, healthcare, legal aid and water, sanitation and hygiene



Promoting gender equality:

Working with communities to increase the participation of women in decision making, exercising rights, accessing services and preventing domestic violence



Partnerships:

Supporting communities to link with local governments for social safety net services and infrastructure development



Knowledge management:

Generating evidence from best practices and failure and capturing learning



Strengthening community resilience after COVID-19:

Specific support for communities to recover after the pandemic





In numbers

Interventions in wetland regions have resulted in:

100%

increase in annual income per household in intervention areas 94%

of people access healthcare from formal institutions 90%

of women involved in household decisions

89%

of households access safe sanitation facilities

88%

of students have access to primary education

reduction in child marriage

22%

increase in gross revenue for households from agricultural activities

Interventions in regions with indigenous communities have resulted in:



100%

of people made aware of COVID-19 with messages in indigenous languages



52%

of households accessed alternative livelihood opportunities with incomegenerating assets



62%

of households accessed emergency cash support to ensure food security during lockdown



44%

of households accessed safe sanitation facilities

BRAC

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