

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 Khasia, 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, targeting ultra poor (TUP), 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



*Photo credit: BRAC*

*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, Madhabpur Lake, Bilashchhara Lake and last but not the least, the Lawachara National Park.

## General information

<b>Population</b>	<b>1,994,252</b>
<b>Sub-districts</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Unions</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Villages</b>	<b>2,015</b>
<b>Children (0-15)</b>	<b>270,852</b>
<b>Primary schools</b>	<b>1,103</b>
<b>Literacy rate</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Hospitals</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>NGOs</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Banks</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>Bazaars</b>	<b>150</b>

## At a glance

(as of December 2016)

### Microfinance

<b>Village organisations</b>	<b>1,833</b>
<b>Members</b>	<b>154,868</b>
<b>Borrowers</b>	<b>49,457</b>
<b>Progoti</b>	

<b>Small enterprise clients</b>	<b>5,331</b>
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### Education

<b>Primary schools</b>	<b>295</b>
<b>Shishu niketon</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Pre-primary schools</b>	<b>229</b>
<b>ADP centres</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Community libraries</b>	<b>62</b>

### Health, nutrition and population

<b>Health workers (shasthya kormi)</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Health volunteers (shasthya shebika)</b>	<b>325</b>

## **Community empowerment**

<b>Community-based organisation (polli shomaj)</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>Union-based organisation (union shomaj)</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Popular theatre</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Community radio station</b>	<b>1</b>

## **Water, sanitation and hygiene**

<b>Committee members</b>	<b>802</b>
<b>Sanitation coverage</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>Deep tube-well installed</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Loans for sanitary latrines</b>	<b>1,637</b>

## **Human rights and legal aid services**

<b>Human rights and legal education (HRLE) shebikas</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>HRLE graduates</b>	<b>43,184</b>
<b>Legal aid clinics</b>	<b>6</b>

## **Targeting the ultra poor**

<b>Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members</b>	<b>549</b>
<b>Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>Asset and training received</b>	<b>549</b>
<b>Healthcare availed</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Softloan received</b>	<b>640</b>

## **Skills development**

<b>Number of master craft persons (MCPs)</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Number of trades</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Number of learners</b>	<b>120</b>

## **Social enterprises**

<b>Fisheries</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Poultry</b>	<b>1</b>