

Barishal, the Venice of Bengal, set on the famous river Kirtankhola, is located in the south-central of Bangladesh. It lies under Barishal division, and has an area of 2,784 square kilometres. As a major rice production hub in the country, it produces the famous Balam (basmati) rice at a very large scale. As this city is located near the coast, it is well known for producing fish and coconut on a large scale.

There are several rivers flowing into the city eg, Arial Khan, Katcha, Tentulia, Naya Bhanga, Jayanti, Shwarupkathi and Amtali. Barishal is the second largest river port in Bangladesh. BRAC operates various programmes in Barishal, such as microfinance, ultra poor graduation (UPG), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme. Among them, microfinance offers three types of loans – dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loan) and agricultural loans such as – tenant farmers’ development project (BCUP) to



Children attend a BRAC pre primary school in a rural village.

the clients. HNPP provides health education through health volunteers (*shasthya shebika*) and health workers (*shasthya kormi*). BEP identifies children from marginalised families and provides basic education through its informal schools. UPG focuses on tackling extreme poverty in multiple fronts. HRLS serves the disadvantaged community through its human rights and legal education (HRLE) *shebikas*. CEP is building and strengthening community institutions to ensure socio political empowerment to poor women. WASH is working on ensuring safe drinking water and basic sanitation for rural people. A BRAC learning centre (BLC) was also established in Barishal. The BLC is a residential centre used as a training centre for BRAC employees.

## General information

Population	2,348,440
Sub-districts	10
Unions	85
Villages	1,173
Children (0-15)	1,049,456
Primary schools	1,749
Literacy rates	72%
Hospitals	69
Banks	36
Bazaars	152
NGOs	149

## At a glance

(as of December 2018)

### Microfinance

Branches	31
Village organisations	2,264
Members	67,395
Borrowers	54,973

### Progoti

Small enterprise clients	7,103
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### Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers ( <i>shasthya shebika</i> )	510
Health workers ( <i>shasthya kormi</i> )	51
Health centres	2

### Ultra Poor Graduation

Group - 1 members	25
Group - 2 members	726
Asset received	751
Training received	751
Healthcare availed	325
Group - 3 members	919
Training received	919
Healthcare availed	450

### Community empowerment

Community-based organisation ( <i>polli shomaj</i> )	180
Popular theatre team	7
Human rights violation cases reported	262

## Education

Shishu niketon schools	5
Community libraries ( <i>ganokendros</i> )	66

### Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	430
HRLE graduates	1,950
Legal aid clinics	10

### Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs) in STAR	51
Number of trades in STAR	6
Number of learners in STAR	104
Number of learners in PROGRESS	65

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	19,272
Sanitation coverage	60%
Loans for sanitary latrines	42,600
Deep tubewells installed	67
Sanitary latrines installed in schools	1