

Located in the south-central of Bangladesh, Bhola district lies under Barishal division, have an area of 3,737 kilometres. It is bounded by the Bay of Bengal to the south. It includes Bhola island, the largest island of Bangladesh alongside Monpura island and Dhalchar. Main rivers are Meghna, Tentulia and Ganeshpura.

BRAC works at Bhola with quite a few components 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). Among them, microfinance offers two types of loan – dabi (microloan) and progoti (enterprise loan) to the clients. HNPP is providing health education through *shasthya shebika* (health volunteer) and *shasthya kormi* (health worker). BRAC's education programme is also identifying the marginalised kids and providing them the education through informal schools. UPG is focusing on tackling the poverty with 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



Children attend BRAC non formal pre-primary school in village.

socio political empowerment to poor women. WASH is working on ensuring safe drinking water and basic sanitation for rural people. Notable tourist destinations include Monpura Island and Char Kukrimukri.

General information

Population	2,037,201
Sub-districts	7
Unions	68
Villages	473
Children (0-15)	611,160
Primary schools	1,044
Literacy rates	47%
Hospitals	10
Banks	62
Bazaars	245
NGOs	30

At a glance

(as of December, 2018)

Microfinance

Branches	28
Village organisations	1,784
Members	105,065
Borrowers	53,055

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	2,785
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Ultra poor graduation

Group - 1 members	43
Group - 2 members	2,601
Asset and training received	2,644
Health care availed	730
Group - 3 members	1,939
Asset and training received	620
Health care availed	620

Education

Pre-primary schools	58
Primary schools	95
<i>Shishu niketon</i> schools	37
ADP Centres	40

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	747
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	124

Human rights and legal aid services

HRLE graduates	45,404
Legal aid clinics	6

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	715
Sanitation coverage	72%
Deep tubewell installed	40