

Cumilla is an eastern city in Bangladesh with history dating back to the reigning kings of the Shamatat, Harikel, and Deva dynasty. As a district, it was first called 'Tripura', and later in 1960, it was named 'Cumilla'. This district has notable memories related to the Second World War; Cumilla's cantonment was one of the most important military bases for the British Indian Army. It was the headquarters for the British 14th Army.



Photo credit: BRAC/Shehzad Noorani

*BRAC Nursery supports afforestation by providing quality seedling and increasing environmental awareness.*

Mainamati, a famous war cemetery, was established after the Second World War to remember allied soldiers who died during the first and second world war. The district, which is located by the river Gumti, is an important junction for road communication for the eastern parts of the country. The famous Grand Trunk Road, one of Asia's oldest and longest road, passes through the city.

BRAC runs some of its core programmes such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), migration, and community empowerment (CEP) in this district. Among them, microfinance is the largest programme offering three types of loans – dabi (micro

loan, progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers' development loans (agricultural loan). BEP stands as the second largest programme in this district running around 500 schools, the adolescent development programme and *gonokendros* (community libraries). HNPP is another core programme which is a combination of preventive, curative, rehabilitative and promotional health services. It focuses on improving maternal, neonatal and child health (IMNCS), as well as combating communicable diseases and common health problems, forming the key component of essential healthcare. BRAC's new initiative, the skills development programme, is providing holistic skills development training and decent employment opportunities

to enable young women and men to realise their full potential. A BRAC learning centre (BLC) was also established in Cumilla. The BLC is a residential learning centre used as a training centre for BRAC employees.

## General information

Population	5,602,625
Sub-districts	17
Unions	185
Villages	3,687
Children (0-15)	1,512,708
Primary schools	2,003
Literacy rate	60%
Hospitals	30
NGOs	101
Banks	243
Bazaars	555

## At a glance

(as of December, 2018)

### Microfinance

Branches	109
Village organisations	7,094
Members	318,878
Borrowers	129,615

### Progoti

Small enterprise clients	39,742
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### Education

Pre-primary schools	125
Primary schools	5
Shishu niketon	104
ADP centres	22
Community libraries	37

### Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers ( <i>shasthya shebika</i> )	1,660
Health workers ( <i>shasthya kormi</i> )	166

### Community empowerment

Community-based organisation ( <i>polli shomaj</i> )	339
Union-based organisation ( <i>union shomaj</i> )	19
Popular theatre team	11

## Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	554
Legal aid clinics	14
HRLE graduates	114,723

### Migration

Safe migration facilitation centre (SMFC)	1
Community-based organisation (CBO) facilitators	6
Unions	54

### Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	96
Number of trades	8
Number of graduate students	1,608

### Social enterprises

Aarong	1
Cold storage	1
Nursery	1