

Habiganj district is located in the Sylhet division. It is a historic place where freedom fighters started the first guerrilla movement against the Pakistan Army during the Bangladesh liberation war. Although 98 per cent of the population are Bengalis, Habiganj has some indigenous groups like the Khasia, Monipuri and Tipperah people. Since the Sylhet division is famous for its tea gardens, Habiganj is no exception. Habiganj has around 24 tea gardens with rubber gardens, fruit gardens etc.

This district is also famous for indigenous handmade weaving products and bamboo work. BRAC runs some of its core programmes such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the district. Among them, microfinance is the largest programme that offers three types of loans – dabi (micro loan) and progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers’ development loans (agricultural loan). BEP stands as the second largest programme in this district running around 900 schools, the adolescent development programme and *gonokendros* (community libraries). HNPP is



*BRAC health forum meeting to identify cataract cases by mobilising the community*

another core programme which is a combination of preventive, curative, rehabilitative and promotional health services focusing 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. Another core programme is BRAC WASH, which mainly deals with water and sanitation services. In Habiganj, the WASH programme has an outstanding 85 per cent sanitation coverage through installing sanitary latrines in the schools and villages. 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. Apart from these programmes, BRAC also runs

human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), ultra poor graduation (UPG), community empowerment (CEP), integrated development (IDP), skills development, and gender justice and diversity (GJD) programmes successfully.

## General information

Population	2,285,700
Unions	78
Villages	2,284
Children (0-15)	879,550
Primary schools	1,027
Literacy rate	55%
Hospitals	9
NGOs	57
Banks	51
Bazaars	121

## At a glance

(as of December, 2018)

### Microfinance

Branches	42
Village organisations	4,013
Members	173,770
Borrowers	82,192

### Progoti

Small enterprise clients	9,037
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### Education

Pre-primary school	245
Primary school	141
Shishu niketon	23
ADP centres	178
Community libraries	43
Education support programme	113

### Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers ( <i>shasthya shebika</i> )	338
Health workers ( <i>shasthya kormi</i> )	40
Health centres	1

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	26,481
Sanitation coverage	64%
Sanitary latrines installed in school	112
Deep tube-wells installed	154

## Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal aid services (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	460
Legal aid clinics	16
HRLE graduates	68,102

### Ultra Poor Graduation

Group - 1 members	80
Group - 2 members	1774
Asset received	1774
Training received	1775
Group - 3 members	1191
Asset received	1191
Training received	1192

### Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	151
Number of trades	5
Number of graduate learners	207
Number of learners in PROSPER	38
Number of learners in PROMISE	53
Number of learners in PROGRESS	29

### Social enterprises

Ayesha Abed Foundation	1
Sanitary napkin and delivery kits	1