

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, 2019)

### Microfinance

Branches	28
Village organisations	2,837
Members	121,087
Borrowers	58,044

### Progoti

Small enterprise clients	6,405
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### Ultra poor graduation

Group - 1 members	72
Group - 2 members	1,646
Asset and training received	1,718
Health care availed	720
Group - 3 members	2,274
Asset and training received	2,274
Health care availed	719

## Education

Pre-primary schools	97
Primary schools	125
<i>Shishu niketon</i> schools	40
ADP Centres	15

## Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers ( <i>shasthya shebika</i> )	610
Health workers ( <i>shasthya kormi</i> )	61

## Human rights and legal aid services

HRLE graduates	47,107
Legal aid clinics	6

## Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	1,683
Sanitation coverage	75%
Deep tubewell installed	23