

Bogura, known as ‘Pundra Bardhan’ in ancient times, is one of the oldest towns in northern Bangladesh, situated on the bank of the famous river Karatoya. This historic city is mostly popular for the old archaeological sites like Mahasthangarh, Behularbashorghor, Nawab Palace (called Neelkuthi during the British period), etc.

This district also represents north Bengal’s vibrant cultural attractions such as Baul, Marfati, Lalon and Sufi music. It is also the hub of northern Bangladesh because of its utmost importance regarding trade and commerce for the region. BRAC runs some of its core programmes such as microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), among others, in Bogura district. Among them, microfinance is the largest programme, that offers three types of loans – dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers’ development loan (agricultural loan). BEP stands as the second largest programme in the district, running around 350 schools, an innovative adolescent development programme and *gonokendros* (community library). HNPP is another core programme, which is a combination of preventive, curative, rehabilitative



Photo credit: BRAC/M N I Chowdhury

BRAC Maize Processing Centre, Bogura, BRAC’s agriculture research centre develops the best maize varieties suitable for the local environment.

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. BRAC also runs human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), gender justice and diversity (GJD), community empowerment (CEP), and agriculture and food security programme (AFSP) successfully.

General information

Population	3,400,874
Unions	108
Villages	2,706
Children (0-15)	6,74,760
Primary schools	2,550
Literacy rate	49%
Hospitals	83
NGOs	31
Banks	68
Bazaars	310

At a glance

(as of December, 2019)

Microfinance

Branches	73
Village organisations	6,424
Members	2,81,189
Borrowers	1,52,791

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	16,000
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Education

Pre-primary schools	78
Primary schools	5
<i>Shishu niketon</i> schools	63
Education support programme	15
Adolescent development programme (ADP) centres	141
Community libraries	69

Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	960
Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	96

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	332
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	64
Popular theatre team	13

Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs)	92
Number of trades	5
Number of graduate learners in STAR	189
Number of learners in STAR	190
Number of learners in PROSPER	73
Number of learners PROMISE	30
Number of learners PROGRESS	149
Number of learners KORMO	335

Water, Sanitation and

Hygiene

Committee members	24,597
Sanitation coverage	87%
Sanitary latrines installed in school	12
Subsidized Latrines Distributed	5,339

Social enterprises

BRAC dairy and food project	
Chilling centres	4
Sericulture	1
Fisheries	1