

Part of Rajshahi, Pabna is located in northern Bangladesh. It is surrounded by Natore and Sirajganj in the north, Rajbari and Kushtia in the south, Manikganj and Sirajganj in the east and Kushtia in the west. The main rivers in the area are the Ganges, Ichamati, Gumani and Hurasagar.

BRAC operates most of its core programmes here including microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), ultra poor graduation (UPG), community empowerment (CEP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), gender justice and diversity (GJD), skills development and migration. BRAC also established a few of its social enterprises in the area, which are creating livelihood opportunities. Among these programmes, microfinance has reached the most number of clients through its multiple wings – dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loans) and tenant farmers’ development project. BEP interventions target marginalised children, for whom it provides access to education UPG is also operating in Pabna, tackling multiple fronts of poverty. CEP and HRLS are promoting legal empowerment, while HNPP is providing health services to rural women and children. UPG works to tackle poverty in multiple fronts. Skills development programme is providing holistic skills development training and decent employment opportunities to enable young women and men to



BRAC school students engaging in group work.

realise their full potential. Migration is promoting safe migration awareness in the area.

Pabna has some notable tourist destinations. Among them the three-domed mosque at Bharara, Jagannath Temple and Seth Kuthi are quite popular.

## General information

Population	2,624,684
Sub-districts	9
Unions	73
Villages	1,588
Children (0-15)	755,673
Primary schools	1,337
Literacy rate	47%
Hospitals	9
NGOs	64
Banks	15
Bazaars	164

## At a glance

(as of December, 2019)

### Microfinance

Branches	65
Village organisation	4,512
Members	210,000
Borrowers	160,000

### Progoti

Small enterprise clients	21,808
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### Education

Primary schools	1
Pre-primary schools	187
Shishu niketon schools	47
Education support programme	84
Adolescent development programme (ADP) centres	24
Community libraries	60

### Health, nutrition and population

Health workers (shasthya kormi)	64
Health volunteers (shasthya shebika)	621

## Community empowerment

Community-based organisation ( <i>polli shomaj</i> )	300
Union-based organisation ( <i>union shomaj</i> )	55
Popular theatre	11

## Skills development

Number of master craft persons (MCPs) in STAR	86
Number of trades in STAR	6
Number of learners in STAR	172
Number of graduate learners in STAR	1,010

## Gender justice and diversity

**MEJNIN** (*meyeder jonno nirapad  
nagorikotta - safe citizenship for  
girls*)

CWG members	24
Number of students watch group (SWG)	24
SWG members	600

## Migration

Community-based organisation (CBO) facilitators	4
Communication workers	4
Volunteers	5
Unions	23

## Human rights and legal aid services

HRLE graduates	100,267
Legal aid clinics	9
Complaints resolved	2,867
Cases filed (civil and criminal)	965

## Social enterprises

Ayesha Abed Foundation	1
BRAC Dairy and food project	
Chilling centres	32
Fisheries	2
Seed and agro	2
Artificial insemination	1