

Located in the south of Bangladesh, Patuakhali lies under Barisal division and has an area of 3,220 square kilometres. Kuakata – the famous beach located at Patuakhali, is also called the “Sagorkonnya” (the daughter of sea). It is the only beach in Bangladesh where both the sunset and sunrise can be seen. The two major rivers here are the Laukathi and Lohalia, which are directly connected with the Bay of Bengal. As this city is adjacent to the Bay of Bengal, agriculture and fishing are the most common professions for the people of Patuakhali.

BRAC operates the majority of its components at Patuakhali, such as microfinance, health, nutrition and population (HNPP), education (BEP), community empowerment (CEP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), ultra poor graduation (UPG) programmes. Among them, microfinance is the largest programmes, offers three types of loans - dabi (microloan), progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers’ development loan (agriculture loan). BRAC’s



Photo credit: BRAC/Shehzad Noorani

*Sitting on a colourful jute matres she participated to paint, a girl child writes in her textbook in a BRAC primary school in a rural village.*

disaster management and climate change (DMCC) programme is also operating in the area since it is affected by natural disasters like cyclones, floods and tornadoes each year.

## General information

Population	1,557,137
Sub-districts	8
Unions	72
Villages	882
Children (0-15)	416,689
Primary schools	1,101
Literacy rate	65%
Hospitals	8
NGOs	126
Banks	75
Bazaars	202

## At a glance

(as of December, 2019)

### Microfinance

Branches	24
Village organisations	3,728
Members	72,689
Borrowers	50,509
<b>Progoti</b>	
Small enterprise clients	8,715

### Education

Community libraries	40
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### Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	336
Legal aid clinics	6
HRLE graduates	40,130
Cases filed	374
Complaints resolved	3,488

### Ultra-poor graduation

Group - 1 members	97
Group - 2 members	1,804
Asset and training received	1,901
Healthcare availed	856
Group - 3 members	2,044
Asset and training received	2,044
Healthcare availed	865

### Health, nutrition and population

Health volunteers ( <i>shasthya shebika</i> )	510
Health workers ( <i>shasthya kormi</i> )	51

### Community empowerment

Community-based organisation ( <i>polli shomaj</i> )	156
Union-based organisation ( <i>union shomaj</i> )	33
Popular theatre teams	5

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

Committee members	9,152
Sanitation coverage	55%
Loans for sanitary latrines	2,200
Deep tubewells installed	612
Sanitary latrine installed in schools	68