

Located in northern Bangladesh, Rangpur is one of the poorest corners of the country with majority of the population living below the poverty line. The city is surrounded by the Teesta river. As a result, people are affected by riverbank erosion every year. The area is also known for tobacco cultivation. BRAC began operation in Rangpur in 1985.

Today, most of BRAC's core programmes have been established in the area, including microfinance, education (BEP), health, nutrition and population (HNPP), targeting the ultra poor (TUP), community empowerment (CEP), human rights and legal aid services (HRLS), and skills development programme. Among them, microfinance is the largest, providing three types of loans as - dabi (micro loan), progoti (enterprise loan) and tenant farmers' development loan (agricultural loan). TUP works to tackle poverty in multiple fronts. HRLS has graduated more than 100,000 people on human rights and legal education (HRLS). As the literacy rate is low in this region, BEP interventions have been providing access to informal education for marginalised children. CEP works to build and strengthen community institutions to assure the socio-political empowerment to rural women. BRAC's new initiative, the skills development programme, is providing holistic skills development training and



Photo credit: BRAC

Woman empowerment in Bangladesh. A woman driving power tiller to cultivation in a rural village

decent employment opportunities to enable young women and men to realise their full potential. As Rangpur is one of the oldest municipalities in Bangladesh (established in 1869), it is very rich in history and culture. Carmichael College, established in 1916 is located in Rangpur.

General information

Population	2,996,336
Unions	76
Villages	1,492
Children (0-15)	1,048,718
Primary schools	1,341
Literacy rate	49%
Hospitals	16
NGOs	117
Banks	29
Bazaars	215

At a glance

(as of December, 2015)

Microfinance

Branches	49
Village organisations	3,602
Borrowers	89,165

Progoti

Small enterprise clients	4,048
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Tenant farmers' development project

Village organisations	603
Population covered	8,596
Money disbursed	85,305,000

Targeting the ultra poor

Specially targeted ultra poor (STUP) members	1,000
Other targeted ultra poor (OTUP) members	1,394
Assets and training received	1,000
Healthcare availed	456

Education

Primary schools	250
Pre-primary schools	222
Adolescent development programme (ADP) centres	198
Community libraries	67

Health, nutrition and population

Health workers (<i>shasthya kormi</i>)	435
Health volunteers (<i>shasthya shebika</i>)	4,080

Community empowerment

Community-based organisation (<i>polli shomaj</i>)	508
Union-based organisation (<i>union shomaj</i>)	49
Popular theatre	9

Human rights and legal aid services

Human rights and legal education (HRLE) <i>shebikas</i>	161
HRLE graduates	128,299
Legal aid clinics	15

Skills development

Number of graduate students	113
Disabled students	23