



Pohela Baishakh 1433 brought a vibrant energy to dRi, as the office came alive with color, tradition, and shared joy. Colleagues gathered to celebrate together, filling the space with laughter, conversation, and a warm sense of connection. The festive decor and traditional elements reflected the richness of Bengali heritage, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere.

The presence of our field researchers made the occasion even more meaningful, strengthening the bond between field and office. From shared moments to familiar flavors, the celebration captured a collective spirit rooted in culture, collaboration, and community. It was a reminder that beyond our work, it is these connections that truly define us.



## Evidence in Action

4.18

Findings from the Multi-Stakeholder Initiative for Peace and Stability (MIPS) study indicate measurable reductions in political violence in programme intervention areas, with an overall score of **4.18** out of 5.

Previously, many migrants relied on irregular channels for migration. However, findings from BRAC's Prottasha-II project show a significant shift, with **99.64%** now considering regular migration pathways.

99.64

## Highlights of the Quarter

### Endline Survey on Ultra-Poor Graduation Programme (BRAC)

dRi is conducting the endline survey for BRAC's Ultra-Poor Graduation (UPG) Programme, Cohort 2024. The programme provides 18–24 months of integrated, climate-adaptive support to ultra-poor households to strengthen livelihoods and resilience. The



study measures endline Results Framework indicators across key areas including livelihoods, financial inclusion, market access, skills, social protection, climate resilience, and women's empowerment. It also verifies graduation status against BRAC criteria and compares changes with baseline findings. The assessment generates disaggregated insights for key groups to support learning and inform future programme design.

### Tracer Studies on Shafal Project Development Results (UNCDF)

dRi has been awarded an assignment by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to conduct periodic tracer studies under the Shafal programme, focusing on the financial resilience of migrant households. The studies will track changes across key indicators such as income, savings, entrepreneurship, and financial service uptake over different implementation cycles. They will also explore factors influencing financial inclusion across diverse groups and contexts. dRi is preparing to commence this assignment, with findings expected to support ongoing programme learning and implementation refinement.

### Endline Survey on Work Environments and Careers in Garment Factories in South Asia (Texas A&M University)

dRi is preparing to commence the endline phase of a study on work environments and career trajectories in garment factories across South Asia, led by Texas A&M University in collaboration with the Indian Statistical Institute and the Lahore School of Economics. The study builds on a baseline round previously conducted by dRi in Bangladesh. The endline survey will assess workers' conditions, employment patterns, and labor dynamics to capture changes over time using the same research framework across selected factories.

### Perception and Satisfaction Survey on MIPS (The Hunger Project Bangladesh)



The Multi-Stakeholder Initiative for Peace and Stability (MIPS), led by The Hunger Project Bangladesh (THP) and funded by FCDO in partnership with IFES, promotes peaceful co-existence and collective action against violence through

community-led platforms across Bangladesh. As part of its monitoring and evaluation, dRi conducted a perception and satisfaction survey to explore stakeholders' knowledge, attitudes, and experiences related to democracy, violence prevention, and peacebuilding initiatives. The study provides insights into the effectiveness and sustainability of MIPS initiatives in fostering peace and social harmony at the community level.

### Evaluating Workplace Harassment Policies in Bangladesh (Massachusetts Institute of Technology - MIT)

dRi is engaged in a collaborative study with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Stanford University on workplace harassment reporting and resolution mechanisms in Bangladesh's garment sector. The study evaluates the RSC anti-harassment policy and related factory training initiatives. It examines changes in workers' awareness, perceptions of workplace safety, and the effectiveness of grievance systems through structured surveys with workers and managers. Baseline data collection is ongoing, followed by endline. The study will contribute to policy analysis aimed at strengthening workplace reporting systems and enhancing accountability mechanisms in the sector.

## Study on Matchmaking and Marital Decision-Making in Bangladesh (Stanford University)

dRi is currently engaged in a research study with Stanford University, led by PIs Rebecca Cai and Monia Tomasella, exploring matchmaking and marriage systems in Bangladesh. The study examines how brides and grooms are selected and the roles of guardians, family members, and informal matchmakers in the process. It further explores key aspects of marriage practices, including the negotiation and practice of mahr (দেনমোহর), divorce processes, and women's legal and social rights within marriage. The study also looks at decision-making on issues such as fertility, family planning, and employment. Overall, the research aims to generate a nuanced understanding of marital practices and gendered decision-making in Bangladesh.



## Events & Workshop



### Observing Women's Day at dRi

dRi observed International Women's Day with a small gathering, bringing colleagues together to reflect on the contributions of women in both professional and personal spaces. The session encouraged open discussion on equality, inclusion, and progress made alongside ongoing challenges. To mark the occasion, women at dRi were presented with small tokens of appreciation in recognition of their contributions. The event served as a reminder of the importance of valuing and supporting women's efforts throughout the year.

### Enhancing Workplace Effectiveness: An Interactive Workshop

dRi recently organized an interactive workshop on Workplace Effectiveness Skills, conducted by Anindya Barai, aimed at strengthening practical tools for day-to-day productivity. The session covered key areas including communication, documentation, time management, teamwork, critical thinking, and professional ethics, along with practical approaches such as the Eisenhower Matrix and first-principles thinking. The workshop was highly interactive, encouraging experience sharing and collaborative learning, and concluded with reflections on its value in supporting professional growth.



### Learning from Leadership

dRi's latest monthly Knowledge Sharing Session featured an insightful discussion led by Managing Director Brig Gen (Retd.) Mohammad Mahbubul Haq, drawing from his professional experience. The session reflected on the evolution and roles of the Bangladesh Army, highlighting values of discipline, leadership, and service. Participants gained perspectives on national and international responsibilities, including peacekeeping contributions. The interactive exchange created a space for learning and reflection on the role of strong institutions in shaping progress and stability.

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