

THIS ISSUE AT dRi

Walking in Their Shoes

For one day, the familiar rhythm of dRi office looked a little different. As our office support staff took part in a dedicated training session, colleagues stepped into their shoes and took on their everyday responsibilities, cooking and cleaning, receiving guests, managing security, and handling other operational tasks.

What started as a change in routine became a meaningful lesson in teamwork, empathy, and appreciation. Experiencing these responsibilities firsthand gave us a deeper understanding of the effort that goes into keeping our workplace running smoothly every day. Led by Abu Muhammad Shihab, an expert in Organization Development, Emergency Response,

Disability Inclusion, and Governance, the training focused on strengthening the skills and effectiveness of our support staff.

A day of learning, laughter, and a little role reversal reminded us that every role matters.



The Team After a Day of Learning



A Day of New Roles and Teamwork

BY THE NUMBERS

MAY TO AUGUST 2026

16

Ongoing projects

ACTIVE, MAY TO AUGUST

10,800+

Interviews completed

ACROSS ALL STUDIES

29

Districts covered

NATIONWIDE FIELD PRESENCE

160+

Field researchers deployed

ENUMERATORS IN THE FIELD

87,956

Rohingya people and host-community members are covered by the humanitarian programme dRi is independently evaluating for Malteser International in Cox's Bazar.

Highlights at a Glance



UNDP · RANGAMATI, KHAGRACHARI, BANDARBAN

Feasibility Study of Ecosystem Restoration and Resilient Development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

dRi is conducting a comprehensive feasibility study for UNDP's Ecosystem Restoration and Resilient Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (ERRD-CHT) Project, assessing the technical, environmental, economic, social, and institutional feasibility of the proposed interventions.

The study examines planned outcomes related to ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, social cohesion, women and girls' empowerment, and youth development, while assessing key risks, assumptions, sustainability, and potential impacts. dRi is carrying out data collection and analysis and preparing an evidence-based technical report with recommendations to inform the project's design and implementation.



MALTESER INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH · ROHINGYA CAMP

External Independent Final Evaluation: Strengthening Health and Protection in Cox's Bazar

dRi is conducting the external independent final evaluation of a humanitarian project implemented by Malteser International in partnership with Gonoshasthaya Kendra, supporting approximately 87,956 Rohingya people and host-community members in Cox's Bazar.

The evaluation assesses performance against the OECD-DAC criteria, covering primary healthcare, nutrition, emergency relief, and protection services. Using a mixed-methods approach, dRi is combining beneficiary surveys, qualitative consultations, data analysis, and stakeholder validation to assess key outcomes, including health knowledge, ANC/PNC coverage, breastfeeding, adolescent SRH knowledge, and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP).



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Research Support for the Standard Chartered – Channel i Agrow Award 2026

Following the successful completion of the previous year's evaluation, dRi has been selected again as the research partner for the Standard Chartered – Channel i Agrow Award 2026, which recognises individuals and organisations contributing to agriculture and food security in Bangladesh.

dRi is conducting research and verification on the award applicants and preparing detailed profiles for the Jury Board, supporting an informed and rigorous evaluation process.

UC BERKELEY, CHICAGO AND COLUMBIA · RURAL BANGLADESH

The Economics of Domestic Violence in Bangladesh

Researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Chicago, and Columbia University are conducting a study to examine the economic and behavioral drivers of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Bangladesh. The research explores different motivations behind spousal abuse, the role of reputation and social image, and how these factors vary across income levels.

Using a lab-in-the-field experiment, vignette surveys, and household questionnaires, the study aims to generate evidence for culturally tailored anti-violence interventions. dRi is supporting the field implementation of the study in rural Bangladesh.

ALSO IN THE PORTFOLIO

Studies advancing alongside this period's new awards

01 Endline Survey on Work Environments and Careers in Garment Factories in South Asia
Texas A&M University · Labour · Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj

02 Conducting Periodic Tracer Studies on Development Results of the Shafal Project
UNCDF Bangladesh · Financial Inclusion · Nationwide

03 Sorting in Marriage Markets
Stanford University · Gender · Dhaka

Alongside these, dRi continues to deliver studies with partners including BRAC, UNCDF, UNHCR, MIT, Texas A&M University, and the Institute of Development Studies.

Events, Sessions & Trainings



TREE PLANTATION • ONGOING SINCE 2024

Roots of Change: Leaving Behind a Greener Tomorrow

Since 2024, dRi has been incorporating tree plantation into our fieldwork as a small but meaningful way of giving back to the communities where we work. Through the Roots of Change initiative, we plant trees in our study areas in consultation with local communities and authorities, considering the local environment and conditions to support their growth.

The initiative began with our first plantation in Char Girish, Sirajganj, and continues to grow across different parts of Bangladesh. Our recent plantations are another step in this ongoing effort, leaving behind something that can grow, benefit communities, and contribute to a greener future long after our work is complete.

TRAINING SESSION • 10 MAY 2026

AI Efficiency in Writing: Balancing Innovation with Ethics

As AI becomes an increasingly common part of professional work, dRi hosted an interactive session on “AI Efficiency in Writing: Use & Ethics”, led by Syed Aminur Rahman, a seasoned professional in training, education, and AI-enabled workflow optimization. The session went beyond simply using AI to draft content. Participants explored the TRACE verification protocol, the Shell Method for data anonymization, and practical ways to identify AI hallucinations, improve prompts, and optimize everyday workflows. Through hands-on exercises and discussion, the session offered a practical look at how AI can support our work while keeping accuracy, originality, privacy, and ethical use at the centre.



KNOWLEDGE SHARING SESSION

Wild Bangladesh: A Journey Through Wildlife and the Wild

dRi's Knowledge Sharing Session featured A B M Sarowar Alam, Wildlife Biologist and Conservation Practitioner, and Programme Manager, Species and Habitats at IUCN Bangladesh Country Office. Drawing on nearly two decades of field experience, Mr. Alam took us on a fascinating journey through Bangladesh's forests, wetlands, rivers, hills, coastlines and the Sundarbans. From ringing birds and following the long journeys of migratory ducks through satellite tracking to uncovering the lives of Pallas's Fish Eagles, his stories showed how much can be learned by following wildlife in the field.

He also shared experiences of setting up vulture feeding stations in Rema-Kalenga, tracking marine turtles and elephants, tagging crocodiles, using camera traps to explore the wildlife of Kasalong, and monitoring tigers and other wild cats. More than a discussion on wildlife, the session offered a glimpse into the unexpected discoveries, challenges and memorable encounters that come with spending years in the wild.

THEMATIC REACH DURING THIS PERIOD

Migration and Human Rights

Environmental and Climate Issues

Food and Nutrition

Education

Gender Rights and Violence

Labour Rights and Worker Experience

Governance and Legal Issues

Filled chips mark themes entered through new awards during this period; outlined chips mark themes carried by ongoing studies.

CONTACT US

Phone: +88 – 01713504255

Email: contact@dri-int.org | developmentr.initiative@gmail.com

House – 8/7, Road no – 01, Block – D, Section – 15, Mirpur, Dhaka – 1216, Bangladesh

