

Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID) 2024 Review

Dear Partners and Colleagues,

Greetings from **Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID)**!

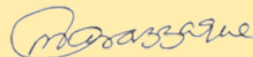
The year 2024 was remarkable in many ways, not just for RAPID but for the country as a whole. The core ethos of the historic July Uprising, to fight against discrimination, has always been at the heart of RAPID's ongoing research and advocacy efforts. Throughout 2024, RAPID researchers have dedicatedly pushed for reforms to make taxation more equitable and worked to advance inclusive and effective social protection policies targeting the most vulnerable groups of the society.

Following the momentum of the movement, Bangladesh has entered a potentially transformative arena with a political climate ripe for evidence-based policy reforms.

Hence, we realise that we, as a think tank, have a higher responsibility than ever before, and we take this role very seriously. The Interim Government has established a Task Force on Re-strategising the Economy and a White Paper Committee to assess the economy. I am honoured to serve in the Task Force, with RAPID Executive Director, Dr Eusuf contributing to the White Paper Committee, strengthening RAPID's engagement in shaping equitable and sustainable development strategies for Bangladesh.

As we progress, we strongly believe that we can collectively push for the right reforms and build a more resilient and just economy. Thank you for being part of this journey, and we look forward to working closely together in the coming year.

With warm regards,



Dr M Abdur Razzaque
Chairman, RAPID



Research and Policy Integration for Development

A Year of Knowledge-Sharing through Events that Shaped Development Dialogues

In 2024, RAPID organised 16 in-person knowledge dissemination events focused on key development issues, including trade, social protection, childcare, and fiscal policy. These events facilitated discussions among stakeholders from the government, development partners, academia, media, and the private sector. The sessions aimed to share research findings, validate key insights, and promote evidence-based policymaking. RAPID's work was also recognised nationally.



Partners at the Heart of RAPID's Journey



RAPID Centre for International Trade Activities



5

Dissemination
events



8

Reports &
working
papers



8

Policy briefs



12

Webinars

RAPID Social Protection Centre Activities



4,000+

Beneficiaries
surveyed



7

Reports
& papers



4

Policy
briefs



11

Dissemination
events

RAPID Capacity-building Initiatives



5

Journalists
workshops



350

Journalists
trained



12

In-house
seminars



10

In-house
technical
training
sessions

In the Spotlight: RAPID's Media Engagement

In 2024, RAPID's findings on contemporary macroeconomic issues, international trade, and social protection received extensive media coverage. Senior team members participated in talk shows, interviews, and journalists' workshops, sharing insights on key policy challenges. These engagements and RAPID-authored op-eds were featured in leading outlets such as The Daily Star, The Financial Express, and Prothom Alo, contributing to public discourse and policy debates. RAPID appeared in the media over 130 times in 2024.



RAPID Policy Briefs for Shaping Policies with Evidence

In 2024, RAPID published 12 policy briefs on critical issues such as trade dynamics, social protection, poverty, inequality, and export competitiveness. These briefs, prepared by RAPID experts with cutting-edge research and analytical perspectives, aim to inform policymakers and enrich policy discourse. Additionally, more policy briefs have been prepared under various projects and are awaiting publication. [The policy briefs can be found here.](#)

RAPID Webinar Series Deep Dive: Analytical Perspectives on Economic Development

In 2024, RAPID, with support from the UK FCDO, facilitated the “Deep Dive: Analytical Perspectives on Economic Development ” webinar series, offering 12 free and open episodes designed to create opportunities for young researchers. The series provided a encouraging platform for emerging scholars to present their work, gain expert feedback, and engage in peer reviews, fostering academic growth and collaboration. Moderated by RAPID’s Research Director, Dr Md. Deen Islam, the webinars were attended by young research enthusiasts across Bangladesh and abroad. [The episodes can be found here.](#)



Building Expertise: Insights from RAPID’s In-House Seminars

RAPID conducted 12 in-house seminars, moderated by Dr MA Razzaque, Chairman of RAPID, aimed at peer review, enhancing presentation skills, and fostering knowledge sharing and capacity building among all RAPID staff. For wider knowledge sharing, more details of the presentations are available on the RAPID website. [The wide range of presentations and discussions can be found here.](#)

Building Expertise: Empowering the Next Generation of Researchers

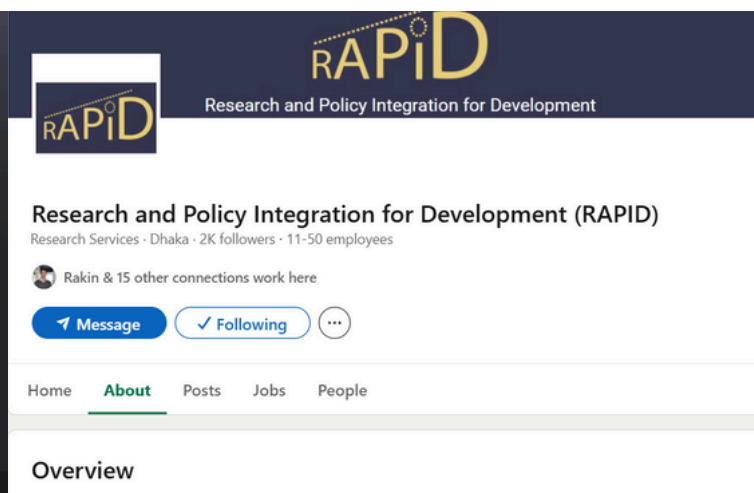
RAPID conducted over 10 in-house technical training sessions in 2024, focusing on equipping young researchers and staff with advanced skills in areas such as Stata, pseudo-panel analysis, and other analytical techniques. These sessions aimed to build technical capacity and create a culture of continuous learning.

Capacity Building Sessions 2024



RAPID Social Media Reach

In 2024, RAPID maintained an active website for knowledge sharing and has a growing presence on social media platforms, such as LinkedIn and Facebook with diverse audience who regularly engage with the posts.



RAPID Working Papers and Reports

In 2024, RAPID produced a range of publications, including working papers, and reports, addressing various development issues. These publications reflect contributions from RAPID staff and senior experts as part of ongoing projects. Additional reports have also been prepared under different initiatives to support evidence-based policymaking. [Some of the papers can be found here.](#)

1. Bangladeshi Exports to the European Union: Exploring Opportunities for Diversification
2. The Effects of Monetary Policy Shock on Exchange Rate Volatility and Investment in Bangladesh
3. Assessing the impact of indirect taxation on poverty and inequality: A pseudopanel and cross-country analysis
4. Upscaling the RMG Sector
5. Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh: Addressing Gaps in Data, Social Protection, and Employment Accessibility
6. Situational Analysis of Universal Social Pension Schemes
7. The Sate of Bangladesh's Social Protection and Option for Strengthening it Further
8. The Roadmap for Childcare in Bangladesh
9. Enhancing Trade Connectivity between Northeast India and Bangladesh
10. Needs Assessment Study on the Necessity of More Off-dock/Dry Ports Vehicle and Cargo Tracking System under Free Transit Regime



Final Report: This report advocates a nuanced reassessment of Bangladesh's tax structure, proposing a shift towards direct taxation.



Working Paper: RAPID research shows that expansionary monetary policy, designed to stimulate investment, has resulted in higher inflation and depreciation pressures.



Final Report: RAPID research has identified 600 potential products that Bangladesh could target to diversify its export portfolio in the EU, which could unlock an additional \$19 billion in untapped export potential within the EU market.

RAPID Retreat 2024: Skills Development and Team Building Workshop

Together, we Excel: Unleashing the Power to Punch Above our Weights



Conversation with

Mr Will Paxton

Director and Founder, Kivu International



RAPID Get Together

Evenings of Reflection, Connection, and Collaboration



RAPID Iftar 2024



RAPID Annual Dinner 2024