

# Suman Ahsanul Islam

(S. M. Ahsanul Islam)

**Nationality:** Bangladeshi (by birth)

**Date of Birth:** 14 July 1972

**Postal mail:** Apt. # B8, Shams Grace, 9/4, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka - 1207, Bangladesh

**Tel. #:** +880-(0)1819-240 657 (cell)

**e-mail:** [smaislam@yahoo.com](mailto:smaislam@yahoo.com), [suman.smaislam@gmail.com](mailto:suman.smaislam@gmail.com)

**LinkedIn Profile:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/suman-ahsanul-islam-91261224/>

## KEY EXPERIENCE

24+ years of professional experience with government & non-government international development organisations with special focus on:

- i. Senior leadership, management & coordination;
- ii. Strategy development and planning,
- iii. Program conception, design and delivery,
- iv. Resource mobilization, fundraising & grant management.
- v. Communication, lobby & advocacy
- vi. Humanitarian and disaster risk management, climate adaptation.
- vii. Rights based approach—gender justice & diversity, child rights.

## EDUCATION

- a) **Master's in Development Studies**, Department of Economics, **North South University**, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- b) **Master's in Commerce**; Finance Major, Department of Finance & Banking, **University of Dhaka**, Bangladesh.
- c) **Bachelor of Commerce**; Honours in Finance & Banking, Department of Finance & Banking, **University of Dhaka**, Bangladesh.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND NETWORKS

- i. **Member**, [Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection \(PHAP\)](#).
- ii. **Member**, [International Humanitarian Studies Association](#)
- iii. **Governance Team Member**, [Sphere Community Bangladesh \(SCB\)](#)
- iv. **Governing Board Member**, [Disaster Forum](#) (a national level disaster preparedness network of seventy humanitarian and development agencies in Bangladesh),
- v. **Advisory Board Member**, [NIRAPAD](#) (Network for Information, Response And Preparedness Activities on Disaster) - A national network of NGOs working on Disaster Risk Reduction activities.
- vi. **Registered Trainer**, Sphere Standard for Humanitarian assistance.

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING RECEIVED

### Programme Management Trainings

- # Project Cycle Management; University of Wolverhampton, UK.
- # Management Development Training – DFID (UKAids) Core Staff Development Programme; DFID (UKAids) Training & Development Unit,



- # Diversity Training; DFID (UKAids) Training & Development Unit
- # Procurement Training; DFID (UKAids) Procurement Department
- # The Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Course; IIRR - Africa Regional Office, Kenya.

### **Disaster Management & Emergency Response Trainings/Workshops**

- # Asia-Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop (2007); CARE International Indonesia;
- # Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (2007); Save the Children-UK, London;
- # Sphere Project Global Training of Trainers Course (2006); the Sphere Project, Geneva,
- # Accountability and Quality Management Standards Development Workshop; Humanitarian Accountability Partnership – International (HAPI), Geneva,
- # Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment in Disasters & Training of Trainers (2006), RedR India,
- # The Emergency Management and Communications Workshop Series (1999); University of Wisconsin, USA,
- # Disaster Management Course (1998), Cranfield University, UK,

## **PROFESSIONAL CAREER**

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### **Director, [Humanitarian Leadership Academy](#), - Bangladesh, Oct. 2016—fill date**

Lead establishment of Country Academy Centre, Humanitarian Leaders Academy. Develop business strategy, management hosting system with BRAC, office setup, recruitment and team building, financial planning and management. Establish a market position of the Academy in Bangladesh include branding, business development and relationship with stakeholders include Govt., UN, Academies and NGOs. Lead organizational change management of Country Academy Centre, Humanitarian Leaders Academy localization as Humanitarian Leadership Academy Bangladesh jointly invested by BRAC and the Humanitarian Leadership Academy UK.

### **Chief Executive Officer, [Creative Lab Limited](#), Jun. 2016—Sept. 2016 and May 2011—Jan. 2013**

Creative Lab Limited is a house for creative communication research and products. As CEO, lead overall management including research, production, marketing, finance and team. Undertake assignments of project development and implementation planning, impact assessments, reviews, evaluations, appraisals, training and technical support CARE, BRAC, Practical Action Bangladesh, ACF, Price/USAID, DCA/RDRS, Islamic Relief, Concern World Wide, ActionAid, Oxfam (GB), ECB/Save the Children, Plan Bangladesh, TdH-NL, CNRS, SKS Foundation and Uttaran.

### **Programme Director, [Terre des Hommes–Netherlands](#) ; Bangladesh Country Office; Jun. 2014—May 2016**

Undertake the overall responsibilities for strategic and programmatic operation of TdH-NL in Bangladesh. Key duties are to strategizing and managing the country programme, developing new programme, placing TdH-NL in a stronger position within the NGO community, and establishing strong links with relevant government departments, managing staff, rolling out performance management system, developing staff capacity. Child protection mainstreaming is central to all of TdH-NL's work and is responsible for initiating innovative strategies at the partner's level also include leading on media and advocacy.

In addition to the Country Office Responsibilities, I was also a member of TdH-NL's Global Technical Expertise Unit (TEU) responsible for Child Labour and SRHR (Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights) thematic areas of TdH-NL's nine operational countries in Asia. Review the technical approaches and

provide evidence-based input for programmatic concepts and/or proposals development. Supporting policy influencing/advocacy efforts in the regions, by developing, disseminating and facilitating the use of advocacy toolkits and sharing information on local, regional and global advocacy initiatives.

**Programme Head, [Gender Justice & Diversity Division, BRAC](#); Jan. 2013—May 2014**

Programme Head is the second lead position of BRAC (the largest NGO in the world) Gender Justice & Diversity (GJD) Division which takes lead achieving Gender Equality Goal aiming at mainstreaming gender equality within different programmes and departments of the organisation. Responsible for leading strategic direction of the GJD Division, advocacy, networking and partnership development and capacity building of BRAC staff. Managing total implementation of seven programmes/projects involved more than 2 million beneficiaries and 500 staff in the field.

**Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (HAC), [CARE Bangladesh](#) SHOUHARDO & SHOUHARDO-II Programme, May 2007 – Apr. 2011.**

HAC is a senior management post provides strategic leadership in achieving the Humanitarian Assistance objective of the SHOUHARDO Programme (USAID Funded USD 130m food security programme). Also have senior advisory role in leading the Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) process and coordinating disaster preparedness, mitigation and response of CARE Bangladesh. Build Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Assistance technical and knowledge capital within the SHOUHARDO program, develop & maintain strategic partnership/relationship with key actors of disaster risk reduction within govt. UN and national international organizations.

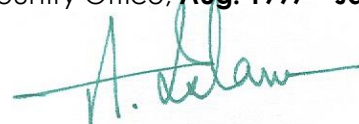
**Emergency Preparedness & Response Manager, Save the Children (UK)-Bangladesh Programme, Nov. 2005 - May 2007**

Responsibilities included contributing to develop and review organizational strategic planning and policies at country programme level, advice Thematic Programmes to ensure implementation of SCUK Emergency Response and Preparedness Strategy. Jointly work with the SCUK headquarters to strengthen SCUK's global emergency response capacity. Co-coordinate SCUK's Emergency Response Team during emergencies, conduct/coordinate impact & need assessments/studies in the affected areas, prepare & manage project budgets, proposals, operational plans. Advocate child sensitive, right based emergency response and preparedness issues. Liaison & co-ordinate with Save the Children Alliance member's Emergency Liaison Team (ELT); government & UN agencies for field coordination and sharing of information relevant to child protection in emergencies.

**Deputy Programme Officer, DFID (UKAids) Bangladesh, Jan. 2000 – Nov. 2005.**

Responsibilities included actively & effectively participate as a member of the Governance team in its pursuit of DFIDB Country Assistance Paper objective/target, and of the wider DFIDB team. Closely work with Social Development & Governance Advisors in developing new initiatives. Work through all stage of Project Cycle Management in managing & implementing the portfolio of governance and rights projects, regularly contact with a range of NGO, Govt. project partners & other co-financing donors. Ensure timely & accurate disbursement/accounting of funds & provides advice on DFID procedures and requirements to Advisers/other team members, consultants and recipients. Effectively work as a member of DFIDB Core Disaster Response Team to follow, monitor and review DFIDB disaster response.

**Disaster Management Prog. Officer, OXFAM (GB), Bangladesh Country Office, Aug. 1997 – Jan. 2000**



Responsibilities included participating in Oxfam country office planning, policy & management, active support to implement Oxfam's gender policy in all areas of responsibility, represent Oxfam at various forum/meeting, seminar and workshop. Ensure programme finance, administration and implementation Oxfam's DFID funded Disaster Management Programme and Disaster Emergency Response Projects.

**Accounts & Monitoring Officer**, OXFAM (GB), Bangladesh Country Office, **Nov. 1995 – Jul. 1997**  
Programme finance support through prepare, manage and monitoring budgets, provide financial reporting for management information and donors. Visit programme implementing partner organisations to develop their financial and administrative management, financial monitoring, facilitate training and workshops on financial and administrative management.

#### **OTHER INVOLVEMENT (2000 onwards)**

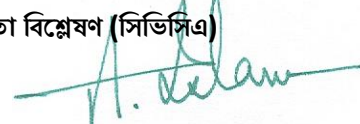
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- a. Member (Represented CARE Bangladesh), in the **National Disaster Management Advisory Committee (NDMAC)**, the height national level committee provides technical advisory support to Prime Minister led National Disaster Management Committee.
- b. Executive Committee Member (2008-2011): **NIRAPAD (Network for Information, Response and Preparedness Activities on Disaster)** - A national network of NGOs working on Disaster Risk Reduction activities.
- c. Editorial Board Member: **Bangladesh Disaster Year Report: 2008-2009**; Disaster Forum
- d. Advisory Board Member: **Bangladesh Disaster Logbook: 2007-2008**; NIRAPAD
- e. Volunteer Research Associate (1995-2001), Disaster Forum, having responsibility of research and documentation of disaster and development related issues and supervise publications.
- f. Secretary: **DFID Bangladesh SAIC** (Staff Appointed in Country) **Association**, 2004/5 & 2002/3

#### **RESEARCH & PUBLICATION**

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1. Lead investigator [Skills for Impact – Learning Needs Assessment of Local Humanitarian Aid Workers in Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh](#) - a joint study of Humanitarian Leadership Academy – Bangladesh and Save the Children.
2. সমাজভিত্তিক সাইক্লোন সতর্কীকরণ ব্যবস্থা (Community-based Cyclone Early Warning System) – a training manual for Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) Volunteers in Bangladesh.
3. **"The Humanitarian – Development Nexus: Bangladesh Scenario"** – Chapter 12 in the [State of Humanitarian Actions in Bangladesh 2019](#)
4. [State of child rights in Bangladesh 2014](#), ISBN : 978-984-33-8772-1; Lead Researcher of Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF)' annual publication on child safety security and violence against children in Bangladesh.
5. [Ending the primitive discrimination and deprivation EQUITY for DALITS](#) - a briefing paper for policy makers; January 2012, Published by Uttaran & Bhumij Foundation.
6. Contributing translator, **Sphere Handbook (2011) translation in Bengali**, published by Disaster Forum.
7. Editor, translation & contextualization of "Climate Vulnerability & Capacity Analysis (CVCA)" in Bangladesh. ISBN : 978-984-33-3072-7 **জলবায়ু বিপদাপন্নতা ও সক্ষমতা বিশ্লেষণ (সিভিসিএ)**



8. **Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and Its' Progress in Bangladesh** a review article published in Bangladesh Disaster Yearbook 2008-2009; Disaster Forum (2009).
9. Lead three researches on Children in Emergency Studies on Flood, Cyclone and Water logging in Bangladesh. Designed the studies, manage the research team containing international researchers, local consultants and FGD facilitators. Designed and facilitate Focused Group Discussion (FGD) questioner & trained facilitators. Coordinate funding & other stakeholders. The research was funded by Unicef, Action Aid and Save the Children.
10. Research Adviser of "**Documenting Transferable Indigenous Knowledge and Coping Strategies of Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh**". Advice research team on setting objective and research questions, design the research and methodologies, selecting study areas etc. The research conducted under the SHOUHARDO Programme funded by USAID.
11. Islam, Suman SMA & Whiting, Claire: **Act on Protect, Child Protection in Emergencies**, The experience of marginalized children in waterlogged areas. (2008).
12. "Bonnar Shathe Boshobash" (Living with Flood) – visual training and awareness material for community-based flood preparedness (1999).

#### COMPUTER LITERACY

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- a) **Diploma in Computer studies** (1 year), June, 1992, Microland IICE (Affiliated by University of London); Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- b) **Certified Novell Engineer (CNE) course completed**, June 1999; Alles Konnectieren (NAEC – Novell Authorized Education Centre); Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

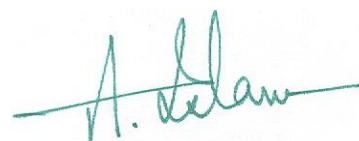
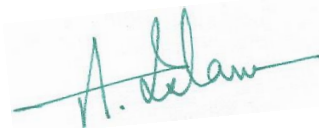
#### REFERENCE

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Available Upon Request

Dated: August, 2020  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Suman Ahsanul Islam



## Suman Ahsanul Islam: Major achievements & accomplishments

1. Lead investigator "[Skills for Impact – Learning Needs Assessment of Local Humanitarian Aid Workers in Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh](#)" - a joint study of Humanitarian Leadership Academy – Bangladesh and Save the Children.
2. "**The Humanitarian – Development Nexus: Bangladesh Scenario**" – Chapter 12 in the [State of Humanitarian Actions in Bangladesh 2019](#)
3. মানবিক সহায়তা প্রকল্প-চক্র (Humanitarian Programme Cycle) – training and learning manual for local humanitarian aid workers.
4. মানবিক সহায়তার অত্যাৱশ্যকীয় সমূহ – সুরক্ষা ও জৱাবদিহিতা (Humanitarian Essential: Protection and Accountability) - training and learning manual for local humanitarian aid workers.
5. সমাজভিত্তিক সাইক্লোন সতর্কীকরণ ব্যবস্থা (Community-based Cyclone Early Warning System) – a training manual for Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) Volunteers in Bangladesh.
6. **Lead organizational change management** of Country Academy Centre, Humanitarian Leaders Academy localization as Humanitarian Leadership Academy Bangladesh jointly invested by BRAC and the Humanitarian Leadership Academy UK.
7. **Lead establishment** of Country Academy Centre, Humanitarian Leaders Academy. Develop business strategy, management hosting system with BRAC, office setup, recruitment and team building, financial planning and management. Branding, business development and relationship with stakeholders include Govt., UN, Academies and NGOs.
8. **Lead facilitation and development of** [Bangladesh Civil Society Position Paper Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2017](#)
9. **Technical advisory** for Humanitarian Learning Capacity and Market Assessment in Bangladesh [March, 2017] conducted by Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)
10. **Lead organizing** the [National Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh 2018](#). Partnering with the Govt. UN and national international organisations, the two days conference was attended by over 150 representatives of civil society, government, international institutions and the private sector from Bangladesh.
11. **End of Project Evaluation Study 2017** of BRAC International's Emergency Response Capacity project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
12. **Lead designing, development and writing of three winning proposals of European Union's competitive bidding procedures** (i. [SUNDARI](#) - Concern Worldwide Bangladesh, ii. [Promoting Social and Political Rights of Persons with Disabilities through implementation of CRPD in](#)



[Bangladesh](#) – ADD Bangladesh and iii. [Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Bangladesh \(CCSEC\)](#) – TdH-NL.)

13. [State of child rights in Bangladesh 2014](#), ISBN : 978-984-33-8772-1; **Lead Researcher** of Bangladesh *Shishu Adhikar* Forum (BSAF)' annual publication on child safety security and violence against children in Bangladesh.
14. **Lead designing, development, writing, negotiation & implementation** of [IMAGE \(Initiative for Married Girls' Empowerment\)](#) Project with the objective to improved sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of early-married girls. TdH-NL is implementing the project with funding from the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Dhaka.
15. **Lead planning, coordination and organized implementation** of [10th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministerial Meeting Partners' Forum \(10WPF\)](#).
16. **Lead research and writing** of [Ending the primitive discrimination and deprivation EQUITY for DALITS](#) - a briefing paper for policy makers; January 2012, Published by Uttaran & Bhumiij Foundation.
17. **Design BRAC Gender Justice & Diversity Programme (2012-2015)** – funded under the Strategic Partnership between DFID (UKAids) and BRAC the Programme have been implemented to increased capacity for gender mainstreaming, particularly as it relates to cultural change for gender justice, equality and empowerment, of stakeholders involved in BRAC programmes and organisational departments.
18. **Script, direction and editing** of [সাহস –The Face](#) a development video based on alleviating poverty through disaster risk reduction in northwest Bangladesh have win the **5th DEVCO Communication Awards - 2013 of European Commission; competing with development feature films from sixty-nine DEVCO** (European Commission's Directorate General for Development and Cooperation) funded projects worldwide.  
  
Also lead several AV development documentaries and communication material see YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC86b9etCgkF0PFBqPQQZ5oQ>
19. **Contributing translator**, [Sphere Handbook \(2011\) translation in Bengali](#), published by Disaster Forum.
20. **Designing SHOUHARDO-II: As member of the core design team** of SHOUHARDO-II (*an USD \$130 million programme funded by USAID Food for Peace*), lead on designing the “Disaster & Climate Risk Management” component of the programme, including contributing to develop the overall programming framework and strategies.
21. **Designing Monitoring & Evaluation System for Empowering the Poor through Federation (EPF Project)** funded by European Commission, jointly implemented by DanChurch Aid (DCA) and RDRS Bangladesh.
22. **Research Adviser of “Documenting Transferable Indigenous Knowledge and Coping Strategies of Disaster Risk Reduction in Bangladesh”**. Advice research team on setting objective and



research questions, design the research and methodologies, selecting study areas etc. The research conducted under the SHOUHARDO Programme funded by USAID.

23. **Editor, translation & contextualization of “Climate Vulnerability & Capacity Analysis (CVCA)” in Bangladesh.** ISBN : 978-984-33-3072-7 জলবায়ু বিপদাপন্নতা ও সক্ষমতা বিশ্লেষণ (সিভিসিএ)
24. **“Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and Its’ Progress in Bangladesh” a review article** published in Bangladesh Disaster Yearbook 2008-2009; Disaster Forum (2009).
25. **Coordinated CARE Bangladesh’s “fast response” to cyclone SIDR 2007** in the worst affected district. Set up CARE Bangladesh’s SIDR Response Team Office, lead a team of 76 national & international staff, engage local partner NGOs, handle national and international media relation on the site & took lead in NGO coordination in district.
26. **Coordinated CARE Bangladesh’s emergency response to Monsoon Flood Response 2007.** Developed the organizational emergency response strategy and sourced a total of \$4m from 10 bi-lateral, multi-lateral and private donors. Designed emergency response, recovery and rehabilitation program and coordinate implementation through local partners.
27. **Coordinated the Emergency Preparedness Planning (EPP) process of CARE Bangladesh.** Facilitate formation of Emergency Response Team (ERT) in CARE Bangladesh and drafted the EPP includes analysis of country situation, CARE Bangladesh’s capacity analysis and set strategic goal for emergency response. Set roles and responsibility for each ERT members.
28. **Publication: Islam, Suman SMA & Whiting, Claire: Act on Protect, Child Protection in Emergencies,** The experience of marginalized children in waterlogged areas. (2008).
29. **Lead three researches on Children in Emergency Studies on Flood, Cyclone and Water logging in Bangladesh.** Designed the studies, manage the research team containing international researchers, local consultants and FGD facilitators. Designed and facilitate Focused Group Discussion (FGD) questioner & trained facilitators. Coordinate funding & other stakeholders. The research was funded by Unicef, Action Aid and Save the Children.
30. As **member of Output to Purpose Review (2004) team, reviewed financial management, staffing and reporting systems,** recommend actions required to strengthen Manusher Jonno (MJ), a DFID funded challenge for human rights and governance in Bangladesh.
31. **Worked with the program design & appraisal team of the National Integrity Programme Phase-2 : Making Waves—Anti-Corruption project support for Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).** Facilitated, analyzed & interpreted field information & community stakeholder meetings. Analyze & negotiate the program budget of grant £4.5m contributed by DFID, NORAD, DANIDA and Sida. Assessed TIB’s Organizational Development (OD) need, managed the procurement procedure through competitive bidding for OD consultants.

