



**Md. Shahid Ullah**  
**BSc (Hon's), MSc, University of Dhaka**  
**Founder and Chief Executive**

Md. Shahid Ullah, the founder and Chief Executive of the Development Initiative for Social Advancement (DISA), a well-known Bangladeshi Non-Government Organization (NGO) working towards inclusive development for the under privileged and marginalized people for last three decades. Md. Shahid Ullah has extensive experience of working community-based development approach to address the underlying causes of deprivation. He has been working comprehensively on poverty elevation through economic growth, cultural and professional skills development through youth, climate resilient, disaster management, Myanmar Refugee Relief management, peace and conflict resolution in collaboration with various civil society groups, governments' bodies, NGOs, INGOs, private sectors etc. aligned with the SDGs.

After completing M. Sc. in Applied Chemistry from the University of Dhaka in 1986, he joined the then The Bangladesh Red Cross Society (BDRCS) as an officer. He worked at BDRCS nearly 14 years and left the job as Assistant Director in 2000. He established DISA in 1993 with only one staff and a small rented office at Barkait Village under Chandina Upzila, Cumilla with a mission to work for Productive, Prosperous and Sustainable Bangladesh.

DISA is a non-political and non-governmental organization that aims to help Bangladesh achieve its Sustainable Development Goals. Since its inception, Md. Shahid Ullah has been contributing to poverty alleviation through various economic activities of the organization, such as microfinance for economic and women empowerment, skill training for youth, education, social entrepreneurship, and other initiatives related to social development. At present DISA has been operating 102 branch offices for microfinance operation and social enterprises in 24 districts of Bangladesh and has been successfully implemented several development programs with the financial assistance from the different national and international organizations. Under the fascinating leadership of Md. Shahid Ullah, DISA is constantly working to expand its activities through creativity, innovation and uniqueness.

Md. Shahid Ullah believes in holistic approach to social development. Under his compelling leadership, DISA has proven its determination as a development partner by leaving a significant footprint in various social development projects such as Aloghar (Knowledge and Information Centre, Publication, Nursery), DISA Institute of Science and Technology (DIST), Matribhumi Fashion, Matribhumi Dairy Foods Ltd. (MDFL) and DISA Training Center (DTC). The first program of DISA was microfinance. It was started in 1994 by giving Tk. 10,000 loan to a group of 10 women members at East Ramchandrapur which is founder's village home.

As a part of leadership and capacity enhancement of the DISA, Md. Shahid Ullah participated in several international conference, workshops, and seminars and in these connection he visited many countries in the world like USA, UK, Germany, France, Kenya, Cambodia, Spain, Australia, Mexico, Italy, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, India etc. He also took part in a three weeks long training course on Small and Medium Enterprise Development (SMED) organized by University of New Hampshire, USA.

He was born in 1962 at Purba Ramchandrapur village under Chandina Upazila of Cumilla District. His parents are Maulavi Ali Ahmed and Mrs. Sufia Begum, a pious Muslim couple. His wife Ms. Salima Naznin Bithi is also working with DISA as an adviser. He has two sons, Ahmed Abdullah Pranto who has accomplished graduation in Management & Technology from Technical University Munich (TUM), Germany and his younger son Tareq Abdullah Prio is studying BBA at North South University, Dhaka. Md. Shahid Ullah enjoys reading, travelling, watching movies in his leisure time.