



SHAMSUL BARI

Shamsul Bari is the Chairman of Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB). He returned to Bangladesh in 1999 upon retirement from UNHCR, Geneva, an organisation he served for over twenty years. His last posting in the organisation was as the Regional Director for Central Asia, South West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East (CASWANAME). Upon his return to Bangladesh, he involved himself in a number of activities relating primarily to research on poverty issues, in development and in legal aid for the indigent. He served for a while as the Honorary Executive Director for the Programme for Research for Poverty Alleviation (PRPA) of Grameen Trust and also of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST). He continues his link with BLAST as a member of its Board of Trustees.

From 2003 onwards, Shamsul Bari has devoted much of his time and energy in setting up and the running of RIB for its first few years. Presently he serves RIB primarily as the Chairman of its Board of Directors, though he remains involved in many of its activities in an advisory capacity. The main focus of RIB's activities has been primarily upon the marginalized and most disadvantaged communities of the country. It has become known for its pioneering work on peoples' research, on early childhood education, on agricultural innovation and more recently on promoting RTI among the grassroots population.

From January 2003 to July 2007, Bari served as a member of RAWOO, an advisory Council on Research for Development Cooperation of the Royal Dutch Government. In March 2008 Shamsul Bari was chosen by the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva to be its Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Somalia, a position he continues to hold.

Shamsul Bari is a Ph.D and a Barrister at Law. He practiced law at the Dhaka High Court and taught at the Universities of Chicago and Minnesota in the US before joining the UN.