



Self Help Group Approach

Unleashing human potential



Name:	Self Help Group Approach in Somaliland
Acronym:	SHG
Main focus	Social, Economic, and political development and empowerment and woman and children rights.
Presence	Maroodi-Jeeh, Sahil, & Togdheer region
Number of Staff	83
Promoting Organizations	11 LNGO promotes SHG concept in Somaliland
Main partners	Kindernothilfe (KHN)

Self Help Group Approach

Self Help Group Approach start with the poorest households in the community. Members in an SHG are from the same socio-economic background to ensure homogeneity and affinity for proper and continual functioning of the group. The features of self Help Groups have been developed to ensure effective growth and development of the group. The functioning of SHG is unique in nature and the principles' governing the functioning of SHGs has to be adhered to. Group members are facilitated to develop their own rules and regulations for the purpose of maintaining discipline in the groups. Responsibilities are shared by all members to ensure participation and capacity building of every member.

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What is Self Help Group?

Self-Help Group (SHG) is an informal association of poor (weaker sections) in a community with a common objective of working together for their economic and social development /empowerment and also for their overall area development. SHG is small (15 to 20 members), generally **homogeneous** and members are bound by **affinity**.

Why SHG Approach?

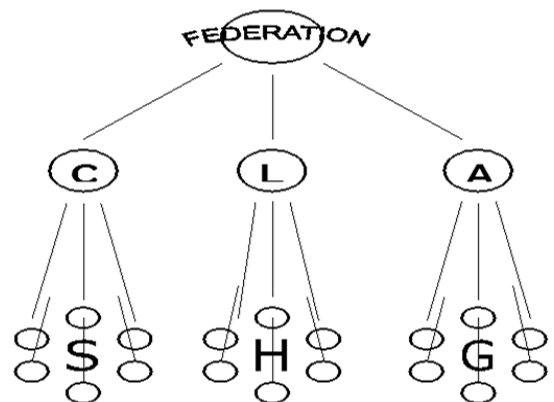
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 - Mostly in Development marginalized/Poor people are not part of the existing group and
 - Focus on poor, marginalized- bringing out the potential of people (unleashing human potential).
- 2
 - Build strong communities through social and economic development and empowerment of the poorest section in the communities.
 - Better care and support in education, nutrition, protection in woman and children.
- 3
 - Enable the poorest people to claim and realize their rights as human beings, citizens and as equal participants in civil society
 - Cost effective model in phasing out is possible with SHG and sustainable development is possible.

The Structure

- 1 Self Help Groups (SHGs) are formed with the poorest members of the community. Groups of 15 to 20 members form a SHG. (the first level of the People's Institution).

- 2 Generally, when there are about 8 to 10 strong SHGs, the groups come together to form a CLA (the second level of the People's Institution). To do this, two members are carefully selected by the SHG members from among themselves to represent their group at the CLA.

- 3 When there are about 8 CLAs, they come together to form a Federation (the third level of the People's Institution). The rich experience of CLAs in bringing about important changes in the community, whether infrastructure development, helping improve social service delivery, and/or reducing structural dependencies motivates them to participate in local governance ensuring that the principles and features of SHG are recognized and find their way in local, regional, and national laws and policies.



Objectives of Self Help Group

Social development and empowerment

The key principles of the social dimension of the SHG Approach are: affinity, trust, participation and mutual responsibility. There is a special focus on individual and community level problem solving. The Self-Help Groups discuss problems in their private lives or in their community and develop solutions together in their meetings. Gradually, as the number of groups increase, Cluster Level Associations, made up of Self Help Group representatives.

Economic development and empowerment

The key principles of the economic dimension of the SHG Approach are: mutual trust, accountability, participation and creativity. Through forming Self Help Groups that collectively save agreed amounts of money and give loans to their members to improve their economic situation, these principles are developed both in individuals and the group.

Political development and empowerment

The key principles of the political dimension of the SHG Approach are: independence and involvement. Self Help Groups take up issues of concern in their neighborhood and work together towards a solution. They gain additional support to work on larger issues by linking together at the Cluster Level Association level. When there are enough Cluster Level Associations, they may make the decision to join together to form another structure to represent their collective interests - a Federation.

Basic principles

1

The SHG Approach is based on 2 basic principles:

Every human being has tremendous, God-given potential. This hidden potential in the poor can be unleashed if a conducive environment is provided. The SHG Approach seeks to bring out this potential and fosters their integration with the rest of the community. The approach seeks to draw them back from the margins.

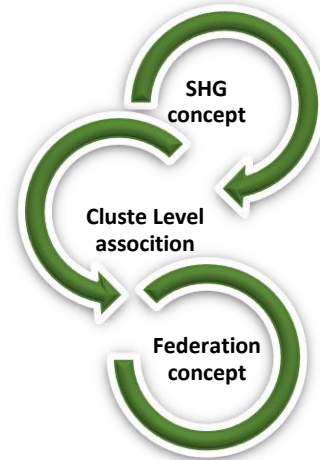
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As individuals the **poor are voiceless, powerless and vulnerable.** By bringing them together as a homogenous collective that is aware of their rights, they gain tremendous strength and can claim their rights. The SHG Approach focuses on building (or rebuilding) strong and more just communities by bringing people together and empowering them. Value systems are systematically restored, redefined and instilled in the community.

Capacity building

Basically, there are two kinds of trainings. There is a set of training modules which provide the SHGs with the knowledge and skills they need to function successfully as SHGs. They also include topics which are important for the development and empowerment of the group members, like business skills training, conflict resolution, and communication skills.

The second kind of trainings are those which the SHGs identify themselves. As groups grow and become more active they identify the need for other training topics.



What we do?



What we do?

SHGA empowers people and bring them unleashing their potentials for solution to strengthen both in social, economic and political participation in order to sustainably their lives. The SHG Approach is based on the understanding that people are the main actors in bringing about sustainable development and are the essential change agents in any given environment. SHG approach works Maroodi-Jeeh and Togdheer region in Somaliland.

Benefits of social development

- It changed attitude of woman and empowers towards believing their potential
- It enhanced cohesion, mutual understanding, solves conflict among women and families
- It builds trust and cooperation between women
- It reduced the clannism and boosted unity in community development
- It enhanced equal status, participation and decision-making power at house hold level
- It supports 16,000 children access to education
- it enables 5000 children access to health facilities
- It provides nutrition food 35,000 children

Benefits of Economic Development

- Enhanced standard of living for very poor women as a result of that creates 11,110 new businesses which increased women's incomes
- Improve employment opportunities and income generation opportunity
- Reduced vulnerability to crisis situations like famine, riots, death/accident in the family.
- Improved access to livelihood related services – credit, market etc.
- Greater access to financial resources outside the household.
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	Main Activities	Expected outcome
Social empowerment	<p>Education SHG ensures that all school-age children are enrolled in and attend school on a regular basis through covering the provision of school fees & materials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65% of children attend school on regular basis. 65% of children both gender have adequate school supplies
	<p>Health SHG ensures that all participants have access to basic and get adequate medical care, hygiene, diseases prevention and make awareness raising in their communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65% of households including their children have access to basic health facilities. 70% of households improve hygiene and sanitation of their communities
	<p>Equal status SHG ensure participation and decision-making power at house hold level (Having independent opinion on issues, right to make choices, broader and goal directed thinking, feeling and acting)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of woman household decision making power increased 90% of woman right to make a choice
Economic Empowerment	SHG ensures enhanced standard of living women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% household income increased 90% Participation in household decision on how money will be spent
Political Empowerment	SHG ensure to improve the ability to influence the policies at different levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% Increased participation in local governance 55% people seek direct representation in structures that serve them

Sustainability and Role Transfer

Sustainability of the SHG Approach refers to both the sustainability of the structures and the sustainability of the changes that they bring about.

① **Sustainability of structures** involves the institutions eventually becoming self-sufficient in terms of their structure, their agenda and by being able to generate their own resources (e.g. through external funding or income-generating activities) so that the benefits are experienced by future generations, especially their children.

② **Sustainability of the changes** achieved involves, for example:

- Household and community resilience – resilient communities are readily able to anticipate and adapt to change through clear decision-making processes, collaboration, and management of resources internal and external to the community.
- Environmental sustainability – an environmentally sustainable system must maintain a stable resource base, avoid overexploitation of renewable resources and preserve biodiversity.
- Structural change – the structural dimensions of poverty are addressed through the empowerment of poor and marginalized households.