



NETWORK AGAINST FGM/C IN SOMALILAND

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Role of SHGs Approach in Promoting Social and Economic Justice of Women in Somaliland

INTRODUCTION

Self-Help Group (SGH) is founded in Somaliland on September 2013 by NAFIS Network, it is an informal association of poor community with a common objective of working together for their economic empowerment and social development.

The self-help group main purpose is to gain economic benefit and social responsibility. This approach empowers the IDPs areas poor and unskilled women by providing facilities such as knowledge, skills, motivation and sustainability.

. This approach focuses on three solid pillars; Social, economic and political empowerment. All three are required to enable the poorest people to claim and realize their rights as human beings, citizens and as equal participants in civil society.

The self-help group approach is currently working with internal displaced people (IDP) camps in Maroodi-jeeh, Sahil and Togdheer region, and 2021 Nafis Network established a new regions including Awdal, Sool and Sanaag region. The project targets these groups because the communities are displaced by conflicts, poverty is abundant, marginalized and limited influence and power of the community. The project expects to empower the people on their rights. Formation of SHG enhanced peoples' capabilities and assets so that they can make informed choices to take actions and participate in local governance.

How the SHG deals with Social problems including child rights and GBV prevention.

SHGs members have weekly meetings among the member groups where they discussed their common interests and planned activities. They discussed the problems in their villages and try to find appropriate solution to the problem. SHGs has an official offices and meeting hall that allows them to act collectively and build strong bond between them.

The SGHs has social mobilization committee, they carry out awareness sessions in their community, and they participate in the elimination of the early marriage, FGM and other GBV including rapes and domestic problems. They have strong collaboration among the district officials, and police station in their villages. They work with government, the local communities, security and sanitary and hygiene committee in the villages, and youth groups.

Moreover, the SHGs has sanitary and hygiene committee who actively work for spreading awareness among the families related to the promoting sanitation and hygiene of their villages, they also carry out the education campaign for promoting access to education to children's.

How the SHGs approach contribute the social and economic empowerment of women in marginalized communities



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In social empowerment, individual in SHGs participate in awareness raising, and learn leadership, mobility, socialization, financial independence and security, understanding in family, improved living standard, recognition and equal status in family, support and involvement in decision making process

The SHGs contribute 78,120 Children to have access to education.

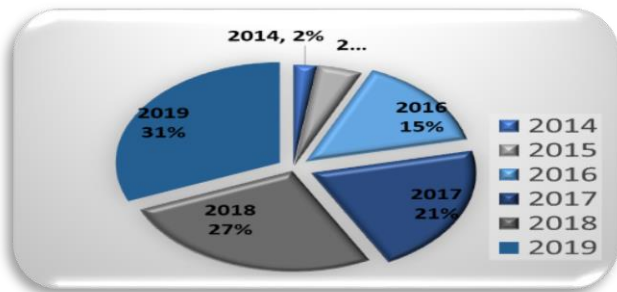


Figure 1: Children Access to education

Figure I, shows number of the children have access to education in past six years for example SHGs approach on 2014, 750 students, 2015, 1500 students and 2016, 5020 students, 2017 7050 students, 2018 ,8990 students,2019 10,599 students have



access to education respectively.

When it comes the health development of the children, the SHGs approach contribute the children of marginalized community in project

target areas to have access to the health

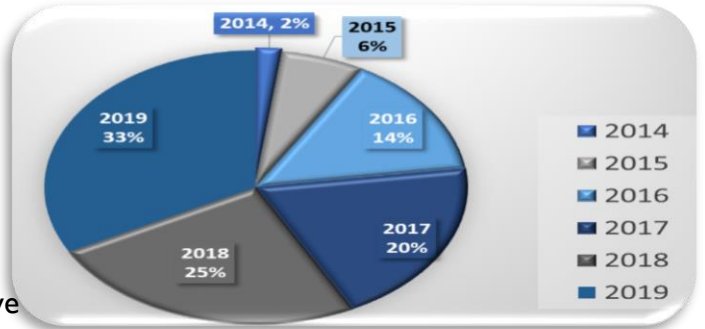


Figure 2: Children Access to health service.

Figure 2, shows btw 2014 to 2019, the number of children who have access to health service supported by the SHGs members, the figure shows 125,000 Children access to health facilities. At same time, data shows 38% of children was Children under 5 year old who access to health.

Economic empowerment; building capacity and skills of women and girls in the marginalized communities, the SHGs approach scaled up their skills and provided knowledge to put a weekly savings. During 2014 to 2019, the SHGs approach established 2014 = 1500,

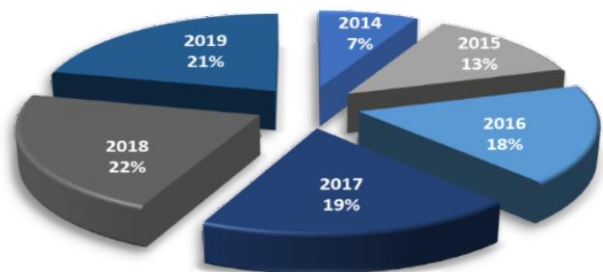


Figure 3: SHGs business established



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2015 = 2500, **2016** = 3500, **2017** = 3745,
2018 = 5140 and **2019** = 5098 respectively.



In Economic Development of the SHGs members, 72% Women access to finance and started businesses, while 28% SHG woman extended business. The income source of the SHGs members depends on savings among them, capital investment given out, and social savaging.



Their saving level is changing tremendously during 2014 to 2020, at the beginning, weekly saving range between 2500 – 7000 Somaliland shillings, Now, Weekly saving range between 20,000 – 50,000 Somaliland shillings per individual members. In other side the SHGs member are tax payer and contribute the national income tax, SHG business woman pays tax into local government by following Daily tax = \$4,300, Monthly tax = \$129,000 and Yearly tax = \$1,548,000.

Sustainability of the SHGA, SHG approach interconnects 39850 woman and the number is increasing as CLA forms new SHGs. All

SHGs saves, take investment, repay the investment, star new businesses and obey and respected by their laws.

The significant change made by the self-help group approach since established in Somaliland has empowered the marginalized women and girls in IDPs in Somaliland, and provided an opportunities to tackle the poverty and building their skills and knowledge to manage a business owned by themselves. The program has lead built the collective voice of women grassroots.