

Self Help Group Federated Structure

Self Help Group (SHG)



Groups of 10-25 people who meet every week to save, start small business activities, and create change both for themselves and their communities. Self Help Groups provide individual benefits – self-esteem, agency, and aspiration – as well as a platform for collective action.

Cluster Level Association (CLA)



Once 8-12 mature Self Help Groups exist, they can nominate two members each to represent them at the CLA. The CLA takes up social, economic, and political issues that are beyond the scope of an individual group, such as advocating for access to basic services or building linkages with finance institutions.

Federal Level Association (FLA)



Once 8-12 CLAs exist, each CLA nominates two people to form an FLA. FLAs usually focus on lobbying and building relationships with larger actors to advocate more effectively on behalf of the SHGs.

This democratic federated structure can provide a graduation pathway for SHGs and an exit strategy for implementing organizations.