

Q1 2022 - Q2 2023

THE SHARE TRUST 18 MONTH REPORT



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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I first started the Share Trust back in 2018, I could only imagine what lay ahead. I was fueled by the inspiring work of Self Help Group members I met in Ethiopia back in 2013, and I was fired up to do more to amplify the transformative power of these groups.

We started building the Share Trust as a technical resource hub for people to learn more about Self Help Groups and influence policy and programming to scale the approach. However, a gap soon became clear: donor processes and systems are just not equipped to accompany and complement community led initiatives. In 2020, I joined forces with Chilande Kuloba Warri from the Warande Advisory Centre in Kenya, and Brendan Cullen, founding member of Co-Impact, to bridge this gap between donors and local actors. We jointly launched the Local Coalition Accelerator (LCA) initiative to support coalitions of local organizations with Self Help Groups at their core. This partnership broadened the Share Trust's focus: we are strengthening community resilience by igniting the power of collective action from the inside out.

The Share Trust has come a long way in the past 4 years, and we are proud of the deep partnerships we are forging and the programming we are designing to center community driven collective action. There is still much to be done to ensure that local actors directly receive the funding and resources required to best meet the needs of their communities, and we are thankful to be standing alongside all of you as we work together to make this happen.

Onwards!



Courtenay Cabot Venton
Founder and Executive Director



MISSION AND VISION



The Share Trust's mission is to support collective action for community resilience.

We are working towards a world where the most marginalized members of society have a powerful and sustainable avenue to collectively build the future they want for themselves and their communities.

At the core of our approach, providing a critical avenue for community driven transformative change, is the Self Help Group (SHG) model. SHGs are one of the most evidence-based approaches for community driven development. These groups of 10-25 people meet every week to save, start small businesses and support each other, effectively harnessing the transformative power of collective action and centering local voices that are systematically excluded from critical conversations and decision making.

Self Help Groups are one of the most evidence-based approaches for promoting locally led and driven change.

STRATEGY 2020-2024

The Share Trust supports and strengthens SHGs holistically by working across the wider ecosystem, taking into account the systemic barriers and opportunities these groups face to more effectively scale community driven collective action. This ecosystem includes: (1) SHGs; (2) Local and National Organizations (LNOs); and (3) the enabling environment - such as effective governance, policies, health systems, financial systems and social protection - that helps community initiatives thrive. While SHGs are listening to and addressing the needs of their families and neighbors, LNOs can provide specialized services to help the groups realize their goals, scaling a coordinated and targeted response to community priorities, and shifting the enabling environment so that it is conducive to a healthy civil society.



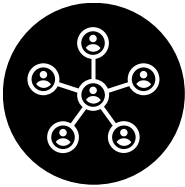
The Share Trust shifts existing dynamics and processes to facilitate a greater flow of resources across this ecosystem to ensure that community driven collective initiatives can thrive. This is done by facilitating connections between different stakeholders; innovating to directly shift power and funding to local actors; advocating for changes in international processes, systems and programming; and generating and synthesizing research and learning.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Self Help Groups

We started a people powered philanthropic movement by launching a giving circle to stand in solidarity with Self Help Groups around the world. **Ignite raised \$71,500 in its first year** to fuel the work of Self Help Groups in Afghanistan.



Local and National Organizations

We partnered with local organizations in Uganda, Bangladesh and Nigeria to develop a coalition model to shift power, process and funding to local actors so they can drive the change they want to see. These **coalitions are currently reaching 60,700+ people directly** with programming grounded in community needs and priorities.



Enabling Environment

A report we published in November 2022 estimated that **funding local actors directly is 32% more cost efficient** than going through international actors, unlocking billions of dollars that could be redeployed to meet pressing community needs and invest in the strength of local responses.

Self Help Groups

SHGs are one of the best ways to amplify the voices of the most marginalized.

In 2022, we started a giving circle called **Ignite**, designed to build a community around collective action. Deeply aligned with the Self Help Group ethos, giving circles are a mechanism for people powered philanthropy, where members come together with a shared vision, pooling their resources to make it a reality. Ignite's vision is a constellation of solidarity spanning the globe, a web that is spun by fueling the work of Self Help Groups around the world, standing with people in different countries each year.

In its founding year, Ignite members stood in partnership with women in rural Afghanistan as they rebuilt their lives and businesses in the face of one of the world's largest humanitarian crises. These groups were started by Afghanaid, a British humanitarian and development organization, but they had to stop meeting after the Taliban takeover in 2021 due to concerns for their safety. However, a year later, through the Afghanaid/Share Trust partnership, groups were able to reconvene, and were provided vocational training, inputs and seed grants to kickstart their group **savings and loan** activities through this project. Ignite members contributed \$30k over the course of the year, a collective effort which sparked others to join in: private foundations, companies like Viking and individual one-time donors contributed, resulting in a total of \$71,500 raised in solidarity.

\$71k

Ignite collectively raised \$71,500 in solidarity for women in Afghanistan in 2022.

By the end of the year Ignite had 47 members and was pooling \$4,978 monthly, sending a clear message about the power of gathering and collective giving. Throughout the year, Ignite members also gathered to: (1) listen to Pashtana Dorani's incredible story of resilience and bravery as a women's rights activist fighting for girls' education in Afghanistan; and (2) exchange messages of solidarity with the Self Help Group members.

Photo courtesy of Afghanaid



Local and National Organizations

Investing in LNOs is a key strategy to ensure that community priorities remain at the core of programming.

The Local Coalition Accelerator (LCA) provides financial, technical and capacity strengthening support to coalitions of LNOs to shift greater funding and power to local actors, while also changing donor processes and systems to be more equipped to accompany and complement community driven initiatives. Building off the success of the pilot coalition launched in Uganda in 2021, the LCA launched two new coalitions in Bangladesh and Nigeria in 2022.



- **In Uganda, a coalition of 14 LNOs are designing and implementing development and humanitarian actions that build the long-term resilience of vulnerable households in the greater Kampala area.** They initially came together in 2021 to respond to COVID-19 and its impact on the most marginalized in Kampala, including children, youth, urban refugees and persons living with disabilities. Uganda experienced one of the strictest lockdowns in Africa, and the longest school closure in the world. Post-pandemic, the coalition is prioritizing education for youth, improved livelihoods, health knowledge, access to health services, and the prevention of violence against children. In their first year working together, the coalition reached 37,294 people directly.
- **In Bangladesh, a coalition of 16 LNOs have come together to build disaster resilient communities in the Sundarbans, a coastal area particularly vulnerable to climate-related crises.** They are prioritizing community-led development through climate resilient infrastructure projects, livelihood grants, improved access to potable water and sanitation, and sexual and reproductive health rights and services. In their first year working together, LCA Bangladesh has reached 23,445 people directly.
- **In Nigeria, 9 LNOs formed a coalition to strengthen community resilience in the face of the persisting humanitarian crisis in Northeast Nigeria.** The Adamawa region has faced armed conflict with non-state armed groups since 2009, and the coalition will be operating in target areas that are highly impacted by the ongoing violence, hosting many internally displaced persons and vulnerable returnees, and currently facing a food security crisis. They are working to address vulnerabilities around climate change and regional insecurity.

Enabling Environment

Community driven collective action is more likely to thrive with a strong enabling environment.

Shifting power, process, and funding to put local actors in the driver's seat on the design and implementation of programming is critical to ensure effective and efficient locally led development and a healthy civil society. However, despite commitments to re-direct 25% of international assistance to local actors, less than 1% of the \$187 billion of total Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2018 went directly to local development actors, and, in 2021 only 0.4% of all humanitarian aid went directly to LNOs. The Share Trust aims to bridge this gap between donors, international practitioners, and local actors to fundamentally change the way that international assistance is designed and delivered.

One critical strategy is through research and learning, which is the backbone for effective decision making and strategic adaptation. In November 2022, we published a [cost-efficiency analysis](#) that estimated the economic implications of shifting 25% of ODA - aligned with international commitments - from international to local intermediary structures. It calculated that local intermediaries could deliver programming that is 32% more cost efficient than international intermediaries, by stripping out inflated international overhead and salary costs. Applied to the ODA funding flows allocated to UN/INGOs in 2018 (\$54bn), this would equate to US\$4.3bn annually, savings which could be critically redeployed to meet increasing, and pressing, community needs.



Delivering programming through local actors is 32% more cost efficient than delivering through international actors.

Since November 2022, the report has influenced the following:

- A [US Congressional testimony](#) as a proof point for pushing process change on localization at USAID (March 2023);
- An [open letter to USAID](#) from the House to push them to localize (April 2023);
- An [Economist article](#), in a profile of USAID that demonstrates how the status quo must change and how the agency can localize (May 2023); and
- A [House Foreign Affairs Committee](#) hearing to determine how USAID plans to optimize resources to best meet local needs (May 2023).

PARTNERS

We work to facilitate connections between Self Help Group members, coalitions of LNOs, governments, philanthropists, and other like minded actors, because we believe that by building an ecosystem that can allow local actors to thrive, the benefits of community driven collective action will grow and multiply.

Our alliance with the Warande Advisory Centre (WAC) in Kenya on the LCA is integral to our functioning. While we remain distinct organizations, we are strategically integrated, each leading on specific components of the work. WAC's expertise is in organizational capacity strengthening supporting local actors to form and operate as coalitions, while the Share Trust's background is in working with bilateral and philanthropic donors advocating for their practices to be more conducive to local actors.



Bangladesh Coalition

- Association of Voluntary Actions for Society (AVAS)
- Coastal Education and Diversity Improvement Organization (CEDIO)
- Community-Based Development Project (CBDP)
- Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS)
- Dhulasar Upokul Sarbik Gram Unnyan Samabay Samiti L.T.D
- Golap Protibondi Unnayan Songstha
- Isana Nari Foundation
- Jago Nari
- Mohila O Shishu Shongho
- Orarian Development Foundation (ODF)
- Patherkhali Miloni Jubo Shangho
- PRERONA
- Rakhain Social Development Organization (RSDO)
- Sheree Alternative Way of Women Empowerment
- Sundarban Adibashi Munda Sangstha (SAMS)
- Uttaran

Nigeria Coalition

- [Against All Odds Foundation \(AGAOF\)](#)
- [ADPWDVI](#)
- [Clear View Integrity Foundation \(CVIF\)](#)
- [DCR Ambassadors](#)
- [FIRST](#)
- [Horn of Hope \(HOHVIPAD\)](#)
- [Joint National Association of Persons with Disability \(JONAPWD: Adamawa chapter\)](#)
- [Grassroot Lifesavings Outreach \(LESGO\)](#)
- [Morning Star Foundation](#)

Uganda Coalition

- [Action for Fundamental Change and Development \(AFFCAD\)](#)
- [ACODEV](#)
- [CAPAIDS](#)
- [ESAU](#)
- [Girl Up Initiative Uganda](#)
- [Hope Hub](#)
- [Kabubbu Development Project \(KDP\)](#)
- [Mukisa Foundation](#)
- [National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda \(NUWODU\)](#)
- [Reach a Hand Uganda \(RAHU\)](#)
- [REAL](#)
- [Street Business School \(SBS\)](#)
- [Set Her Free](#)
- [Wezesha Impact](#)

Technical Partners

- [Afghanaid](#)
- [Impact Intel](#)
- [Promoting Local Responder Capacity and Partnership \(PLRCAP\)](#)
- [Start Fund Bangladesh / Start Network](#)

OUR FINANCIALS



In 2022, we raised:

**\$3,695,207 in total
revenue**

- 68% spent on coalitions
- 32% spent on systems change

Institutional Partnerships

- [Chandler Foundation](#)
- [Conrad N. Hilton Foundation](#)
- [Humanity United](#)
- [Imago Dei Fund](#)
- [Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies](#)
- [Patrick J. McGovern Foundation](#)
- [Skoll Foundation](#)
- [Target Foundation](#)
- [Viking](#)
- [Vitol Foundation](#)



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