

Uncovering the Silent Resources for Sustainable Development

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INTRODUCTION

SIL Bangladesh and FH (Food for the Hungry) Bangladesh are working in partnership with two indigenous communities in Bangladesh through a joint project, the “Rajshahi Ethnodev Family and Community Transformation” (REFCT). The target communities are **Kol** and **Koda**.

OBJECTIVES

- To build capacity in the communities for planning and sustaining their own development
- To encourage communities to value their cultural and linguistic uniqueness
- To support the communities in preserving and developing their own language and culture

KOL & KODA IN BANGLADESH

The Kol and Koda populations in Bangladesh are very small.

Follow traditional Sonatan religion and Hinduism



Koda people

KOL & KODA IN BANGLADESH

Significantly lower literacy and education levels

Very few of the children attend school.

Extreme fringes of the Bangladeshi society.



A Koda village

SILENT RESOURCES

Interested in positive change

Committed to reducing poverty through savings

Aware about the importance of the education



Kol women in PRA Survey

SILENT RESOURCES

UNITY

TRUST



Industrious

**Want to preserve
their language and
culture**

SILENT RESOURCES

Creativity



TWO MAJOR PARTS OF THE PROGRAM

- 1) Language and Culture Development
- 2) Family and Community Transformation

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DEVELOPMENT

Supporting the communities with:

- ❖ the development of alphabets and writing systems
- ❖ the development of a curriculum for mother-tongue based multilingual education (MLE)
- ❖ the development of MLE materials (including stories, rhymes and songs)
- ❖ Culture documentation

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DEVELOPMENT



First written books in KODA

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DEVELOPMENT

Curriculum and MLE
materials development

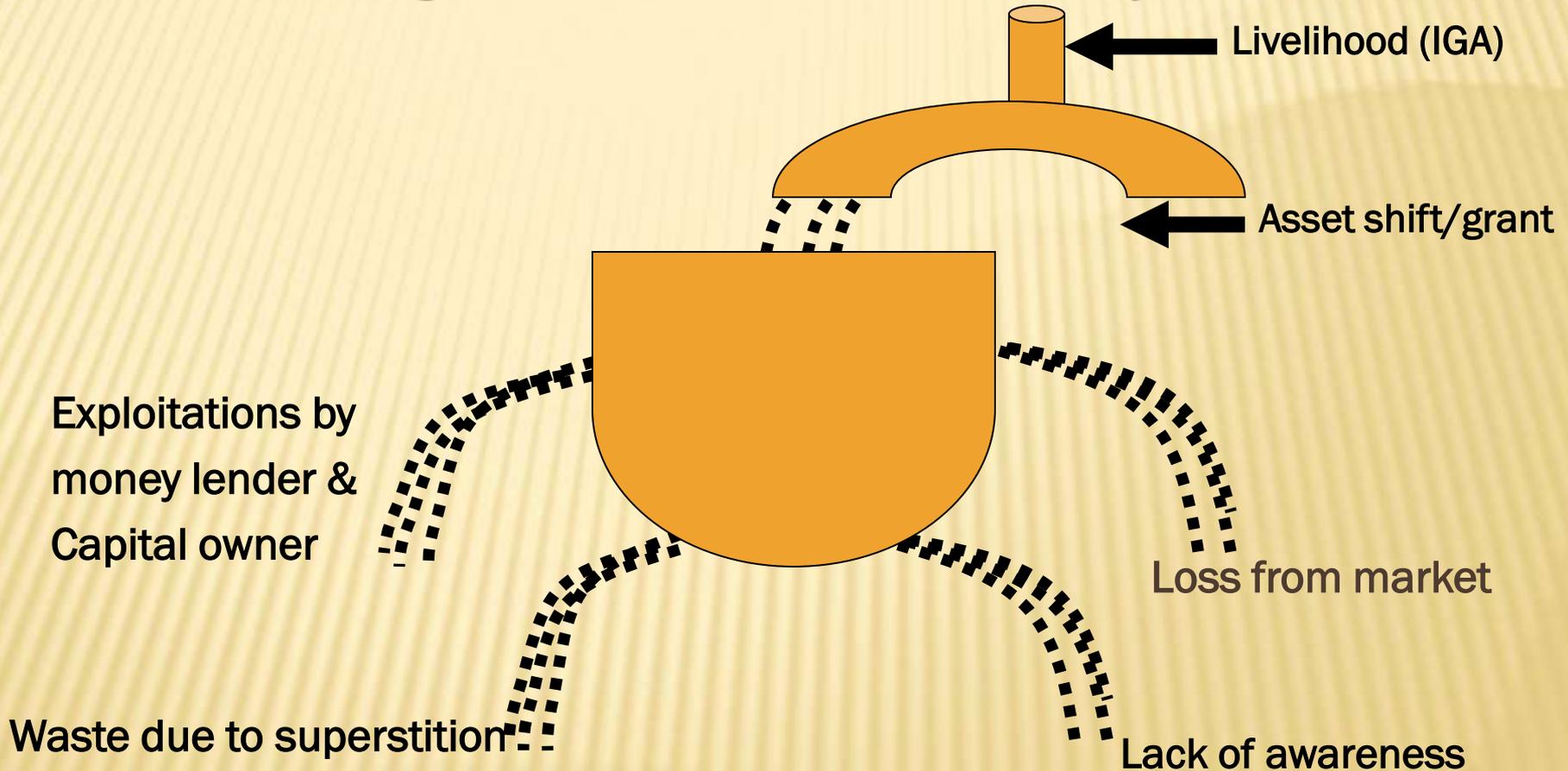


LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DEVELOPMENT



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Handing out assets or IGA are not only solution



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Engage and Organize Community

- Clear understanding of FH & SIL's goals and program activities created acceptance in the target communities.
- Growth in self-esteem among people as they understand their strengths and opportunities.
- Thinking about their community situation helps people to understand their role in development .

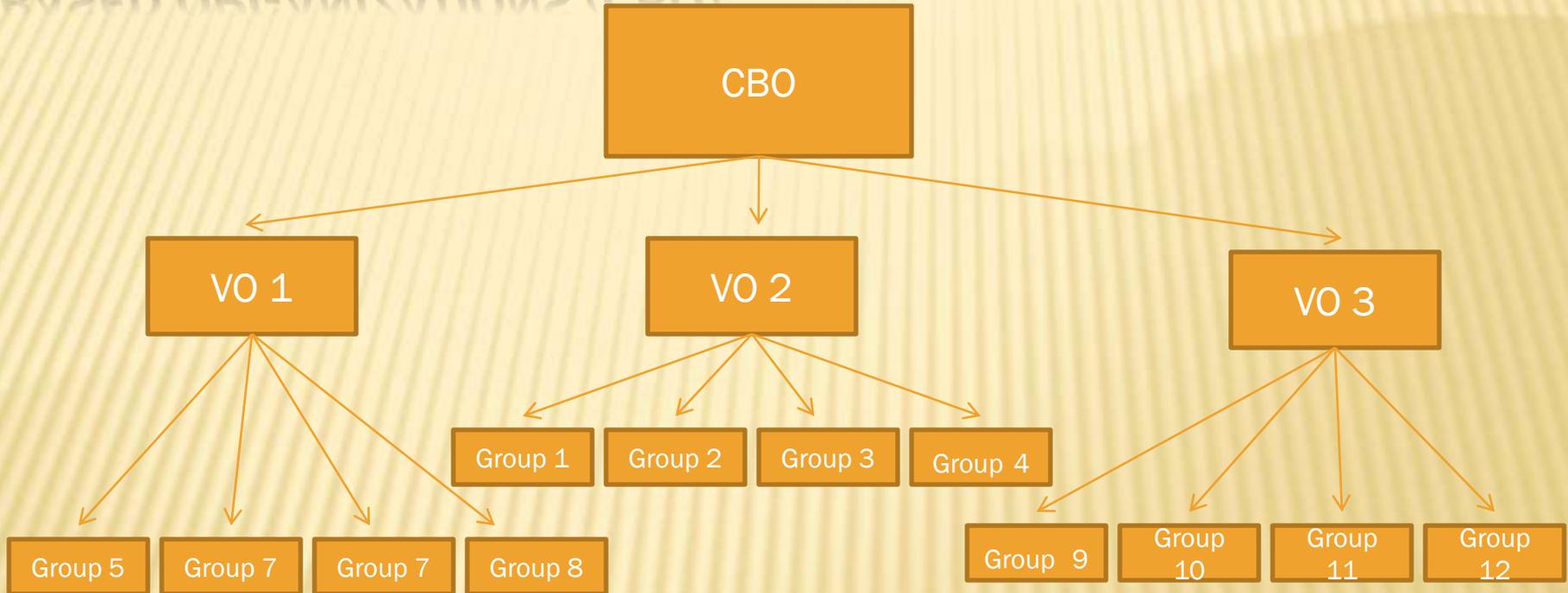


Koda people in PRA Survey



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

GROUP, VILLAGE ORGANIZATION (VO) AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBO)



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

CBO Executive Committee

- Form with VO representatives
- Monthly Meeting to monitor group performance

General Committee (GC)

- ▶ Form with representative from each of all group
- ▶ CBO is accountable to GC in Quarterly Meeting

VO Executive Committee

- Form with Group representative
- Monthly Meeting to solve group's problems

Group Executive Committee

- 6 leaders from group members
- Weekly meeting to take decision for investment
- Monitor group activities

General Assembly

- ▶ Comprising all members of all groups
- ▶ Annual General Meeting to approve program activities, annual budget-plan & form CBO EC
- ▶ Take major decisions



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

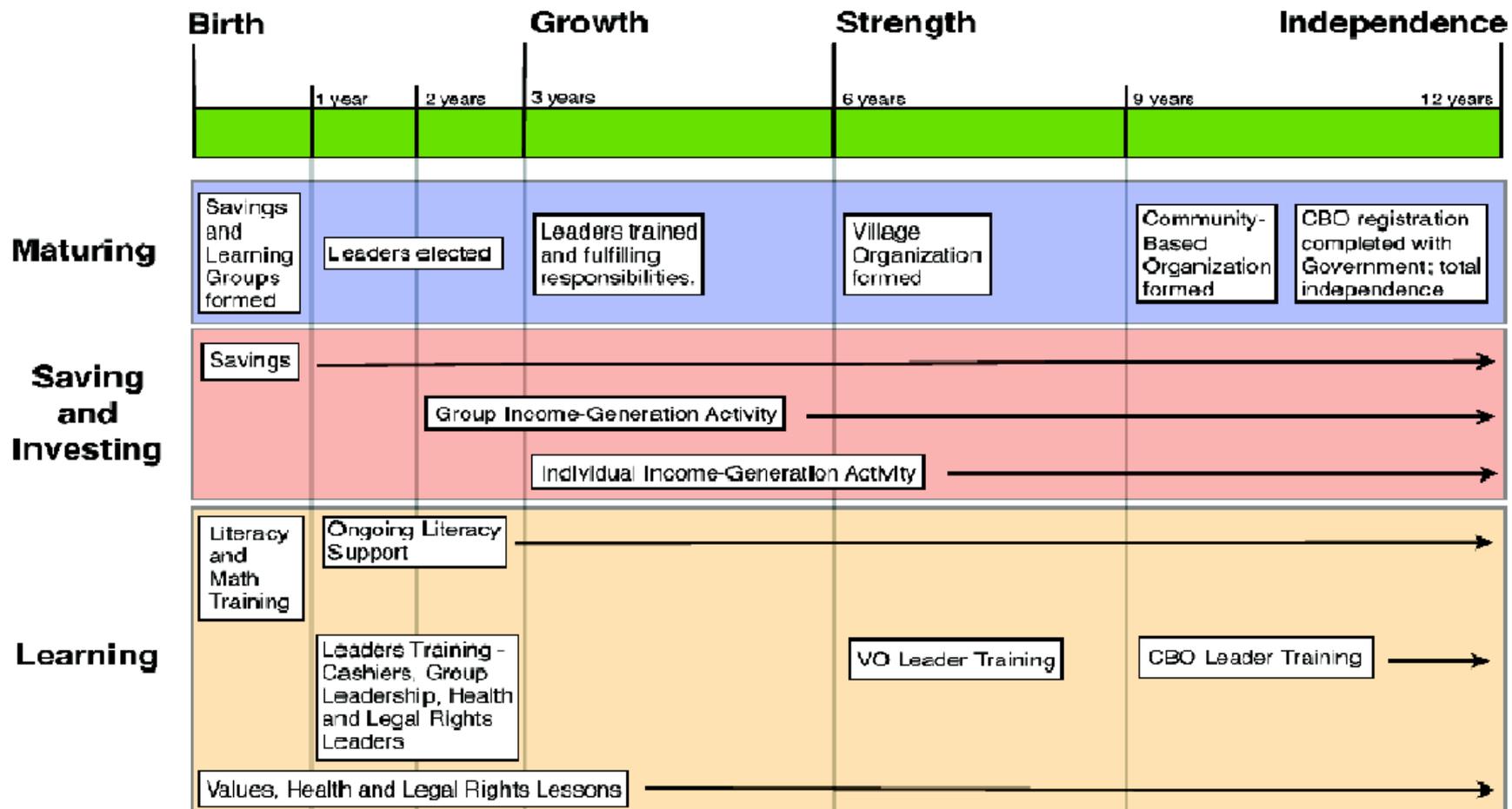
SAVINGS AND LEARNING GROUP ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Literacy & Basic Math Training
- ❖ Savings-Investment & awareness sessions on basic health and law in weekly Group Meetings
- ❖ Leaders' Training on leadership and keeping accounts
- ❖ Use Benevolent Fund



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Timeline of Change



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

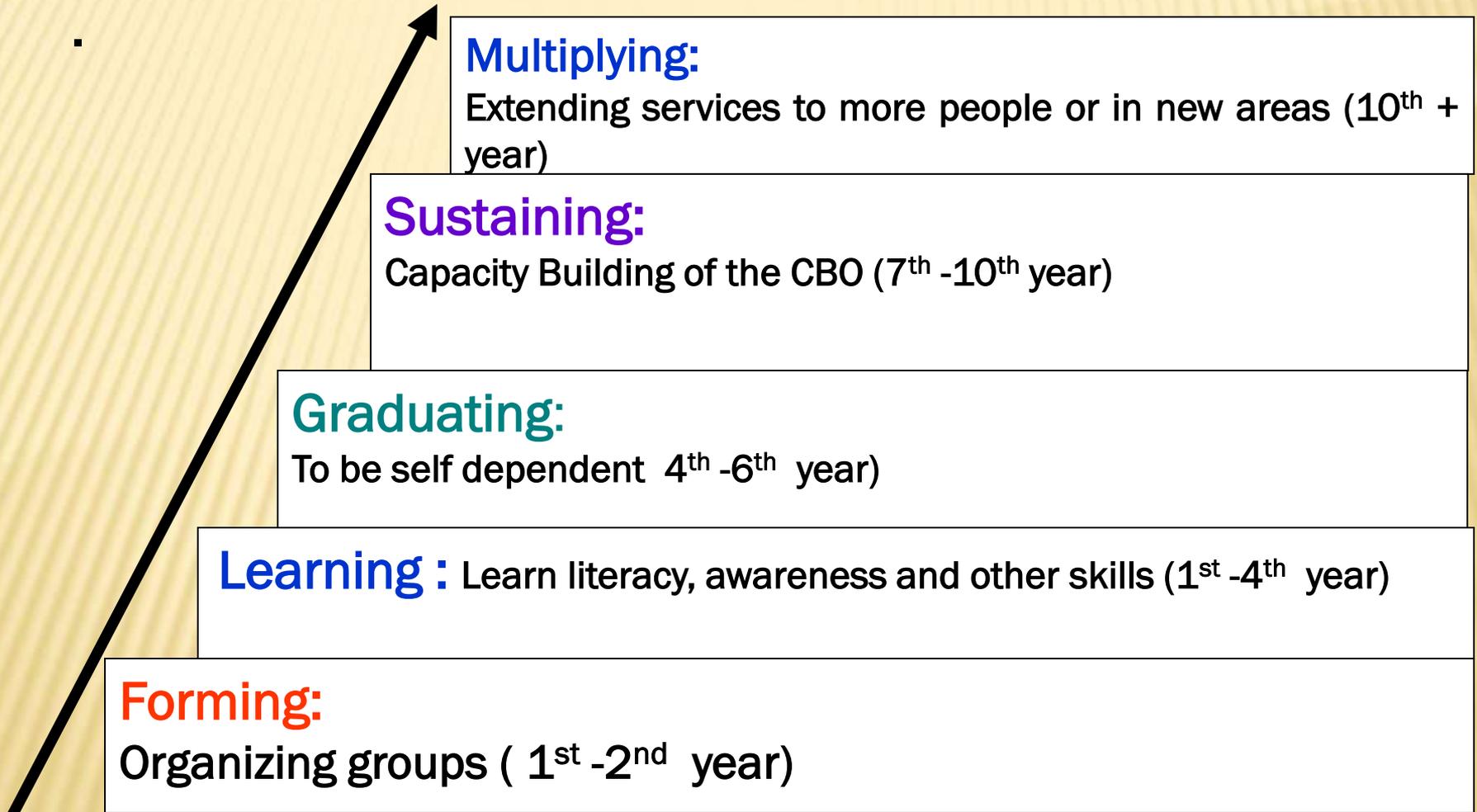
ROLE OF CBO

- ❖ Plan and implement activities for community development
- ❖ Advocacy for establishing peoples rights
- ❖ Organize welfare activities
- ❖ Build social awareness
- ❖ Organize large scale collective investment
- ❖ Network with GO/NGO for community development



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

Steps to Sustain Community Based Organization



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

a) Ownership in development process:

- People's participation
- Identify their strengths
- Developing writing system in their languages

b) Institutionalized development process:

- Sustainable CBO to oversee the development process.
- Establish an education system in their language

c) Self-help group for self-reliance:

- Saving -investments to escape from the poverty cycle,
- Skills development to diversify professions
- Learning & working together increases confidence & cohesion

d) Empowerment for their rights:

- Vision for a better future
- Aware for rights and build self esteem
- Unity for an effective network
- Advocacy for establishing their rights.

CONCLUSION

The community people will be able to envisioned for better future and sustained by uncovering the silent resources.



THANKS