



What is the Role of a Member?

Membership Objectives

The membership objective is to have an active and participating membership population, suitably informed about the activities of the Company, and drawn into active participation in its affairs. It is envisaged that such an active membership will help the Company to increase community support, to organise fundraising events and programmes, and to raise the public profile of the Company. This active membership will allow healthy debate and ideas regarding all aspects of operations.

What is Membership?

As a charity Gorta-Self Help Africa has no shareholders. Members effectively fill the role of shareholders. Members are supporters of the organisation, believe in its mission and vision and are prepared to get involved on a voluntary basis to support the organisation.

The members elect directors and the board is accountable to the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). A director must be a member.

What is expected from a member?

In company law members have a right to attend and vote at the companies general meetings. The members appoint directors, auditors and approve any change to the company's constitution. A member is expected to comply with the constitution of the company.

However, as an international non-governmental organisation dedicated to the alleviation of poverty in Africa, GSHA members are expected to contribute more to the organisation than the minimum requirements of company law. Members are expected to particulate in some/all of the following ways in support of the organisation:

- Fundraising on behalf of the organisation at the community level (churchgate, etc.) and/or support of specific events/campaigns
- Advocacy in support of the organisation and African smallholder farmers interests at community, local and national level.
- Support development education initiatives by speaking in schools, etc.
- Where appropriately qualified, conduct pro-bono work in support of the organisation in Ireland, the UK and/or Africa
- Participation in healthy debates on organisational strategy
- Serving on board sub-committees

The membership is seen as a forum to identify and engage with potential future board members. Accordingly, members who wish to serve as future directors should actively support and engage with the organisation in order to obtain an appropriate understanding of organisation strategy to positively contribute to the organisation at that level. To a certain extent the expectations bar is higher for these members.