East Action Organization

Disability Inclusion special Report(2024-2025

EQUAL VOICES,INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES,LASTING CHANGES



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Narrative Report

Headline:
Digital Inclusion Matters: Equal Voices Online through SAFE-MIT & Targeted Food Assistance for Inclusive Communities (2024–2025)

Subtitle:
From 2024 to September 2025, East Action Organization (EAO) trained 11 changemakers with disabilities in digital storytelling and advocacy under the SAFE-MIT initiative (Migration, Inclusion & Transformation), while also advancing food security and dignity through the Targeted Food Assistance for Inclusive Communities program—building safe, just, and inclusive communities.

1. Executive Summary

Between 2024 and September 2025, East Action Organization (EAO) advanced **digital inclusion and food security** for vulnerable groups in Ethiopia's Somali Regional State. Through **SAFE-MIT (Safe, Just & Inclusive Migration through Digital Advocacy)** and the **Targeted Food Assistance for Inclusive Communities** program, EAO reached **420 individuals with food and cash support** and empowered **11 changemakers with disabilities** through digital storytelling and advocacy training.

The initiatives demonstrated the power of integrating **humanitarian relief with social inclusion**, but also revealed urgent gaps: **lack of wheelchairs, mobility aids, adapted transport, and accessible infrastructure**. Donor investment in these areas is critical to ensuring lasting dignity and equality.

2. Introduction

Somali Regional State faces **drought, inflation, and fragile livelihoods**. These pressures leave women, children, and persons with disabilities at disproportionate risk. Many disabled participants could not access training venues without being **carried on chairs due to lack of wheelchairs and adapted transport**.

EAO responded by embedding **equity-first design** into humanitarian action—ensuring food security while empowering persons with disabilities to lead advocacy and change.

3. Program Objectives

- **Support inclusive humanitarian relief** with food and partial cash assistance.
- **Strengthen voices of marginalized persons with disabilities** through digital storytelling.

- **Promote dignity and accessibility** by reducing barriers through assistive devices, adapted transport, and inclusive delivery systems.

4. Target Households and Population

- **70 households (420 individuals)** supported in 2023–2024.
- **11 persons with disabilities** trained in September 2025.
- Priority given to **elderly-headed households, women, children, and persons with disabilities**.

5. SAFE-MIT: Digital Inclusion & Advocacy

5.1 Digital Storytelling Training

On **September 11, 2025**, EAO trained **11 changemakers with disabilities** in digital storytelling and online advocacy.

5.2 Equal Voices Online Campaign

The campaign amplified disability voices on **social media and community platforms**, sparking new narratives of resilience and inclusion.

5.3 Migration, Inclusion & Transformation (MIT) Awareness

SAFE-MIT reframed migration through a **rights-based, disability-inclusive lens**, challenging stigma and promoting safety.

5.4 Wheelchair Needs & Accessibility Barriers

A recurring barrier was the **lack of wheelchairs and accessible transport**. Participants had to be physically carried to venues. This exposed urgent gaps:

- **Wheelchairs, crutches, walking aids, prosthetics**.
- **Adapted transport services** for reaching training and distribution points.
- **Accessible infrastructure** such as ramps and safe seating.

6. Targeted Food Assistance for Inclusive Communities

6.1 Food Package Distribution

Each household received:

- 25kg rice + 25kg wheat flour (1.75 MT annually).

6.2 Cash Assistance

- 1,500 ETB per household to cover non-food essentials.

6.3 Inclusivity Measures in Distribution

- Priority for elderly- and disability-headed households.
- Volunteers supported mobility-limited participants at distribution points.

7. Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) Indicators

- Households Assisted: 35 annually.
- Total Beneficiaries: 420 over two years.
- Inclusivity: Documented reach across gender, disability, and age.

8. Achievements and Outcomes

- **11 trained advocates** launched digital inclusion campaigns.
- **Policy dialogue** on migration and disability initiated.
- **Food security relief** provided to 420 individuals.
- **Employment milestone (2025):** EAO hired **three persons with disabilities** in long-term roles—Disability Inclusion & Social Protection Officer, Community Mobilization Officer, and Gender & Special Needs Officer (disability-focused).
- **Leadership recognition: Mr. Ahmed Guray** selected as EAO's **focal person for disability inclusion**, ensuring representation in leadership.

9. Additional Impact – 2025 Update

- Expansion of EAO's disability inclusion team.
- Integration of SAFE-MIT into broader youth and migration programs.
- Increased donor visibility and community trust.

10. Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Cash support below standards** due to limited funds.
- **Absence of wheelchairs and transport support** restricted participation.
- **Lesson:** Humanitarian programs must budget for **assistive devices, transport services, and accessibility upgrades**.

11. Sustainability and Next Steps

- **Institutional Inclusion:** EAO embedded disability leadership through employment of three disabled staff, with **Mr. Ahmed Guray** as the focal person.
- **Scaling Food Security:** Plan to expand assistance to 100 households annually.
- **Assistive Devices & Mobility Support:** Resource mobilization for **wheelchairs, crutches, adaptive seating, and prosthetics**.
- **Accessible Transport:** Provision of **adapted vehicles, transport allowances, and safe mobility solutions**.
- **Infrastructure Adaptation:** Installation of **ramps, handrails, and accessible toilets** in community facilities and distribution points.
- **Digital Advocacy Hubs:** Establish inclusive ICT centers equipped with **screen readers, captioning, and sign language services**.
- **Policy & Partnerships:** Work with disability-led organizations and government to integrate **materials, transport, and accessibility standards** into policy.

12. Conclusion

EAO's programs prove that **humanitarian relief and digital empowerment can be inclusive and transformative**. By hiring leaders like **Mr. Ahmed Guray**, and by integrating **wheelchair access, transport solutions, and assistive devices**, EAO shows that inclusion is **sustainable empowerment—not charity**.

13. Donor Call-to-Action

🌍 How You Can Support

Your partnership can make immediate and lasting impact:

- **Provide Assistive Devices:** Fund **wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, prosthetics, and adaptive seating**.
- **Support Accessible Transport:** Finance **adapted vehicles, fuel support, or transport stipends** to ensure disabled participants reach trainings and food distribution sites.
- **Invest in Inclusive Infrastructure:** Help build **ramps, accessible toilets, handrails, and safe entryways** at community and distribution centers.
- **Expand Food & Cash Assistance:** Enable scaling from **70 to 100+ households annually**.
- **Back Digital Advocacy Hubs:** Equip centers with **inclusive ICT tools** so disabled changemakers can lead campaigns.
- **Champion Policy Change:** Support EAO's advocacy to embed **assistive devices, materials, and transport access** in national humanitarian frameworks.

👉 With your support, **materials, transport, and mobility will no longer be barriers**—they will be pathways to dignity, participation, and resilience.

14. Contact Information

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Photo of our staff member with a disability serving as the Disability Inclusion & Social Protection Officer at East Action Organization. He holds two Bachelor's degrees.







UNITY VOTE



“EAO staff supporting persons with disabilities to access training venues — highlighting the urgent need for wheelchairs and inclusive mobility support in the Somali Regional State.”







Call to Action

1. **Our voice matters – it can transform our lives.**
2. **Together, we can build a campaign that is united, safe, and inspiring.**
3. **Join the movement: Voices of Inclusion | Safe and Inclusive Migration.**
4. **Thank you for being part of this journey of hope and change.**
5. **Your voice can help prevent risks and protect lives.**
6. **Your participation creates a community where everyone has equal opportunities.**
7. **Every person matters – no one will be left behind.**
8. **Our strength lies in our unity; our success is in our togetherness.**
9. **We urgently call upon partners and donors to support persons with disabilities by providing wheelchairs, mobility aids, and other essential materials to ensure inclusion, dignity, and equal participation.**