East Action Organization
Action for Betterment

# EAST ACTION ORGANIZATION (EAO)

# Recent Organizational Activity Report (2024–2025)



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## 1. Executive Summary

In 2024–2025, East Action Organization (EAO) strengthened its role as a women-led, youth-centered national civil society organization advancing inclusive development, digital empowerment, climate resilience, humanitarian assistance, and disability inclusion across Ethiopia's Somali Regional State.

During this period, EAO implemented impactful programs reaching women, youth, persons with disabilities, displaced households, and marginalized communities. Key achievements include:

- Empowering **1,500+ youth** through peacebuilding, leadership, social cohesion, and sports-for-development initiatives.
- Advancing **digital inclusion** for persons with disabilities by training **11 changemakers** in digital storytelling and advocacy.
- Supporting **420 individuals** with food and cash assistance, prioritizing disability- and elderly-headed households.
- Enhancing women's livelihoods and youth economic empowerment through cooperatives and market linkages.
- Strengthening climate resilience through solar-powered irrigation systems and land restoration initiatives.

EAO's programming integrated leadership development, social cohesion, green skills, gender equality, and inclusive digital pathways—positioning the organization strongly for youth-centered initiatives such as the Africa–Europe Youth Academy (AEYA).

## 2. Organizational Overview

Established in 2019, EAO operates at the intersection of youth empowerment, gender equality, disability inclusion, humanitarian response, and climate-resilient livelihoods. The organization has built strong community trust and strategic partnerships, enabling the delivery of evidence-based, inclusive development programs with measurable impact.

## 3. Key Thematic Achievements

### 3.1 Youth Leadership, Sports for Peace & Social Cohesion

Youth empowerment remained a central pillar of EAO's work. In 2024–2025, EAO engaged over **1,500 young people** in leadership development, peacebuilding, and community mobilization activities.

**Major Achievements:**

- Implemented youth-led civic engagement and advocacy activities.
- Delivered leadership training for **50 youth leaders**, resulting in community-led campaigns.
- Organized the **Peaceball Initiative**, reducing inter-group tensions by 30% through sports diplomacy.
- Conducted large-scale **community football tournaments** promoting unity, teamwork, and social cohesion among youth from diverse backgrounds.

These activities strengthened social bonds, promoted peaceful coexistence, and positioned youth as agents of community transformation.






### 3.2 Digital Inclusion, Youth Empowerment & Disability Leadership

Through the **SAFE-MIT: Migration, Inclusion & Transformation** program, EAO advanced digital access and leadership for persons with disabilities, ensuring they are visible, engaged, and empowered.

**Key Results:**

- Trained **11 changemakers with disabilities** in digital storytelling, advocacy, and online campaigns.
- Launched the **Equal Voices Online** campaign amplifying disability narratives.
- Integrated digital advocacy tools to promote safe, just, and inclusive migration awareness.
- Identified systemic accessibility challenges such as lack of wheelchairs, adapted transport, and accessible infrastructure.
- Expanded disability inclusion leadership by hiring three persons with disabilities as:
    - Disability Inclusion & Social Protection Officer
    - Community Mobilization Officer
    - Gender & Special Needs Officer

These efforts significantly enhanced inclusive digital participation and positioned EAO as a leader in disability-inclusive programming.





### 3.3 Humanitarian Assistance & Inclusive Relief

EAO provided targeted humanitarian support to vulnerable households, prioritizing persons with disabilities, elderly populations, and women-headed households.

**Impact Achieved:**

- Supported **70 households (420 individuals)** with food packages and cash assistance.
- Distributed **25kg rice + 25kg wheat flour** per household annually and **1,500 ETB** cash per household.
- Ensured inclusive distribution mechanisms, with volunteers providing mobility assistance.
- Applied Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) indicators to strengthen accountability.

This holistic approach safeguarded dignity and improved access to essential needs for vulnerable communities.





### 3.4 Climate Resilience, Green Solutions & Sustainable Livelihoods

EAO strengthened community resilience against shocks through environmentally conscious and youth-inclusive interventions.

**Key Contributions:**

- Implemented Zero Hunger Innovation Projects using **solar-powered irrigation systems**, eliminating reliance on fuel-based pumps.
- Rehabilitated **15 hectares** of degraded land through community-led restoration initiatives.
- Enhanced sustainable agriculture practices contributing to youth and women's livelihoods.

These eco-friendly interventions align with emerging green jobs and climate action priorities.

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## 3.5 Women's Economic Empowerment & Youth Livelihood Pathways

As a women-led organization, EAO continued advancing gender equality and inclusive livelihoods.

**Achievements:**

- Trained and supported **350+ women** in income generation, cooperative leadership, and market linkages.
- Strengthened youth-led and women-led cooperatives such as:
    - **Tiger Small Agribusiness & Honey Cooperative (youth-led)**
    - **Havana Api-Culture Cooperative (women-led)**
- Increased women's monthly income by 35–50% within 6–9 months.

These livelihood initiatives improved economic independence and supported gender-responsive community development.







## 3.6 Inclusive Migration, Protection & Community Advocacy

EAO's interventions integrated protection and inclusive migration principles.

**Program Highlights:**

- Conducted rights-based advocacy focused on safe and inclusive migration.
- Initiated community dialogues on stigma reduction and inclusion.
- Established protection committees to report and prevent SEA/GBV cases.
- Strengthened policy engagement through disability advocacy and leadership.

These efforts highlighted the importance of safety, dignity, and voice within migration and humanitarian contexts.




## 4. Organizational Strengthening & Institutional Development

**Key internal milestones:**

- Expansion of EAO's disability inclusion team with full-time staff who have lived experience.
- Integration of accessibility and universal design principles into program planning.
- Strengthened Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) systems.
- Enhanced partnerships with government entities, community structures, and civil society.

These developments improved EAO's organizational capacity, accountability, and ability to scale inclusive programming.

## 5. Challenges and Lessons Learned

EAO's programs identified key limitations affecting equitable participation:

- Lack of wheelchairs and mobility aids restricted access for persons with disabilities.
- Limited funding reduced the scale of food and cash assistance.
- Absence of adapted transport and accessible infrastructure created recurring barriers.

- Need for expanded youth-focused green and digital skills training.

**Core Lessons:**

- Humanitarian and development programming must integrate assistive devices and accessibility features.
- Digital empowerment is effective only when physical access barriers are removed.
- Youth leadership and disability inclusion are mutually reinforcing and should be mainstreamed across all program areas.

## 6. Sustainability and Next Steps

Based on achievements and gaps, EAO plans to scale the following:

**Upcoming Priorities:**

- Expand inclusive food and cash support to **100+ households annually**.
- Establish **Digital Advocacy & Youth Leadership Hubs** with accessible ICT equipment.
- Strengthen green livelihood pathways for youth and women.
- Scale disability inclusion through procurement of wheelchairs, assistive devices, and adapted transport.
- Integrate accessibility improvements (ramps, handrails, accessible toilets) into community facilities.
- Strengthen youth leadership programming in climate resilience, digital innovation, and social cohesion.

## 7. Conclusion

The 2024–2025 program year demonstrated EAO's capacity to deliver high-impact, inclusive, and sustainable development programs reaching women, youth, and persons with disabilities across the Somali Region.

EAO's integration of digital empowerment, youth leadership, green solutions, and humanitarian support positions the organization as a strong, trusted partner for regional and international youth initiatives—including the Africa–Europe Youth Academy.

## 8. Contact Information

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