East Action Organization
Action for Betterment

East Action Organization (EAO) – Capability Statement

1. Organizational Overview and Legal Status

East Action Organization (EAO) is a nationally registered, women-led and youth-focused non-governmental organization established in 2019 in Ethiopia. The organization operates primarily in the Somali Regional State, with additional presence in Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa, enabling both field-level implementation and national-level coordination.

EAO is legally registered under the Authority for Civil Society Organizations (CSO No. 6812) and operates in full compliance with national legal, financial, and regulatory frameworks. The organization maintains audited financial records, functional governance systems, and institutional structures aligned with international standards.

EAO has built a strong reputation as a trusted local actor with deep community access, particularly in pastoralist, climate-affected, and displacement-affected contexts, delivering inclusive, locally led, and results-oriented interventions.

2. Mission, Vision, and Strategic Objectives

EAO's vision is resilient, inclusive, and empowered communities with equitable access to opportunities and essential services.

Its mission is to improve the well-being of vulnerable populations through integrated, community-driven programmes in health, livelihoods, education, and humanitarian response.

The organization's strategic objectives focus on strengthening access to essential services, enhancing livelihoods and economic resilience, promoting gender equality and protection, advancing youth leadership and employment, and building climate-resilient and sustainable communities.

3. Thematic Areas of Intervention and Sectoral Expertise

EAO implements integrated, multi-sectoral programmes across key areas including health and nutrition, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health; gender equality and protection; youth empowerment and skills development; food security and climate-resilient agriculture; water, sanitation, and hygiene; humanitarian response; peacebuilding and social cohesion; and digital inclusion and innovation.

These thematic areas are interconnected, enabling EAO to address complex vulnerabilities and deliver holistic interventions that link humanitarian response with long-term development outcomes.

4. Technical Capacity and Proven Track Record

EAO has demonstrated strong technical and operational capacity in complex and fragile environments, including drought-prone, pastoralist, refugee, and displacement-affected settings.

The organization has reached over 6,000 direct and 30,000 indirect beneficiaries across multiple districts. Key achievements include delivering essential health and sexual and reproductive health services to more than 5,000 women and youth, training over 2,000 young people in entrepreneurship, digital skills, and leadership, and supporting more than 600 households through climate-resilient livelihood initiatives.

EAO has also supported youth-led cooperatives, strengthened community systems, and implemented inclusive programmes for persons with disabilities. In addition, the organization has experience in cross-border programming through structured partnerships in Somaliland and Djibouti, positioning it as an emerging regional actor in the Horn of Africa.

5. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Systems

EAO applies a structured Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning framework to ensure programme quality, transparency, and continuous improvement.

The system includes baseline and endline assessments, routine monitoring, indicator tracking, and periodic reporting. Community feedback and complaints mechanisms are integrated into programme implementation to ensure accountability to affected populations.

Programme data is systematically used to inform adaptive management, strengthen decision-making, and support evidence-based planning and reporting.

6. Governance, Institutional Systems, and Compliance Framework

EAO operates under a clear governance structure led by a Board of Directors and supported by an experienced executive and technical team.

The organization maintains strong institutional systems covering financial management, procurement, logistics, human resource management, and internal controls. These systems are supported by established policies, procedures, and operational manuals aligned with international standards and donor compliance requirements.

Regular internal and external audits, risk management systems, and financial controls ensure transparency, accountability, and efficient use of resources.

6.1 Policies and Operational Manuals

EAO has developed and operationalized a comprehensive set of institutional policies and operational manuals to ensure strong governance, compliance, safeguarding, risk management, and programme quality.

These include key frameworks covering areas such as anti-corruption and integrity; financial management and internal controls; procurement and logistics; human resource management; safeguarding and protection, including prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and child protection; gender equality and inclusion; accountability and complaints handling; risk management; data protection and information security; environmental and social safeguards; partnership and consortium management; project cycle management; communication and visibility; security and safety; and emergency response planning.

These policies are actively implemented across all programmes and operations, ensuring alignment with international standards and donor compliance requirements while strengthening transparency, accountability, and ethical practice.

7. Safeguarding, Protection, and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

Safeguarding is fully integrated into EAO's operations. The organization ensures that all programmes are designed and implemented in ways that protect children, women, and vulnerable populations from harm.

EAO enforces policies on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, child protection, gender-based violence risk mitigation, and ethical conduct. Community-based feedback and complaints mechanisms enable safe, confidential, and accessible reporting.

All staff, partners, and volunteers are trained and held accountable to safeguarding and protection standards.

8. Partnerships, Coordination, and Stakeholder Engagement

EAO collaborates with government institutions, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international NGOs, and community structures to ensure coordinated and effective programme delivery.

The organization engages in consortium-based programming and works with academic institutions such as Jigjiga University to strengthen research, innovation, and evidence-based programming. It also participates in regional and cross-border partnerships across the Horn of Africa to address shared challenges such as displacement, climate shocks, and livelihood vulnerability.

8.1 Consortium and Strategic Partnerships

East Action Organization actively engages in consortium-based programming and strategic partnerships to enhance the scale, quality, and sustainability of its interventions.

EAO collaborates with local and international NGOs, United Nations agencies, government institutions, and academic partners, including Jigjiga University, to co-design and implement programmes across humanitarian and development contexts.

At the national level, EAO participates in consortiums such as the Jigjiga Innovation and Action Partnership, the Consortium for Action and Development, and the Consortium for Women and Youth Advancement.

At the interregional and cross-border level, EAO engages in partnerships including the Africa–Europe Youth Academy, the EAOSOSTA Cross-Border Resilience Consortium, the EAO–ACRIF Cross-Border Resilience Consortium, and collaborations with organizations such as World Vision International Ethiopia, IOS Partners, and Alight Horn of Africa.

EAO has demonstrated strong capacity to operate both as a lead applicant and implementing partner, with a partnership approach grounded in complementarity, local ownership, and accountability.

9. Added Value and Comparative Advantage

EAO brings strong added value through deep community engagement, established local trust, and sustained presence in hard-to-reach and underserved areas.

As a women-led and youth-focused organization, EAO ensures inclusive and context-responsive programming. Its experience across humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding contexts enables effective nexus programming.

The organization combines strong local knowledge with structured systems and technical expertise to deliver effective, accountable, and scalable interventions aligned with donor expectations and national priorities.

10. Organizational Statement and Commitment to Impact

East Action Organization is a committed and capable local partner dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable communities through inclusive, practical, and locally driven solutions.

The organization combines strong community roots with structured institutional systems and technical expertise to deliver high-quality, accountable, and sustainable programmes. EAO remains committed to strengthening resilience, promoting equity, and supporting long-term development outcomes in partnership with communities, government, and development actors.

10.1 Value Proposition

EAO provides strong added value through deep community access and established local trust, combined with sustained presence in hard-to-reach and underserved areas.

The organization’s women-led and youth-focused leadership ensures inclusive and context-responsive programming. EAO has proven experience in humanitarian and development contexts and maintains strong systems for safeguarding, accountability, and compliance.

EAO has the capacity to design and implement integrated, multi-sectoral programmes, delivering interventions that are effective, accountable, scalable, and aligned with donor priorities and community needs.

11. Organizational Presence and Contact Information

East Action Organization (EAO)

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