

Children and Youth Relief Organization (CYRO)

Annual Narrative and Financial Report for 2025

Reporting Period: January 2025 to December 2025

Organization Name: Children and Youth Relief Organization (CYRO)

Registration Number: 6158

Region of Operation: Somali Region, Dire Dawa, and Addis Ababa

Prepared for: Authority of Civil Society Organizations, Ethiopia

Prepared by: Children and Youth Relief Organization (CYRO)

Executive Summary

The Children and Youth Relief Organization (CYRO) implemented a range of peacebuilding, youth empowerment, psychosocial support, and organizational strengthening activities during the 2025 reporting period. The year was marked by continued work under an ongoing peace and reconciliation project transferred from 2024, the launch of a new resilience-focused project in August 2025, and the renewal of a peace and reconciliation project beginning in October 2025.

Throughout the year, CYRO focused on strengthening youth leadership, peace architecture, mediation and negotiation skills, digital peacebuilding capacity, psychosocial support, and healing-oriented community engagement. These interventions were implemented primarily in the Somali Region, with selected outreach and partnership engagement in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa.

In 2025, CYRO received a total of **ETB 3,377,808.69** from Conciliation Resources (C-R) under three project arrangements. Of this amount, **ETB 3,358,424.28** was utilized during the reporting period for project implementation, office rent, office support, and staff salary, while a balance of **ETB 19,384.41** remained by the end of the year. CYRO maintained a strong commitment to transparency, program delivery, and institutional growth, while also laying the groundwork for continued implementation in 2026.

1. Organizational Background

Children and Youth Relief Organization (CYRO) is a civil society organization working to promote peacebuilding, youth empowerment, social cohesion, and community resilience, with a particular focus on the Somali Region of Ethiopia. CYRO engages youth, community actors, and local stakeholders through training, dialogue, psychosocial support, and advocacy-oriented programming designed to strengthen peaceful coexistence and inclusive participation.

During 2025, CYRO continued to operate in the Somali Region, Dire Dawa, and Addis Ababa. The organization pursued activities aligned with peacebuilding, youth leadership, conflict transformation, mediation, and healing, while also expanding its networking and institutional partnerships.

2. Objectives Activated During 2025

During the reporting year, CYRO activated the following broad organizational objectives:

1. Strengthen the capacity of youth, staff, and partners in peacebuilding, mediation, negotiation, and conflict transformation.
 2. Promote youth participation and leadership in local peace architecture and community resilience processes.
 3. Support healing, psychosocial well-being, and reflective dialogue among youth and community members.
 4. Expand strategic networking, institutional outreach, and partnerships with national and international stakeholders.
 5. Strengthen organizational systems for program delivery under multiple project arrangements.
-

3. Summary of Projects Implemented in 2025

3.1 Project One

Title: Sustaining Capacities for Peace and Reconciliation in Somali Regional State and Somali-Oromo Border Communities (2025)

Project Period: October 2024 to September 2025

Funding Source: Irish support through Conciliation Resources (C-R)

This project was transferred from the previous year and completed in September 2025. It supported a combination of peacebuilding trainings, youth engagement, psychosocial support, healing-oriented reflection, organizational networking, and office rent support. The project included office rent support and did not include staff salary support.

3.2 Project Two

Title: Promoting Resilience to Conflict in the Somali Region of Ethiopia and Borderlands

Component: Outcome 1, Output 2.4, Activity 2.4.2.c, Support to enhancing youth engagement in SRS peace architecture and peace agenda

Project Period: August 2025 to July 2026

Funding Source: Conciliation Resources (C-R)

This project began in August 2025 and continued beyond the reporting period. During 2025, CYRO implemented three activities and covered five months of staff salary and office support. The project supports youth engagement, leadership, peace architecture, and digital peacebuilding.

3.3 Project Three

Title: Sustaining Capacities for Peace and Reconciliation in Somali Regional State and Somali-Oromo Border Communities (2026)

Project Period: October 2025 to September 2026

Funding Source: Conciliation Resources (C-R)

This project was renewed in October 2025 following the completion of the earlier peace and reconciliation project. During 2025, CYRO used part of the received amount for office rent covering October to December 2025 and for one major activity implemented in December 2025.

4. Key Activities Implemented During 2025

4.1 Activities Under Project One

1. Training of Trainers on Peacebuilding, Negotiation, and Mediation

In January 2025, CYRO conducted a three-day Training of Trainers on peacebuilding, negotiation, and mediation skills in Jigjiga, Somali Region. The activity engaged 20 participants, including 13 female and 7 male participants. The training aimed to strengthen the technical and facilitation capacity of CYRO staff and partners in conflict-sensitive programming and local peacebuilding work.

2. Establishment and Training of Youth Peace Ambassadors

In February 2025, CYRO established and trained Youth Peace Ambassadors in Jigjiga, Dire Dawa, and Degahbour. The activity trained 30 youth, including 15 female and 15 male, and contributed to the establishment of 10 youth peace circles in each city. The training focused on the role of youth in peacebuilding, negotiation, and mediation skills.

3. Partnership and Networking Mission to Addis Ababa

In May 2025, two CYRO staff members undertook a 10-day networking and partnership mission to Addis Ababa. During the mission, they met with more than 25 international NGOs, national NGOs, embassies, and other stakeholders to expand the organization's visibility, strategic engagement, and partnership opportunities.

4. Training of Trainers on Mental Health and Psychological First Aid

In July 2025, CYRO conducted a Training of Trainers on mental health and psychological first aid for 40 youth, including 25 female and 15 male, from Jigjiga and nearby districts

such as Qoloji and Tuli Guled. The activity sought to build local capacity in psychosocial support and trauma-informed engagement.

5. Youth Healing Day and Reflection

In September 2025, CYRO organized the annual Youth Healing Day and Reflection event in Jigjiga, bringing together more than 50 youth from the Somali Region. The activity provided a safe and reflective platform for youth to discuss healing, community contribution, and their evolving role in society.

4.2 Activities Under Project Two

1. Role of Youth in the Somali Peace Agenda

In November 2025, CYRO implemented the activity Role of Youth in the Somali Peace Agenda, which strengthened youth voice and participation in local peace processes.

2. Core Youth Support and Training on YPS and Leadership

In December 2025, CYRO delivered Core Youth Support and Training on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) and Leadership to strengthen youth leadership and support youth engagement in peace architecture.

3. Training on Digital Peacebuilding

In December 2025, CYRO implemented a Training on Digital Peacebuilding, aimed at strengthening constructive online engagement, peace messaging, and digital resilience among youth actors.

4. Staff Salary and Office Support

Under Project Two, CYRO covered five months of staff salary and office support from August to December 2025. This included operational support and salaries for three staff positions in line with the approved project arrangement.

4.3 Activities Under Project Three

Advanced Training on Conflict Transformation and Mediation Skills

In December 2025, CYRO implemented an Advanced Training on Conflict Transformation and Mediation Skills in Jigjiga over a three-day period. The training engaged 35 participants and contributed to deepening local peacebuilding capacity under the renewed project period.

Office Rent Support

Under Project Three, CYRO also covered office rent for October to December 2025.

5. Beneficiaries Reached During 2025

Across the three project arrangements, CYRO reached a substantial number of direct beneficiaries through training, mentoring, dialogue, healing, and peacebuilding activities.

Project One

- **Male:** 120
- **Female:** 135

Project Two

- **Male:** 200
- **Female:** 280

Project Three

- **Male:** 180
- **Female:** 200

CYRO also reached vulnerable groups, including youth from conflict-affected contexts and underserved communities, through psychosocial support, peacebuilding, and resilience-focused interventions.

6. Financial Summary for 2025

CYRO received a total of ETB 3,377,808.69 during the reporting period from Conciliation Resources (C-R) under three project arrangements.

Total expenditure during the 2025 reporting period amounted to **ETB 3,358,424.28**.

At the end of the reporting period, the remaining balance was **ETB 19,384.41**.

7. Annual Performance Summary

CYRO made strong progress during 2025 in relation to its core institutional and programmatic objectives. The organization successfully completed a transferred project from 2024, launched a new resilience-focused project, renewed a peace and reconciliation project for the following cycle, and maintained active implementation across peacebuilding, youth empowerment, psychosocial support, digital peacebuilding, and institutional networking.

The organization demonstrated the ability to manage multiple project arrangements, implement both technical and community-level activities, and maintain continuity of peacebuilding work across project cycles. CYRO also strengthened its organizational visibility and relationships through direct engagement with NGOs, embassies, and other strategic actors.

8. Challenges Encountered During the Reporting Period

During the implementation of activities in 2025, CYRO faced several operational and programmatic challenges, including:

1. The complexity of managing overlapping project periods and multiple project reporting requirements.
2. The need to coordinate implementation across different locations within the Somali Region and surrounding areas.
3. Administrative pressure related to documentation, financial reporting, and compliance requirements.
4. The challenge of balancing organizational support needs, such as office rent and staffing, with growing program demand.
5. Delays and sequencing issues arising from staggered project disbursements and overlapping implementation timelines.

Despite these challenges, CYRO remained committed to timely implementation and reporting, and adapted its planning and delivery to maintain continuity.

9. Lessons Learned

CYRO's experience during 2025 generated important lessons for future programming:

1. Youth-centered peacebuilding remains highly relevant and effective when linked to practical leadership, dialogue, and mediation skills.
2. Psychosocial support and healing-oriented activities are important complements to peacebuilding interventions in conflict-affected settings.
3. Multi-location youth structures such as peace circles can strengthen local ownership and continuity of peace work.
4. Combining offline training with digital peacebuilding support strengthens resilience and engagement among youth.
5. Stronger internal documentation and early financial planning are essential when managing overlapping grants and renewed project cycles.

10. Plan for 2026

CYRO plans to continue implementation under the two ongoing projects during 2026.

10.1 Planned Activities Under Project Two

Promoting Resilience to Conflict in the Somali Region of Ethiopia and Borderlands

Planned 2026 components include: Cultural Events Competition for Peacebuilding; Structured Dialogue between Youth, Elders, and Decision-Makers; Review Meeting and Lessons Learned Workshop; and Staff salary and office support (January to May 2026).

10.2 Planned Activities Under Project Three

Sustaining Capacities for Peace and Reconciliation in Somali Regional State and Somali-Oromo Border Communities (2026)

Planned 2026 components include: Expansion of Youth Peace Circles; Training of Trainers on Psychosocial Support and Trauma Healing; Annual Youth Reflection and Healing Day 2026; and Office rent (January to September 2026).

11. Conclusion

The 2025 reporting period was an important year of growth, implementation, transition, and continuity for CYRO. The organization successfully completed one project cycle, launched another major resilience-focused intervention, and renewed a peace and reconciliation initiative for continued implementation into 2026.

CYRO's work during the year contributed to stronger youth leadership, enhanced peacebuilding capacity, improved psychosocial support awareness, expanded dialogue on peace and resilience, and broader institutional engagement with national and international stakeholders.

CYRO remains committed to transparent reporting, quality implementation, and sustained collaboration with the Authority of Civil Society Organizations, Conciliation Resources, and other current and future partners.

Annex: Quick Financial Snapshot

Item	Amount (ETB)
Total income received in 2025	3,377,808.69
Total expenses	3,358,424.28
Year-end balance	19,384.41

Prepared by: Children and Youth Relief Organization (CYRO)

Reporting Year: 2025

For submission to: Authority of Civil Society Organizations, Ethiopia