

Organizational Profile

Children and Youth Relief Organization (CYRO)

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1. Introduction

The Children and Youth Relief Organization (CYRO) is a dynamic and dedicated non-governmental organization (NGO) based in the Somali Region of Ethiopia. Originally established in September 2021 under the name Yatim Orphan Care Organization (YOCO), the organization rebranded in August 2024 to reflect its expanded focus on providing holistic support to both children and youth.

CYRO's core belief is that empowering the younger generation is a key to fostering sustainable development and peace. The organization addresses issues such as child protection, youth development, peacebuilding, and social inclusion, aligning its work with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). CYRO partners with local communities, government agencies, and international bodies to create an environment where children and youth can thrive and contribute positively to society.

2. Mission Statement

CYRO's mission is to empower and protect children and youth by providing comprehensive support, advocacy, and development opportunities. We are committed to fostering sustainable

growth, promoting peace and reconciliation, and ensuring that every child and young person in our community has access to the resources and opportunities they need to reach their full potential.

3. Vision Statement

CYRO envisions a world where every child and young person is safe, empowered, and able to lead a fulfilling life, contributing to a peaceful and prosperous society. We aspire to be a leading organization in advancing child and youth rights, fostering community resilience, and promoting sustainable development in the Somali Region of Ethiopia and beyond.

4. Legal Status

CYRO is a legally registered FDRE Authority of Civil Society Organization (ACSO) operating in Ethiopia. This registration allows the organization to work within legal frameworks, enhancing credibility and expanding its reach through partnerships and international collaboration.

6. Core Values

1. **Integrity:** CYRO value honesty, transparency, and ethical behavior in all its operations.
 2. **Empowerment:** CYRO focus on empowering individuals or communities, providing them with the tools, resources, or support they need to succeed.
 3. **Accountability:** CYRO prioritize being accountable to its Staff, stakeholders, and the public, ensuring responsible use of resources and delivering on their commitments.
 4. **Collaboration:** CYRO emphasize the importance of working together with stakeholders, and partners to achieve common goals.
 5. **Diversity and Inclusion:** CYRO value diversity in terms of people's backgrounds, perspectives, experiences, and work towards creating an inclusive environment for all.
 6. **Advocacy & Sustainability:** CYRO value advocating for the interests, rights, or causes they represent, striving to make a positive impact on society, and sustainable practices, aiming to minimize their environmental impact and promote social and economic sustainability.
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5. Strategic Priorities (2024–2028)

CYRO's strategic priorities for 2024–2028 serve as a roadmap to ensure the organization's sustainability and growth. These include:

- **Increasing Outreach and Impact:** Expanding programs to reach more children and youth across the Somali Region.
 - **Strengthening Advocacy Efforts:** Engaging in advocacy to influence policies that benefit children and youth at local, national, and international levels.
 - **Empowerment and Skill Development:** Offering targeted training and capacity-building opportunities to youth, equipping them with essential life and leadership skills.
 - **Promoting Social Inclusion and Reconciliation:** Fostering dialogue and reconciliation to promote peace and social cohesion, particularly among youth.
 - **Ensuring Financial Sustainability:** Developing robust financial models to ensure long-term organizational stability.
 - **Promoting Gender Equality:** Actively promoting gender-sensitive programs, with a focus on empowering girls and young women.
 - **Facilitating Youth Dialogue:** Providing platforms for youth participation in decision-making processes that affect their communities.
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6. Thematic Areas

CYRO's work is divided into several thematic areas that address the challenges faced by children and youth in Ethiopia:

- **Child Protection:** We prioritize the safety and well-being of children by implementing programs that protect them from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. CYRO works closely with local authorities and communities to create safe environments for children.
- **Education and Skill Development:** CYRO supports the educational development of children and youth by providing access to quality education and vocational training. Our programs aim to equip young people with the knowledge and skills necessary for personal and professional success.
- **Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution:** CYRO is dedicated to fostering peace and stability within communities by promoting dialogue and understanding among young people. Our peacebuilding initiatives include training in conflict resolution, mediation, and advocacy for youth participation in transitional justice processes.
- **Advocacy for Transitional Justice in Ethiopia:** CYRO is working to ensure that victims of conflict and human rights abuses in Ethiopia get the justice and recognition they deserve. We advocate for policies that focus on healing, accountability, and reconciliation, while also involving youth in the process. By partnering with communities, the government, and other organizations, we aim to help create a more peaceful and just future for everyone affected by past conflicts.
- **Economic Empowerment:** CYRO empowers young people by offering economic opportunities and resources to help them achieve financial independence. Our programs include entrepreneurship training, and financial literacy education.
- **Advocacy for Victims:** CYRO advocates for the rights and well-being of victims, especially children and youth, who have experienced trauma or injustice. We work to ensure that their voices are heard, their rights are protected, and they receive the support they need to heal and thrive.

- **Gender Equality:** CYRO advocates for gender equality by addressing gender disparities and promoting equal opportunities for all children and youth. Our initiatives aim to empower girls and young women to reach their full potential.
 - **Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience:** CYRO is helping communities in the Somali Region tackle the challenges of climate change. We focus on promoting sustainable farming, better water management, and renewable energy use. By training and empowering youth and locals, we aim to build stronger, more resilient communities that can thrive despite environmental changes.
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7. Scope of Work

CYRO operates primarily in the Somali Region of Ethiopia, with its headquarters located in Jigjiga. The organization has focal persons in all 11 zones of the Somali Region, as well as representation in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa. CYRO is supported by 50 volunteers and 12 full-time staff members, and it provides critical services to over 600 children and youth through various programs focused on education, health, and development.

8. Key Achievements (2022–2023)

Orphan Care and Support

- **Orphan Shelters:** CYRO has established multiple shelters that provide a safe and nurturing environment for orphans. These shelters ensure that children have access to nutritious meals, clean water, and healthcare services.
- **Education and Vocational Training:** CYRO has partnered with local schools to provide free education to orphans, covering tuition fees, uniforms, and supplies. Additionally, vocational training programs equip older orphans with practical skills, making them employable and self-reliant.

Educational Initiatives

- **Sponsorship of Vulnerable Students:** In 2023, CYRO sponsored the education of 100 vulnerable children, including those from remote regions and conflict-affected areas. These efforts helped reduce dropout rates and improve educational outcomes for marginalized students.
- **Community Engagement Programs:** CYRO has conducted over 15 workshops and awareness campaigns aimed at encouraging parents to enroll their children in school, emphasizing the long-term benefits of education, particularly for girls.

Health and Well-being Programs

- **Medical Camps:** CYRO organized healthcare camps that offered free check-ups, vaccinations, and treatments for orphans and their caretakers, reaching more than 500 children in 2022 alone.
- **Mental Health Support:** Recognizing the impact of conflict on children, CYRO integrated mental health services into its programs, providing counseling and support to traumatized youth.

Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion Efforts

- **Youth-Led Peacebuilding Initiatives:** CYRO facilitated youth dialogue forums in conflict-prone areas, engaging over 200 young people in discussions about reconciliation and peacebuilding. These efforts have resulted in several community-based peace projects led by local youth.
- **Conflict Resolution Training:** CYRO provided training to youth in conflict zones on mediation and conflict resolution, helping to promote peaceful co-existence in their communities.

Partnerships and Advocacy

- **Local and International Partnerships:** CYRO established partnerships with international NGOs, including Conciliation Resources and Save the Children, to support various initiatives in education, child protection, and peacebuilding.
- **Advocacy for Youth Rights:** CYRO has actively advocated for the rights of children and youth through policy engagement at both the regional and national levels, contributing to the adoption of policies that promote child protection and inclusive education.

9. Our Partners

CYRO collaborates with a range of esteemed organizations to maximize its impact and drive meaningful change in the Somali Region of Ethiopia. These partnerships enable us to extend our reach, leverage expertise, and advocate effectively for the rights and well-being of children and youth.

Key Partners:

- **Conciliation Resources**



- **Victim Advocates International**



- **International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)**



- **Organization of Victims and Survivors (OVS)**



- **Office of the president SRS**
- **Disaster and Risk Management Bureau SRS**
- **Bureau of women and Child affairs SRS**
- **Bureau of Sports and Youth SRS**
- **Bureau of Education SRS**
- **Bureau of social affairs SRS**
- **Bureau of Finance SRS**

These collaborations have played a pivotal role in advancing our goals related to child protection, youth empowerment, advocacy, and peacebuilding. Together, we work on creating an inclusive and supportive environment for children and youth, addressing their immediate needs while advocating for long-term sustainable development.

9. Contact Information

For more information, please contact:

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