



CSO ECOSYSTEM



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

ABOUT POWER TO YOU(TH)

Power to You(th) is a bold, youth-led initiative that centers the voices and agency of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in addressing some of Ethiopia's most pressing challenges: child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), and unintended pregnancies. The program envisions a future where youth from underserved communities are not only protected from Harmful Traditional Practices (HTPs) but also actively participate in shaping the decisions that affect their lives.

In Ethiopia, the Power to You(th) program is implemented by a consortium led by Amref Health Africa, in partnership with Youth Network for Sustainable Development (YNSD) and Hiwot Ethiopia. This diverse alliance combines grassroots knowledge with technical expertise to drive systemic change through advocacy, health system strengthening, gender-transformative approaches, and meaningful youth engagement.

Power to You(th)'s Core Focus Areas

- **Youth Leadership & Advocacy** – Training and mobilizing youth for civic engagement.
- **Ending HTPs and Changing Social Norms** – Preventing child marriage, FGM/C, and SGBV.
- **Civic Space & Policy Influence** – Strengthening youth participation in governance and policy advocacy.
- **Capacity Strengthening of CSOs** – Enhancing the effectiveness of youth-focused organizations.

The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Youth Empowerment

Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in Youth Empowerment are an important component of the Power to You(th) program, bringing local insight, credibility, and long-standing trust within communities. Their proximity to youth and grassroots actors allows them to engage meaningfully with key influencers such as religious leaders, educators, health providers, and families—shaping social norms and driving lasting change.

They play a critical role in amplifying youth voices, advocating for legal and social reforms, and delivering essential services that protect and empower young people. From organizing awareness campaigns to mobilizing communities, CSOs serve as vital channels for transforming the program’s vision into tangible impact.

However, CSOs often face systemic barriers such as limited funding, shrinking civic space, and capacity gaps that challenge their sustainability. Strengthening these organizations ensures that youth-led advocacy becomes not only reactive but resilient and long-term—capable of influencing policies, creating safe spaces, and building movements that endure.

The Power to You(th) project enhances the capacity of CSOs with the goal of enabling them to claim, defend, and expand civic space both nationally and locally, while fostering connections to regional and global networks. Capacity-building efforts focus on areas such as lobby and advocacy, which include developing skills in diplomacy, political participation, brokering, activation, and media engagement; strengthening research capabilities; and establishing learning platforms that offer coaching and mentoring to grassroots CSO. Additionally, Power to You(th) empowers CSOs to identify and meaningfully include youth—particularly AGYW—from underserved communities who face risks related to Human Papillomavirus (HPV), SGBV, and unintended pregnancies, ensuring their active participation within organizations and at all decision-making levels.

What You’ll Find in This Booklet

This booklet showcases the profiles of local CSOs actively contributing to the Power to You(th) program. Each profile highlights the organization’s background, target communities, key activities, achievements, and stories of impact. Together, these narratives and milestones demonstrate the power of collective action and youth-centered solutions in fostering safer, more equitable communities.



AFAR COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Year Established: 2010

Region of Operation: Afar Region, Ethiopia

About us

Afar Community Capacity Building and Integrated Development Association (ACCIDA) is a community-driven organization committed to empowering Afar's pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities. Focused on gender equality, youth empowerment, and health advocacy, ACCIDA works to prevent SGBV and HTPs, promote Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and HIV/AIDS awareness, and strengthen community resilience against climate change and conflict. Through sustainable development initiatives and grassroots engagement, the organization equips youth, women, and marginalized communities with the knowledge and resources to build healthier, more resilient futures.

Key Programs & Activities

- Community-led campaigns to prevent SGBV & HTPs
- Youth leadership & skills development for social change
- SRH education & family planning awareness initiatives
- HIV/AIDS prevention & advocacy programs
- Peacebuilding dialogues & climate adaptation efforts
- Mobile health outreach for underserved communities

Target Communities

- Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in Afar
- Women and youth from marginalized backgrounds
- Rural and underserved populations

Key Achievements

- Reached over 100,000 individuals with awareness messages on SGBV, SRH, HIV/AIDS, and HTPs.
- Conducted camel caravan-based awareness campaigns, incorporating community-based tracking data collection for awareness creation and mobilization.
- Utilized the Dagu system as a culturally relevant message dissemination tool.
- Trained over 1,000 community leaders, youth, and women in advocacy, leadership, and SGBV prevention.

Impact

In Afar, HTPs like FGM/C and child marriage have long impacted young girls' futures. Through community dialogues and advocacy campaigns, ACCIDA has empowered young women to challenge these traditions and embrace education.

Amina's Story

Amina, a young girl from a pastoralist community, faced pressure to marry early. However, after attending ACCIDA-led awareness sessions, she found the courage to resist and continue her education. Her decision inspired other girls in her village, contributing to higher school enrollments and a decline in child marriages.

Beyond advocacy, ACCIDA has implemented innovative outreach strategies, including camel caravans that travel across remote areas delivering messages on SGBV prevention, SRH, HIV/AIDS awareness, and youth health. The organization has also launched food security initiatives, led community mobilization for One-Stop Center services, and facilitated economic empowerment programs—ensuring that social change is sustainable and far-reaching.

Our Vision

To create an empowered and self-reliant Afar community where pastoralist populations, especially women and youth, have access to education, healthcare, and sustainable livelihoods.

Future Plans & Goals

- Reduce the prevalence of child marriage and FGM/C by 30% by 2030.
- Expand youth-focused SRH services and leadership programs to train 5,000+ youth.
- Strengthen climate resilience projects by introducing adaptive livelihood programs.



UNITY FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION

Year Established: 2023

Region of Operation: Amhara Region, Ethiopia

About us

Unity Fine Arts Association is a non-profit organization founded in Bahirdar in 2023 G.C. with a mission to use art as a tool for social change. The association fosters artistic expression, youth empowerment, gender equality, and addiction prevention, while also promoting human rights and civic engagement. Through innovative art-based programs, it creates an art-loving society, raises awareness on SGBV, and inspires active citizenship.

Key Programs & Activities

- Monthly art performances to promote social awareness
- Art training & workshops for young creatives
- Full-length & one-act plays addressing social issues
- Children's theater productions for education & engagement
- SGBV prevention awareness through art-based storytelling
- Peer-to-peer training on civic responsibility & self-expression

Target Communities

- Young women & artistically gifted youth
- People with disabilities & street children
- Women & individuals recovering from addiction

Key Achievements

- Successfully organized an Art Night for consecutive months, providing a platform for artistic expression and community engagement.
- Empowered young people through art training, helping them express themselves ethically and develop their creative skills.
- Earned community acceptance and recognition, reinforcing the role of art in social change and youth empowerment.

Impact

To address SGBV, unintended pregnancy, FGM/C, and early marriage, Unity Fine Arts Association leveraged the power of media and storytelling to spark meaningful conversations and drive change.

In partnership with the Power to You(th) project, the association collaborated with Amhara Media Corporation to produce a month-long radio drama and discussion series. Through compelling storytelling and expert-led conversations, the program raised awareness on HTPs, empowered youth with knowledge, and encouraged greater civic participation. The initiative reached a broad audience, fostering dialogue and inspiring young people to take an active role in advocating for their rights and well-being.

By combining art, media, and advocacy, Unity Fine Arts Association continues to use creative expression as a powerful tool for social transformation and youth empowerment.

Our Vision

To establish a leading art organization in Ethiopia that harnesses creative expression to drive social change, empower youth, and foster a society free from SGBV, FGM/C, and early marriage.

Future Plans & Goals

- Expand into a nationally recognized art institution, providing training, performances, and advocacy through creative expression.
- Strengthen efforts to prevent sexual violence, FGM/C, and early marriage through artistic initiatives.
- Use art as a tool for youth empowerment, encouraging active citizenship and ethical self-expression.



ASSALLE PASTORALIST MULTI-SECTORIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Year Established: 2019

Region of Operation: Afar Regional State, Ethiopia

About us

The Assalle Pastoralist Multi-Sectoral Development Organization (APMDO) was founded in 2019 G.C. to empower pastoralist communities in Afar through sustainable development, social justice, and human rights advocacy. Named after Assalle Mountain, a historic observatory for communities anticipating challenges, APMDO continues this legacy by tackling SGBV, education, health, and sustainable livelihoods.

With a focus on women, children, and marginalized groups, APMDO works to promote equitable development through social research, capacity-building, and policy advocacy. The organization has made significant contributions in education, agriculture, health services, and peacebuilding, ensuring long-term impact on disadvantaged communities.

Key Programs & Activities

- FGM/C Prevention, SGBV Response & Women's Rights Advocacy – Awareness campaigns and legal collaborations to end HTPs and promote justice
- Economic Empowerment & Business Creation – Workshops on financial literacy & entrepreneurship for women
- Peacebuilding & Conflict Resolution – Empowering women to take leadership roles in governance & mediation
- Sustainable Agriculture & Livelihood Development – Farmer training, irrigation projects & land conservation

Target Communities

- Marginalized Pastoralist Communities in Afar
- Women, Girls & Survivors of FGM/C & Early Marriage
- Clan Leaders, Circumcisers & Traditional Birth Attendants
- Youth Groups, School Girls & Maternal Health Beneficiaries
- People with Disabilities, Elders & Child Welfare Advocates

Key Achievements

- Empowering Women & Ending HTPs – Implemented targeted initiatives to combat SGBV, providing essential resources and survivor support.
- Promoting Health & Well-being – Conducted workshops and outreach programs addressing drug abuse among female youth, raising awareness and fostering healthier communities.
- Peacebuilding & Inclusive Governance – Partnered with Internews to empower women in peacebuilding, governance, and conflict resolution, creating more inclusive and peaceful communities.

Impact

APMDO is transforming lives in Afar by empowering women and girls through advocacy, legal support, and economic empowerment.

With GIZ's support, APMDO's awareness campaigns in Afambo woreda have led to a significant reduction in FGM/C. Women once silenced by harmful norms are now advocating for their rights. To combat SGBV, APMDO provides survivor support and partners with the Ethiopian Women Lawyers' Association for legal protection. Through Internews' peacebuilding initiatives, women are taking active roles in governance and conflict resolution.

Beyond advocacy, APMDO equips women with business skills, fostering economic independence and strengthening community resilience. Their commitment to gender equality continues to drive lasting change.

Our Vision

To drive sustainable social and economic development within pastoral communities by continuously adapting to evolving social realities. Through knowledge-driven solutions, we strive to build a society that upholds equality, social justice, and human rights for all.

Future Plans & Goals

- Unleash the potential of disadvantaged women and children by providing education, specialized training, healthcare, and livelihood skills to help them succeed in life.
- Advance child and gender development as a core focus, ensuring that women and children receive the support needed to thrive in their communities.
- Facilitate social and economic development through community-driven programs and social work initiatives, fostering resilience and sustainable growth.



BIRUH TESFA PWD ASSOCIATION

Year Established: 2013

Region of Operation: North Showa Zone, Ensaro Woreda, Lemi Cty

About us

Biruh Tesfa PWD Association is dedicated to empowering persons with disabilities (PWDs) by advocating for their rights, economic independence, and social inclusion. The association works to combat discrimination, raise awareness of PWD rights and obligations, and provide skills training and economic opportunities to promote self-sufficiency.

Through partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and the Power to You(th) project, Biruh Tesfa strengthens advocacy efforts and expands its impact, working to eliminate HTPs, advance gender equality, and improve access to health and education services for PWDs. The association envisions a society where every individual, regardless of ability, has equal opportunities to thrive and contribute.

Key Programs & Activities

- Advocacy for PWD rights, focusing on social and economic inclusion
- Capacity-building programs for PWD self-sufficiency and employment
- Community workshops on HTPs, SGBV, and SRH
- Engagement with traditional leaders & religious institutions to prevent HTPs
- Collaboration with schools & community groups for inclusive education & youth empowerment.

Target Communities

- Marginalized PWD groups
- PWD youth engaged in the Power to You(th) project
- Traditional FGM/C practitioners, Edirs, and religious leaders
- Local communities advocating for inclusivity

Key Achievements

- Advocacy for Employment & Education – Secured government jobs for 10 disabled youth and facilitated free boarding school education for three disabled students.
- Strengthening Disability Rights Advocacy – With support from Hiwot Ethiopia’s Power to You(th) project, improved advocacy skills and successfully challenged government sectors to promote PWD inclusion.
- Capacity Building & Institutional Growth – Enhanced financial, material, and leadership capacity, enabling the association to renovate its office, expand outreach, and provide training to disabled youth.
- Shifting Community Perceptions – Worked to challenge negative stereotypes and increase PWD participation in education, career development, and economic opportunities, boosting their competitiveness by 50%.



Impact

Despite widespread stigma against persons with disabilities in Ensaro district, Biruh Tesfa has successfully challenged misconceptions and advocated for economic and educational inclusion. With support from Hiwot Ethiopia's Power to You(th) project, the association strengthened its advocacy skills and expanded its reach.

Through persistent lobbying, Biruh Tesfa enabled 10 disabled youth to secure government jobs and facilitated free education for five young people in boarding schools. These milestones prove that PWDs are capable, employable, and competitive, reshaping how the community views disability.

Today, employed and educated disabled youth are serving as role models, mentoring others, and breaking barriers. The association continues to push for stronger PWD-friendly policies and community inclusivity, ensuring that no disabled person is left behind.

Our Vision

To empower persons with disabilities by promoting their rights and economic self-sufficiency.

Future Plans & Goals

- Promote sustainable agriculture to enhance livelihoods within the community.
- Encourage environmental conservation practices to create a more sustainable and inclusive society.



BORDERLESS CHARITY ASSOCIATION

Year Established: 2013

Region of Operation: Amhara Region, Ethiopia

About us

Founded in 2013 by 15 dedicated volunteers, Borderless Charity Association operates under the motto “Let’s Think Good”, fostering community support, charity, and empowerment. The association works to uplift children, the elderly, and youth by providing educational resources, social support, and substance abuse prevention programs.

Through a strong culture of mutual assistance, the organization encourages philanthropy and volunteerism, ensuring vulnerable community members receive the help they need. By addressing education, social welfare, and youth empowerment, it continues to promote hope, dignity, and resilience among marginalized groups.

Key Programs & Activities

- Educational Support – Distributing materials & running a mini library
- Elderly Care & Social Support – Home visits & holiday feeding programs
- Civic Engagement & Volunteerism – Blood donations & city cleaning initiatives
- Art & Ethics Classes – Teaching Ethiopian values through free community programs
- Substance Abuse Awareness & Mental Health Support – Empowering youth & providing psychological treatment

Target Communities

- Urban poor children & youth
- Elderly individuals in need of support
- Marginalized and vulnerable communities



Key Achievements

- Provided psychological counseling to help street children and youth reintegrate into their hometowns.
- Conducted a community campaign on SGBV, raising awareness and promoting prevention.
- Supported small business startups, empowering individuals and their families economically.
- Assisted 6 young people in overcoming addiction through psychological counseling.
- Promoted positive social media use among local youth and charitable organizations.
- Regularly assisted 100 elderly individuals during holidays through support initiatives.
- Helped 104 young people create educational materials annually.
- Organized blood donation drives every three months, ensuring a consistent supply of donations.

Impact

For years, Borderless Charity Association has faced numerous challenges while advocating for sustainable support for marginalized communities. Through persistent efforts, the association successfully secured land to build its own office, strengthening its ability to serve the community more effectively.

One of the association's founders dedicated years to advocating for a rehabilitation center in Bahir Dar. His relentless efforts, including marching along with a banner to raise awareness, contributed to the eventual establishment of a rehabilitation center at Tibebe Ghion Hospital. This milestone stands as a testament to the power of consistent advocacy and grassroots activism in creating lasting change.

Our Vision

To see a society free from HTPs, where people uplift and support each other without limitations of perspective or boundaries.

Future Plans & Goals

- Double our impact, increasing the number of beneficiaries from 100 elderly and 104 youth to 408 individuals by 2022.
- Expand operations, establishing 10 branch offices to reach more communities.
- Contribute to national development, actively participating in ongoing national initiatives and social welfare programs.



ELDER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Year Established: 2014

Region of Operation: North Showa Zone, Ataye City

About us

The Elder Development Association (EDA) was founded on March 14, 2014, with 154 member elders (60 men and 94 women) to support marginalized elderly individuals beyond their working years. Over time, the association has expanded its efforts to include community development, youth empowerment, and advocacy.

With support from Hiwot Ethiopia's Power to You(th) project, EDA provides training on harmful traditional practices (HTP), gender transformative approaches (GTA), sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and meaningful youth participation (MYP). These initiatives not only enhance elder welfare but also equip youth and community members with valuable skills to foster a more inclusive and empowered society.

Key Programs

- Income-generating activities (IGA) for work-capable elderly members
- Food & clothing support for vulnerable elders
- Youth advocacy in legal and justice sectors
- Training & awareness programs on HTP, SGBV, SRH, GTA, and MYP
- Collaboration with schools & religious institutions on social and health issues

Target Communities

- Marginalized elderly individuals
- Urban youth engaged in Power to You(th) programs
- Traditional leaders, CBOs, and religious institutions
- Community members impacted by gender and health issues
- Future expansion to rural women and underserved populations



Key Achievements

- Economic Support & IGA – Provided economic aid to 28 elders permanently & 421 temporarily, trained 111 CBO members, and facilitated poultry production for 29 elders.
- Healthcare Assistance – Supplied healthcare materials to 51 elder CBO members.
- HTP Prevention & Advocacy – Trained 2 elders, 2 religious leaders & 7 circumcisers on FGM/C & HTPs.
- FGM/C Research & Community Engagement – Conducted FGM/C research in Ataye City, working with 7 traditional circumcisers & local Edir leaders.
- Rebuilding & Capacity Building – Restored operations after office destruction due to conflict, supported by Hiwot Ethiopia’s Power to You(th) project.
- Youth & SGBV Prevention – Trained students, educators & leaders to reduce harassment & SGBV at Ataye Secondary School.
- Policy & Community Monitoring – Partnered with government, schools & youth-led clubs to prevent SGBV & illegal migrant recruitment.

Impact

Over the past two years, the Elder Development Association (EDA) has expanded its membership to 421 individuals, strengthening its role in community empowerment and social development.

EDA provides consistent support to its most vulnerable members while actively engaging in development initiatives that benefit the wider community. Working in close collaboration with youth-led clubs, government offices, and community leaders, the association fosters a culture of collective progress and inclusivity.

Through regular workshops, training sessions, and networking events, EDA enhances the skills and knowledge of its members, ensuring they can actively contribute to community well-being and social cohesion. These efforts have significantly improved the quality of life for both elderly individuals and the broader society, reinforcing unity and shared progress.

Our Vision

“To create a community where elderly individuals can age with dignity, independence, and well-being by providing financial assistance, affordable housing, and healthcare resources. Through inclusivity and support, we strive to ensure older adults thrive and enjoy their golden years to the fullest.”

Future Plans & Goals

- Promote sustainable agriculture & environmental conservation to build a more resilient community.
- Collaborate with local government & stakeholders to enhance self-sufficiency and address challenges like climate change and economic instability.
- Ensure inclusive development, creating opportunities for all community members, regardless of age, gender, or socioeconomic status.



ENAT CHILDREN CHARITY ASSOCIATION

Year Established: 2016

Region of Operation: Amhara Regional State, North Shewa Zone, Efratanagidim Woreda, Ataye City

About us

Founded in 2016, the Enat Children Charity Association mobilizes community and government support to assist orphans, disabled individuals, and young women. The association collaborates with NGOs to address early marriage, FGM/C, SGBV, and unintended pregnancy, providing educational workshops, counseling, and essential resources.

Dedicated to advocating for vulnerable populations, Enat Children Charity Association works to empower youth, promote gender equality, and ensure access to education and healthcare. Through these efforts, the organization has made a lasting impact on its community.

Key Programs & Activities

- Monthly financial support for orphans, children, and young women
- Providing educational materials & clothing for disadvantaged youth
- Community awareness programs on harmful traditional practices

Target Communities

- Orphans & vulnerable children
- People with disabilities
- Women & young girls at risk of HTPs
- Youth in need of educational and economic support

Key Achievements

- Reduced harmful traditional practices through research-based programs and community awareness.
- Supported three youth to complete university, setting a positive example for others.
- Providing ongoing support to 16 children, helping them break the cycle of poverty and achieve their potential.

Impact

Since its establishment in 2016, the Enat Children Charity Association has been dedicated to supporting orphaned children, young women, and people with disabilities through advocacy, financial aid, and capacity-building initiatives. Despite ethnic conflicts in Ataye city that led to the destruction of its office, the association reorganized and rebuilt itself with the help of Hiwot Ethiopia's Power to You(th) project, receiving 110,000 birr in financial support to resume its operations.



Through its advocacy efforts, the association:

- Raised awareness about unintended pregnancies, SRH, and HTPs in collaboration with health centers in North Shewa.
- Provided educational support to five vulnerable children, including monthly cash assistance of 250 birr and school materials.
- Secured community contributions, convincing 700 government employees to pledge 5-10 birr monthly to sustain their programs.
- Gained 20,000 birr from the North Shewa Zone Health Department for further community interventions.
- Expanded partnerships, working closely with 28 kebeles, Edirs, and local stakeholders to mobilize financial and non-financial support.
- Supported 31 vulnerable children and youth, two of whom are now pursuing higher education in Bahir Dar and Jigjiga universities.

With a strengthened capacity, the association now envisions expanding its reach, securing land in Ataye city, and transitioning into a national-level NGO. Its continued efforts focus on eradicating HTPs, promoting meaningful youth participation, and fostering inclusive community development.

Our Vision

To create a community where orphaned children, people with disabilities, and young women are empowered and supported to reach their full potential.

Future Plans & Goals

- Expand partnerships with community organizations and grassroots initiatives to increase impact.
- Collaborate with local NGOs to pool resources and expertise for addressing social issues more effectively.
- Strengthen support systems to create lasting, positive change in the lives of vulnerable groups.



FANA ADDIS TIWULID ETHIOPIA

Year Established: 2007

Region of Operation: Amhara Regional State, Ethiopia

About us

Fana Addis Tiwulid Ethiopia (FATE) is an indigenous, non-profit, and community-based CSO established in May 2007 by a group of young innovators. The organization is dedicated to improving adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), youth empowerment, and poverty reduction.

FATE operates youth and community led initiatives at the grassroots level, reaching marginalized communities through awareness campaigns, capacity-building programs, and economic empowerment strategies. Over the years, the organization has impacted thousands of adolescents and youth, creating model Anti-AIDS and reproductive health clubs while facilitating sustainable livelihoods for at-risk populations.

Key Programs & Activities

- Youth Development – Providing leadership, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement training
- SRH & SGBV Prevention – Educating youth on SRH, family planning, and gender-based violence prevention.
- HIV Prevention & Awareness – Running community-led testing, awareness, and stigma reduction programs.
- Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities – Advocating for education, employment, and social participation opportunities.
- Civic Engagement and Peacebuilding – Promoting democracy and accountability through youth participation and encouraging dialogue, mediation, and trauma healing to foster social cohesion.

Target Communities

- Children & adolescents
- Urban & rural youth
- Women & marginalized groups
- Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)
- People Living with HIV (PLHIV)

Key Achievements

- Empowered 3,000+ adolescents across 10 schools in North Shewa with SRH and life skills training using the Meharebie curriculum, enhancing decision-making and advocacy for their health and rights.
- Enabled 150 children with disabilities to access inclusive education, provided assistive devices, and supported families with seed grants for income-generating activities (IGAs).
- Trained 100+ community leaders and educators on disability inclusion.
- Launched MelaNet, an intranet platform at Debre Berhan University, engaging 3,000+ students in peer-led SRH discussions, with 500+ monthly interactions and 40% of users gaining better access to credible health information.
- Mobilized 500 youth volunteers in Debre Berhan IDP camps to deliver HIV prevention training, facilitating 2,500+ screenings in six months and linking 85% of at-risk individuals to care.



Impact

Amid the challenges of life in Debre Berhan's IDP camp, Mr. Miheret became a catalyst for change, using knowledge to transform lives. With support from FATE and AHF, he trained as a peer educator, gaining skills in HIV prevention, care, and life skills promotion.

Leading by example, he got tested for HIV and began educating peers in the camp. Within two weeks, his advocacy led 35 young individuals to seek HIV testing, breaking stigma and encouraging behavior change.

Today, Mr. Miheret continues his work with peer educators and funding partners, proving that empowered individuals can drive lasting community transformation.

Our Vision

FATE envisions a future where every young person in Ethiopia thrives, living a healthy, joyful life and shaping a vibrant, prosperous community for generations to come.

Future Plans & Goals

- Reach 10,000+ youth with life skills, leadership, and economic empowerment programs.
- Empower 5,000 girls & young women through training, leadership, and income opportunities.
- Strengthen HIV/AIDS prevention with awareness, care, and support programs.
- Train 1,000 volunteers for education, health, and social initiatives.
- Promote peace & conflict resolution through community dialogue and reconciliation.
- Improve WASH access by expanding clean water, sanitation, and hygiene programs.
- Support inclusive education by integrating children with special needs into schools.
- Ensure sustainability through income-generating activities for long-term impact.



BAHIR DAR GIRLS CLUB FEDERATION

Year Established: 2010

Region of Operation: Amhara Region, Ethiopia

About us

Founded in 2010, the Girls Club Federation is dedicated to empowering female students and youth by strengthening school-based girls' clubs, preventing school dropout, and promoting leadership and decision-making skills. The federation works to protect young women from sexual harassment, promote gender equality, and enhance their academic success.

Through capacity-building programs and advocacy, the federation ensures that girls develop independence, confidence, and leadership skills, enabling them to thrive in education and society.

Key Programs & Activities

- Strengthening school-based girls' clubs to promote leadership and advocacy.
- Raising awareness on gender equality, HIV/AIDS, SRH, FGM/C, and early marriage.
- Training & capacity building to enhance decision-making and leadership skills.
- Experience-sharing sessions & mentorship for young women.

Target Communities

- Female students & youth in urban schools

Key Achievements

- Leadership Development – Successfully brought female students and young people into leadership roles.
- Policy Advocacy – Advocated for the maternity leave policy for female students issued by the Ministry of Education.
- Expansion & Growth – Progressing towards nationwide registration and securing land for an office, with resource mobilization underway.
- Innovative Sustainability – Implemented a membership fee system in schools to fund federation activities and provide sanitary pads to girls' clubs.



Impact

Through peer-to-peer training, the Girls Club Federation successfully prevented two child marriages, demonstrating the power of youth-led advocacy in protecting girls' rights and promoting gender equality.

Our Vision

To prevent sexual harassment and HTPs among female students by creating awareness, fostering experience-sharing platforms, and empowering young women to advocate for their rights, including issues like FGM/C, HIV/AIDS, SRH, and early marriage.

Future Plans & Goals

- Strengthen school-based girls' clubs to enhance peer support and leadership.
- Increase female participation in education and leadership roles.
- Empower young women to develop decision-making skills for self-advocacy.
- Secure donor funding to expand and sustain federation initiatives.



HAILEMARIAM MAMO CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION

Year Established: 2020

Region of Operation: Amhara region, North Showa, Debrebrhan, Ethiopia

About us

Hailemariam Mamo Charitable Association is a non-governmental, charitable organization dedicated to improving the reproductive health and overall well-being of youth and adolescents in Debre-Birhan. Our mission is to empower young people with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary to make informed decisions about their reproductive health, thereby enhancing their quality of life and contributing to the development of a healthy, equitable community.

Beyond reproductive health, the organization also supports children, elders, and marginalized groups, working to promote gender equity, youth participation in peace and development, and human rights advocacy.

Key Programs & Activities

- SRH Awareness & Education – Providing reproductive health education for youth and adolescents.
- Student Support – Supplying teaching materials to students in need.
- Aid for Marginalized Groups – Offering cash or material support to vulnerable communities.
- Community Volunteer Engagement – Organizing summer volunteer activities.
- Research & Advocacy – Participating in research and policy discussions.
- CSO Networking & Collaboration – Partnering with Amref Health Africa & other NGOs.

Target Communities

- Urban youth & school students
- Marginalized groups & underserved populations



Key Achievements

- Elder Support – Provided financial assistance and renovated five homes for elderly individuals in need.
- Essential Aid for Vulnerable Women – Supplied oil and pasta to 10 women living in extreme poverty.
- Educational Support – Distributed teaching materials to students.
- Community Volunteering – Engaged in summer volunteer activities to support local communities.
- Capacity Building – Trained members on MIPY, GTA, and RESEARCH in collaboration with Amref Health Africa.
- Youth Empowerment – Conducted training sessions for university students on leadership and advocacy.
- Humanitarian Aid – Provided clothing and food for internally displaced people.
- Medical Assistance – Helped two children with cardiac conditions access treatment in Addis Ababa.
- CSO Collaboration – Participated in experience-sharing meetings with other CSOs, hosted by Amref Health Africa.
- Office Infrastructure – Received office furniture support from Amref Health Africa.

Our Vision

To see youth in Debre-Birhan equipped with the knowledge, resources, and opportunities to achieve optimal reproductive health and well-being.

Future Plans & Goals

- Conduct workshops & training on gender issues for youth.
- Advocate for gender equality policies in the community.
- Establish a youth advisory board for decision-making participation.
- Organize community events focused on youth empowerment & leadership.
- Develop a volunteer program to support elders with daily needs.
- Create a financial assistance fund for vulnerable elders & children.



SOLIDARITY FOR INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Year Established: 2010

Region of Operation: Aysaita, Afar, Ethiopia

About us

Solidarity for Integrated and Sustainable Development (SISD) is a board-led NGO that has been serving pastoralist communities for over a decade. The organization focuses on education, health, water and sanitation, livelihood improvement for pastoralist women, and environmental protection. With extensive experience in donor-funded projects, SISD specializes in education, public health, and community engagement to improve the lives of marginalized populations.

Target Communities

- Pastoralist communities
- Orphans & vulnerable children
- Women & girls
- Teachers & school supervisors
- War-affected communities

Key Programs & Activities

Education Initiatives

- Alternative Basic Education (ABE) & Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) programs.
- Boarding school in Aysaita for Grades 7-11, with land secured for expansion.
- Orphans & Vulnerable Children Education Project, benefiting 1,000+ primary school students.
- Community Development & Health
- Integrated Community Development Project strengthening engagement with CSOs & local governments.
- Community Health Project providing health education & advocacy in six woredas.



- Teacher training on inclusive teaching & school leadership, focusing on war-affected areas.

Women's Empowerment & Livelihood Support

- Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to improve economic opportunities for pastoralist women.
- Programs to reduce child labor, prevent school dropouts, and provide social protection services.

Social Accountability & Governance

- Citizen monitoring of education & health services using social accountability tools.

Key Achievements

- Expanded access to education through boarding schools & ABE/FAL programs, securing 40,000 m² of land for school expansion.
- Provided educational materials to 1,000+ primary school students across 10 districts.
- Strengthened engagement between CSOs, local governments, and communities, improving education & health services.
- Trained teachers & school supervisors in inclusive teaching & leadership, particularly in war-affected areas.
- Established Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to enhance women's economic participation and reduce child labor.
- Implemented community health programs across six woredas, improving health education and advocacy.

Our Vision

SISD envisions a resilient and self-sufficient pastoralist community in Afar, Ethiopia, where access to quality education, healthcare, sustainable livelihoods, and environmental protection is ensured for all, empowering individuals and communities to achieve long-term development and social well-being.

Future Plans & Goals

- Expand Education Access – Scale up ABE, FAL, and boarding schools for underserved Afar communities.
- Improve Community Health – Expand public health, health education, and WASH interventions.
- Empower Women & Livelihoods – Support income generation, SHGs, and social protection programs.
- Support Conflict-Affected Education – Ensure inclusive, continuous learning in war-affected areas.
- Advance Environmental Protection – Implement reforestation, water management, and conservation programs.
- Strengthen Institutional Capacity – Enhance training, technology use, and governance.
- Expand Partnerships & Advocacy – Collaborate with CSOs, government, and global partners.



TESFA TIWOLD HIV POSITIVE ASSOCIATION

Year Established: 2014

Region of Operation: Amhara Regional State, North Shewa Zone, Shewarobit City

About us

Tesfa Tiwold HIV-Positive Association was founded in 2014 by seven individuals living with HIV/AIDS to support HIV-positive individuals, orphans, and vulnerable groups. With financial and technical backing from the Shewarobit City Administration HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Office and Church, the association works to provide healthcare access, education, and financial assistance.

Registered with the Ethiopian Non-Governmental Organizations Association Agency, the association received 110,000 birr from Hiwot Ethiopia's Power to Youth Project to enhance its office infrastructure and capacity-building efforts. Through awareness programs and community training, the organization aims to empower youth, promote healthy behaviors, and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Key Programs & Activities

- HIV/AIDS & TB Prevention – Educating communities on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and reproductive health.
- Community Awareness – Training on harmful traditional practices and sexual health.
- Support for HIV-Positive Individuals – Providing financial aid and healthcare access.
- Women's Empowerment – Advocating for gender equality and economic support programs.
- Youth Engagement – Equipping young people with health education and life skills to promote safer behaviors.

Target Communities & Beneficiaries

- People living with HIV (PWHIV)
- Orphans & vulnerable children
- People with disabilities
- Women & youth



Key Achievements

- Expanded HIV/AIDS Support – Provided financial and healthcare assistance to 13 women living with HIV/AIDS and ensured consistent drug adherence for HIV-positive individuals.
- Orphan Care & Social Support – Supported 28 orphans with essential resources for their well-being.
- Community Awareness & Training – Promoted reproductive health, harmful traditional practices (HTP) prevention, and gender equality in rural schools.
- Legal Advocacy & Justice – Trained village leaders on HTP laws, collaborated with youth clubs to bring perpetrators to justice, and influenced community norms.
- Youth Empowerment & Civic Engagement – Advocated for youth rights at Kewot Woreda Council meetings and organized workshops on civic responsibility.
- Institutional Strengthening – Secured 110,000 birr in funding from Hiwot Ethiopia to provide office supplies and capacity-building training.
- Government & NGO Collaboration – Strengthened partnerships with government agencies and NGOs to improve public health and community education programs.

Impact

By empowering Ider leaders and community groups to take a stand against harmful traditional practices, we hope to create a safer and more inclusive environment for all community members. Our ultimate goal is to promote respect for human rights and gender equality within the community, while also preserving the cultural heritage and traditions that are valuable to the Ider people. Through education, advocacy, and collaboration, we believe that we can bring about positive change and create a more just society for future generations.

Our Vision

To educate communities, promote gender equality, prevent HIV/AIDS and TB, and provide financial and medical support. Through advocacy and empowerment, we strive to create a healthier, more inclusive, and just society where individuals and families can thrive.

Future Plans & Goals

- Strengthen partnerships with community organizations & grassroots initiatives.
- Expand education & awareness on gender equality, HIV/AIDS, and TB prevention.
- Enhance financial & medical support for vulnerable individuals.
- Promote early detection & treatment to reduce stigma & improve health outcomes.
- Adopt a holistic approach to healthcare, inspiring long-term community change.



LUCY INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Year Established: 2016

Region of Operation: Afar, Ethiopia

About us

Lucy Integrated Development Association (LIDA) is a local NGO established in February 2016 to improve the livelihoods of pastoralist communities in Afar, particularly marginalized women, children, elders, and unemployed youth. The organization focuses on education, health, economic empowerment, and social protection, aiming to equip individuals with knowledge, skills, and resources to become productive citizens.

LIDA collaborates with government and development partners to enhance regional development through skill-building, livelihood support, and advocacy efforts.

Key Programs & Activities

- Education & Youth Empowerment – Providing school materials, teacher training, and skill-building for youth.
- Health & Well-being – Expanding HIV/AIDS awareness, maternal health, nutrition, and WASH programs.
- Economic Empowerment – Supporting business training, IGAs, and self-sufficiency for women and refugees.
- Community Protection & Advocacy – Preventing HTPs, SGBV, and human trafficking through education and legal advocacy.
- Humanitarian Support – Delivering food, essential supplies, and disaster relief to vulnerable groups.

Target Communities

- Women & girls
- Children & youth
- Elders

Key Achievements

- Expanded education access by supporting vulnerable children with school materials, sponsorships, and teacher training.
- Trained communities on HIV/AIDS prevention and reduced stigma through peer-to-peer awareness programs.
- Provided food & essential supplies to IDPs and refugee households through partnerships with government and NGOs.
- Empowered women & youth through business training, skill-building, and income-generating initiatives.
- Advocated for WASH improvements by increasing clean water access and sanitation awareness in underserved areas.
- Addressed HTPs by training community leaders, religious figures, and youth clubs on FGM/C, child marriage, and human trafficking.
- Strengthened environmental conservation efforts through reforestation and sustainable water management programs.
- Conducted research & advocacy campaigns on gender equality, health, and cultural preservation.

Impact

In the rural setting of Mille district, Afar, LIDA established a Fiema (youth) group in 2023 to end FGM/C in Harsis Kebele. Through social mobilization, they engaged religious leaders, elders, and youth, highlighting the health risks and human rights violations of FGM/C.

Women in the group shared personal testimonies of the physical and emotional pain caused by FGM/C, which resonated deeply with the community. And youth activists organized awareness campaigns using theater and music to spread the message. As a result, many women collectively decided to abandon FGM/C, leading to a visible increase in uncut girls in the community.

This success shows how community-driven advocacy can dismantle HTPs and empower women and girls.

LIDA strives to be a leading organization in transforming communities by empowering marginalized women, children, and youth. Through collaboration and integration, we aim to create sustainable opportunities for active participation in regional and national development, enabling them to build better lives.

Our Vision

LIDA strives to be a leading organization in transforming communities by empowering marginalized women, children, and youth. Through collaboration and integration, we aim to create sustainable opportunities for active participation in regional and national development, enabling them to build better lives.

Future Plans & Goals

- Enhance socio-economic opportunities for marginalized communities.
- Improve overall community well-being & quality of life.
- Strengthen community capacity & sense of ownership.
- Advance knowledge management for informed decision-making.
- Promote environmental conservation for sustainable development.
- Drive social norm change to eliminate HTPs.



ABAY CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION

Year Established: 2020

Region of Operation: Bahir dar city, Amhara

About us

Abay Charity Association (ACA) is a youth-initiated, local NGO based in Bahir Dar, legally registered since August 18, 2020. Founded by 24 young community members—and now with over 223 members, including youth with disabilities—ACA promotes inclusive, participatory development. The organization is independent of politics and guided by strong values, with a clear vision, strategic plan, and governance structure led by a 7-member executive committee, internal auditor, and advisory board.

Key Programs & Activities

- Health & hygiene: nutrition, sanitation, blood donation, and health outreach
- Education support: scholarships, supplies, and tutoring
- Youth & women empowerment: life skills, volunteerism, job readiness, and entrepreneurship
- Community care: roadside feeding, home repairs for elders, and civic campaigns
- Environmental & technological initiatives: sanitation drives and promotion of innovation

Target Communities

- Vulnerable youth (including university students, youth with disabilities, drug-affected youth, and returned migrants)
- Marginalized women (including SGBV survivors and female sex workers)
- Children and elderly in need (orphans, street-connected youth, schoolchildren, and elders)
- Other neglected and underserved community members

Key Achievements

- Trained 25+ youth in volunteerism, club management, and personal development
- Organized feeding programs for vulnerable people during 5 major national holidays
- Conducted bi-monthly sanitation campaigns and quarterly blood drives
- Provided door-to-door health outreach
- Offered local scholarships and educational supplies
- Supported 3 youth to obtain driving licenses for job opportunities
- Carried out 5 home maintenance projects for elderly community members

Impact

- In 2023, with support from Kefeta, over 50 youth received training on entrepreneurship and business planning; 30% have since secured employment.
- In partnership with OSSHD (2022–2024), ACA implemented an HIV prevention program using peer learning, identifying 15+ HIV-positive individuals and linking them to care.
- Provided emergency food and shelter during periods of internal displacement from Oromia to Amhara.
- Successfully executed multiple below-the-line (BTL) awareness events, strengthening community engagement.

Our Vision

To see a community (youth) wellbeing is improved; communities actively participate and benefited from multidimensional development activities and equality and security is valued.

Future Plans & Goals

Abay Charity Association is committed to empowering vulnerable communities and promoting inclusive development. In the years ahead, the organization aims to expand its support for migrant returnees and marginalized groups by creating sustainable job and business opportunities for youth. It also plans to mobilize community efforts around environmental protection, preservation of cultural heritage, and strengthening local social safety nets. A key priority will be the provision of integrated support services for those most in need—including orphans, schoolchildren, the elderly, SGBV survivors, drug-affected youth, female sex workers, and historically neglected groups such as the Negede Woyto—ensuring that no one is left behind.



After Training on club management



AFAR WOMEN'S FEDERATION

Year Established: 2009

Region of Operation: Afar Region

About us

The Afar Women's Federation is a large, non-governmental organization established to empower women economically, socially, and politically. With over 62,000 members, the Federation brings together grassroots women's associations to collectively address challenges and improve women's well-being across the region. It promotes structured, inclusive participation, enabling women to claim their legal rights, benefit from national development, and contribute to peacebuilding and democratic governance. The Federation prioritizes sustainability by strengthening internal systems and building the capacity of its member organizations.

Key Programs & Activities

- Economic Empowerment – IGAs, small-scale business support, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship training.
- Leadership & Capacity Building – Workshops and mentoring to promote women's leadership and civic engagement.
- Advocacy & Gender Equality – Campaigns against SGBV and HTPs, and collaboration on women's rights policies.
- Humanitarian Support – Aid and psychosocial services for conflict-affected women and displaced families.
- Education & Skills Training – Literacy and vocational programs, with a focus on promoting girls' education.
- Networking & Partnerships – Supporting grassroots women's groups and collaborating with local and international stakeholders.

Target Communities

- Rural and urban women
- Pastoralist women
- Marginalized groups
- Women with disabilities
- Young women and girls

Key Achievements

- **Enhanced Women's Participation in Leadership:**- Successfully increased the involvement of Afar women in decision-making processes across community, woreda, and regional levels by building their capacity through training and mentorship programs.
- **Economic Empowerment Initiatives:**-Implemented income-generating activities (IGAs) for vulnerable women in conflict-affected areas, improving their financial stability through small-scale businesses such as tea shops, local markets, and handicraft enterprises.
- **Advocacy for Gender Equality:**- Effectively advocated for policy changes that promote women's rights, resulting in

Impact

Creating Economic Empowerment for Conflict-Affected Women in Afar In 2023, the Afar Women Federation identified a group of vulnerable women in Dubti, Semera, and Logiya towns who had been severely impacted by conflict and displacement. Many of these women faced economic hardship, limiting their ability to support their families. To address this, I led a project that introduced income-generating activities (IGAs) tailored to their needs and local market conditions.

Through comprehensive training on financial literacy, business management, and market linkages, these women were equipped with the skills to establish small businesses such as tea and coffee shops, traditional food preparation (ashet businesses), and petty trade. The project provided startup capital, including essential equipment and materials.

As a result, over 50 women successfully launched their businesses, improving their household income and reducing dependency on humanitarian aid. The project not only enhanced their economic status but also boosted their confidence and social involvement. Several participants became role models, inspiring other women in their communities to pursue similar opportunities.

This initiative significantly contributed to strengthening the resilience and economic empowerment of conflict-affected women in the Afar Region, demonstrating the positive impact of targeted support and capacity-building efforts.

Our Vision

To see a developed Ethiopia where all women in our region are organized, actively participating, and their equality and benefits are ensured. To enable Afar women to secure their rightful place by ensuring their active participation, recognizing their significant societal responsibilities, and addressing their needs effectively.

Future Plans & Goals

To build the capacity to implement the federation's organizational structure at each level, addressing challenges faced by female members in economic, social, and political aspects by resolving these issues and strengthening their capacity. This will be achieved through active participation in good governance, development processes, and peacebuilding efforts at all levels, ensuring their equal involvement and maximizing their benefits, ultimately contributing to the creation of a prosperous society and nation.



AMHARA WOMEN ASSOCIATION'S FEDERATION

Year Established: 2009

Region of Operation: Amhara National Regional State

About us

The Amhara Women Association's Federation is a legally registered CSO established under Proclamation No. 194/2012. As a regional umbrella organization, Amhara Women Association's Federation unites and coordinates the efforts of seven member associations, including groups representing disabled women, women writers, entrepreneurs, young women, and domestic workers. With a vast reach of over 1.8 million members and thousands of volunteers, the Federation operates across 22 branches in 14 zones and several major cities in the Amhara region. Its core mission is to guarantee women's rights and roles in social, economic, and political spheres through coordination, capacity-building, and advocacy.

Key Programs & Activities

- Capacity Building & Knowledge Sharing – Supporting member associations through training, technical support, and experience-sharing platforms.
- Economic Empowerment – Promoting women's participation and benefits in formal/informal businesses.
- Social & Political Empowerment – Advancing women's roles in decision-making, governance, and community leadership.
- Advocacy on SGBV & Justice – Identifying and addressing violence against women; engaging with justice institutions to ensure accountability.
- Partnership Development – Strengthening collaboration with national and international networks to amplify impact.

Target Communities

- Rural and urban women
- Youth and marginalized groups
- Communities impacted by SGBV and poor governance

Key Achievements

- Employment partnership established through a signed agreement between AWF and Bahir Dar University, facilitating women's job opportunities.
- Delivered short-term capacity building trainings to women on:
 - Leadership, project planning, M&E, data analysis
 - Business skills and cooperative organization
 - Socio-economic empowerment topics
- Supported long-term academic advancement:
 - Since 2006, over 517 women trained through first degree and master's programs.
- Held strategic dialogues with the International Republican Institute to assess and strengthen Federation performance.
- Implemented the Women's Voice and Leadership project with Plan International Canada, advancing gender roles and responsibilities from regional to kebele level.
- Partnered with CIPE (Center for International Private Enterprise) on research and advocacy related to women's economic empowerment in the Amhara Region.

Impact

The Federation's interventions have led to transformative, long-term changes in the project areas, particularly in shifting gender norms, improving women's well-being, and promoting gender equality. Women in target communities have experienced empowerment across economic, social, and leadership spheres through a combination of short- and long-term training programs. The project has contributed to a decline in harmful traditional practices, while fostering volunteerism and leadership among women, laying the foundation for systemic change and a more equitable future.

Our Vision

To see economically, socially and politically empowered women and gender equality ensured system in the region with different women based organizations support and engagement.

Future Plans & Goals

By the end of 2028, We will contribute to gender equality and equity in Amhara region by improving the capacity of five federation member associations, women leaders, members, and communities through inclusive, participatory, and empowerment approach with effective partnership with the community, CBOs, Donors, and government institutions.

We plan to achieve this goal through eight strategic objectives: Leadership & Governance, Institutional Strengthening, Partnerships & Networking, Resource Mobilization, Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL), Public Relations & Communications, Evidence-Based Advocacy, and Targeted Interventions.



LIGHT ETHIOPIA

Year Established: 2012

Region of Operation: All Regions/National CSO

About us

Light Ethiopia is a legally registered national, non-profit development organization founded in 2012 and re-registered under Proclamation 1113/2019. Governed by a six-member board of directors, the organization operates across all regions in Ethiopia. Light Ethiopia envisions self-sufficient and sustainable communities, with a core focus on youth, women, adolescent girls, and vulnerable children, including those from immigrant and internally displaced (IDP) backgrounds. The organization provides practical tools and community-based interventions to address economic, social, and educational challenges.

Key Activities

- Youth & Women Empowerment - Power to Youth Project addressing SGBV, child marriage, FGM/C, and unintended pregnancy (ongoing)
- Girls' Education & School Infrastructure - Construction of Girls Leadership Center in Kombolcha (completed)
- Child & Family Livelihoods - School Feeding Programs in Amhara and Oromia (ongoing), Food Distribution in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, and Somali (completed)
- Emergency Response - Food aid to war-affected schools in Tigray (completed)
- Peace, Democracy & Good Governance - Community Dialogue for Peace (North Shewa & Oromo Special Zones – discontinued), Elite Dialogue between Amhara and Oromo scholars (completed), Voter & Electoral Education in North Shewa (completed)

Target Communities

- Youth and women in urban and rural communities
- Adolescent girls and young women in schools
- Vulnerable children and their families
- Immigrants and locally displaced people (LDPs)

Key Achievements

- Expanded Organizational Presence – Established two regional offices (Amhara & Oromia), one liaison office (Tigray), and two project offices (Kombolcha & Hawassa), strengthening its operational capacity across regions.
- Diversified Funding Partnerships – Secured support from USAID, China Foundation for Rural Development, Ethiopian Aid UK, and others since 2021, broadening its donor base.
- Recognized at Regional & Global Platforms – Represented at major forums including the China NGOs Forum (2023), Reproductive Health Coalition Forum in Ghana (2022), and the UNDP Regional Peace Forum in Addis Ababa, showcasing its interventions and gaining visibility.

Impact

An Enlightened Farmer Becomes an Advocate for Change

Yeshambel Gebre, a farmer from Wenjeta Kebele in Bahir Dar Zuria Woreda, once followed deeply rooted cultural norms—including marrying his wife when she was just 14. Today, he regrets the consequences such traditions have had on girls in his community, many of whom face unintended pregnancies, social stigma, health complications, and mental health issues.

Witnessing these hardships firsthand—including a young girl bedridden after childbirth and another suffering from a mental disorder due to community ridicule—transformed Yeshambel’s perspective. He now speaks out boldly against early marriage and unintended pregnancy, attributing these harms to harmful traditional beliefs, lack of awareness, and poor access to youth-friendly health services.

Today, Yeshambel is a vocal community advocate, leading awareness campaigns and supporting adolescent girls. He actively works to cancel early marriage plans and promote safer, more informed choices—proving that change is possible, even from within.

Our Vision

Light Ethiopia envisions self-sufficient and sustainable communities in Ethiopia

Future Plans & Goals

Light Ethiopia aims to promote human dignity by addressing the developmental needs of communities across Ethiopia.

Strategic Objectives:

- Reduce poverty and disaster vulnerability while supporting resilience and recovery.
- Improve access to quality health and education, with a focus on adolescent girls.
- Combat HTPs, especially child, early, and forced marriage, and FGM/C.
- Support national efforts in food security and environmental protection.
- Facilitate community-driven development through self-help and grassroots initiatives.
- Prioritize gender equality and women’s empowerment across all programming.
- Provide youth-friendly services and information, addressing the needs of young people.
- Promote peace, democracy, and good governance as foundations for sustainable development.



TILA VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION

Year Established: 2020

Region of Operation: Amhara region West Gojjam and Bahir Dar specially zone

About us

Tila Voluntary Association was founded in 2020 by 175 students in Bahir Dar City and is legally registered under the West Gojjam Zone Attorney General's Office. Since its inception, the association has actively taken on social responsibilities—providing educational materials, clothing, housing support, and basic services to vulnerable groups. Built on youth-driven volunteerism, Tila continues to serve its community through both humanitarian aid and development-focused programs.

Key activities

- Youth Development & Training – Soft skills training and SRH/SGBV education for adolescents and youth.
- Economic & Social Support – Job creation for youth; monthly housing support; healthcare and medical expense coverage.
- Humanitarian Assistance – Feeding programs for elders and families; direct support to street children.
- Educational Access – Provision of school and sanitary materials for students; organizing an annual book fair.
- Civic Engagement – Blood donation campaigns, national summer volunteer activities, and experience-sharing forums.

Target

- Children & students
- Elderly individuals & their families
- Street children
- Young women and adolescents

Key Achievements

- Supported students who are not covering their educational and sanitary materials
- Successful Partnership with different CSOs
- Successful training on SGBV for Adolescents
- Empowered and delegated a young woman to be the president of the association
- Conducted annual book fair and panel discussion

Impact

Tila Voluntary Association organized the NQI (ንቁ-ኢትዮጵያ) Ethiopia Book Fair and Panel Discussion, a three-day event that brought together youth, families, educators, and local institutions in Bahir Dar to celebrate and promote literacy. The event served as a dynamic platform to foster a love of reading, encourage critical thinking, and strengthen community connections through books and dialogue.

The impact of the event was deeply felt across the community. Children and young people, in particular, expressed a renewed passion for reading, and many families reported that the event inspired them to prioritize books and learning at home. Panel discussions offered valuable conversations on education, creativity, and civic engagement, leaving participants energized and eager for more initiatives that promote intellectual growth.

With the active involvement of institutions like Bahir Dar University, the City's Tourism and Culture Department, and the Youth and Sport Department, the program became a model for inclusive, youth-led community engagement. The overwhelming positive feedback from attendees confirmed the event's lasting influence and the community's appetite for continued literacy-driven gatherings.

Our Vision

To see a generation that is socially, economically and psychologically developed, free from the sprite of absolute dependence and useful to self and their society.

Future Plans & Goals

- Create job opportunities for young people and elderly individuals to support their livelihoods.
- Empower young people economically so they can protect and support themselves and their families.
- Increase the number of active volunteers across the city.
- Promote and strengthen positive Ethiopian values.
- Grow from a local community-based organization into a nationally recognized entity.



Life skill training for youths



CARAMBA SRH CHARITY ASSOCIATION

Year Established: 2021- Youth club 2024- Association

Region of Operation: Amhara regional state, North Shewa zone

About us

Caramba SRH Charity Association began in 2021 as a youth club and officially transitioned into a registered association in 2024. Founded with the vision of supporting vulnerable groups and addressing youth sexual and reproductive health (SRH) challenges, the association is deeply rooted in community mobilization. By raising funds from local communities and partnering with stakeholders, Caramba works to combat HTPs, early marriage, FGM/C, SGBV, and unintended pregnancy. Through workshops, resource distribution, and advocacy, Caramba empowers young people to speak up, access services, and protect their rights.

Key activities

- Awareness & Education – Conduct community workshops on SRH and HTPs, especially targeting youth and women.
- Community Mobilization – Engage stakeholders and local leaders to promote youth rights and prevent early marriage and SGBV.
- Support for Vulnerable Groups – Distribute educational materials, clothing, and basic necessities to orphans, youth, and women in need.
- Resource Collection & Distribution – Raise funds and gather in-kind donations from the community to sustain local support initiatives.
- Youth Empowerment – Encourage informed decision-making, peer leadership, and self-advocacy among adolescents.

Target

- Children and Youth
- Women
- Persons with Disabilities

Key Achievements

Caramba SRH Charity Association has successfully organized a range of community-based initiatives—including awareness campaigns, parent-adolescent dialogues, peer-to-peer sessions, and public events—in schools, public spaces, and local gathering areas. These efforts have raised awareness around SRH, HTPs, education, and social welfare, engaging diverse community members in meaningful dialogue. By reaching people in both formal and informal settings, the association has fostered greater understanding, collective responsibility, and support for youth and vulnerable groups, helping to build a more informed and responsive community.

Impact

Caramba SRH Charity Association has made a powerful impact in its local community by successfully advocating for the cancellation of 28 planned child marriages and disengaging 15 FGM/C practitioners from continuing HTPs. Through community education, awareness campaigns, and direct advocacy with the local kebele administration, the association has helped significantly reduce instances of child marriage and FGM/C. These efforts have not only protected the rights and health of young girls but also fostered a shift in community norms. By equipping community members with knowledge and resources, Caramba has strengthened the foundation for gender equality and long-term protection of girls' rights.

Our Vision

Empowering children, youth, women, and persons with disabilities is essential to building a more inclusive and equitable community. By providing resources, education, and opportunities, we can help them overcome challenges, reach their potential, and contribute positively to society.

Future Plans & Goals

Caramba SRH Charity Association envisions its continued evolution; from a youth club to an association, and now toward becoming a local NGO. By partnering with grassroots initiatives and local organizations, the association aims to expand its reach, pool resources and expertise, and deliver innovative, community-driven solutions to pressing social challenges. This transition represents a major step in the organization's growth and deepens its commitment to sustainable, collaborative impact across the community.



EWUNET ART HEALTH AND VERSATILE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Year Established: 2021-Youth club 2024-Association

Region of Operation: Amhara regional state, North Shewa zone

About us

Ewunet Art Health and Versatile Development Association was founded in 2021 as a youth-led volunteer club focused on arts, health, and community development, and officially transitioned into an association in 2024. Established by 10 young volunteers, the association was driven by a mission to promote positive change through the arts and community service—particularly supporting youth, women, children, and the elderly. Over time, the association has evolved into a key local actor, raising awareness on SRH, HTPs, and broader social challenges, using creative expression and grassroots mobilization to foster inclusive and informed communities.

Key activities

- Awareness & Education – Organizes community events on SRH, HTPs, and inclusive social change using youth-led dialogue and creative expression.
- Community Mobilization – Engages local leaders, schools, and families to challenge social norms and promote informed decision-making.
- Material Support & Outreach – Provides educational materials, clothing, and basic support to vulnerable children, youth, and women.
- Volunteerism Through Art – Uses art-based approaches to mobilize youth and promote social awareness and behavioral change.

Target

- Children and Youth
- Women
- Persons with Disabilities

Key Achievements

Since its founding, Ewunet Art Health and Versatile Development Association has mobilized youth through volunteerism, arts, health education, and community development. In partnership with the Power to Youth project and various government institutions, the association has implemented impactful awareness and prevention initiatives focused on social development. These efforts have not only expanded its membership base to 52 active youth but also led to its formal registration as a Community-Based Development Association under the name Ewunet Art, Health, and Holistic Development Association on November 7, 2023, marking a major milestone in its organizational growth.

Impact

Ewunet Art Health and Versatile Development Association has significantly advanced sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in its community. By increasing access to contraceptives, maternal care, HIV/STI services, and advocating for safe abortion where applicable, the association has helped remove barriers to essential healthcare.

Through comprehensive sexuality education, Ewunet has empowered youth with knowledge about consent, gender equality, and reproductive rights. It has also actively addressed child marriage, early pregnancy, and FGM/C, supporting survivors and advocating for stronger protections.

The association prioritizes inclusive services for people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ youth, and HIV-positive individuals, and combats stigma through outreach and support. On a broader scale, Ewunet engages in policy advocacy, promoting progressive laws and holding authorities accountable for youth-friendly SRHR services.

Our Vision

To see the nature of a healthy generation that embraces internationalism, built on a holistic personality.

Future Plans & Goals

Ewunet Art Health and Versatile Development Association envisions expanding from an association to a local NGO, enabling us to expand our reach and collaborate with community and grassroots initiatives. By pooling resources and expertise with like-minded partners, we can address social challenges more effectively and drive innovative solutions that benefit the entire community. This transition marks a significant milestone, empowering young people to build strong personalities, shift societal attitudes, and strive for excellence, while elevating the community's overall consciousness and creating lasting positive change.



MIH FOR YOUTH CHARITY ORGANIZATION

Year Established: 2003

Region of Operation: Addis Ababa, Amhara, Oromia

About us

MIH for Youth Charity Organization (MIH) is a nationally registered CSO established in 2003 and re-registered in 2019 under Proclamation No. 1113/2019 (Registration No. 0398). With extensive experience in both development and emergency response, MIH partners with government bodies, international NGOs, and UN agencies to implement impactful programs across Ethiopia. The organization is dedicated to creating lasting opportunities for youth while responding to urgent humanitarian needs.

Key activities

- Youth Empowerment – Capacity building and active engagement of young people in leadership and development processes.
- Employment Creation – Skills development and support for income-generating opportunities tailored to youth.
- Nutrition & Health – Malnutrition prevention programs targeting vulnerable communities.
- Humanitarian Response – Emergency relief efforts in collaboration with government and international partners.

Target

- Children and Youth
- Women
- People with Disabilities

Key Achievements

- Increased awareness among youth, community members, government actors, and Social Accountability Committee (SAC) members on SGBV, FGM/C, and Child Marriage.
- Improved understanding of legal measures related to SGBV among target beneficiaries.
- Reduced and cancelled planned cases of SGBV, FGM/C, and child marriage.
- Mobilized local resources to support children in need with educational materials.

Impact

Abaynesh Deslagen is a young woman and member Dagmawi Menelik Sub City Youth Association in Bahir Dar City. She has BSC degree in Construction Management and currently she is working privately. With regard to her engagement with the power to youth project, she mentioned that:

"I am familiar with the power to youth project since last year. I have taken different trainings in the power to youth project and the trainings have allowed me to get insights about Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Harmful Traditional practices and Child Marriage. This in turn has made me to contribute my own to reduce these problems. Child marriage and abduction are problems still existing in our community. I teach the community about the consequences of abduction and child marriage and the adverse effects of child marriage including its exposure to fistula. In addition, I have contributed my own in the cancellation of a child marriage which was arranged by my relative. It was an occasion where my relative decided to engage her 14 years girl into marriage. As I heard this, I communicated and reprimand my relative to stop the marriage and the associated effects of child marriage on the child unless it is cancelled. But, initially, she was not comfortable with my suggestion and she continued it. In the meantime, I advised the girl to refuse the marriage and not to accept it in any way. After many ups and downs, at the end, the marriage was cancelled. Such kind of cases need patience and a series attention and follow up to see positive results. Through awareness raising and through time, I firmly believe such kind of problems will be eliminated from the community."

Our Vision

Ethiopian youth free from social and economic problems.

Future Plans & Goals

- Scale up the Power to Youth project and build on its achievements.
- Improve the nutritional status of mothers and children under five.
- Enhance youth engagement and create employment opportunities.
- Provide sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information and services for young people.



