

Project Progress Report

Project Title: AROHON: Rise of the Climate Warriors

[Project initiated by
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ICCCAD Youth Fellow 2023]
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AROHON

Project info

AROHON: Bridging Imagination with Innovation. Our organization aims to empower Bangladesh's Youth for a Sustainable Future. AROHON revolutionized climate education, empowering Bangladeshi youth through captivating motion comics (3 issues, total: 10 short episodes) and interactive sessions. Our solution merged entertainment with education, igniting a passion for climate action and disaster resilience. By fostering sustainable behavior and enhancing climate knowledge, we have laid the groundwork for a brighter future. The impacts speak volumes: empowered youth, behavioral shifts, amplified awareness, and community engagement. AROHON is not just a project; it is a movement toward a greener, safer Bangladesh, driven by the unstoppable force of our youth.

Objectives of the Project

Broad Objective

Youth-Led Climate Leadership: Inspire Bangladeshi youth to become active agents of positive change, leading the way toward a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Specific Objectives

- **Climate Knowledge Empowerment:** Enhance youth's understanding of climate issues through engaging content, equipping them with actionable knowledge.
- **Sustainable Behavior Adoption:** Develop practical eco-friendly skills among youth, fostering a culture of sustainable practices.

The CAP-RES project has three objectives as follows:

Objective 1: Create enabling environment and foster individuals to enhance their knowledge of climate change issues and develop their problem-solving skills

Objective 2: Generate factual evidence from local practices to scale up at the global level.

Objective 3: Improve institutional efficiency and effectiveness in decision-making and putting into practice in climate intervention

Based on these above objectives which one is more relevant to your project? How your project activities achieved this objective? (Maximum 200 words)

In alignment with the CAP-RES project's objectives, Objective 1 resonates most profoundly with the endeavors of AROHON. Our initiative, designed to empower Bangladeshi youth as climate champions, directly addresses the imperative to create an enabling environment and foster individual development in climate change understanding and problem-solving skills. Through dynamic motion comics, interactive sessions, and engaging competitions, AROHON ignites a passion for climate action and equips youth with actionable knowledge. By instilling a deep understanding of climate issues and cultivating problem-solving skills, we empower individuals to take proactive steps toward climate resilience. AROHON's approach not only educates but also empowers, laying the foundation

for informed decision-making and meaningful contributions to climate intervention at both local and global levels. Thus, our project activities align closely with the objectives outlined, driving tangible progress toward a more climate-resilient future.

Team Composition

Write down name and position, who are solely involved in this project.

Nowreen Tasnim: Founder & Director of AROHON

Faiaz Rafid: Animator & Artist

Tahsin Saif: Sound Producer

Syed Irfan Uddin: Project Coordinator

Mehraj Alam Abesh: Project Coordinator & Script Writer

Muztaba Ahsan Tahmid: Editor and Project Associate

Tahmeed Hasan: Editor and Project Associate

Radia Islam Adiba: Project Associate

Advisor: Syed Fayeze Ahmed

Event Speakers: Nowreen Tasnim, Syed Irfan Uddin, Tahmid Bin Zaman

Event Coordinators: Nowreen Tasnim, Puspita Anjum, Kazi Arik Ayman, Tahmid Bin Zaman, Tahmeed Hasan, Abuhuraira Seam, Zaima Haque, Syed Irfan Uddin, Nazmul Hasan, Muztaba Ahsan Tahmid

Marketing and Social Media Management: Nowreen Tasnim & Syed Irfan Uddin

Location

The AROHON project primarily operates within the jurisdiction of Dhaka South City Corporation, focusing on educational institutions in this area for interactive sessions and engagement activities. However, the impact of the project extends nationwide through online accessibility of the motion comics and educational materials. This approach ensures that the benefits and knowledge imparted by AROHON reach youth across Bangladesh, regardless of their geographic location.

Reached people (Direct and indirect)

Direct Reached People:

1. **Workshop and Interactive Session at Viqarunnisa Noon School & College:** Reached 200 female students from classes 9-10.
2. **Interactive Session & Climatic & DRR Debate at Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka:** Engaged 46 students (both male and female) from the 1st year.

Indirect Reached People:

1. **Motion Comic Production:** Anticipated reach of over 2,000 social media followers upon full release. Organic reach of over 150 followers achieved with teaser release. Expected to engage youth and climate activists worldwide through platforms like

Anime Renaissance 21, fostering a global movement for climate awareness and action in the 21st century.

Summary findings

The AROHON project has yielded promising findings, indicating significant progress towards its objectives. Through workshops, interactive sessions, and motion comic productions, the project successfully engaged Bangladeshi youth, empowering them with climate knowledge and fostering sustainable behavior adoption. Key findings include:

- Direct engagement of 200 female students from Viqarunnisa Noon School & College and 46 students (both male and female) from the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka, in interactive sessions and competitions.
- Anticipated reach of over 2,000 social media followers upon full release of motion comics, with an organic reach of over 150 followers during teaser release.
- The project's potential to influence a wider audience globally through platforms like Anime Renaissance 21, contributing to the growth of a climate-conscious community in the 21st century.

Overall, the findings demonstrate the project's effectiveness in reaching and empowering youth climate warriors, fostering climate resilience, and laying the groundwork for a sustainable future in Bangladesh and beyond.

Describing findings of the project

Describe the progress/findings of your project

The journey of AROHON – Adaptation and Resilience Outreach, Humanitarian Operations Network – has been nothing short of transformative. In our quest to empower Bangladeshi youth as climatic warriors, we've witnessed remarkable progress and impactful findings that resonate far beyond the confines of our immediate reach.

In the short term, AROHON has catalyzed a wave of enthusiasm among Bangladeshi youth, igniting a passion for climate action and resilience. Through engaging workshops, interactive sessions, and the creation of captivating motion comics, we've equipped our future leaders with the knowledge, skills, and determination to confront the challenges posed by climate change head-on. The direct engagement of over 200 students from Viqarunnisa Noon School & College and 46 students from the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka, underscores the project's immediate impact in building climate literacy and fostering sustainable behavior.

Yet, the significance of AROHON extends far beyond these numbers. Our innovative approach – blending entertainment with education – has not only captured the imagination of Bangladeshi youth but has also garnered attention on a global scale. With an anticipated reach of over 2,000 social media followers upon the full release of our motion comics, and the potential to engage youth and climate activists worldwide through platforms like Anime Renaissance 21, AROHON is poised to spark a global movement for climate awareness and action.

In the bigger picture, AROHON represents a beacon of hope for a world grappling with the existential threat of climate change. By empowering today's youth as climatic warriors, we're sowing the seeds for a future where resilience, innovation, and collective action prevail. AROHON's relevance lies not only in its immediate impact but in its enduring legacy – shaping a generation of leaders who will boldly navigate the challenges of our changing climate and forge a path towards a sustainable and resilient future.

Measuring Progress

How many project activities you have done? (These might be workshops, focus groups, or performances, etc). Please list all of these

1. Workshop and Interactive Session at Viqarunnisa Noon School & College.
2. Screening of the animation at Viqarunnisa Noon School & College for students of classes 9-10 (200 female students).
3. Interactive Session & Climatic & DRR Debate at Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka.
4. Screening of the animation for 1st year students at the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka (46 students, both male and female).
5. Motion Comic Production, including teaser release with an organic reach of over 150 followers and anticipated reach of over 2,000 followers upon full release.
6. Engaging with Anime Renaissance 21 and other platforms for global outreach and engagement.
7. Feedback Collection: Solicited feedback from participants during workshops, interactive sessions, and screenings to gauge the effectiveness of the content and engagement strategies.
8. Documentation: Recorded key insights and lessons learned throughout the project implementation process to inform future activities and improve project outcomes.
9. Online Engagement: Leveraged online platforms to gather feedback and engage with the audience, facilitating continuous dialogue and collaboration beyond physical events.

Identifying new skills and where to learn more

What are the most useful skills or practices that you learned? Which do you use most often?

Throughout the AROHON project, several valuable skills and practices were acquired, each contributing to the success and effectiveness of our initiatives. The most useful skills and practices learned include:

1. **Effective Communication:** Communicating complex climate concepts clearly and engagingly, tailored to the audience's level of understanding.
2. **Event Planning and Coordination:** Organizing workshops, interactive sessions, and screenings, ensuring smooth execution and maximum participant engagement.
3. **Content Creation:** Developing captivating motion comics and educational materials that effectively convey climate knowledge and inspire action.

4. **Feedback Collection and Analysis:** Soliciting feedback from participants, analyzing responses, and using insights to improve project activities and content.
5. **Online Engagement:** Leveraging social media and online platforms to reach and engage with a wider audience, fostering continuous dialogue and collaboration.
6. **Documentation and Reporting:** Documenting project progress, lessons learned, and impact to inform stakeholders and guide future initiatives effectively.

Among these skills, effective communication, content creation, and event organizing are utilized most frequently, as they are essential for engaging participants and delivering impactful project activities. However, all skills are integral to the holistic success of the AROHON project and continue to be honed and applied as the initiative progresses.

What knowledge or skills do you think would have improved your project?

Reflecting on the AROHON project, certain additional knowledge and skills could have further enhanced its effectiveness and impact:

1. **Data Analysis and Research:** Stronger proficiency in data analysis techniques could have facilitated a more in-depth understanding of participant feedback and project outcomes, enabling more targeted interventions and content improvements.
2. **Partnership Development:** Enhanced skills in partnership development and collaboration with relevant stakeholders such as local NGOs, government agencies, and international organizations could have facilitated greater resource mobilization and amplification of project efforts.
3. **Digital Marketing:** Further expertise in digital marketing techniques and strategies could have maximized the project's online presence, increased engagement and reach across social media platforms and other digital channels.
4. **Cultural Sensitivity and Adaptation:** A better understanding of cultural nuances and adaptation strategies could have ensured that project activities and content resonate more effectively with diverse audiences, enhancing relevance and impact.

By incorporating these additional areas of expertise into project planning and implementation, AROHON could have further maximized its reach, engagement, and impact, empowering Bangladeshi youth as climate champions and driving positive change toward a sustainable future.

What are the challenges/Risks you faced during the project activities? How you overcome/minimize those challenges?

Challenges/Risks Faced:

1. **Limited Resources:** Constraints in funding and resources posed challenges in executing project activities.
2. **Time Constraints:** Tight timelines for project implementation added pressure to deliver results promptly.
3. **Stakeholder Coordination:** Ensuring effective coordination and collaboration among project stakeholders.

Overcoming/Minimizing Challenges:

1. **Resource Optimization:** Maximizing the use of available resources and seeking additional funding opportunities.
2. **Time Management:** Prioritizing tasks and adhering to a structured timeline to meet project milestones.

3. Stakeholder Engagement: Regular communication and consultation with stakeholders to ensure alignment and cooperation throughout the project lifecycle.

Write down the “lesson-learn” of your project

1. **Online Engagement is Vital:** The importance of online engagement cannot be overstated. Leveraging social media and digital platforms is crucial for reaching and engaging with a wider audience, especially during times of physical distancing. Investing in digital marketing strategies and maintaining an active online presence are essential for sustained impact and outreach.
2. **Community Collaboration is Key:** Collaborating with local communities is essential for ensuring the relevance and effectiveness of project activities. Engaging community members in the planning and implementation process fosters ownership and increases the likelihood of long-term sustainability.
3. **Climatic and DRR Knowledge is Empowering:** Providing education on climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR) empowers individuals to take proactive steps towards resilience. By equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to understand and respond to climatic challenges, we foster a culture of preparedness and adaptation.
4. **Continuous Feedback Drives Improvement:** Soliciting feedback from participants is critical for evaluating the effectiveness of project activities and content. Incorporating feedback loops allows for iterative improvements, ensuring that project interventions remain relevant and impactful.
5. **Production Quality Matters:** The quality of production, whether it be motion comics or educational materials, significantly impacts engagement and effectiveness. Investing in high-quality production values enhances the overall experience for participants and increases the likelihood of knowledge retention.
6. **Flexibility and Adaptability are Essential:** Flexibility and adaptability are essential traits in project implementation, particularly in dynamic and uncertain environments. Being able to pivot and adjust strategies in response to changing circumstances ensures resilience and effectiveness in achieving project goals.

By incorporating these lessons learned into future project planning and implementation, AROHON can continue to effectively empower Bangladeshi youth as climate champions and drive meaningful change towards a sustainable future.

Add most relevant photos of your activities with captions (not more than 4).



*Interactive Session & Workshop at
Viqarunnisa Noon School & College*



*Interactive Session at the Institute of Disaster
Management and Vulnerability Studies,
University of Dhaka*



*Students Of University of Dhaka Preparing for the
Climatic & DRR Debate (Team Spring)*



*A Glimpse of The First Climatic Hero Franchise
(Motion- Anime) “রেনেসাঁ ২১” in Bangladesh*

Write feedback on this innovation fund. (Write a paragraph within 400 words)

- How you know about this
- How you benefited from this
- What are lacking you faced
- How can we make the initiative better for the next year?

Discovering the Youth Innovation Fund was truly serendipitous, as it presented an unprecedented opportunity to turn a long-held dream into reality. The support provided by this initiative has been instrumental in bringing the AROHON project to life. Through the funding received, I was able to engage talented animators, artists, and sound designers to create captivating motion comics that serve as the cornerstone of the initiative. However, the delay in

receiving the funds created some significant challenges, especially in coordinating production timelines and meeting project deadlines. This delay not only impacted the overall timeline of the project but also incurred additional costs due to extended contracts with collaborators. Moving forward, streamlining the fund disbursement process, and ensuring timelier communication would greatly alleviate such challenges for future recipients. Despite the hurdles faced, the Youth Innovation Fund has been a beacon of hope, allowing AROHON to bridge imagination with innovation and bring forth a project that has the potential to revolutionize climate education among Bangladeshi youth. As we look ahead, I am optimistic about the transformative impact that this initiative will continue to have on empowering young changemakers and fostering a more sustainable future.