

Quarterly Narrative Report for the Period 1 September 2023 until 31 December 2023

The quarterly project report shall outline progress achieved against the objectives of our joint project.

1. Project Information and Reporting Period

Project Number: 26822/ P7493	
Due Date of this Report: 25/02/2024	Due Date of the next Report: 15 th April, 2024
Report Submitted by: Jagrata Juba Shangha (JJS)	

2. Quarterly Project Assessment**2.1 Project Monitoring Sheet**

Activities	Status: Completed/ Ongoing/ Delayed	Description of Activities contributing to goal achievement
Cross-cutting and project management/project support		
Establishment of project structures and management approach	Completed	<p>JJS management thoroughly studied the proposal and planned the practical actions following the directions of the proposal. Shared staff were engaged in undertaking the recruitment process and proper planning of the setup of the project and Finding office space, procurement of goods and items. Executive Director is the organizational climate change focal. So he has a good contribution to the establishment of the project structures and management of the project.</p> <p>A project management committee comprising the project head, project finance, Program Director, Finance Director, Admin shared staff and Executive Director holds the monthly meeting to review the project's progress and take policy decisions. Also, the project representatives take part in the organizational management meeting and share the progress of the project.</p> <p>There is a central office that coordinates the activities through three district-level project offices. The Program Manager provides the necessary support for project implementation. The Executive Director, Program Director, and Finance Director provide partial support to run the project.</p>

Staff training	Ongoing	To strengthen the team supporting children and communities in the coastal region, a comprehensive staff orientation on project interventions and a volunteer orientation were conducted on 29-30 November 2023, and December 29 and 30, 2023 respectively. The staff and volunteers acquired valuable insights into the project's activities, objectives, goals, implementation strategy, and advocacy initiatives. This orientation equipped the staff and volunteers to initiate field-level interventions, including communication with stakeholders, volunteer selection, community engagement, and more. Staff and volunteer training will be held in the 1st quarter of the 2nd year.
Project review (visits)	Ongoing	In the reporting period total 42 project review visits were done by the Program Manager, Monitoring and Documentation Officer, Advocacy officer and Program director. This project review visit was held with the stakeholders like the District and sub-district administration, the Education department, the chairman of the Union board, the union secretary, the ward councilor, the high school teacher, the school management committee and the community people. Through the review visit it was discussed about the new project intervention, community selection, school selection and volunteer selection. Through their discussion community and school primarily identified, the decision of interview for volunteer selection made that it will be at the community level. The follow-up of the discussion will go on in the 1st Quarter of the year 2024 for finalizing the community and schools.
Studies/Evaluations	Ongoing	The project has started the process of baseline survey. Advertisement for baseline survey is completed. Application of the consultant/consulting firms were received and potential consultant/consulting firms were analyzed following the KNH evaluation grid. The baseline survey is scheduled to take place in the Q1 2024. This baseline survey will provide the present scenario and actual data of the project working area which will be used in project progress monitoring and evaluation. The findings will be instrumental in monitoring and evaluating project progress, contributing to the measurement of the project's goals and objectives.
Audit		Actually, there are 4 time audit in the total project period which has been allocated similarly each year. But in fact, audit for the year 2023 will take place in the year 2024. So in spite of having the budget in the year 2023 it will be done in the year 2024.
Planned Activities Output 1:	Coastal Children's DRR and Climate Change Forum is established as a functioning network that is able to formulate evidence-based claims and effectively reach out to relevant stakeholders.	

1.1 Develop a group on climate change at the school level.	Ongoing	The project aims to establish student groups on climate change in 24 schools. In the staff and volunteer orientation it was discussed about the criteria of the school selection (like: It must be a secondary school, Preference will be given to co-educational schools where both girls and boys study together, Schools with a larger number of children compared to other schools, Schools the most climatically vulnerable areas of the selected upazila's). Then following the criteria Project staff have observed the project area, marked the vulnerability and discussed with teacher's, education department officials, local elected body for primary selection of the school. In addition school selection issues will be discussed in the project inception meeting of Q1 2024.
1.2 Organizing groups of children from the community who live in the vicinity of the selected schools.	Ongoing	To establish 48 community children's groups near the selected schools, the project initially identified 48 communities in the working area. The selection criteria included choosing communities within the Union where the project would collaborate with schools, focusing on climatically vulnerable areas. Additionally, priority was given to communities where a portion of children do not attend school. Each community group is designed to consist of 23 children, and in each Upazila, there will be four community children's groups.
1.3 Strengthening the children's forum on climate change and disaster preparedness at <i>upazilla</i> and city levels.		This activity was not planned for the year 2023, and will be started in the year 2024.
1.4 Strengthening the regional forum on climate change and disaster risk reduction measures of children and youth from the coastal region at the regional level, involving children's climate groups at the <i>upazilla level</i> , and promoting coordination among children's groups at different levels		This activity was not planned for the year 2023, and will be started in the year 2024.

1.5 Qualification of employees, volunteers and teaching staff in the areas of participatory approach, children's rights, child protection, leadership of children, disaster prevention and climate change promotion.	Ongoing	TOR for this training is developed. The facilitator for this training has already been selected. The facilitator requested us to do the training in January 2024. So, the training shifted to January 2024.
1.6 Meeting with the executive body of the Children's Forum at the regional level.	Delayed	As the baseline survey is not done. So, the implementation of this activity has not started.
1.7 Development and publication of a module for children's sessions, a facilitator's guide, and the development of IEC materials on children and climate change.	Delayed	Could not manage time within very short period after getting fund and NGO Bureau approval
Planned Activities Output 2:	4560 children and youth from coastal regions acquire new knowledge and skills for building a child-friendly, climate-resilient society	
2.1 Building capacity for children in school and in the community in disaster risk reduction, climate change, leadership and negotiation on climate change, and advocacy		This activity was not in the plan for the year 2023 and will start in the year 2024.

2.2 Building capacity among parents to support children to participate effectively in reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and disasters, and in emergency situations		This activity was not in the plan for the year 2023 and will start in the year 2024.
2.3 Orientation of Children's Forum members for capacity building in leadership, negotiation, and advocacy.		This activity was not in the plan for the year 2023 and will start in the year 2024.
2.4 Protecting children from gender-based violence in emergency situations, with special attention to children with disabilities		This activity was not in the plan for the year 2023 and will start in the year 2024.
Continuation of education for children in emergencies in cooperation with the local government		This activity was not in the plan for the year 2023 and will start in the year 2024.
2.5 Advocacy and coordination with climate change stakeholders.		This activity was not in the plan for the year 2023 and will start in the year 2024.

<p>2.6 Building capacity for children in school and in the community in disaster risk reduction, climate change, leadership and negotiation on climate change, and advocacy</p>		<p>This activity was not in the plan for the year 2023 and will start in the year 2024.</p>
<p>Planned Activities Output 3:</p>	<p>Increase coastal children's participation in climate change initiatives at the local, national, and international levels.</p>	
<p>3.1 Organize an annual Coastal Climate Change Children's Conference to advocate with policymakers, state officials, and leaders about the vulnerability of the Southwest Coastal Region to disaster risk reduction and climate change, and to engage children in the planning process.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Annual Coastal Children Climate Conference was held in Khulna on 4 October 2023 with over 350 attendees, including 150 children and various stakeholders like executives, professors, policymakers, activists, journalists, and so on. Khulna City Mayor Alhaji Talukdar Abdul Khalek graced the event, which was coordinated by ATM Zakir Hossain, Executive Director of JJS, and a collaborative effort involving JJS, Khulna Children Forum, children group on Environment and Climate Change, and different international organizations.</p> <p>The Climate Conference 2023 emphasizes the extreme vulnerability of southern and southwestern regions in Bangladesh to the impacts of climate change, with children being particularly at risk due to natural disasters like cyclones and rising sea levels. Despite their vulnerability, children have typically been excluded from climate change and disaster planning. It is expected that the conference will empower the local, regional, national, and international actors to align closely with local and national development goals for child leadership in climate actions and DRR, with technical sessions including child leadership, inclusive DRR, loss and damage fund, urbanization's climate impact, and plastic pollution which aimed at informing policymakers about the unique challenges faced by children in these regions.</p> <p>Overall, the conference served as a vital platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, inspiration, awareness-raising, and empowering future generations to safeguard the coastal region and its children. The effort of JJS with donor and partner organizations will continue to support government policymakers to make the coastal livable for the future. The 3rd Annual Coastal Children Climate Change Conference encouraged the project to involve more coastal children with the Coastal Children Forum and emphasis having respective upazila coastal children climate forum and Khulna Children forum.</p>

3.2 Strengthen networking among children's climate groups at the local level, the Children's Forum, and disaster preparedness committees to minimize vulnerability to climate change and disasters and to consider children's interests in planning and implementation	Delayed	This activity was not in the plan for the 1 st year and will start in the next year.
3.3 Lobbying and networking with national and international actors for children's participation in decision-making processes related to disasters and climate change.		This activity was not in the plan for the year 2023 and will start in the year 2024.
3.4 Organization of a joint visit of children and authorities to the climatically vulnerable coastal regions		This activity was not in the plan for the year 2023 and will start in the year 2024.
3.5 Child-led community mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives and establishment of a disaster risk reduction and climate change info corner at school level.		This activity was not in the plan for the year 2023 and will start in the year 2024.

3.6 Organization of an exhibition for children on climate change and disasters at <i>upazilla</i> and regional level.	This activity was not in the plan for the year 2023 and will start in the year 2024.
<i>If necessary, please add additional lines for additionally planned activities.</i>	

2.2 Corrective and Additional Actions

After holding the 3rd Annual Coastal Children Climate Conference on 4 October 2023, a follow-up meeting was held on 20th December 2023 at NGO Forum for Public Health, Khulna with 20 children. The participant shared their thoughts, experiences, and suggestions regarding the conference. Children expressed appreciation for the interactive sessions and educational materials provided. They also offered valuable comments for improvement, such as incorporating more practical activities and extending the duration of certain sessions. Following this, the attendees engaged in a constructive discussion on potential improvements for the next plans. Ideas such as extending the conference duration, Involving more children in activities, and strengthening partnerships with local schools and authorities were proposed. The follow-up meeting emphasized strengthening children's involvement in the planning and implementation of the next conference.

Besides, for a better understanding of the project working area, the project has prepared a social map for each union indicating schools, cyclone shelters, local roads rivers, and canals.

2.3 Lessons learnt:

- 3 months of NGO Bureau approval time should be considered for foreign-funded NGO project activity planning.
- Selection for facilitators on staff capacity building on different issues should be different. A single facilitator may not be perfect enough for facilitating training, as finding one person who is skilled in different issues is difficult.

3. The Project Environment

Inflation and price hikes caused the unavailability of a few items in the market that were required for the project. Everyone's attention was on the political situation linked with national election, so some of the project activities delayed. NGO Bureau approval was also a barrier to receive money to start project activities.