



অ্যাওসেড
AOSED

An Organization for
Socio-Economic Development

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



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ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

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Publication Period:

July 2024

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Acknowledgment

AOSED extends its heartfelt gratitude to our valued stakeholders—children, youth, change agents, citizen forums, and all beneficiaries—whose unwavering support has been instrumental in our developmental journey. Their involvement has been like that of a steadfast companion, and we are deeply appreciative.

We sincerely thank the Government Administration, Local Government Institutions (LGIs), and the NGO Affairs Bureau for their invaluable support, collaboration, and guidance. Their contributions have played a crucial role in driving meaningful change in the field. The successful implementation of nearly all our planned activities is a testament to the collective efforts of all involved.

We also take this moment to recognize and commend the dedication and teamwork of AOSED's staff. Their commitment has been vital in achieving program outcomes and in the successful completion of this annual report.

Finally, we express our profound gratitude to our donor agencies. Their timely provision of resources and technical support has been essential in enabling us to fulfill our mission effectively.

With sincere appreciation,

Shamim Arfeen

Executive Director

Affirmation

This annual report represents our independent work, with proper acknowledgment given to all referenced authors and publications.

The data and information presented are accurate and reliable. All primary quantitative and qualitative data, collected through our routine monitoring and reporting processes, rightfully belong to the communities and families featured in this document. Their use is conducted with full consent and understanding.

Message from the Executive Director

I am pleased to present AOSED's Annual Report for the fiscal year 2023-2024, reflecting another year of growth, impact, and commitment to sustainable development. Our unwavering dedication remains focused on shaping a society that aligns with community values, culture, and environmental sustainability. As we navigate new challenges, I invite you to join us in reflecting on our journey and collective achievements.

A heartfelt thank you to the incredible AOSED team. Your dedication and relentless efforts have been instrumental in driving our success. Currently, AOSED reaches approximately 250,000 individuals across five core areas:

- i) Water Justice
- ii) Food Security and Agriculture
- iii) Sanitation and Hygiene
- iv) Environment and Climate Change
- v) Disaster Management

AOSED continues to serve as a dynamic force for development, addressing pressing challenges both locally and nationally. This report captures our efforts from July 2023 to June 2024, offering a comprehensive overview of our initiatives and progress.

At the heart of AOSED's philosophy is the belief that people must be at the center of development efforts. I extend my sincere gratitude to the grassroots communities for their trust and collaboration. My appreciation also goes to Government Departments and local authorities for their vital cooperation, which has been crucial to our success.

We are deeply grateful to our development partners—both national and international—for their invaluable contributions to Bangladesh's sustainable development. A special acknowledgment goes to our General Body and Executive Committee Members for their dedicated role in policy-making and governance. Their active participation in both scheduled and impromptu meetings is truly commendable.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the team behind this report. Your diligence reflects our shared commitment to transparency and accountability.

Shamim Arfeen
Executive Director

Executive Committee members of AOSED

Rafiqul Islam Khokan

Chairman

Development Activist

Executive Director, RUPANTAR

Shamim Arfeen

General Secretary

Nurul Imam Khan

Treasurer

Officer, Social Islami Bank Limited

Sheikh Abdul Halim Mia

Executive Member

Freelance Development Activist

Dr. Dilip Kumar Datta

Executive Member

Professor, Environment Science Discipline, Khulna University

Mrs. Rejina Akhter

Executive Member

Associate Professor, Ahsanullah College, Khulna.

About AOSED

Situated in the Ganges floodplain, the Southwest Coastal Region of Bangladesh is uniquely defined by its brackish water ecosystem. Home to the Sundarbans mangrove forest, rich biodiversity, and vast tidal wetlands, the region has long sustained its people through the careful management of natural resources and resilience to environmental challenges. However, human interventions and the growing impacts of climate change have significantly disrupted its ecology, increasing vulnerabilities and exacerbating poverty among local communities.

To address these challenges, a group of socially committed individuals founded **AOSED – An Organization for Socio-Economic Development** in 1999. Their mission was to protect the environment, preserve ecological balance and biodiversity, and mitigate the effects of climate change, ultimately improving the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities.

Since its inception, AOSED has actively engaged in key areas such as **Water Justice, Food Security and Agriculture, Environmental Conservation and Climate Change, Health and Hygiene, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response**. Through various projects, programs, and social action research—conducted in collaboration with national and international development agencies, as well as research and educational institutions—AOSED has made a tangible impact. Initially focused on the southwest coastal region, the organization has since expanded its work across the entire coastal belt, including Cox's Bazar, particularly in response to the Rohingya crisis.

Experience and Expertise

Operating in one of Bangladesh's most climate-vulnerable regions, AOSED is at the forefront of **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)**—advocating for safe water rights, establishing drinking water facilities, and promoting health and hygiene practices. The organization is also deeply involved in **community-based conservation of the Sundarbans mangrove ecosystem, disaster preparedness through ICT-driven early warning systems, and localized strategies for climate adaptation and mitigation**.

AOSED promotes **eco-friendly agricultural practices** to enhance food security, working through **social mobilization, capacity building, participatory research, technology transfer, service delivery, local resource mobilization, media campaigns, and advocacy**. The organization places particular emphasis on **human rights, especially for women and children**, ensuring that its interventions align with the evolving socio-economic, political, and ecological landscape.

Over the years, AOSED has strengthened its organizational capacity and gained extensive expertise in:

- Grassroots organization development
- Creating educational materials and awareness campaigns
- Designing training modules and guidelines
- Strengthening community-based management systems
- Mobilizing local resources
- Knowledge and information management
- Participatory action research
- Technology transfer, incorporating ICT and renewable energy
- Policy review and advocacy

AOSED actively collaborates with international partners to influence climate action on a global scale. As an **observer member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, AOSED hosts side events at the **Conference of the Parties (COP)** and has pioneered initiatives such as the **Coastal Water Convention in Khulna** in partnership with national and international stakeholders. The organization is also a member of several issue-specific national and global networks, including:

- Butterfly Effect Network
- Climate Action Network (CAN)
- Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA)
- Freshwater Action Network (FAN)
- End Water Poverty
- Asia Pacific Water Forum (APWF)
- Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)

Additionally, AOSED has been an active participant in the **Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility** for several years. The group provides the latest knowledge and technical support to UNFCCC parties, ensuring that human mobility is effectively integrated into global climate negotiations.

Through its unwavering commitment, AOSED continues to drive sustainable change, empowering communities and advocating for a more resilient future.

Vision

Develop a just, prosperous and environment-friendly society in which there will be no discrimination on the basis of race, caste, creed, gender or occupation.

Mission

Conserve environment, ecology and biodiversity, ensure people's rights of access to natural resource towards alleviation of poverty, upholding human rights and democratic governance.

Objectives

- Conservation of environment, ecology and biodiversity to address the challenge of climate change related vulnerabilities to improve people's livelihood
- Extension of Eco-friendly and diversified agriculture to ensure food security
- Uphold peoples' rights to common property resources
- Ensure peoples' access to safe water and sanitation
- Develop resilience community considering natural calamities
- Upholding human rights especially children's and woman's rights, and democratic governance
- Human Resource development.

Values and Culture

We will strive to practice the following values within AOSED and to promote them outside:

1. Acknowledgement and respect for fundamental human rights
2. All people, regardless of ethnicity, religion, color, caste and class, are given equal respect and value.
3. To promote and implement democratic participation values at all levels
4. Compliance with culture and tradition
5. Promoting fair ties between men and women, respectful and sensitive
6. Special treatment for infants, the elderly and people with physical disabilities
7. Respect for nature and bio-diversity
8. Downwards accountability and openness

Legal Status

NGO Affairs Bureau 1978 Act

- Registration Date : 27.05.2017 (Renewed on)
- Registration Number : 2235
- Registration Authority : NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office

Registration of Societies

- Registration Date : August 03, 1999
- Registration Number : 4-S-52
- Registration Authority : Registrar of Joint Stock Companies

Organizational Management

AOSED's management is vested on the General Body of the organization comprising of 21 members who provide day to day working authority to an Executive Committee of 7 members that is comprised of people from all sectors of profession.

Role of General Body: Based on the Constitution they Nominate and select the Executive members for every Three years. Besides this they also approve varieties policies have been provided by them. Visit project area, Participate in Annual Staff Conference, Approval on annual budget, annual audit report and annual report. They attend all general meetings and Annual General meeting and approve all the activities, if deemed satisfactory for the organization.

Role of Executive Body: Based on the Constitution Preparing Budget & plan, Nomination of sub-committees, fixation of Salary, Creating Varieties Salaried positions, Executives appointment, promotion etc. activities are conducted by the Executive Body. Moreover, they remain responsible for the effective management of all projects conducted by the organization. The Executive Committee holds meetings as and when required including any emergency meeting.

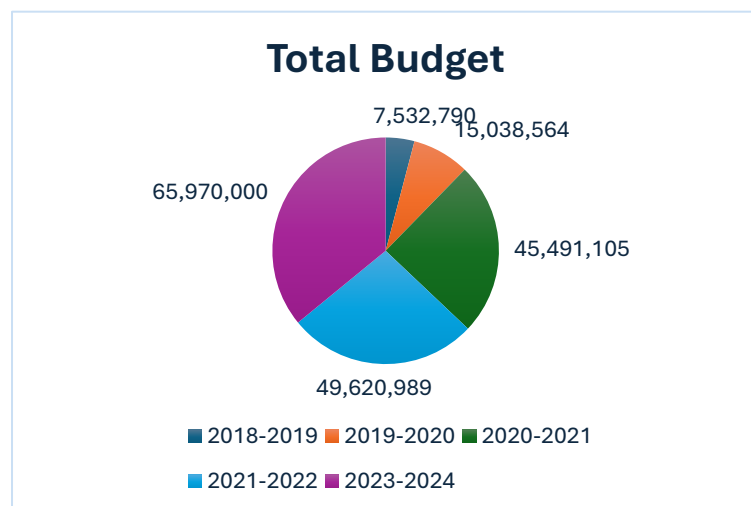
Staff Information

Type of Staff	Total	Male	Female
Regular	25	16	08

AOSED has a team of 100 Volunteers (42% female) for addressing different issues like emergency disaster, health, Wash and implementing different issue-based campaign activity.

Financial Capacity of the Organization

For more than 19 years AOSED has been managing funds and gained sufficient experience with project funds over time. The current 2023-2024 budget is BDT 65,970,000.



Audit and Reporting

AOSED currently has only an external auditing system in place, as the organization lacks the financial capacity to maintain an internal auditing system.

The external audit is conducted by external auditors recommended by donors. AOSED has enlisted audit firms that rank among the

top ten in the country, with international affiliations and recognition from the NGO Affairs Bureau. Audit reports are prepared and distributed to the Executive Committee, donors, and the NGO Affairs Bureau for review and necessary action.

List of Policy/guideline/manual

Name of the policy document	Purpose	Prepared/Last Updated
Financial Manual	Financial Management Controlling System	November 2023 (Last Updated)
Personnel Management Policy	Controlling the organization's human resource management system	November 2019 (Prepared)
Policy on Conflict of Interest	For maintaining fair bidding procedure in recruitment and procurement	2015 (Last Updated)
Anti-Fraud Policy Guideline	Project Fund Transparency and Accountability	2015 (Prepared)
Child Protection Policy	Ensuring child rights and protection activities	November 2019 (Last Updated)
Procurement policy	Ensure that all procurement requirements are planned for at the required time.	November 2018 (Last Updated)

Gender Guideline	Development	Ensuring the gender quality	2011 (Prepared)
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Geographical coverage of the organization

Division	District	Upazila	No. of unions
Khulna	Khulna	Khulna City Corporation, Dacope, Rupsa, Dumuria, Paikgachha, Koyra	15
	Bagerhat	Sharonkhola	02
	Satkhira	Tala	02

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Development Partners

Over the years, AOSED has been implementing a number of development programs funded by the Government of Bangladesh and different development partners. The major development partners supported AOSED to stride towards achieving its vision and mission.



Network And Collaboration



The year **2024** was a transformative period for **AOSED**, as it spearheaded two major initiatives:

1. **Adaptive Livelihood Towards Establishing Resilient Communities (ALTER) - Phase II**
2. **Multi-Actor Partnerships (MAPs) on Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI) Project**

AOSED successfully reached **thousands of vulnerable fisher and farmer households** across Bangladesh's coastal regions, **enhancing their capacity to cope with climate-induced uncertainties**.

Key accomplishments from the year include:

- ✓ **1,014 seagoing fishers** equipped with **life-saving safety gear**, ensuring **100% compliance with safety protocols**.
- ✓ **220 farmers trained and equipped with saline-tolerant BRRI-67 rice varieties**, leading to **33.23% of targeted farmers adopting new climate-resilient crops**.
- ✓ **65 Multi-Actor Platforms (MAPs) formed**, engaging **1,848 key stakeholders** at **sub-national and local levels**.
- ✓ **261 climate risk finance events organized**, covering **risk literacy, insurance solutions, and financial preparedness**.
- ✓ **4,045 participants (1,657 female, 2,388 male) trained** on disaster risk finance, climate justice, and adaptive livelihood strategies.
- ✓ **Active participation in COP-29 in Azerbaijan**, where AOSED **organized side events, policy discussions, and media engagements** to advocate for **climate justice**.
- ✓ **Significant policy engagement at local, national, and international levels**, leading to greater recognition of **climate disaster risk financing needs** in Bangladesh.

Despite **challenges such as political instability, cultural constraints, and extreme weather events**, AOSED **demonstrated resilience and adaptability**. The report that follows provides a **detailed analytical overview** of how AOSED leveraged **community-driven solutions, strategic partnerships, and advocacy efforts** to drive impactful and sustainable change.

2. Introduction

AOSED has been a **pioneer in climate resilience and socio-economic development** in Bangladesh's coastal region, working to **mitigate climate vulnerabilities and strengthen local adaptive capacities**.

This **annual report** highlights the **achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and recommendations** from AOSED's **key interventions in 2024**. The **ALTER Project** focused on **livelihood adaptation for fisher and farmer communities**, while the **MAP-CDRFI Project** sought to **expand climate and disaster risk finance solutions** through **multi-stakeholder engagement**.

The **strategic objectives** of these programs included:

- **Strengthening climate-resilient livelihoods** through the **promotion of adaptive agricultural and fishing practices**.
- **Enhancing financial preparedness for climate shocks** through **risk transfer mechanisms** such as **insurance and financial literacy initiatives**.

- **Advocating for policy inclusion of vulnerable communities**, ensuring **equitable access to climate funds and financial protection mechanisms**.
- **Fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships to strengthen community-driven disaster preparedness**.

This report is structured around **key thematic areas** that encapsulate AOSED's **holistic approach to sustainable development and resilience-building**.

Thematic Areas and Key Results

Climate Resilience and Adaptive Livelihoods

Enhancing Safety and Preparedness for Fisher Communities

One of the **most significant achievements of the ALTER Project** in 2024 was the **successful distribution of safety gear to 1,014 seagoing fishers across 185 boats**. This intervention addressed a **critical gap in marine safety**, where many fishers previously **risked their lives at sea without proper equipment**. The provision of **life jackets, lifebuoys, and vessel logbooks** ensured **100% compliance with safety regulations**.



Impact Analysis:

- **Reduction in maritime loss and damage** and improved safety compliance.
- **Higher confidence levels among fishers**, leading to **more stable income opportunities**.
- **Enhanced monitoring and accountability**, as each boat maintained a **logbook for safety equipment use**.

Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture for Farmers

Climate-induced **salinity intrusion** has **severely affected rice yields in coastal areas**, threatening **food security and income stability**. In response, AOSED introduced the **saline-tolerant BRRI-67 rice variety** to **220 farmers**, resulting in **33.23% of targeted farmers successfully cultivating new crop varieties**.



Outcomes:

- **Increased agricultural productivity despite saline soil conditions.**
- **Adoption of climate-smart practices, ensuring sustained food security.**
- **Recognition by local agricultural offices, encouraging future scalability of alternative crop varieties.**



Advocacy

Campaign With Political Parties

AOSED organized a Sharing Meeting with Political Parties on Environment and Climate Change. The event was organized to share the thoughts on political parties commitments and future plan to confront the adverse impacts of climate change. Shamim Arfeen, Executive Director of AOSED moderated the sessions. Leaders from leading political parties in Khulna including Bangladesh Awami League, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jatiya Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal – Bangladesh JASAD, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Socialist Party of Bangladesh were present during the sharing meeting.

Participants in the meeting that expressed the urgency for a coordinated and integrated initiative among the parties for ensuring a better climate resilient future for Bangladesh.



Sharing meeting with Public Representatives on Environmental Conservation and Climate Change

A key focus of the discussion was advocating for a fair distribution of climate funds to ensure that vulnerable coastal communities receive adequate support. By bringing together Members of Parliament, Upazila chairmen, mayors, and union council chairmen, the event sought to foster collaboration among policymakers and local representatives to address pressing environmental challenges. The discussions also aimed to raise awareness about the increasing threats of climate change, including land subsidence, salinity intrusion, and riverbank erosion, and the importance of incorporating local knowledge into adaptation strategies.

One of the significant outcomes of the meeting was the recognition that coastal communities, despite contributing little to climate change, are disproportionately affected by its consequences. Public representatives acknowledged the need for a unified effort to address these challenges, emphasizing that collaboration between Parliament and local governments is essential to improving climate resilience. The discussion also reinforced the urgency of ensuring justice in climate adaptation policies, particularly in the distribution of climate funds, so that resources are allocated based on the needs of the most affected regions.

The meeting also led to increased political commitment to addressing climate-induced challenges. Public representatives highlighted the importance of strengthening embankments, improving the management of sluice gates, and developing long-term disaster response mechanisms. Additionally, there was a growing consensus on the need to integrate indigenous



knowledge and community-led solutions into climate adaptation efforts, recognizing that local experience and expertise are crucial in designing effective strategies.

This event served as a critical platform for bridging the gap between policymakers and communities, fostering dialogue on climate justice, and reinforcing the importance of coordinated action to protect the livelihoods of people living in climate-vulnerable coastal areas.

National Dialogue on Mobilizing Political Commitment to Address Climate Crisis

The **National Dialogue on Mobilizing Political Commitment to Address Climate Crisis**, jointly organized by AOSED and CANSA Bangladesh was intended to generate political momentum for stronger climate action in Bangladesh. The event aimed to engage policymakers, environmental experts, and civil society representatives in discussions about the urgency of the climate crisis and the need for concrete policy commitments. With climate change becoming an increasingly severe threat, particularly for vulnerable coastal regions, the dialogue sought to push political parties to incorporate climate-focused commitments into their election manifestos. The discussion was designed to emphasize Bangladesh's pressing need for a stronger stance on



international climate negotiations, ensuring industrialized nations are held accountable for their role in environmental degradation.

A key outcome of the dialogue was the formulation of seven specific recommendations for political parties to consider in their upcoming election manifestos. These included a call for the National Parliament, under the initiative of the President, to hold a general discussion on the Paris Agreement. Given the perceived inadequacies of the agreement, the dialogue underscored the importance of advocating for stricter emission reduction targets for industrialized countries in global climate negotiations. Another major proposal involved the establishment of a dedicated international forum under the United Nations to address climate change-induced displacement and migration, recognizing the growing number of climate refugees. The discussion also identified inconsistencies across various national climate policy documents and stressed the need for greater policy alignment in accordance with constitutional guidelines.



Beyond policy recommendations, the dialogue successfully reinforced the need for political leadership in addressing climate change, urging stakeholders to take decisive action rather than waiting for external intervention. The event also contributed to strengthening collaboration among environmental organizations, researchers, and activists, creating a unified voice for climate advocacy in Bangladesh. By directly engaging political leaders and experts, the dialogue

helped ensure that climate action remains a priority in national discussions, emphasizing the need for immediate and long-term solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

AOSED at COP28

Press Conference

The press conference titled "Civil Society Demands on Keeping the Commitment of Global Temperature to 1.5°C and Demanding Compensation to the MVCs" was intended as a platform for civil society leaders from the Most Vulnerable Countries (MVCs) to voice urgent demands for climate action and financial compensation at the COP28 Global Climate Conference in Dubai. Organized by AOSED on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, the event aimed to amplify the concerns of nations that bear the brunt of climate change despite contributing the least to global emissions. Given the continued failure of developed nations to meet their climate finance commitments, the conference sought to highlight the gap between political pledges and actual financial support, while pushing for concrete actions to ensure climate justice for MVCs.



One of the primary objectives for organizing the event was to reaffirm the global commitment to limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C, as outlined in the 2015 Paris Agreement. The conference also intended to demand a transparent roadmap from developed nations, ensuring that their climate responsibilities align with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The event

emphasized the urgent need to increase Adaptation Funds, establish a new Collective and Quantified Goal on Climate Finance, accelerate discussions on the Global Goal on Adaptation, and implement mechanisms such as the Global Decarbonisation Accelerator. Additionally, the conference aimed to bring attention to climate-induced displacement and advocate for policies that integrate a human rights-based approach to displacement management.

The outcomes of the event were significant in advancing the climate justice agenda at COP28. Speakers successfully highlighted the inadequacy of current financial support, stressing that climate funding mechanisms must be transparent, accountable, and accessible to the communities most affected. Concerns were raised over the lack of political commitment in climate negotiations, particularly in addressing the financial obligations of developed nations. The call for climate finance as a human rights issue gained traction, reinforcing the demand for new investment models, including insurance schemes to secure the future of climate-vulnerable populations. Additionally, the event drew attention to the often-overlooked issue of climate-induced displacement, emphasizing the need for dedicated resources and international policy frameworks to protect displaced communities.

By bringing together national and international civil society representatives, the conference strengthened global advocacy efforts and reaffirmed the urgency of ensuring that commitments made in international climate agreements translate into real, actionable policies. The discussions underscored the importance of continued pressure on global leaders to uphold climate commitments and deliver financial support that is both just and effective in protecting the world's most vulnerable communities.

Side event

The side event, *"Action for Forced Climate Displacement: A Lifecycle Approach to Intervene at Source and Destination,"* organized by AOSD in collaboration with international organizations, addressed the growing crisis of climate-induced displacement. Moderated by Dr. Ainun Nishat, the discussion brought together experts,



researchers, and grassroots representatives to explore innovative solutions for climate-induced migration, focusing on both the origin and destination of displaced populations.

The side event featured diverse perspectives on climate-induced displacement, emphasizing both micro- and macro-level challenges. Dr. François Gemenne highlighted the importance of understanding migration decisions at the local level and developing global adaptation frameworks. Dr. Anneliese Depoux stressed the growing impact of climate migration in European cities, advocating for integrated urban policies. Isaac Kabongo shared Uganda's experience in balancing refugee influx with environmental conservation and resilience-building. Qiyamud Din Ikram provided insights into Afghanistan's climate crisis, calling for disaster preparedness and the inclusion of displaced voices in global decision-making. Shamim Arfeen from AOSD underscored the harsh realities of climate displacement, urging action to address social and economic vulnerabilities. Anju Sharma emphasized the role of locally led adaptation and climate finance in preparing both host and migrant communities for climate-induced migration. The discussions reinforced the need for multi-level collaboration, equitable climate policies, and urgent action to protect displaced populations.

The side event underscored the need for a lifecycle approach to climate-induced displacement, considering both source and destination communities. Speakers highlighted the importance of local perspectives, multi-level collaboration, and inclusive policymaking to address this growing crisis. The discussions reinforced the urgency of climate justice, the integration of displaced voices into global platforms, and the need for sustainable adaptation strategies to protect vulnerable communities worldwide.

Demonstration

CSO group of Bangladesh held a demonstration inside Blue Zone where the participants presented their demands to cut down fossil fuels, establish a legal framework for climate finance and ultimately act for climate to save the Planet Earth.

A poignant message echoed during the demonstration was, **"If you are Destructive, Nature will be Vindictive."** This underscores the idea that human actions leading to environmental degradation can result in severe consequences, emphasizing the interconnectedness of humanity and the environment.

Another central theme of the demonstration was the assertion that **"Climate Justice is Human Rights."** This message underscores the belief that addressing climate change is not merely an environmental issue but also a matter of justice, equity, and human rights. Vulnerable communities, including those in Bangladesh, often bear the brunt of climate change impacts despite being the least responsible for causing it.

The demonstration also aimed to convey the urgency of taking immediate and decisive action to mitigate climate change. With Bangladesh being one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts, such as rising sea levels and extreme weather events, the need for action is pressing.



Exhibition

The exhibition booth hosted by AOSED at COP28 was a vibrant hub of information, engagement, and collaboration. Designed to showcase the organization's activities, achievements, and future aspirations, the booth effectively communicated AOSED's commitment to sustainable energy and development.

1. Showcasing Activities, Achievements, and Future Plans: Visitors to the AOSED booth were greeted with a visually engaging display that highlighted the organization's key activities, milestones, and success stories. Through a combination of photos, booklets, and audio-visual presentations, attendees were provided with a comprehensive overview of AOSED's initiatives, impact, and vision for the future. This multimedia approach ensured that visitors gained a deep understanding of AOSED's work and its significance in advancing sustainable energy and development goals.

2. Networking with Like-minded Organizations: The exhibition booth served as a valuable platform for networking and collaboration. Representatives from AOSED engaged with a diverse range of stakeholders, including other organizations, government agencies, and industry leaders. These interactions facilitated the exchange of ideas, best practices, and potential partnership opportunities. By fostering connections with like-minded organizations, AOSED strengthened its network and expanded its collaborative efforts to drive collective action on pressing environmental challenges.

3. Generating Interest for Collaboration: The impactful activities and initiatives showcased at the AOSED booth garnered significant attention and interest from visitors. Many organizations expressed admiration for AOSED's achievements and expressed a keen interest in exploring



collaboration opportunities. These expressions of interest ranged from joint initiatives and research partnerships to funding opportunities and capacity-building efforts. The positive feedback and enthusiasm received at the booth underscored the relevance and impact of AOSED's work and set the stage for potential collaborations that could amplify the organization's reach and effectiveness in the years to come.

AOSED's exhibition booth at COP28 was a dynamic and engaging space that effectively communicated the organization's mission, showcased its achievements, and fostered collaboration with like-minded organizations. Through strategic networking and impactful presentations, AOSED not only raised awareness about its work but also laid the groundwork for future partnerships that have the potential to drive meaningful change in the realm of sustainable energy and development.

2. Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI)

Strengthening Multi-Actor Partnerships (MAPs)

To **expand access to climate disaster risk financing**, AOSED facilitated the **formation of 65 MAPs**, engaging **1,848 participants**, including **government officials, civil society actors, academics, and private sector representatives**.



Strategic Importance:

- **Promoted financial literacy on climate risk insurance.**
- **Encouraged public-private partnerships for developing localized insurance models.**
- **Integrated marginalized voices into policy dialogues, ensuring equitable access to disaster risk finance.**

Scaling Climate Risk Financing Solutions

AOSED's study in **Bagerhat and Satkhira**—involving **318 household surveys, 20 key informant interviews, and 6 focus group discussions**—provided **critical insights into financial vulnerabilities** in climate-affected communities.

Findings:

- **Low financial literacy on climate risk finance mechanisms.**
- **Limited availability of climate insurance solutions for smallholder farmers and fishers.**
- **High demand for microinsurance and adaptive financial products.**

3. Capacity Strengthening, Learning, and Knowledge Management

- 187 training sessions conducted, reaching 4,045 participants.
- Developed and distributed 7,000 knowledge materials on disaster risk finance.
- 9 sub-national consultation meetings strengthened stakeholder coordination.



4. Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, and Community Empowerment

- **Women gained economic independence** through **alternative livelihoods** (handicrafts, homestead farming, fishnet weaving).
- **Increased women's participation in MAP structures**, yet gender representation remains an area for improvement.
- **Greater policy advocacy for women's leadership** in climate finance discussions.



5. Advocacy and Policy Influence

- **Human chains in four locations advocated for climate justice**, linking local issues to global policy frameworks.
- **AOSIS's participation in COP-29** facilitated **high-level discussions on climate disaster risk financing**.
- **Engaged policymakers on national and international platforms**, advocating for equitable access to climate funds.



4. Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

One of the key challenges faced in project implementation is **cultural barriers to women's participation**. In many communities, traditional gender roles and societal norms limit women's involvement in decision-making processes, economic activities, and climate adaptation initiatives. Women may face restrictions on mobility, limited access to education, and social stigmas that prevent them from engaging in training sessions or leadership roles. To address this, **gender-sensitive programming** is implemented to ensure that interventions are designed in a way that accommodates women's needs and challenges. This includes organizing **women-only training sessions**, incorporating flexible schedules to accommodate household responsibilities, and engaging male community leaders to advocate for women's participation. Additionally, **targeted training sessions** focus on building confidence and leadership skills among women, empowering them to take an active role in climate resilience efforts.

Another major challenge is **limited financial literacy among farmers and fishers**, which affects their ability to make informed economic decisions, access government assistance, and adopt sustainable business practices. Many in these communities lack formal education on financial management, budgeting, and savings, making them vulnerable to economic shocks. To mitigate this, **simplified awareness materials** are developed, using visual aids, storytelling, and local dialects to make financial concepts more accessible. Additionally, **localized training programs** are conducted, where financial experts or trained community members educate farmers and fishers on budgeting, loan management, and investment strategies. Peer learning groups and mentorship programs are also established to encourage ongoing financial education and application of learned skills.

Political unrest disrupting field activities poses a significant challenge, as instability in project areas can lead to safety concerns, restrictions on movement, and delays in program implementation. Conflict and political tension can hinder access to communities, limit engagement with stakeholders, and cause uncertainty in planning. To overcome these disruptions, **virtual training sessions** are introduced as an alternative to in-person gatherings, ensuring that learning and engagement continue despite field restrictions. In addition, **adaptive workplans** are developed, allowing project teams to quickly adjust timelines, reallocate resources, and implement alternative approaches such as smaller, more localized meetings or digital communication tools to maintain project momentum. By incorporating flexibility in project execution, these strategies help minimize the impact of political instability on long-term goals.

Recognitions

Special Consultative Status of UN ECOSOC

AOSED have obtained Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) in 2023. This is a significant milestone for AOSED, enhancing its influence, credibility, and global reach. This status would grant the organization the opportunity to actively participate in UN meetings, submit statements, and engage in international policymaking related to climate change, human rights, and sustainable development. It would open doors for AOSED to network with global stakeholders, access funding opportunities, and advocate for climate justice and community resilience on a larger platform. Additionally, it would strengthen AOSED's ability to mobilize resources, build partnerships with governments and international agencies, and amplify the voices of grassroots communities affected by climate change. With this recognition, AOSED could bridge local climate adaptation efforts with global policy discussions, ensuring that the concerns of vulnerable coastal populations in Bangladesh are represented at the highest levels of decision-making.

Smart Bangladesh Award

An Organization for Socio-Economic Development (AOSED) has been honoured with the prestigious ‘Smart Bangladesh Award-2023’ alongside other entities from diverse sectors.

This recognition highlights AOSED's exceptional role as a leading organisation dedicated to enhancing resilience and expertise in coastal districts through an ICT-based 'Early Warning Response Mechanism'(EWRM).



Success and Learning Stories

Kabir Moral: A Catalyst for Climate-Resilient Agriculture in Ramnathpur

In the salinity-affected village of Ramnathpur in Paikgacha, farmers have long struggled with declining yields due to rising sea levels, erratic rainfall, and increasing soil degradation. Traditional farming methods that had sustained families for generations were no longer viable, forcing many farmers to abandon their land or shift to alternative livelihoods. Faced with these challenges, Kabir Moral, a dedicated farmer, recognized the need for a new approach. His commitment to finding a solution led to the establishment of a Climate Field School, an initiative that has since transformed agricultural practices in his community and beyond.

Kabir had witnessed firsthand how worsening environmental conditions were threatening food security and economic stability in his village. He knew that continuing with conventional farming techniques would only lead to further losses. When AOSED, through the ALTER Project, introduced the concept of a Climate Field School—a space where farmers could learn and implement climate-resilient agricultural techniques—he saw an opportunity to bring meaningful change. Unlike many who were skeptical, Kabir embraced the idea and took a bold step by offering a portion of his own land to establish the school. His decision was driven by the belief that practical demonstrations and collective learning could empower farmers with the knowledge and tools they needed to adapt.

With Kabir's contribution of land, AOSED provided essential support, including improved seed varieties, organic fertilizers, and infrastructure to set up the Climate Field School. The initiative was designed as a center for experimentation and training, where farmers could observe and practice innovative techniques suited to their changing environment. Among the key interventions demonstrated at the school were saline-tolerant rice cultivation, sustainable water management techniques, organic fertilization methods, and agroforestry practices. Floating agriculture was also introduced, allowing crops to be grown on floating beds during the monsoon season, providing a solution for farmers whose fields were frequently inundated.

The impact of the Climate Field School was immediate. Farmers from Ramnathpur and neighboring villages began visiting the site, eager to understand the new methods being tested. Initially, there was hesitation, as many were accustomed to their traditional ways and uncertain about the effectiveness of the proposed changes. However, as the demonstration plots began to thrive, more farmers showed interest. The introduction of saline-tolerant BRRI-67 rice, in particular, proved to be a breakthrough. Farmers who had struggled with declining yields for years saw a significant improvement in their harvests, with some reporting a thirty percent increase in production.

The benefits extended beyond crop yields. Improved irrigation techniques reduced water consumption, cutting down costs for farmers who had previously relied on inefficient watering methods. Organic fertilization not only rejuvenated the soil but also reduced dependency on expensive chemical inputs. Farmers who adopted diversified cropping patterns found their land more resilient to extreme weather conditions, minimizing the risks associated with unpredictable monsoons and prolonged dry spells.

For Kabir, the transformation was deeply personal. His own farm, which had once suffered from declining productivity, became a model of climate resilience. As the Climate Field School gained recognition, Kabir himself became a mentor to his fellow farmers, sharing his knowledge and guiding them in adopting the new techniques. His role evolved beyond that of a farmer; he became a leader within his community, someone whom others turned to for advice and inspiration.

The success of the Climate Field School did not go unnoticed. Local agricultural extension officers began engaging with the project, exploring ways to scale the initiative to other climate-affected areas. Policymakers and development organizations took interest in the model, recognizing its potential to serve as a replicable framework for climate adaptation in vulnerable regions. What had started as a small initiative on Kabir's land had now become an example of how community-driven solutions could create lasting impact.

Through his willingness to embrace change and his dedication to improving agricultural resilience, Kabir Moral has played a pivotal role in shaping the future of farming in his village. The Climate Field School, supported by AOSED under the ALTER Project, stands as a testament to the power of knowledge, collaboration, and adaptation. By integrating climate-smart farming practices, the school has not only secured Kabir's livelihood but has also strengthened the food security and economic stability of an entire community. His efforts have proven that, even in the face of climate change, innovative solutions can restore hope and sustainability to those who depend on the land.

Learning Story: Strengthening Vermicompost Initiatives in Paikgacha – Challenges, Insights, and the Path Forward

In the coastal villages of Paikgacha, where soil degradation and declining agricultural productivity have posed significant challenges to farming households, vermicomposting was introduced as a sustainable solution to restore soil health and reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers. As part of the ALTER Project, AOSED supported **75 households across five villages—Mahmudkati, Ramnathpur, Noakati, Baka, and Debduar—by providing vermicompost plants, training, and technical support.** The initiative aimed to improve organic farming practices, enhance soil fertility, and provide an alternative source of income for rural families.

In the initial months, the intervention showed promising results. Farmers who successfully adopted vermicomposting observed **improved soil quality, healthier crop growth, and reduced fertilizer costs.** Some families also began selling surplus compost, generating an additional income stream. However, as time progressed, it became evident that **not all vermicompost plants remained functional.** A follow-up assessment revealed that **34 out of the 75 plants had become non-operational,** with the affected households facing several recurring issues that hindered the sustainability of the initiative.

Key Challenges Identified

One of the most frequently reported issues was the **dying of earthworms**, which significantly disrupted compost production. Many farmers lacked prior experience in handling earthworms and were unaware of the environmental conditions necessary for their survival. Excessive heat, lack of moisture, and improper feeding practices led to high mortality rates among the worm populations, making it difficult to sustain compost production over time.

Another challenge was the **damage to infrastructure**, particularly during heavy rains and storms. Some households that had placed their composting beds in open spaces suffered structural damage, with compost bins being washed away or collapsing under harsh weather conditions. Without proper protective measures, these families found it difficult to repair and restart their vermicomposting activities.

The **unavailability of manure** also emerged as a significant obstacle. Many farmers, particularly those who did not own livestock, struggled to obtain a consistent supply of raw materials, such as cow dung and organic waste, which are essential for feeding the earthworms. Without adequate manure, the composting process was frequently disrupted, leading some families to abandon the practice altogether.

Additionally, **limited follow-up support and technical guidance** played a role in the failure of some units. While initial training was provided at the time of installation, many farmers required continued assistance in troubleshooting issues, maintaining proper moisture levels, and

protecting their composting setups from environmental damage. Without consistent monitoring, small problems escalated, leading to the eventual failure of several units.

Key Learnings from the Intervention

The experience of implementing vermicompost plants across these five villages has provided several critical insights into the challenges of promoting organic composting at the household level. First and foremost, **technical knowledge and ongoing support are crucial for long-term success**. Many households lacked the experience needed to maintain the vermicompost plants effectively. Future interventions must include **a more structured follow-up mechanism**, with trained agricultural extension workers or community resource persons conducting periodic visits to ensure that farmers receive the necessary guidance and troubleshooting support.

Another key learning is that **environmental conditions play a vital role in the success of vermicomposting**. In regions prone to heavy rains and high temperatures, proper protective structures must be in place to shield composting beds from extreme weather. Encouraging households to construct **low-cost sheds or covered bins** could significantly improve the sustainability of the initiative and prevent infrastructure damage.

Furthermore, **access to raw materials must be ensured before initiating compost production**. Many farmers underestimated the amount of manure required, leading to interruptions in the composting process. Establishing **community manure banks**, where farmers without livestock can access cow dung and organic waste, could provide a solution to this issue. Encouraging **collective composting models**, where multiple households share responsibilities for maintaining a composting unit, may also improve the availability of raw materials and ensure better management.

The initiative also underscored the **importance of economic incentives in sustaining interest and engagement**. Households that successfully produced compost and found a market for it were more motivated to continue the practice. Future interventions should focus on **market linkages, cooperative sales models, and awareness campaigns** to create demand for organic compost, ensuring that farmers see vermicomposting not only as a soil improvement technique but also as a viable income-generating activity.

The Way Forward

To strengthen the impact of vermicomposting in Paikgacha, AOSED plans to implement several corrective measures based on the learnings from this initiative. One of the primary steps will be to **revive the 34 non-operational units** through refresher training sessions, practical demonstrations, and technical assistance. A **monitoring and mentorship system** will be established, where successful vermicompost producers will be trained as local mentors to guide struggling households and provide hands-on support.

Additionally, AOSED will work on developing **low-cost protective structures** for composting units to prevent weather-related damages. Farmers will be encouraged to use locally available materials to construct simple shelters that can safeguard their compost beds from excessive heat and heavy rains.

To address the issue of manure shortage, AOSED will facilitate **community manure-sharing networks** and explore partnerships with nearby livestock farms to provide a steady supply of organic waste for composting. In cases where individual household composting proves difficult,

AOSED will pilot **collective composting initiatives**, allowing multiple families to manage a shared composting unit, thus reducing individual burden while maximizing efficiency.

A critical aspect of sustaining vermicomposting efforts will be **creating market opportunities for organic compost**. AOSED will collaborate with local agricultural cooperatives and fertilizer retailers to establish **a supply chain for selling vermicompost**, ensuring that farmers have access to buyers. By demonstrating the economic potential of compost production, more households will be encouraged to adopt and maintain the practice.

The experience of introducing vermicomposting in Paikgacha has shown that while the transition to organic farming is not without challenges, it is a necessary step towards **sustainable agriculture and soil restoration**. The initiative has laid a strong foundation, and with targeted improvements in training, infrastructure, and market development, vermicomposting can become a transformative practice that benefits farmers across the region. By addressing existing barriers and strengthening farmer support systems, AOSED is committed to ensuring that vermicomposting becomes a long-term, self-sustaining solution for soil health and agricultural resilience.