



## BAHAMAS RISING

### Empowering Citizens for Climate & Social Justice in The Bahamas

PROJECT DOCUMENT / BUSINESS PLAN (2025–2026)

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## 1. Executive Summary

*Bahamas Rising* is a national citizen empowerment initiative led by the Organization for Responsible Governance (ORG) to strengthen climate justice, social resilience, and community advocacy across The Bahamas. Positioned as one of the world’s most climate-vulnerable Small Island Developing States (SIDS), The Bahamas urgently needs informed, engaged citizens able to shape climate policy, support environmental protection, and build resilient communities.

This project trains citizens, youth leaders, and local nonprofits to understand climate risks, advocate for solutions, and participate meaningfully in decisions that affect their communities. The program will reach **1,500 individuals**, strengthen **50 environmental nonprofits**, and deliver **10 Family Island Climate Justice Roadshows** over 12 months.

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## 2. Problem Statement

The Bahamas contributes less than 0.1% of global emissions yet faces extreme climate impacts: rising seas, coral loss, stronger hurricanes, and deepening inequality in vulnerable communities.

Key challenges include:

- Limited public awareness of climate risks and rights
- Low citizen participation in climate-related decision-making
- Under-resourced environmental nonprofits



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- Limited representation of women, youth, and marginalized groups
- Barriers to engagement in Family Islands
- Lack of accessible advocacy tools and policy guidance

Without stronger citizen capacity, **climate justice, equitable recovery, and sustainable adaptation** will remain out of reach.

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## 3. Project Description

**Bahamas Rising** strengthens climate and social justice by:

1. **Building citizen knowledge** on climate change, adaptation, rights, and policy.
  2. **Training youth climate leaders** through hands-on skills development.
  3. **Strengthening environmental nonprofits** through governance, advocacy, and program design training.
  4. **Facilitating community participation** in climate, environmental, and development processes.
  5. **Expanding outreach** through a Climate Justice Roadshow across Family Islands.
  6. **Producing accessible tools** including guides, videos, and digital resources for public use.
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## 4. Project Activities & Workplan

### A. Climate Justice Workshops

- 20 community workshops



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- Topics: climate science, adaptation, citizen rights, disaster readiness
- Partnerships with local NPOs, churches, youth groups, schools

## **B. Youth Climate Action Leadership Program**

- 100 youth trained in advocacy, storytelling, organizing, and community project design
- Mini-grants for youth-led climate initiatives

## **C. Nonprofit Capacity-Building**

- Training for **50 environmental nonprofits**
- Focus areas: governance, data, monitoring, policy engagement, resilience planning

## **D. Community Voices in Policy**

- Support for citizens to join consultations on FOIA, DRM, climate finance, land use, and environmental bills
- Public education materials and participatory tools

## **E. Climate Justice Roadshow (Family Islands)**

10 islands (examples):

Abaco, Grand Bahama, Bimini, Andros, Eleuthera, Exuma, San Salvador, Mayaguana, Cat Island, The Berry Islands

- Workshops + nonprofit training + youth sessions

## **F. Advocacy Tools & Public Education**

- Climate explainer videos



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- Policy guides
  - Accessible digital toolkits
  - Materials for persons with disabilities (plain language, audio, captioned videos)
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## 5. Target Groups

- Citizens wanting to advocate for stronger climate policies
  - Youth (ages 13–30) across islands
  - Environmental nonprofits and community groups
  - Women–led and youth–led organizations
  - Persons with disabilities
  - Residents of underserved Family Islands
  - Educators, church groups, and local leaders
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## 6. Theory of Change

**IF** Bahamians receive clear information, practical tools, and opportunities to participate

**AND** nonprofits gain the skills to advocate and deliver climate work

**THEN** communities will be better prepared, more resilient, and able to defend their rights and environment.



## Ultimate Impact:

An empowered, informed, connected network of citizens driving climate justice and resilient development.

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## 7. Monitoring & Evaluation

### Key Indicators

| Indicator                                  | Target | Means of Verification          |
|--|--------|--------------------------------|
| Citizens trained in climate justice        | 1,500  | Attendance sheets, evaluations |
| Youth completing leadership program        | 100    | Certification, project reports |
| Environmental nonprofits strengthened      | 50     | Pre/post assessments           |
| Family Islands reached                     | 10     | Roadshow logs                  |
| Advocacy tools produced                    | 10     | Downloads, distribution        |
| Citizens participating in policy processes | 300    | Consultation records           |

### M&E Methods

- Pre/post surveys
  - Participant feedback forms
  - Tracking community projects
  - Nonprofit capacity assessments
  - Monitoring policy participation
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## 8. Budget Summary (12 Months)

**Total Budget:** \$175,000 USD

| Category                              | Cost (USD) |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Community Workshops (20)              | \$30,000   |
| Youth Leadership Program              | \$25,000   |
| Nonprofit Capacity-Building           | \$20,000   |
| Climate Justice Roadshow (10 Islands) | \$45,000   |
| Advocacy Tools & Communications       | \$15,000   |
| Travel & Logistics                    | \$20,000   |
| Administration & M&E                  | \$20,000   |

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## 9. Organizational Background

The **Organization for Responsible Governance (ORG)** is a Bahamian nonprofit committed to building a more transparent, accountable, and resilient Bahamas. Since 2015, ORG has led national initiatives in civic education, youth empowerment, public policy participation, nonprofit capacity-building, and environmental and climate engagement.

ORG's work includes:

- National FOIA education
- Map4Good nonprofit mapping
- Youth in Climate Action Initiative
- Disaster risk governance leadership in Abaco, Grand Bahama, and Exuma
- Evidence-based public trust research



- Community-based environmental stakeholder consultations

ORG is a trusted leader in citizen engagement and governance across The Bahamas.

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## 10. Sustainability Plan

To ensure long-term impact, Bahamas Rising will:

- Build permanent training tools accessible nationwide
  - Strengthen nonprofit capacity for ongoing climate work
  - Establish youth-led climate action networks
  - Partner with schools, universities, churches, and local councils
  - Integrate lessons into ORG’s ongoing programs (Active Citizens, Map4Good, FOIA Resource Hub)
  - Develop local trainers to continue workshops beyond the project period
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## 11. Risk Management

| Risk                                | Likelihood | Mitigation   |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--|
| Hurricane disruption                | High       | Flexible scheduling; remote tools; alternate islands |
| Limited community participation     | Medium     | Local partnerships; youth ambassadors                |
| Travel delays to Family Islands     | Medium     | Backup dates; local facilitators                     |
| Resource constraints for nonprofits | Medium     | Tailored training + micro-grants                     |



Policy shifts

Low

Nonpartisan, rights-based approach

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## Annex: Detailed Cost Table

| Item                        | Quantity     | Unit Cost | Total    |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Workshop facilitation       | 20           | \$500     | \$10,000 |
| Workshop materials          | 20           | \$250     | \$5,000  |
| Venue & logistics           | 20           | \$750     | \$15,000 |
| Youth Leadership Program    | 100 students | \$250     | \$25,000 |
| Nonprofit training sessions | 10           | \$2,000   | \$20,000 |
| Roadshow travel             | 10 islands   | \$4,500   | \$45,000 |
| Comms & media tools         | Lump         | —         | \$15,000 |
| Travel & accommodations     | Lump         | —         | \$20,000 |
| Monitoring & Evaluation     | Lump         | —         | \$20,000 |