

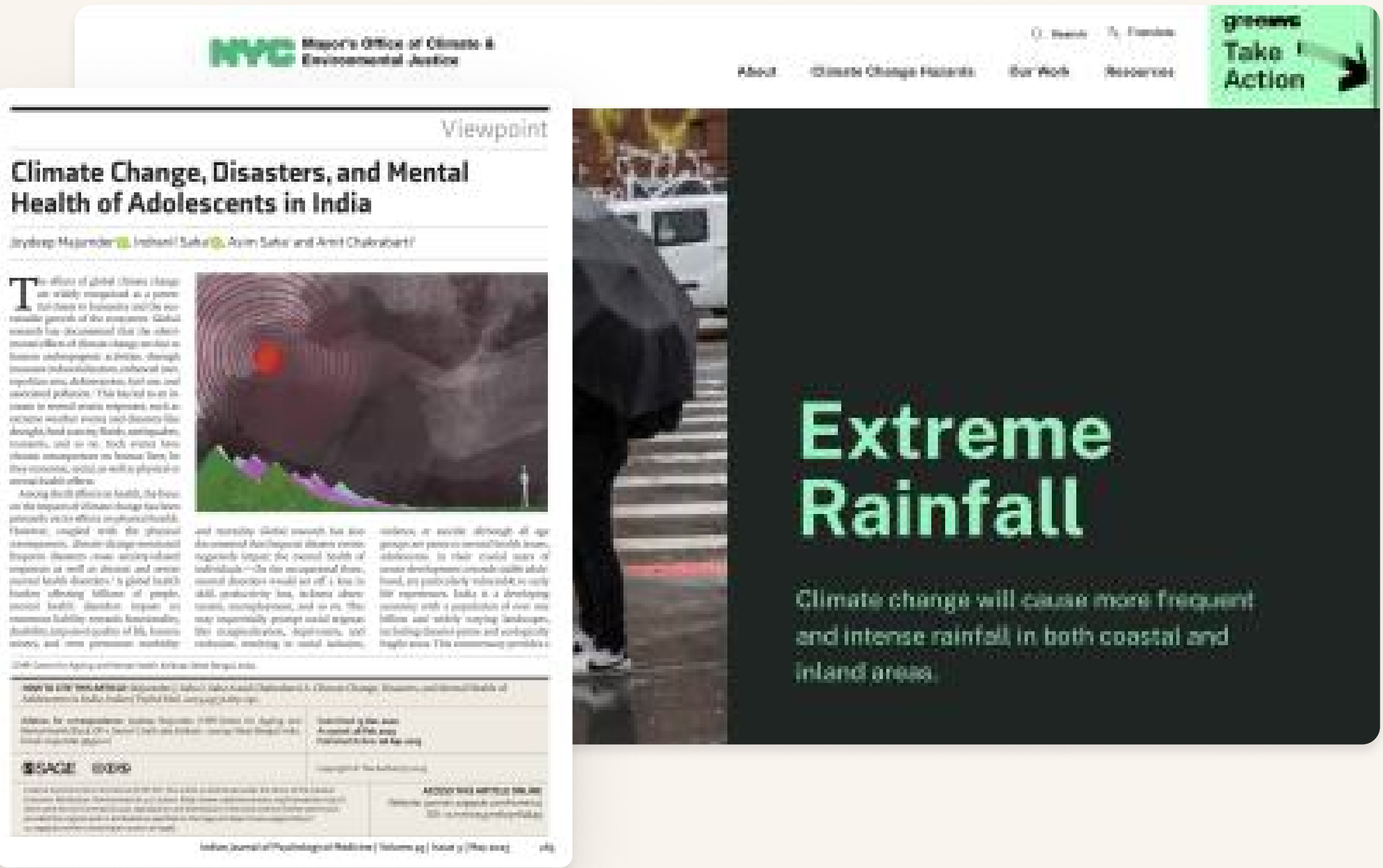
Taboo about effects of Climate Change in India

Akanksha Mahanti



Problem area

How might we **increase awareness** and **develop support around climate grief** while **improving preparedness** and recovery efforts for communities affected by extreme climate conditions in India, ensuring comprehensive strategies that **provide equitable support** and promote effective recovery for all?



What are the **psychological and emotional impacts of climate grief** on communities affected by extreme climate conditions in India?

What **existing support systems** are in place and the gaps that hinder equitable and comprehensive support for Indian communities?

How can **climate preparedness and recovery plans** be designed to integrate emotional and psychological support for affected communities?

Stakeholder Mapping

Responsible
(Directly Engaged in Implementation and Execution)

Disaster Response Teams

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Hospitals & Healthcare Workers

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Rural & Indigenous Communities

Akanksha

Government

Akanksha

Accountable
(Holds Decision-Making Authority and Ensures Outcomes are Achieved)

State & Local Governments

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International Development Agencies (WHO, UNICEF)

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General Public (Urban & Rural Communities)

Akanksha

Insurance Companies

Akanksha

Consulted
(Provides Expertise and Insights but Doesn't Have Decision-Making Authority)

NGOs

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Community Leaders & Grassroots Organizations

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Public Health Organizations

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Mental Health Professionals

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Informed
(Kept Updated but Not Directly Involved in Decision-Making)

School and Educational institutions

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News Outlets & Journalists

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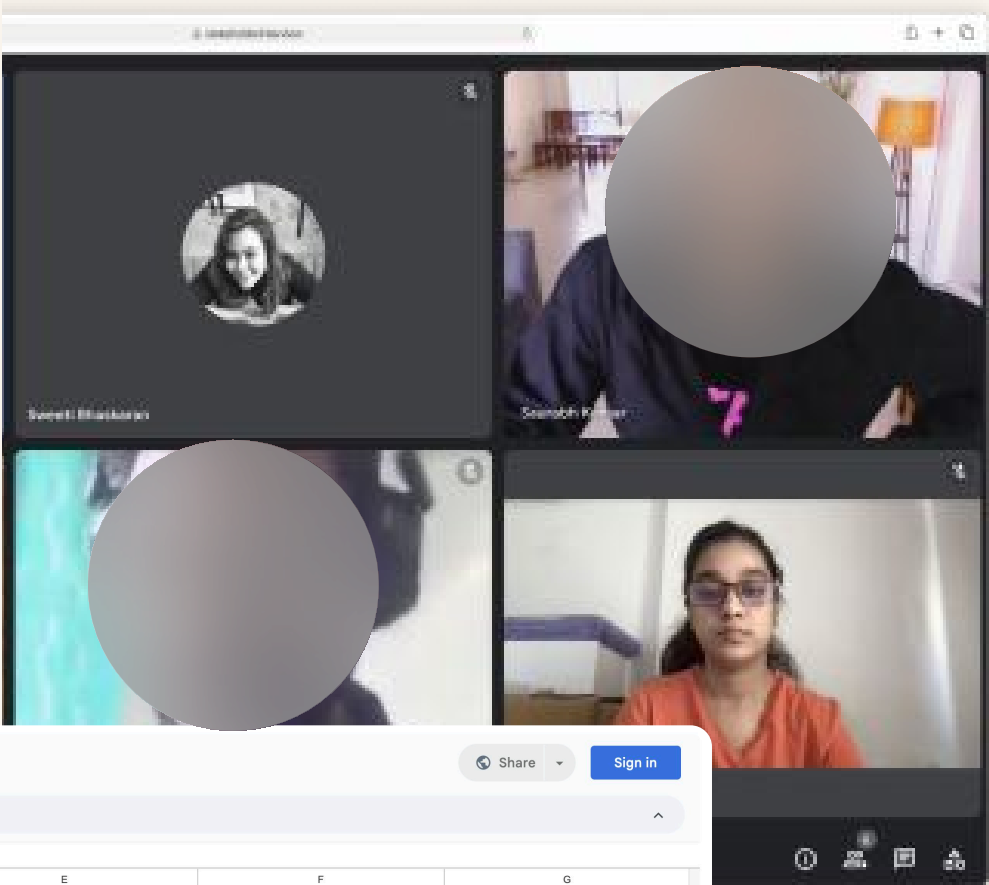
International Development Agencies (WHO, UNICEF)

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General Public : Urban and Rural Communities

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Research



Climate Change Interview Sheet					
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A1	Questions				
1	Questions	Participant 2	Participant 3	Participant 4	Participant 5
2	Can you tell me a little about yourself? (Your age, gender, what you do, where you're from—whatever you're comfortable sharing.)	has been living in different parts of the country - now living in Mumbai and working in Thane - 24 years old	Living in Mumbai slums for the majority of life with family - earlier when I was young, 7 people used to live in one tiny square like apt. Now my grandparents have shifted to another place but still living in the chawl (slum) used to the flooding - lights go and come in 2 hours - railways stations - trains get stuck - roads were flooded - had to come walking - 17 kms - risk of potholes - group with other people - there are specific places - govt didn't take any action - in future it will be same - electricity will come - when social media wasn't active, the problem was worse, now with better, people come up with resolutions	Experience from the time when he was living in smaller town - 25 M	Living in Mumbai, India - had a mild experience of being stuck at rain
3	Has you or your community ever faced climate-related events like floods, droughts, cyclones, or extreme heat? If so, how often do they happen?	- faced extreme floods and rains		cyclone - gandhidham (small town in gujarat)	Yes, both me and my family members have been stuck in rain
4	Can you share a specific experience related to climate change that really impacted you?	I was commuting back from i and was stuck in monsoon & rains they got on my on ids started ig down as entire	I was commuting back from i and was stuck in monsoon & rains they got on my on ids started ig down as entire		

General Public Persona

Bio
Priya Sharma is a **28-year-old school teacher** living in **Guwahati, Assam**. She commutes daily from her school to her home, a journey that usually takes 30 minutes. One evening during monsoon season, an unexpected flood submerged roads, disrupted public transport, and left her stranded miles away from home. She had no emergency supplies, struggled to contact her family due to poor network coverage, and had to spend the night in a temporary shelter.

Pain Points & Frustrations

- Poor public transport response—buses and taxis stopped operating abruptly
- Mobile network failure—couldn't contact family or emergency services
- Lack of safe shelter options—forced to stay in an overcrowded community center
- Insufficient early warning system—flooding escalated faster than expected
- No access to food or basic necessities for over hours

Motivation and Goals

- Ensuring personal safety and reaching home during extreme weather events
- Better infrastructure & drainage systems to prevent frequent urban flooding
- Access to real-time flood alerts and emergency support
- Raising awareness about emergency preparedness among her students and local communities

Needs & Goals

- Reliable flood alerts & evacuation plans to avoid being stranded
- Improved drainage & road infrastructure to prevent flash floods in urban areas
- Emergency shelters with basic supplies (food, water, power backup, sanitation)
- Public transport contingency plans to help stranded citizens
- Community awareness programs on handling emergencies

15 = 21 - 30 years, Indians living in India + USA participants



People shared images of property damage caused by extreme rainfall.

Insights

Challenge due to drastic climate change

People not being able to anticipate the intensity of climate change

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Certain population like daily wage worker/ pregnant women and new born babies face the most problem

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Basic necessities - food, drinking water, electricity and finances get affected the most

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Lot of unpredictability > the damage, the intensity of the event and risk of life

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In flood-prone areas, makeshift coping strategies like collecting water in utensils, going to higher floors during floods are used.

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Technology, particularly social media and mobile phones, plays a crucial role in helping people navigate during these events

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Insufficient government action to address these recurrent challenges.

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Efforts taken to make the situation better?

Reliance on the government - people expect change in the policy level

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Once the situation is over, the discussion dies down but the effect stays.

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After support of donations and providing food/water is crucial but the financial loss cannot be covered

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During these times, people rely heavily on the community around them

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Feelings/Emotions

Loss of hope and feeling of helplessness - also acceptable of the fact that the situation will not change

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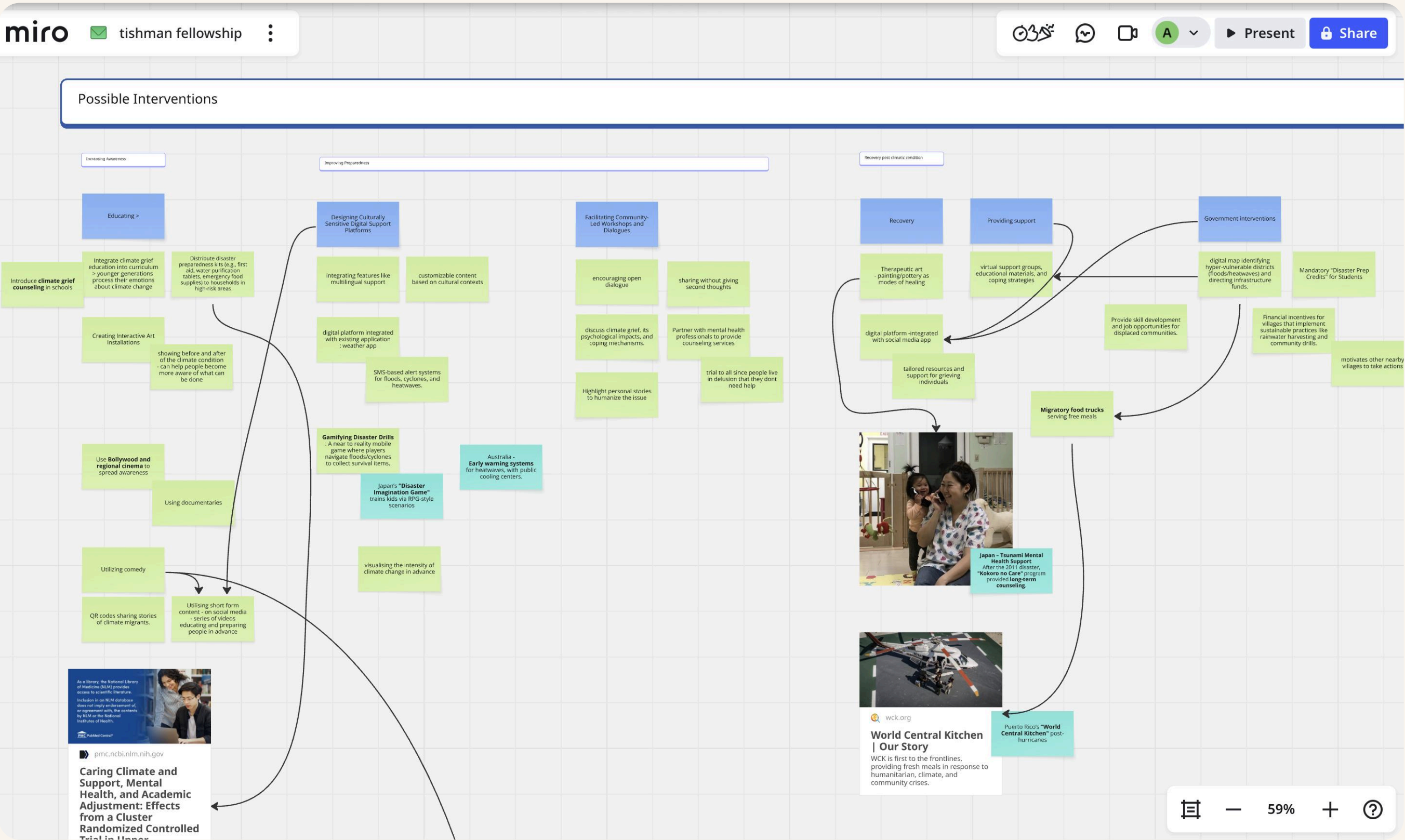
There are stark opinions about the role of the government > most of the times people are not satisfied with the govt efforts

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Sense of vulnerability

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Design Intervention

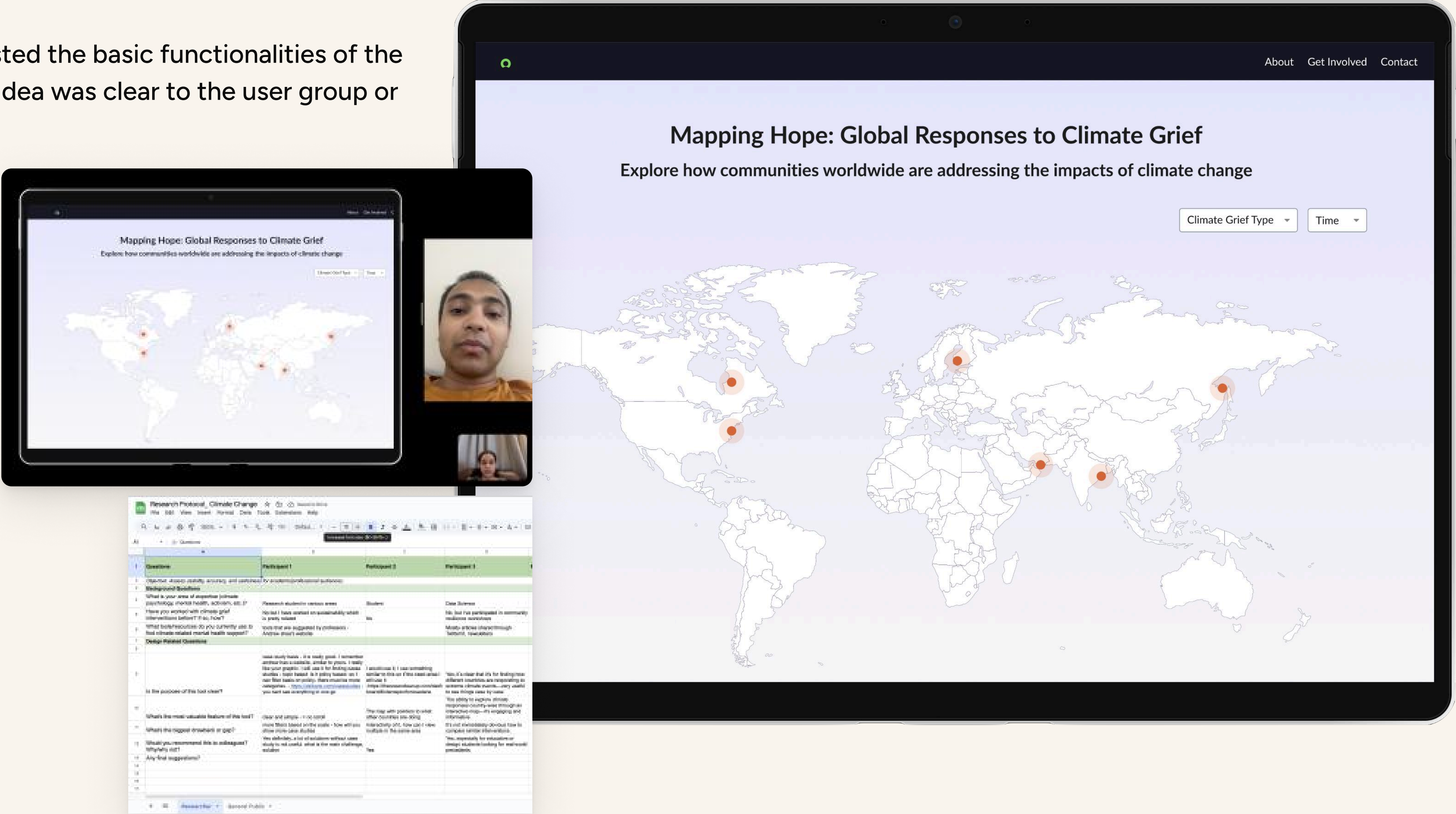


A **centralized platform** that aggregates global resources on diverse climatic conditions and the solutions implemented to address them.

Designed primarily for the general public, the platform also serves as a valuable tool for stakeholders involved in climate preparedness, planning, and recovery efforts.

Initial Testing

Initial prototype tested the basic functionalities of the platform and if the idea was clear to the user group or not.



Second Iteration

An interactive world map showcasing various case studies. Selecting a location reveals detailed information on how specific climate challenges were addressed.

World Central Kitchen (WCK)

Emergency Food Relief after Hurricane Dorian



Food Relief

Hurricane

Community Based

Rapid Deployment

Bahamas

Bahamas – Nassau, Abaco Islands, and Grand Bahama

Climate Event Type: Hurricane / Cyclone

Duration: September 2019 – November 2019

Following the devastating impact of Hurricane Dorian, WCK provided immediate emergency food relief to affected communities across the Bahamas.

Actions Taken:

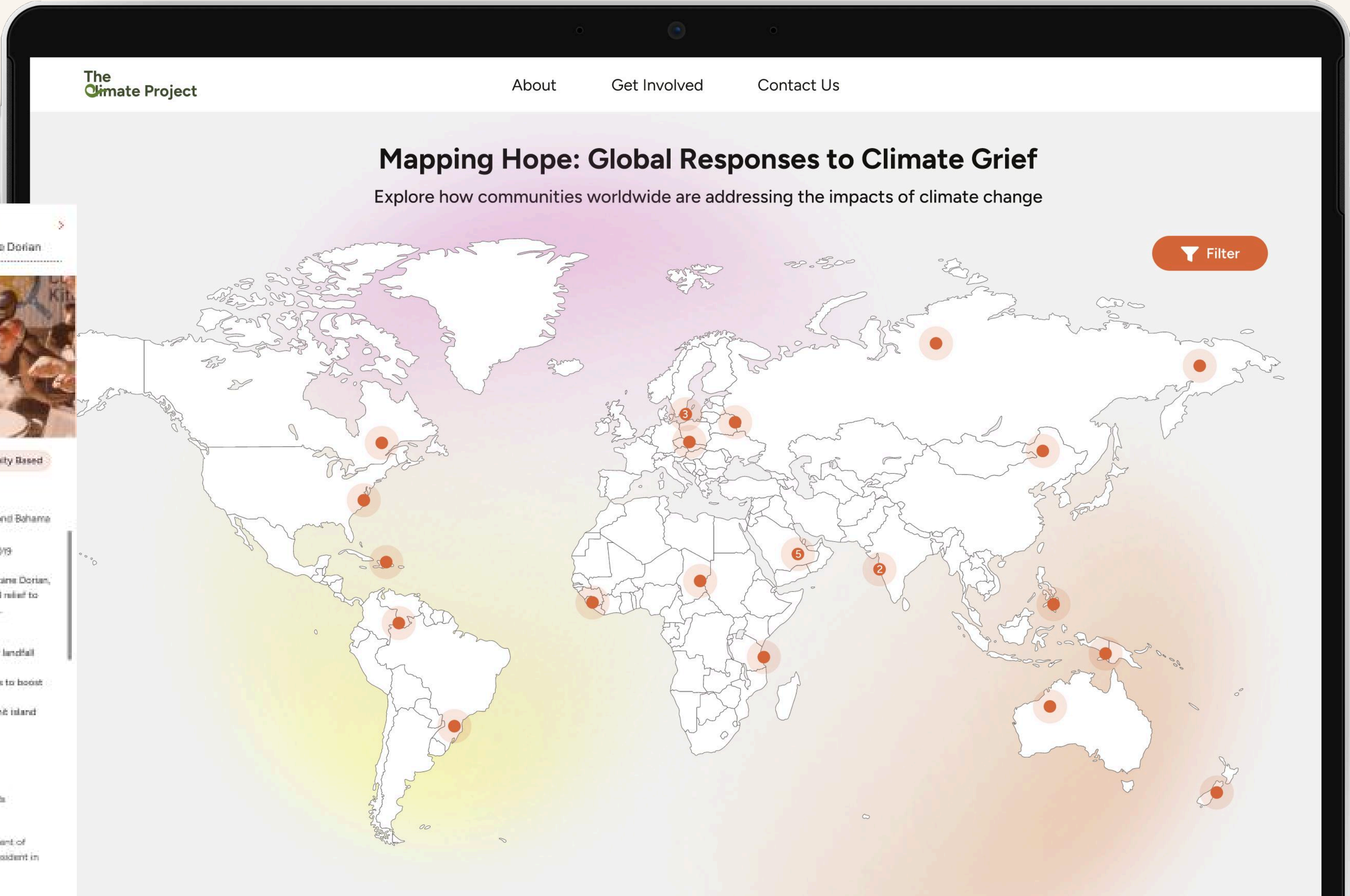
- Set up field kitchens within 24 hours of landfall
- Served over 3.5 million meals
- Partnered with local chefs and suppliers to boost speed and sustainability
- Deployed a mobile relief team to hard-hit island communities

Impact:

- 3.5 million+ meals served
- 250+ volunteers and staff mobilized
- Rapid deployment across 3 major islands

Emotional Impact:

"The smell of warm food was the first moment of comfort after days of chaos," said a local resident in Abaco.



Filters to enable users to explore interventions by climate event type, response strategy, region, timeframe - making it easier to find relevant case studies.

Filters

Type of Climatic Event

Floods☒

Droughts☐

Heatwaves☐

Cyclones / Hurricanes / Typhoons☐

Wildfires☐

Landslides☐

Timeframe

Past 1 year☐

Past 5 years☒

Past 10 years☐

Pre-2000 (long-term insights)☐

Action Taken

Policy & Governance☐

Infrastructure Development☐

Community Engagement & Education☐

Emergency Response & Relief☐

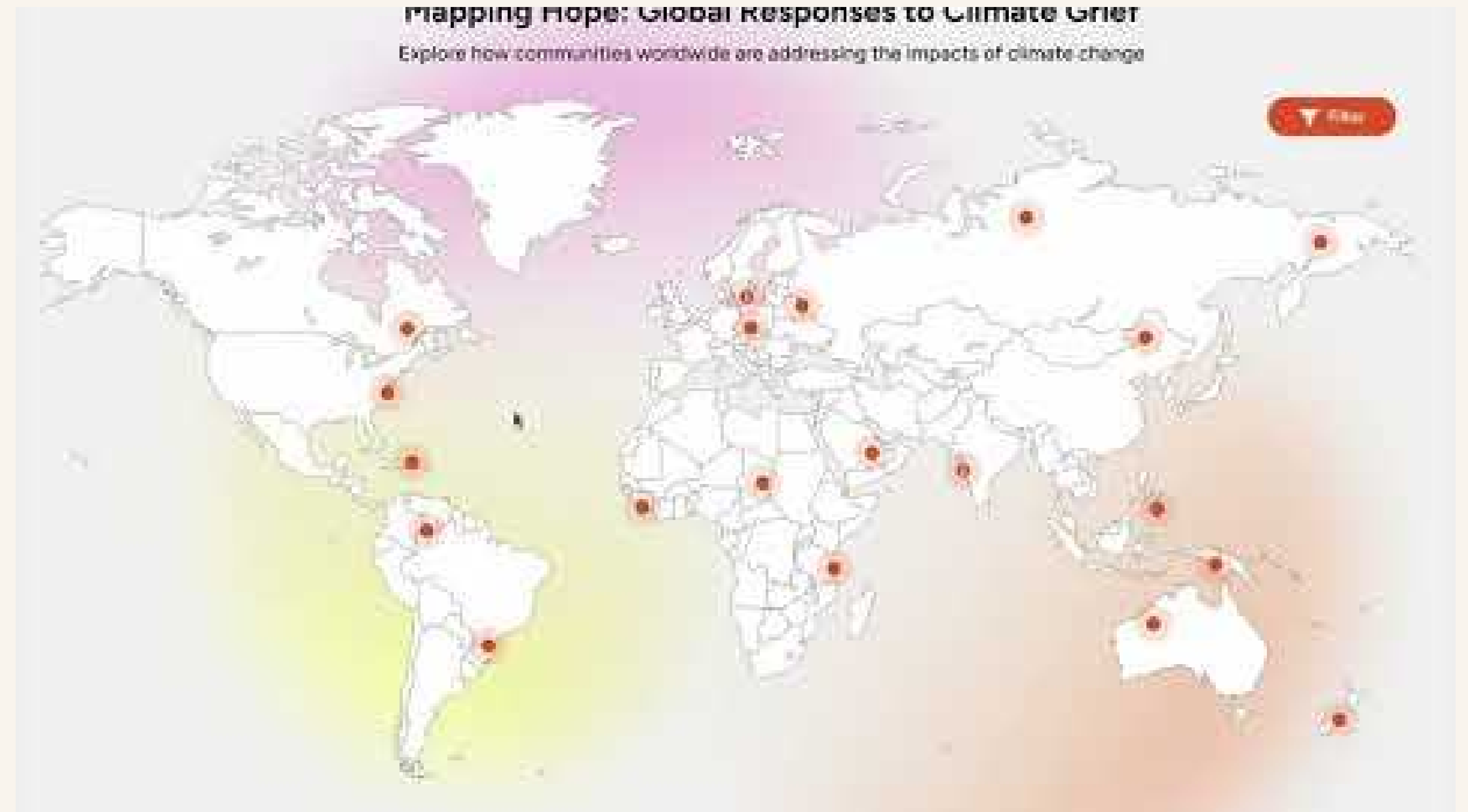
Early Warning Systems☐

Resilience / Restoration☐

Apply Filter

Second Iteration

In the second iteration, I also refined the branding, aiming for the website to evoke a sense of hope.



Learnings & Challenges

The wide variation in climatic conditions across different regions of India presents a challenge in formulating a standardized research protocol.

Building a feasible and testable solution that meets the problem statement in the limited timeline

Finding suitable participants was key, but screening limited the pool, as many in my network lacked relevant experiences.

Future Scope & Next Steps

- Develop the prototype into a fully functional, live website using platforms like Framer for dynamic interactivity and smooth user experience.
- Integrate real-time data and verified case studies from global sources to ensure credibility and relevance.
- Expand the filtering system to support deeper customization, including emotional impact, intervention scale, and recovery timelines.
- Add user-contributed stories or case submissions for community-driven insights and lived experiences.



Thank You

Akanksha Mahanti