

Manifesto for Collective Housing in Bangladesh*

1 A low-income–community-friendly **Collective Habitat Trust** must be established under the Prime Minister’s Office to ensure housing for the low-income people of Bangladesh. A majority of the Trust’s governing board must be elected representatives from low-income people’s organisations (at least 51% of the board must be low-income community representatives).

2 To secure adequate housing, habitat, and livelihoods for low-income people, land ownership must be vested in a **collective ownership system** held by low-income communities.

3 The government must **establish and operate one government primary school for every 2,000 urban low-income residents**, and **one government community clinic (primary health care centre) for every 6,000 urban low-income residents**.

4 The government must **allocate 30% of the national budget for the development of low-income people**. It must also specify clear plans and dedicated budget lines in the next National Five-Year Plan to support the human development of Bangladesh’s low-income population.

5 Government institutions or any individual must **stop discriminating against low-income people in providing services and entitlements** – especially when a person lacks a permanent address, works in an informal occupation, or speaks a language different from the mainstream.

6 State institutions or any entity or person must **not have the authority to evict low-income people from their homes or places of occupation**, even if households do not possess formal legal entitlement to the land where they currently live.

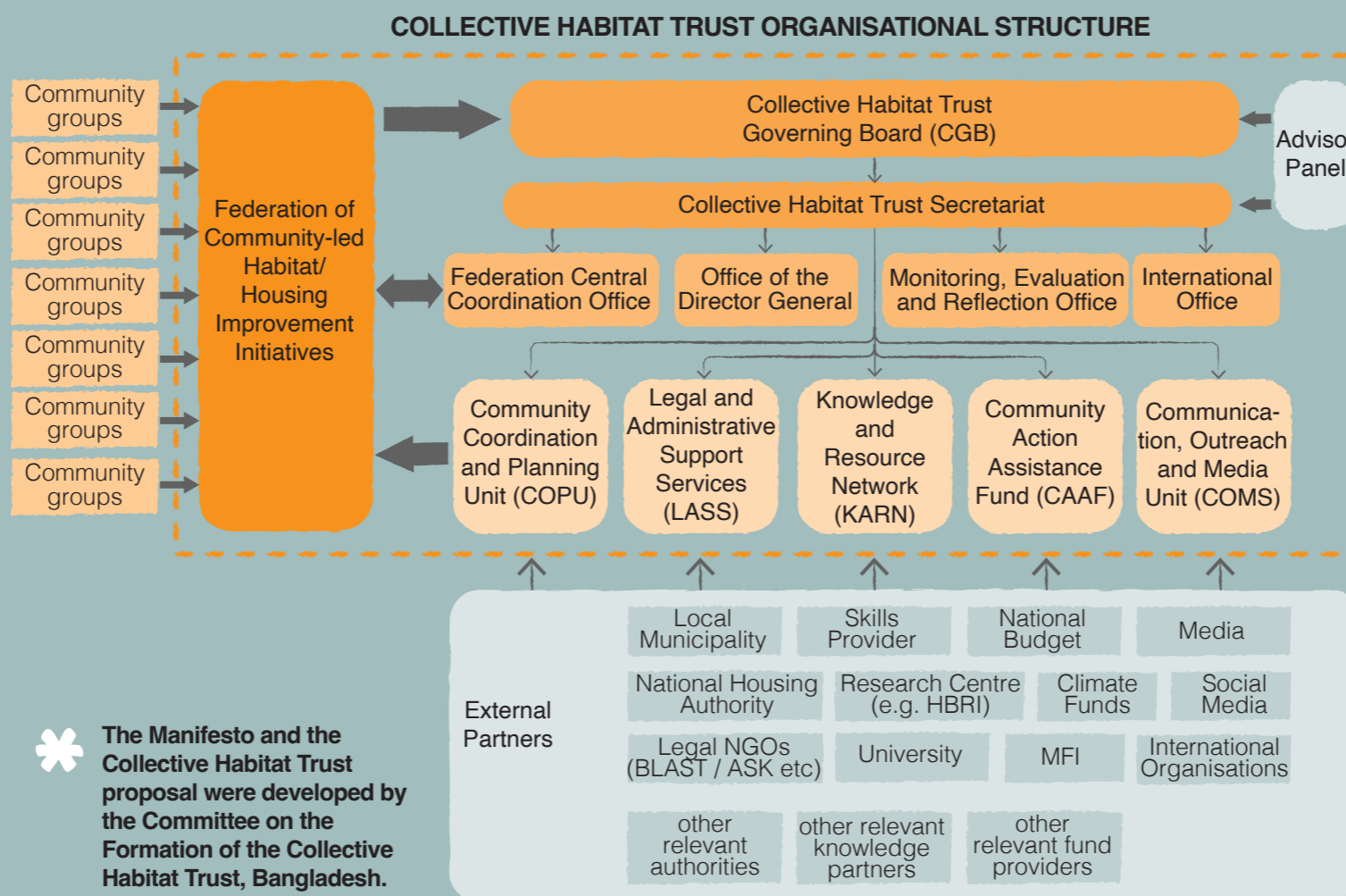
7 The Constitution of Bangladesh recognises the “basic necessity of shelter” in Article 15 of Part II. The People’s Republic of Bangladesh must therefore declare the **Right to Shelter as a fundamental right under Part III of the Constitution**.

LET PEOPLE AND NATURE BE THE SOLUTION

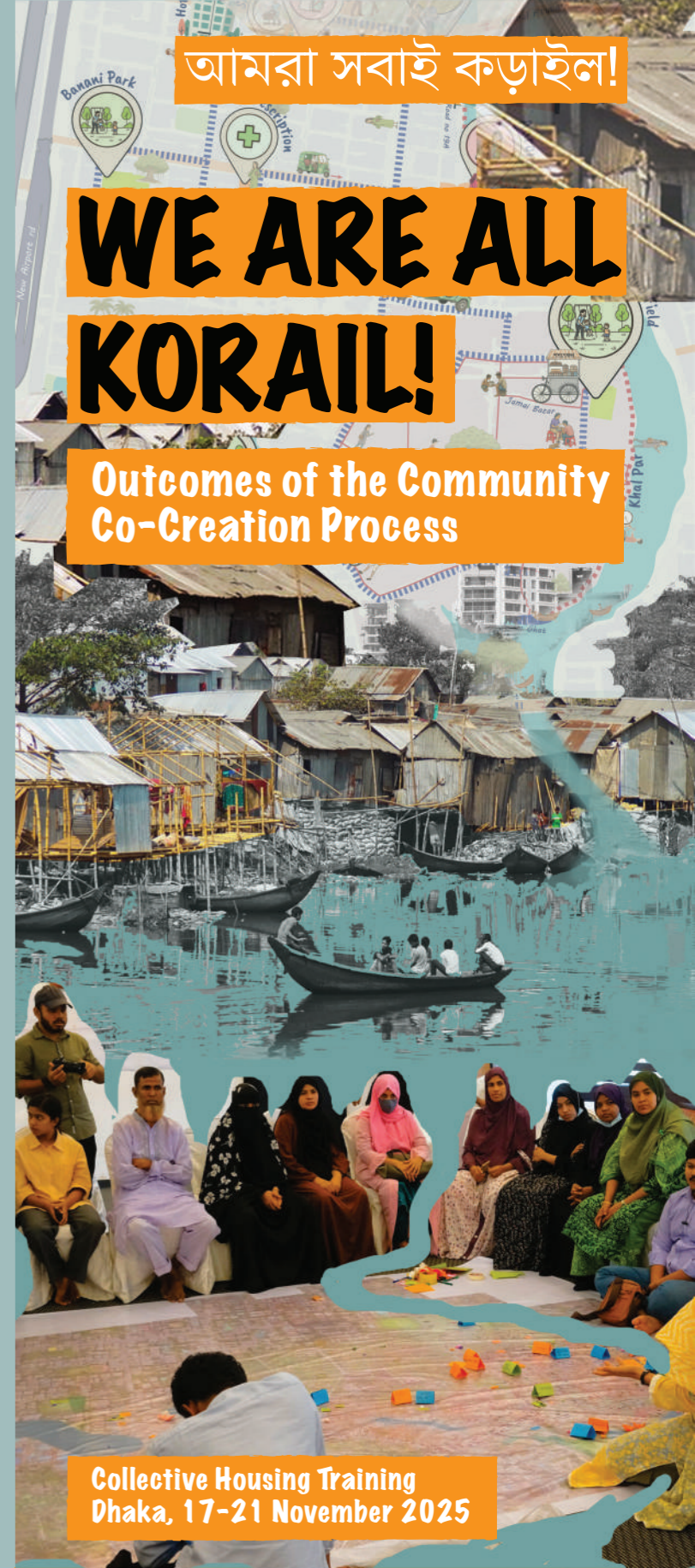
WE ARE READY. ARE YOU?

Our collectively developed proposal for a Collective Habitat Trust:

The Community Development Trust is a nationwide community-led institution embedded in the government system. It proposes a new way for organised communities, public authorities, and civil society to join forces and tackle Bangladesh’s housing crisis collectively and sustainably.



* The Manifesto and the Collective Habitat Trust proposal were developed by the Committee on the Formation of the Collective Habitat Trust, Bangladesh.



আমরা সবাই কড়াইল!

WE ARE ALL KORAIL!

Outcomes of the Community Co-Creation Process

Collective Housing Training Dhaka, 17-21 November 2025

Organised by

Supported by

Strategic Partners

KORAIL AND THE CITY

What kind of Dhaka and Korail do we want to live in?

Korail and Dhaka can **co-exist and benefit each other**. They are already interdependent and can **grow together socially, environmentally, and economically** in the future.

The upgrading of Korail will **deepen and improve the social and physical linkages** between its residents and the broader population; it can become a **model for the whole city**.

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

How can we make it happen?

Korail's upgrading will be led by a **coordination system** that links the many community groups already working on savings, disaster risk, urban farming, health and sanitation, and other issues.

This system shall be **democratic and transparent**, with zone-based subgroups anchoring the work in each area of Korail, with clear roles, responsibilities, and accountability.

The upgrading will be based on a co-creation process: **communities and government planning and building together**. Community savings can fund local upgrades and be matched with government support for larger works (like drainage improvements and the lakeside walkway) that benefit both Korail and all of Dhaka.

SPATIAL DESIGN AND INFRASTRUCTURE

What can be done, and what will it look like?

Korail can be **improved step by step** – better public spaces, safer streets, and stronger infrastructure – **without disrupting livelihoods or pushing people out**.

With small, gradual changes and limited vertical growth it is possible to **open up space for upgrading** homes, lanes, canals, drainage, electricity, and waste systems.



Upgrading Korail's drainage and sewage helps the whole city's environment and water system.

Water farming improves water quality and provides low-cost food and income.

Korail is one of Dhaka's greenest areas, full of big trees.

WE ARE ALL KORAIL!

When the state upgrades big works, community savings let people upgrade their homes.

Korail residents and neighbours alike enjoy the lakeside walk and lively energy.

If public authorities help improve Korail's public spaces, the community will take care of them.

With secure tenure, people start improving their homes.

Local coordination and savings groups will help upgrade and maintain Korail.

This can happen through **localised pilots coordinated across the community**, and eventually expand to the whole of Korail.

This upgrading will have a **positive impact** on the health and wellbeing of people, traffic congestion, and environmental balance in Korail and the city.