**BANGLADESH: KHUDI BARI (AKTC – ACCESS ALL)**

SOUNDBITE (English) MARINA TABASSUM, ARCHITECT:

“t's a self-initiated project in a way, because we did a research and then based on the research, we were able to, create a modular structure which we wanted to implement in different parts of Bangladesh, which is climatically and geographically challenged. Some of these houses have actually faced 2 to 3 cycles of flood. And so they, can really use them during the flooding season. And quite often the water stays still, let's say 45 days. And within that time they're able to actually stay on the upper level.

At the same time, we are also working with Livelihood program, where women, also men can generate economy which can actually sustain the whole process of making, the houses. So it's not just only, providing for the different materials, but it's also about generating an economy which can actually help them make the houses.

This, center, actually caters to both men and women. This project was designed as a co-design process through a co-design process where, we worked with the refugees directly.”

SOUNDBITE (English) KAZI AKIF AKASH, ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTE MTA:

“So the structural system was actually this bamboo, bamboo which is joined with this metal, metal joint. And then there is a tin or patch shed on top. So that is the main structure and the elevation of the building, which can obviously the building is two storey. Then the elevation will be actually can be developed by the local people. When there is a Khudi Bari, the local people are the builders. They go and they build it. They understand why it is how it is and they build it and they live it. So that's this, this ownership that this has been going on.”

SOUNDBITE (Bengali) KHUDI BARI USER - WOMEN:

“Imagine if a flood occurs, imagine there's no place to go. Where do we go? Seeing a great danger of water, we open the fences and thatched walls, gently taking the young children

and babies with dry food, we climb upward.”

SOUNDBITE (Bengali) KHUDI BARI USER - MEN:

“This house came from another place. This house was in another place before. Then I brought it from there and set it up in this place. At first, it was shown to me when I was young. Later, I saw it again and memorised it. After I understood it, I brought the house and set it up myself.”

**B-ROLL**

1. VARIOUS OF DRONE SHOTS OF LANDSCAPES AND KHUDI BARI
2. VARIOUS OF KHUDI BARI’S AND PEOPLE
3. DETAILS OF STRUCTURE
4. PEOPLE BUILDING THE STRUCTURE
5. CHILDREN
6. WOMEN WITH CHILD ON TOP FLOOR
7. FOOD
8. VARIOUS OF WOMEN, MEN AND CHILDREN IN REFUGEE CAMP

**STORY:**

Khudi Bari is a simple space frame built with bamboo and steel connectors that responds to the rise of climate-driven displacement in Bangladesh. The affordable, modular structural system can be rapidly disassembled and reassembled by three people using simple tools. The Khudi Bari is resilient, with its rigid frame able to withstand lateral wind and water pressure. Nevertheless, the lightweight structure requires only a shallow foundation and anchor to the ground. The roofs are corrugated metal sheets for the ease of transport and maintenance. The façades can be made from any material sourced locally, and the Khudi Bari's architectural design echoes vernacular houses in the region. It is designed with two levels: the lower offers a social and private space, and the upper is used for sleeping and can double as a flood shelter. Khudi Bari units have been deployed in floods and thunderstorms.

Marina Tabassum Architects has worked with communities to share construction knowledge, and scaled up the structure, using it to build aggregation centres for woman farmers and community centres for women in Rohingya refugee camps.

To be eligible for consideration in the 2025 Award cycle, projects had to be completed between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2023 and should have been in use for at least one year. Projects commissioned by His Highness the Aga Khan or any of the institutions of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) are ineligible for the Award.