

THE COLLECTIVE

PEOPLE - PLANET - POWER - PROGRESS

PREPARED FOR

PROSPECTIVE PARTNERS

PRESENTED BY

THE COLLECTIVE



FEB 2026



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About The Collective

Across every continent, a global collective is rising— people deeply committed to our planet, to one another, and to our shared future. We come from grassroots movements and have local to global experience, with decades of defending rights, changing laws, mobilising communities, advising governments, & shaping policy. We are plugged into live campaigns and activists constituencies all over the world on all kinds of issues.

We are not an organisation but a shared fresh infrastructure and network weaver at the meta level - where we know more coordination and energy is needed. We come in humility and seek to add value to existing efforts around the world. We are built to redistribute power and resources, enable co-designed collective action, and reimagine what's possible. Rooted in radical hope, equity, and integrity, we protect those who need safety while acting boldly with transparency and accountability.

Some of us are visible; others must remain unseen to stay safe. So far, we have:

- Mapped and linked thousands of networks, movements, and organisations worldwide
- Formed partnerships with CIVICUS, GCAP, Action for Sustainable Development who represent thousands of grassroots organisations and campaigners around the world.
- Engaged, listened to and consulted over 150 leaders in human rights, philanthropy, and social change
- Connected a core team of over 20 activists - who represent thousands of others - across six continents to shape a new future
- Built an advisory board of leading campaigners, philanthropists and justice advocates
- Secured fiscal sponsors in Europe and the US

These ideas are born from thousands of conversations grounded in hope, justice, and imagination. Their time has come.

SOME OF THE TEAM (THERE ARE MANY MORE)



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Campaigns, Research



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Campaigns, Mobilisation



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Digital, Activism



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Research, Movements



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Campaigns, Narrative, Strategy



The issues we all face

Looking at the world today, it is easy to feel hopelessness and resignation when faced with daily news and social media stories of the rollback on rights, loss, tragedy, abuse, authoritarianism, injustice, conflict, disasters, greed, corruption and failed systems. Our world is in crisis.



Inequality

Metric: The richest 1% own nearly two-thirds of all new wealth leaving billions of us behind (Oxfam: Survival of the richest report)



Freedom

Metric: According to the Freedom House "Freedom in the World 2025" report, in Africa political rights/civil liberties dropped in 21 out of 54 countries during 2024



Conflict

Metric: As of April 2025, there were approximately 122.1 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. A European Commission summary states: "Forced displacement has nearly doubled during the last decade."

If current trends continue, the results will be catastrophic: rising poverty and displacement, escalating climate impacts, and the tightening grip of authoritarianism. As hope and trust erode, humanity risks losing not just material wellbeing but the moral imagination needed to build a just, sustainable world. As systems change specialists we know however this time is also ripe with opportunity and we are planning with many other movements, activists and progressive actors around the world to leverage the global polycrisis to create the conditions for an equitable future.

To reverse the tide, we must usher in a new era of social, economic, and environmental justice—together. By curating, creating and applying practical solutions, we can transform broken systems and protect both people and planet, whose futures are inseparable.

The power to change our world lies in our collective hands. As the last generation able to make a real difference, we must act boldly. That's why the Collective is advancing five big ideas that meet this urgent moment for action.

Mission and Vision

This is a bold, global call for unprecedented progressive collaboration and courage. It's about moving beyond dialogue and forging lasting change by centring meaningful people power, genuine community participation, redistributed wealth, shared power and unified action across the world. The proposal is to support The Collective and partners - a new form of organising - made up of passionate changemakers from around the world. We believe it is possible to leverage the current global polycrisis to create the conditions for an equitable future for all.



MISSION

We are collaborating to amp up people power and re-engineer the flow of wealth—taking trapped capital to fund grassroots movements directly. By serving as the connective tissue between the climate movement and the struggle for decolonised equity, we will build new narratives and usher in the next economies and lasting social justice for all.



VISION

There is so much potential in our world but the systems we rely on are being broken and there is greed, abuse and a corruption of power which is failing both people and planet. We need collective action to transform these broken systems and usher in a new era of fulfilled rights and justice - social, economic and environmental. We've got five big and bold ideas to meet this moment and we want you to be a part of it. The fight for our planet and for each other are now intimately intertwined - we are the last generation left that can change this forever. We need to take action now - together.

Pillar 1 - Go Grassroots

Powering People and Movements: Our first pillar, **Go Grassroots**, strengthens people power. We seek to create The People’s Platform a space for radical collaboration and learning. With humility and respect for existing efforts, we support those most affected by inequality to lead change on their own terms. As a movement, we build global connections and light-touch infrastructure, uniting activists and communities around the world to tackle root causes through shared strategy and solidarity.

Our methodology is grounded in participatory action and long-term capacity building. We will:

- **Support Frontline Leadership:** Provide sustained, flexible support to grassroots leaders, especially across the Global South and especially women, to scale their solutions and safeguard their work. Offer a range of campaigns, advocacy, mobilisation support.
- **Elevate Community Knowledge:** The People’s Charter — a global platform to mobilise citizen action, showcasing community research, innovation, and visions for the future.
- **Act as Connective Tissue:** Map existing ecosystems and strengthen coordination between movements, avoiding duplication and amplifying what works.
- **Convene for Collective Strength:** Create inclusive learning and accountability spaces that connect civil society, activists, and citizens for shared strategy and trust-building.
- **Protect Frontline Defenders:** Develop robust safeguarding and emergency support for activists and human rights defenders in repressive contexts.
- **Engage the Disengaged:** Reach people beyond traditional NGO spaces — those excluded from civic participation due to class, race, gender, or geography.
- **Move from Apathy to Agency:** Inspire and equip ordinary citizens to take action through an “Action Menu” of tangible, localised pathways to engagement.
- **Support Strategic Campaigning:** Partner with existing networks to design and scale collective advocacy, mobilising citizens globally toward systemic reform.
- **Support and amplify Citizens Assemblies’** - support existing efforts to bolster the power of the people.

This pillar ensures that transformation begins and remains with the people most impacted — amplifying their leadership, strengthening their resilience, and connecting their efforts into a global ecosystem of solidarity and mutual support.



The ask - investment options	Value
Seed funding for this Go Grassroots pillar	\$150,000
Full scale support*	\$750,000+
*Full budget breakdown available on request	

Pillar 2 - Go Big

Transforming the funding system: The second pillar, **Go Big**, addresses one of the most entrenched barriers to systemic change: unequal access to resources. Traditional philanthropy and aid systems often reinforce colonial dynamics, concentrating decision-making in the Global North while restricting funding for grassroots leadership. To reverse this, we are launching The People’s Fund — a radical new funding mechanism and platform designed to democratise wealth, redistribute power, and provide long-term, unrestricted funding directly to those driving change. Our approach is participatory, ethical, and scalable. We will:

- **Catalyse System Reform:** Convene philanthropy networks, grassroots funders, and social investors to co-design decolonial, redistributive funding models that shift how change is resourced. Building on an honouring existing efforts - Co-identify barriers in the system and taking radical urgent collective action to remove them. Help to curate networks already at the forefront of this work to add collective value.
- **Build up the Grassroots Fund - Zovu:** A fund by the people for the people. A community-governed, ethically invested global fund channelling resources to human rights defenders, grassroots movements, and civic actors.
- **Embed Participatory Governance:** Governance led by those with lived experience of injustice, diverse geographic representation, and expertise in participatory grant making.
- **Build on existing efforts to create a Transparent Ecosystem:** Ensure integrity, accountability, and shared ownership through open data, accessible reporting, and community oversight.
- **Recognise and Match Informal Giving:** Quantify the impact of community-based and informal giving, recognising it as the real foundation of survival and solidarity, and develop mechanisms to match it with institutional funds.
- **Enable Direct Giving:** Establish digital platforms that allow donors and individuals to connect directly with and fund Southern organisations, fostering transparency and mutual trust. A fund by the people for the people.

By reimagining philanthropy as a tool of justice rather than charity, The People’s Fund will channel wealth at pace and scale to where it is most needed — building financial autonomy and long-term resilience for communities around the world.

The ask - investment options	Value
Seed funding for this Go Big pillar	\$1,000,000
Full scale support*	\$500,000,000 - \$1b+
*Full budget breakdown available on request	



Pillar 3 - Go Collective

Building Infrastructure for Radical Collaboration: The third pillar, **Go Collective**, tackles the fragmentation that weakens global civil society. Competition for scarce resources, duplication of effort, and lack of cross-movement coordination have long prevented systemic progress.

Go Collective provides the connective infrastructure for collaboration, co-creation and curating of our collective power. We come in humility to interconnect existing ecosystems and energy, providing new ways to bridge efforts and a new form of supportive light touch infrastructure - not re-creating existing efforts but plugging them in together by providing space, time and structure.

Our methodology centres on deep partnership, co-design, and decentralisation. We will:

- **Host The Global Gathering (2026) with Strategy Development:** A catalytic convening of select changemakers to co-create shared strategies, confront systemic challenges, and form long-term alliances across sectors and regions.
- **Bridge the Gap:** Connect grassroots movements, Indigenous communities, and marginalised groups with formal decision-making spaces through regional hubs rooted in lived experience - building on, strengthening and working through existing infrastructure
- **Map What’s Missing:** Identify blockages and gaps in current systems, then coordinate responses through shared planning and resource alignment.
- **Launch a Global Platform for Campaigners:** Facilitate cross-border collaboration, amplify underrepresented voices, and build advocacy capacity through digital and in-person networks.
- **Build Long-Term Collective Power:** Create an enduring, trust-based ecosystem — light-touch, non-hierarchical, and adaptive — to sustain solidarity and joint action.
- **Redefine Success:** Shift away from individualism and short-termism, centring care, dignity, and interdependence as measures of collective wellbeing and progress.

Through Go Collective, we will transform competition into collaboration, building the connective tissue civil society needs to address global crises with unity, creativity, and courage.



The ask - investment options	Value
Seed funding for this Go Collective pillar	\$500,000
Full scale support*	\$3,500,000
*Full budget breakdown available on request	

Pillar 4 - Go Visionary

Changing the Narrative: Every movement for justice needs a story that unites, uplifts, and inspires. The fourth pillar, **Go Visionary**, is about reclaiming the narrative. Around the world, regressive forces are investing heavily in disinformation and hate, while progressive voices are fragmented and underfunded. To counter this, we will establish a global narrative agency — a creative powerhouse dedicated to amplifying stories of hope, justice, and collective possibility.

Our methodology fuses cultural strategy, communications, and technology. We will:

- **Co-create New Narratives:** Partner with communities, creatives, and movements to tell values-driven stories rooted in real experience and shared human dignity.
- **Centre Frontline Voices:** Fund and amplify storytelling by those facing injustice — especially Indigenous peoples, women, and young leaders — to elevate their agency and vision.
- **Build Storytelling Ecosystems:** Support networks of local and global storytellers, campaigners, and cultural producers to shift norms and beliefs through coordinated storytelling.
- **Disrupt Harmful Narratives:** Monitor and counter hate, division, and misinformation while promoting empathy, connection, and collective resilience.
- **Harness Tech for Good:** Collaborate with ethical tech partners to transform digital spaces, democratise reach, and build new modes of narrative activism.
- **Launch Global “Thunderclaps”:** Coordinate mass storytelling moments that synchronise positive messages worldwide, subverting algorithms and uniting people around shared values. Masses of these to come from the African content and from African content creators.
- **Create a Self-Sustaining Agency:** Build an enduring “Narratives for Good” platform to fund, train, and connect global storytellers and movements for long-term cultural change.

Narratives shape perception, and perception drives action. By transforming the story of who we are and what is possible, we will rebuild hope and collective agency at a global scale.

The ask - investment options	Value
Seed funding for this Go Visionary pillar	\$250,000
Full scale support*	\$3,500,000+
*Full budget breakdown available on request	



Pillar 5 - Go Cooperative & Regenerative

Go Cooperative and Regenerative - supporting existing movements to usher in the next economies that work in the interests of people and planet.

The way we do business today is accelerating climate breakdown, deepening inequality, and exhausting our natural systems. Extractive big business has become a major driver of environmental collapse — prioritising profit over people and planet. But another path is possible. We’re exploring the creation of a Meta Cooperative — a bold, people-owned model for regenerative economies, where communities steward resources, produce sustainably, and share in the value they create. This is about shifting from extractive systems to ones that restore, regenerate, and protect life — with Indigenous knowledge, grassroots innovation, and ecological responsibility at the centre.

The Meta Cooperative would act as a global ecosystem for ethical goods, services, and technologies — rooted in climate justice, democratic ownership, and circular economies. The Collective will map existing regenerative and cooperative initiatives, convene climate innovators, unions, social movements, and frontline communities to co-design tangible next steps. From supply chains to clean tech, we will invest in and incubate scalable, people-powered alternatives to destructive systems:

- **Support the movement:** Continue to plug in meaningfully with existing next economies networks and movements, understand what is needed to support these initiatives
- **Catalyse next economies:** Pilot with partners initiative that demonstrate how economies can work for people and planet meaningfully to create a huge bank of pilots that can be scaled up
- **Connect with the cooperative movement:** globally and nationally to explore the meta cooperative idea
- **Seek social impact investment:** to scale up effective initiatives
- **Indigenous and community practice:** Communities from Africa and connected to sister movements around the world to lead this work and innovation - shaping the new post colonial, post capitalist economies



The ask - investment options	Value
Seed funding for this Go Cooperative and Regenerative pillar	\$250,000
Full scale support* *Full budget breakdown available on request	\$850,000+

Systems change

Our Methodology: How It All Connects

Our overall methodology is **systems-based and participatory**. Each pillar interlocks to form a holistic framework for transformation:

- **People Power (Go Grassroots)** → builds agency and local leadership.
- **Resource Redistribution (Go Big)** → provides equitable, long-term funding to sustain that leadership.
- **Collaboration Infrastructure (Go Collective)** → connects movements and amplifies collective impact.
- **Narrative Transformation (Go Visionary)** → shifts public consciousness and cultural norms to sustain progress.
- **Next regenerative economies:** Is built by more active and engaged citizens looking for better ways to run things in the interest of one another and our planet

Impact

Our approach to impact goes beyond metrics — it's about movement intelligence and collective learning in action. We're building a dynamic Learning, Reflection and Evaluation Framework that is participatory, adaptive, and co-owned by those driving change. Rooted in systems thinking and informed by feminist, decolonial, and regenerative approaches, it will capture both tangible and intangible shifts — from redistributed resources and stronger movements to changed narratives and rebalanced power.

Through real-time feedback, open data, and storytelling, we'll show how collaboration and people power drive structural change. Regular sensemaking spaces will unite partners to reflect, adapt, and reimagine strategy. This living framework ensures accountability, learning, and transformation — proving what's possible when courage and connection fuel global change.

Conclusion

The Collective offers not just a project, but a new paradigm for how global change happens — one that replaces fragmentation with unity, charity with justice, and despair with shared purpose. It harnesses the creativity, courage, and compassion already alive in communities everywhere, connecting them through infrastructure, funding, and storytelling powerful enough to match the scale of the crises we face. This is the architecture of hope — a living, breathing, global movement built not for the few, but for the many, by the many.



Proposed Timeline

- Set-Up (0–3 months)→ Build a nimble, diverse, representative, high-impact core team based across each region of the world + global Advisory Board
- Discovery (3–6 months)→ Map the landscape — Identify key allies, gaps, and opportunities for each solution. Build the impact assessment process.
- Narrative Development (6–12 months)→ Craft urgent & strategic narratives, messages and digital content→ Partner with tech & comms allies to scale global storytelling
- Network Building (6–12 months)→ Establish a light-touch, representative, values-led network→ Create space for collaboration without control
- Investment Drive (6 months & ongoing)→ Build the People’s Fund→ Engage strategic donors, crowd funding, individual giving, social investors, progressive funders & bold philanthropists
- The Gathering — A chance to physically come together, hold space for each other and then build, Strategy co design in an event September 2026
- Catalyst Hubs (Ongoing)→ Launch action across all workstreams→ Support local leadership and ignite collective solutions globally



Proposed budget

FOR FISCAL 2026-2030 PROJECTS

Project and Initiative	Value
Go Grassroots	\$750,000
Go Big	\$5,000,000+*
Go Collaborative	\$500,000+
Go Visionary	\$3,500,000+
Go Cooperative and Regenerative	\$800,000
TOTAL	\$10,550,000
Seed funding option	\$1,000,000
*Please note the People’s Fund long term target will be \$10b+	

We anticipate a diverse community of foundations and philanthropists joining us—each contributing what they can to the pillars that align with their values and work. Alongside each objective, we’ve outlined the estimated seed funding and partnership needed to unlock the next phase. We know no single funder can do this alone, which is why we invite many to act—now and over time. We are seeking any contribution that works for our partners.

Every contribution matters: whether through discretionary funds, end-of-year budget allocations, or one-off grants. Those spending down endowments can see this as a direct, lasting transfer of power and resources to the grassroots. At this turning point in history, where systems are failing and the stakes could not be higher, this is an extraordinary chance to act with courage and purpose. The Collective has the vision, the ideas, and the people—what we need now is you.

For enquiries,
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