



2020
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

urba**n**onde

About urbaMonde

A city produced by and for their inhabitants

Alongside public and private sector-led urban development, the city is also built by its inhabitants, from the bottom-up.

Urban dwellers organize, plan, finance, build and manage housing developments, and common spaces take the lead to improve their neighborhoods.

Supported by financial means and appropriate policies, **this Social Production of Habitat (SPH) results in more sustainable, inclusive and affordable urban spaces and housing solutions**, meeting the needs of the inhabitants.

Convinced that the inhabitants and final users of urban spaces should be at the center of all processes that produce the city, urbaMonde's mission is to support the groups of inhabitants who carry out

SPH projects and who are committed to making their cities more sustainable and inclusive and to implement the right to the city and to adequate housing.

UrbaMonde operates in Switzerland and in France, by offering technical support to public actors in participative urban development projects, **as well as to groups of inhabitants implementing collaborative housing solutions, while promoting innovation in non-speculative land management and the access to affordable housing finance.**

The association also supports groups of vulnerable inhabitants in their collaborative housing projects, through international cooperation projects in Africa, Latin America and Asia. To this end, it promotes innovation in land and financial manage-

ment tools, documentation, exchange of experiences and networking.



Since 2014, urbaMonde coordinates the [CoHabitat Network](#), an international network of organizations and actors in the collaborative housing sector.

Foreword

This year, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has posed many challenges at the global level, including human rights issues. Local, regional and national governments, national and international institutions and civil society have had to respond quickly to the disruption of health care, economic activity and livelihoods.

People everywhere have been under pressure. Underprivileged people, including marginalised communities, have been particularly affected in already fragile contexts, where containment measures and hygiene regulations are difficult to enforce.

This health crisis has not only highlighted the urgency of implementing the Right to the City and the right to safe and adequate housing, but also the importance of an active role for civil society and citi-

zens in formulating inclusive policies and sustainable and appropriate solutions. In this context, many collaborative housing initiatives around the world have demonstrated inventiveness, resilience and solidarity.

They have all shown a strong potential to collectively face crises, whether it is through collective ownership that ensures security of tenure in the face of threats of eviction, the quality of construction that ensures a healthy, sustainable and appropriate environment, or the many mutual aid actions between residents that have been set up at the level of buildings, neighbourhoods and cities.

Local and international solidarity has become, more than ever, a central issue in providing concrete and effective solutions to the exacerbation of inequalities and vulnerabilities. It will remain a central issue in responding to the consequences

of the crisis and in providing effective solutions to the environmental and social challenges ahead.

Like many other NGOs, urbaMonde continued its international cooperation projects and maintained contact with its various partners and collaborators, both at a distance and online.

Despite the constraints, its local partners have continued their activities and achieved inspiring results **which show, once again, the potential of these communities to produce the city by and for the inhabitants, and confirm the importance of urbaMonde's commitment to them.**

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ACRONYMS

ACHR

Asian Coalition for Housing Rights

AFD

French Development Agency

CHI

Co-operative Housing International

CLT

Community Land Trust

CRI

Center for Research and Interdisciplinarity

CVAM

Mutual Aid Housing Cooperatives

FEDEVACO

Federation of Cooperation Vaud

FGC

Federation of Cooperation Geneva

FHaS

Habitat Solidarity Fund

FPH

Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation
for the progress of mankind

FSH

Senegalese Federation of Inhabitants

FUCVAM

Uruguayan Federation of Housing
Cooperatives for Mutual Aid

SDI

Slum Dwellers International

SHICC

Sustainable Housing for Inclusive and Cohesive
Cities

SPH

Social Production of Habitat

ZAC

Concerted Development Zone



**PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT
FOR LOCAL
STAKEHOLDERS**

Central America

Support to the development of housing cooperatives in Nicaragua

The project supports the multiple services cooperative Multipro with the aim to disseminate the mutual-aid housing cooperative model in the region of Matagalpa, in Nicaragua.

The project, launched in 2015 with the support of the FGC and Fedevaco, continues until mid-2021, and a new three-year phase is planned.

At the end of 2020, six cooperatives were organised and consolidated in the municipalities of Matagalpa, San Dionisio, Esquipulas and La Dalia.

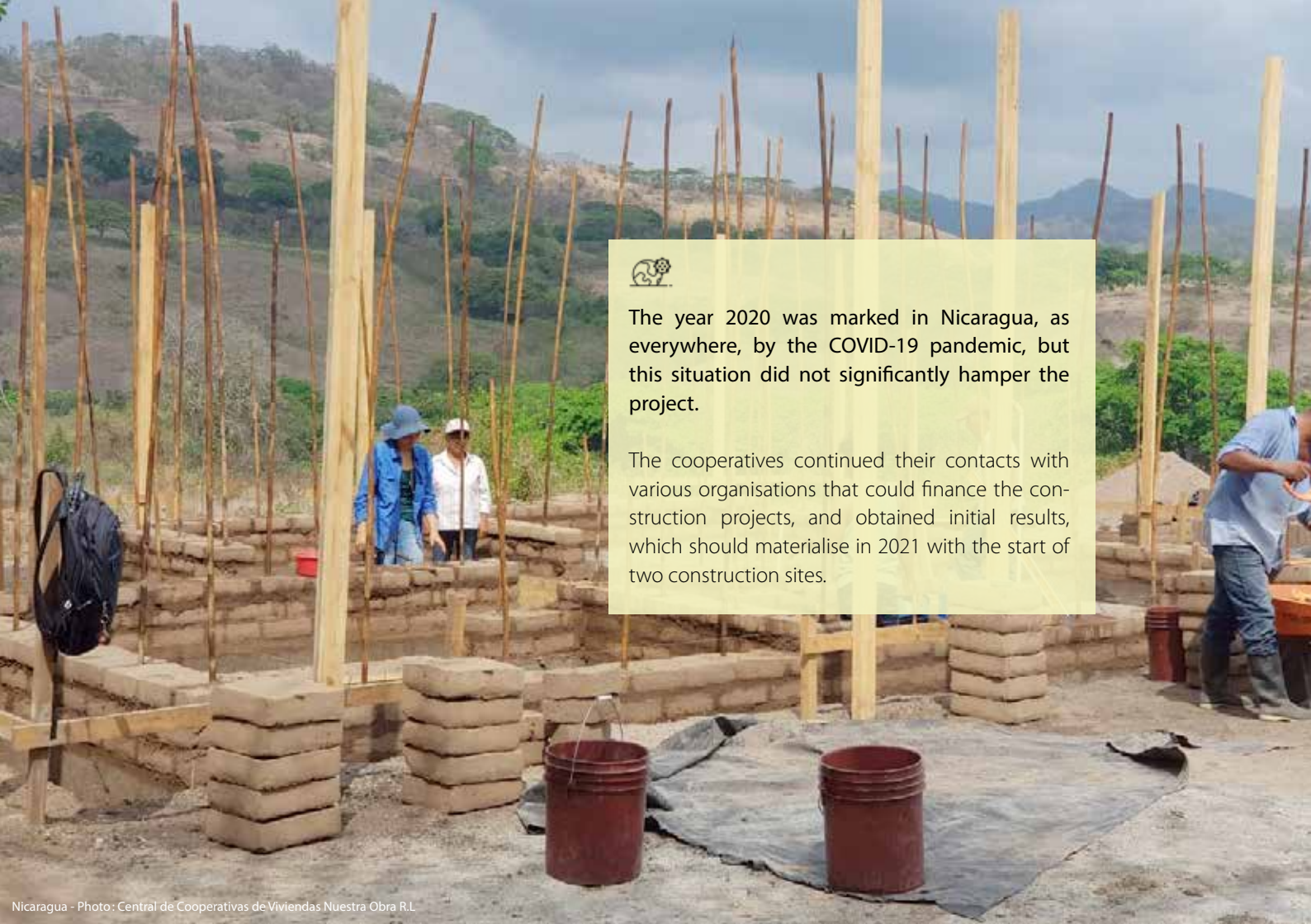
They have their own central office (CECOVI), which allows them to have a better impact on public authorities and municipalities.

The pandemic has postponed the construction of a model house built with earth until 2021; this experiment will allow the members of the San Dionisio cooperative to decide on the validity of this technology and its possible extension to other cooperatives. A similar experiment is planned for 2021 for the use of bamboo.

Consideration is being given to setting up a revolving fund at regional level with our partner We Effect and other major Latin American actors such as Habitat for Humanity, in order to make construction loans accessible to low-income families excluded from the banking system.

Three highlights of the year

- » The signing of a new agreement concerning the local revolving fund, developed in collaboration with [Philea International](#) and signed by CECOV, Multipro and urbaMonde. The fund is now open to construction sites.
- » The launch of the cooperativism school which aims to equip cooperative members with tools and knowledge to strengthen the self-management of their movement.
- » The Housing Congress, initiated by Multipro and in partnership with UNI (National Engineering University), brought together more than a hundred people during three days to discuss aspects related to the financing of social housing and the use of local materials.



The year 2020 was marked in Nicaragua, as everywhere, by the COVID-19 pandemic, but this situation did not significantly hamper the project.

The cooperatives continued their contacts with various organisations that could finance the construction projects, and obtained initial results, which should materialise in 2021 with the start of two construction sites.

Latin America

Support to the development of housing cooperatives in Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru

With the support of the FGC and FED-EVACO, urbaMonde and the Uruguayan Federation of Mutual-aid Housing Cooperatives (FUCVAM) have joined forces to launch a project aimed at strengthening and developing **the mutual aid cooperative housing CVAM model in Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru, through the replication and consolidation of the movement at national and regional levels.**

Based on the principles of direct democracy, mutual aid, collective ownership and self-management, this model promotes the participation of inhabitants in the entire process of producing their habitat (planning, construction and management). By defining housing as a right, the model contributes to

reducing inequalities, strengthens solidarity, promotes social and economical integration and ensures sustainable security of tenure.

A second three-year phase was launched in June 2019, with the aim of strengthening the achievements and continuing to support the work of FUCVAM and its National Training School (ENFORMA) in disseminating the CVAM model across South America.

An emphasis is placed on popular education and training of residents in the CVAM model, on the training of educators certified to transmit the basics of the model in different cultural contexts, on the implementation of pilot projects and the implementation of a regional

financial mechanism, as well as on documentation, experience exchange and raising awareness of the potential of the model among public authorities.

Three highlights of the year

- » The formalisation of a partnership with the UNESCO Chair of the Faculty of Human Sciences of the University of Montevideo, to support FUCVAM's popular education activities.
- » The setting up of a video conference system, which allowed the realisation of training workshops for the inhabitants of CVAM in Uruguay to be held at a distance; an international conference with Rosa Maria Torres on the theme of "youth and adult education"; an exchange of experiences on the theme of popular education and cooperativism with urbaMonde's partner in Nicaragua, Multipro.
- » The integration of 11 new participants in the ENFORMA training of trainers.



With the closure of national borders in March 2020, the project has been strongly impacted in its regional activities, including the exchange of experiences and the organisation of international events.

The situation of the pandemic, in addition to the political and economic crises affecting the countries involved in the project, has forced FUCVAM to put several activities on hold and to focus its efforts on fighting its own government to maintain and improve the conditions of access to subsidies for Uruguayan CVAMs.

Relationships with actors in Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru have been maintained at a distance, while new relationships have been established with Colombian actors. In each of these countries, the inhabitants of the CVAMs have shown great solidarity at the local level, for example by setting up "ollas populares" (communal meals) and by calling on solidarity funds within the cooperatives themselves.

Senegal

Support program to the Senegalese Federation of Inhabitants (FSH) for the reconstruction and improvement of precarious neighborhoods in the suburbs of Dakar

The FSH, a federation of inhabitants of the precarious neighborhoods of Dakar and in the regions of Thiès and Louga, brings together 10,000 members organized in 470 saving groups.

The FSH reconstructs and improves the homes of its members, through a self-managed revolving fund. Between 2015 and 2020, the federation granted 825'000 euros to its members (601 loans with amounts varying according to the repayment capacity of the households).

Thanks to the repayment of these loans, facilitated by the solidarity between the savings groups, FSH members can access the revolving fund in turn and gradually improve the living environ-

ment of around 6,000 people, while benefiting from urbaSEN's technical support.

The Integrated Flood Risk Management project (PING-GIRI) aims to extend this logic of intervention on the habitat to community infrastructure and upgrading projects co-designed by the inhabitants, local authorities and technical State services.

In 2020, the process of identifying areas at risk and participatory urban planning was concluded in four communes and the first works were designed, quantified and launched.

The centre for cutting and processing typha, a reed that abounds in the natural, wet depressions of Niayes in the suburbs

of Dakar, was set up with the support of the NGO Seed. It generates income opportunities for the members of the FSH.

The FSH and urbaSEN are involved in the Slum Dwellers International network, which they joined in 2015, notably by supporting emerging federations and initiatives of collaborative habitat in Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau and Benin.



The health and economic crisis linked to COVID-19 and the government's measures to contain the epidemic have had a strong impact on vulnerable populations that depend on informal activities. The crisis tested individual households and the FSH as a collective, which had to adapt their mobilisation and exchange activities according to the new conditions.

Nevertheless, it also highlighted the solidarity and potential of mutual aid within the Federation: thanks to an emergency grant from the Fondation Abbé Pierre and funding from the Agence Française de Développement, the FSH was able to support households and communities in the purchase of hygiene products, with a food emergency fund and revitalise savings groups with recovery loans for their income-generating activities. Depending on the needs and following a case-by-case study, urbaSEN and the FSH postponed certain payment deadlines for families in economic distress.



Dakar Urban Fabric Initiative

In June 2020, urbaMonde signed a new partnership agreement with GRET, urbaSEN, the Etc collective and Transitec, as part of the implementation of the AFD-funded Dakar Urban Fabric Initiative project.

The Dakar Urban Fabric Initiative will see the emergence of transitional facilities conceived and designed by users along the lines of the structuring urban transport system currently being built.

Through a process of experimentation, the developments and activities deployed around the selected sites - halts, stations and suburban stations in Dakar - will aim to improve the quality and appropriation of future urban public transport facilities by users and residents.

Inondations-Dakar.org: an open database

- Launched in 2019 in collaboration with urbaSEN and GRET, the open data platform [Inondations-Dakar.org](https://inondations-dakar.org) gathers, makes available and popularises the knowledge of the different actors involved in flood risk management in Dakar.

- In spring and autumn 2020, two communication campaigns launched on social media (Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn) yielded promising results. Publications promoted the work of our partners and highlighted the available data. Our online network has grown and users from North America and various European and African countries have connected to the platform.

- A collaborative partnership has been signed with the University of Geneva and a second one is in the process of being signed with Practical Action and IED Afrique, in order to strengthen the visibility of the platform and its data, by

sharing the knowledge produced with a wider audience and by raising awareness of the importance and relevance of sharing open data among stakeholders.

Burkina Faso

Support to the participatory project to improve housing in informal neighborhoods of Boassa, in Burkina Faso

Yaam Solidarité supports vulnerable communities of the Boassa district in the suburbs of the country's capital Ouagadougou, in the rehabilitation of their homes, while promoting the use of local and sustainable construction materials.

Within the framework of the project "Living and living better in the non-housed areas", financed by AFD and the Abbé Pierre Foundation, urbaMonde supports Yaam Solidarité in the development of a partnership strategy, and its consolidation as a player in urban development and the production of dignified and sustainable housing in Burkina Faso.

UrbaMonde also participates in the reflection on the implementation

of financial, land and organisational mechanisms that would strengthen the capacity of inhabitants in the appropriation and development of their living environment.

The Federation of inhabitants of Burkina Faso, which was formalised in 2020, now manages a revolving fund, which is financed in particular by residents' savings.

Finally, as part of the "multi-country" component, urbaMonde participated, along with its partners CRATERre, urbaSEN, Yaam Solidarité and GRDR, in the writing of an article for the magazine [Afrique Contemporaine](#), sharing experiences in the valorisation of local know-how.





Strengthening and documentation of collaborative and self-managed housing in Africa

UrbaMonde and Slum Dwellers International (SDI) are conducting a collaborative documentation project of housing projects led by residents and their federations.

Using SDI's [KnowYourCity.TV](#) media production program, the project accompanies and trains young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in seven African countries in community journalism.

Together, these groups document the work of the federations they belong to and life in their neighbourhoods through videos and photos.

Naturally, **the impact of the health crisis on the daily lives of families and com-**

munities in the poorest neighbourhoods of Africa's major cities was a major focus in 2020. Photo competitions and exchanges of experience and online training were organised throughout the year not only to improve young people's technical skills, but also to encourage them to think about and contribute to the changes they want to see in their neighbourhoods and societies through media activism.

The content produced by the media teams can be viewed on social networks by following the #ChangeOurPicture and KnowYourCity.TV social networks.

The media teams are also involved in documenting housing projects carried out by SDI federations over the past two

decades. These projects can be consulted on the collaborative database, [CoHabitat.io](#).



Some SDI federations have documented the impacts of the health crisis on the lives of disadvantaged communities in detailed and creative ways, such as the CoronaDiaries initiative in Nigeria. The collection of data related to the health situation has also played an important role in the design of emergency responses, as the example of the Muongano Federation in Kenya demonstrates.



Asia

Support for strengthening the regional network of community-led housing

In June 2019, the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR), partner of the CoHabitat Network, and urbaMonde launched a three-year project with the support of the FGC.

Based in Thailand, the coalition was founded in Bangkok in 1989 and brings together housing professionals, NGOs and community organisations from twenty Asian countries.

This new project aims to strengthen the Asian regional network and national networks of women's groups and collaborative housing professionals in the thirteen participating countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Burma, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet-

nam. The Asian region has many inspiring projects in collective, inclusive and non-pecuniary housing.

Whether it is the construction of affordable and safe housing or the improvement of informal settlements and neighbourhoods, these projects are planned and managed by low-income populations, thanks to adequate technical support.

Today it is important to give more visibility to these projects, to encourage exchanges of experience between peers, but also between public authorities and housing professionals, and to reflect on new solidarity mechanisms, in order to enable them to be strengthened locally and on a larger scale.

Three highlights of the year

- » Documentation of 16 projects from 7 Asian countries on the collaborative database cohabitat.io and on the ACHR website. Find out for example [how a small project in Vinh City in Vietnam has influenced the housing policies of several cities](#).
- » An exchange of experiences on community journalism between ACHR and urbaMonde's partner SDI in Africa, as well as an exchange of experiences between the Hunnarshala Foundation in India, and Swiss and Uruguayan housing cooperatives.
- » The participation of ACHR in the special COVID-19 program "[Esprit Solidaire](#)" of swiss TV Léman Bleu and the FGC.



The COVID-19 pandemic has severely hampered the implementation of most of the activities planned under this project, in particular the national and regional meetings, as well as the documentation processes that require travel and the physical presence of beneficiaries. ACHR decided to postpone these activities until 2021 and concentrated its efforts on peer-to-peer and cross-country exchange of experiences (at a distance) and on documentation work of projects that have the necessary information. In parallel, communities have been mobilised on the ground to organise local self-help and solidarity actions, such as the distribution of food packages for the most vulnerable families and the setting up of community gardens.

Europe

MOBA Housing SCE, first cooperative housing in South East Europe

MOBA, a network of cooperative and anti-speculation housing initiatives in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe created in 2017, was formalised as a European Cooperative Society (ECS) in March 2020.

This is an important step to build more collaborations, institutional and financial partnerships and to launch its sustainable and solidarity-based financing mechanism - the MOBA Housing Fund.

This fund is endowed with an initial donation from the Swiss housing cooperative ABZ.

Support for the Coop'Étoile residents' group (Annemasse Agglomeration)

In the framework of the European IN-TERREG project "Sustainable Housing for Inclusive and Cohesive Cities" (SHICC), urbaMonde facilitated the meeting between the Coop'Étoile resident's group in Annemasse and the project partners, in the context of the seed fund for the dissemination of CLTs in Europe.

UrbaMonde provided strategic and legal support to the inhabitants wishing to create a cooperative on the site of the ZAC Etoile.

A meeting is underway with the Ambilly Town Hall to sign a long lease. In addition, urbaMonde has been asked to provide feedback on the negotiations

between the residents' association and local public players in order to examine the levers put in place to facilitate the emergence of collective and non-speculative housing projects.



COLLABORATIVE HOUSING PROMOTION

CoHabitat Network

The CoHabitat Network brings together community-led housing organizations and their allies with the aim of implementing their rights to housing through collective, sustainable and non-speculative solutions led by inhabitants.

The CoHabitat Network aims to publicize and recognize these initiatives, in order to empower communities to improve their homes, neighborhoods and lives.

The CoHabitat Network is a non-institutionalized, collaborative, decentralized network focused on projects and concrete bottom-up actions; it operates on the principles of co-production of information, experience sharing between peers, the creation of financial solidarity mechanisms and political advocacy.

The tools of CoHabitat



Open Database



Network Awards



Regional Meetings



Habitat Solidarity Fund



**CoHabitat
Network**

**More Informations
on co-habitat.net**

In 2020, despite a disrupted schedule, we were able to carry out a number of activities

STUDENT HOUSING COOPERATIVES, AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

This webinar is a peer to peer exchange with leaders of student housing cooperatives in Berlin, North America, UK and Switzerland, facilitated by World Habitat, CHI and urbaMonde.

[→ Watch on YouTube](#)

SECURING LAND RIGHTS: COMMUNITY LAND TRUSTS IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

CLTs have empowered communities to access and secure their right to land and the city by taking control over the development and improvement of their neighborhoods. CLTs have also contributed to protecting vulnerable communities from evictions and gentrification, and the securing of permanently affordable housing.

[→ Watch on YouTube](#)

COOPERATIVE HOUSING FOR SLUM FREE CITIES IN INDIA

This discussion, organised by ACHR member Hunnarshala Foundation, in collaboration with ETHZ and urbaMonde, addressed the challenges of the cooperative housing model in Uruguay and Switzerland.

[→ Watch on YouTube](#)

COOPERATIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

This webinar is a conversation with cooperators and project managers developing cooperative and community-led housing in Europe and beyond. They shared their experiences and knowledge related to innovative financing models, the benefits of creating a regional network, and the challenges of developing a housing cooperative based on collective ownership in Central and Eastern Europe.

[→ Watch on YouTube](#)

MODELO URUGUAYO DE COOPERATIVAS DE VIVIENDA

The webinar allowed for learning from cooperative housing initiatives set in Uruguay and Catalonia. Ramón Fratti from FUCVAM introduced the mutual aid housing cooperative model developed in Uruguay in the 1970s. David Guardia presented the work carried out to support cooperatives and the current challenges faced by housing cooperatives in Catalonia.

[→ Watch on YouTube](#)



URBAN OCTOBER CAMPAIGN

In 2020, during the Urban October, CoHabitat Network launched for the first time an awareness campaign on social media, in order to bring visibility to the network and its CoHabitat.io database, as well as community-led housing. Coordinated jointly with CHI and World Habitat, it also strengthened links between partners and residents' groups. At the end of the month, numerous Facebook and Twitter posts promoted fourteen documented projects, two webinars were organised and two videos, gathering voices from around the world, were produced. The results of the campaign were encouraging and a new campaign will be conducted in October 2021.

ANNUAL MEETING 2020

Due to the health situation, the annual meeting of CoHabitat, which has brought together the main partners of the Network since 2017 in Geneva, was held online. Several exchange sessions in June and December 2020 allowed to exchange practices and strengthen the collaboration perspectives for the years to come.



Many updates and improvements have been integrated into the [CoHabitat.io](https://cohabitat.io) open-data database, allowing for a better user experience and even more projects and actors to discover!

- **Do you know of an inspiring community-led housing initiative? Create a profile and document it!**



HABITAT SOLIDARITY FUND

The Habitat Solidarity Fund is a pilot initiative of the CoHabitat Network, managed by urbaMonde. It raises funds thanks to donations and deposits made in Switzerland. These funds are then loaned to revolving funds managed by grassroots organizations and their support NGOs in Nicaragua and Senegal.

In 2020, the Solidarity Fund raised 48,000 CHF. Two loans were issued: 20,000 USD for land acquisition in Nicaragua and 25,000 CHF for land acquisition in Senegal. Senegal also reimbursed the first pilot loan of the Solidarity Fund (5,000 CHF), which was issued in 2018.

The partnership with Philea International, a non-profit cooperative society, for the co-development of the project and the strategic and operational management of the FHaS is strengthened

at every stage. We are happy to be able to count on the collaboration of this experienced player in the field of solidarity finance.

➔ **More information**



Campaign for a Solidary Habitat

The campaign to raise awareness of housing issues for vulnerable populations in Senegal and Nicaragua continued in 2020.

Thanks to funding from the FGC and the FEDEVACO, the campaign has been extended until June 2021 and to the canton of Vaud.

In February and September, the screenings of the films “La Casa Soñada” (project in Nicaragua) and “Mbolo Moy Dole - L’Union fait la force!” (a project in Senegal) took place as planned in Geneva and Lausanne.

These screenings translate our work into sound and images and received a lot of positive feedback. In Lausanne,

the event was also accompanied by a photo exhibition presenting the problems of the Dakar floods and the behind-the-scenes shooting of the film “Mbolo Moy Dole - L’Union fait la force!”.

The campaign also participated at the Alternatiba Léman festival in Geneva, with the conference “Ecological construction, collaborative housing and solidarity”, with the participation of Stéphane Fuchs, from the Geneva-based architecture firm ATBA.



The pandemic put a stop to public events, however in spring 2020 we participated in an online café-debate, organised by FGC, presenting solidarity financing mechanisms in housing.

This was an opportunity for us to present the Habitat Solidarity Fund to an audience familiar with international co-operation projects. Some events have been rescheduled for 2021.

Global study “Community-led housing in the COVID-19 context”

We Effect mandated urbaMonde to conduct a study on the influence of housing type on citizens’ responses to the health, social and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After conducting a global survey involving 1,047 people from 72 Caribbean countries and islands in September and October, 52 interviews were conducted to explore the different contexts and responses of communities and individuals to the pandemic.

The study is based on the hypothesis that Community-Led Housing initiatives (Housing Cooperatives, Community Land Trusts, Co-Housing, Intentional Communities and neighbourhoods with a strong sense of solidarity and

participation) allowed their residents to collectively organise self-help, defend their rights and prevent forced evictions, and to develop other resilience mechanisms in response to income loss and reduction due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Collective land ownership types of housing also demonstrate significant resistance to evictions and foreclosures, which in many countries have unfortunately not stopped in 2020.

For example, none of the residents of housing cooperatives and CLTs who participated in the survey have felt the threat of eviction since the start of the pandemic, unlike those living in individually owned, rented, loaned or irregular housing.

This study is another piece in the advocacy of urbaMonde and its allies in the CoHabitat Network for national and local public policies **that facilitate the development of collaborative housing projects in its various forms, effective in collectively facing crises and building resilience.**

ACCESS THE FULL STUDY



- ▶ English
- ▶ Spanish
- ▶ Portuguese
- ▶ French

Urban Fabric Initiatives

In June 2020, urbaMonde signed a new partnership agreement, financed by AFD, with GRET, urbaSEN and Cabanon Vertical for the coordination animation and development of an international network of partners involved in urban innovation processes, called Urban Fabric Initiatives.

This partnership was born out of an experimental approach carried out in Tunisia and Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou), in order to support local project owners and civil society towards new ways of creating urban space.

This partnership is part of a four-year multi-country program, which consists of leading this network of actors in par-

ticipatory and transitional urban planning; a funding window for new projects; and monitoring and evaluation in partnership with the IRD (Institut de Recherche pour le Développement).

With its partners, urbaMonde is responsible for steering and coordinating the network, accompanying and supporting the implementation of six to eight Urban Fabric Initiatives, and communicating and capitalizing on the urban incubator approach.

This first year saw the setting up of the network's secretariat, the installation of two new Urban Fabric Initiatives (Dakar and Abidjan), the meeting of stakeholders (national operator, project managers, civil society, etc.) and the setting up of ex-

change activities (the Network's virtual meetings) and the sharing of knowledge and experience on co-design (diagnoses) and co-construction (micro-developments) systems.



Dakar, Senegal - Photo: Florent Chiappero

In 2020, urbaMonde participated in...

the following events...

#LearningPlanet Festival, January 25, organised by CRI and UNESCO, online.

PUSH screening, January 30, organised by ASLOCA, Geneva.

Forum “POR EL DERECHO A LA VIVIENDA ADECUADA. Retos y estrategias Post COVID19”, May 21, organised by Ocupa tu Ciudad, online.

Webinar “Modelo CVAM y fondos revolventes”, June 25, organised by We Effect, online.

Webinar “Housing rights: looking back, looking forward”, October 9, organised by DPU, HIC, IIED, UCLG.

Seminar “Programme 100 000 logements”, September 14-15, organised by the Ministry of Urbanism, housing and public health, IBP, Osidea, FSH, urbaSEN.

Campaign for the promotion of human rights, October 5, with FSH, urbaSEN, Enda and UE, in Louga, Senegal.

Roundtable “Urbanisme transitoire - Quel apport pour la fabrique de la ville ?”, October 6, online.

Roundtable “Mapping as an engagement tool”, November 2, organised by the Forum GeOnG, online.

Webinar “The Value of Sustainable Urbanization, a roundtable. World Cities Report 2020 - Geneva Launch”, November 3, organised by Geneva Cities Hub, online.

Presentation of the CVAM cooperative model, in the Alcaldía of Cali and the University of San Buenaventura (Colombia), November, online.

Webinar “Marcos normativos, políticas públicas y actores para materializar la vivienda adecuada como un derecho humano”, December 11, organised by We Effect, online.

the following publications...

“Produire du logement pour tous: autres outils, autres philosophies ?”, D’architectures n°279, France 2020.

“Producción y gestión social del hábitat: hacia un movimiento internacional de solidaridad”, Interquorum Nueva Generación n° 28, Peru 2020.

“Co-construire de l’expertise inclusive des connaissance-Vers des projets d’amélioration de l’habitat à Dakar, Canchungo et Ouagadougou”, Afrique contemporaine n° 269-270, France 2020.



In 2020, Armelle Choplin, geographer and urban planner, professor at the University of Geneva and member of the urbaMonde-France committee, published “Matière grise de l’urbain: la vie du ciment en Afrique” (Grey Matter of the Urban: The Life of Cement in Africa) published by MētisPresses.

To understand the production and growing consumption of cement, which has become “grey gold”, she invites us to follow the bags of cement on West African roads, along the 500 km urban corridor that links Accra, Lomé, Cotonou and Lagos. Through the exploration of a sector at the heart of multiple political, social and economic issues, this book calls on us to rethink the close relationship between the urban, the human and the world.

Trainees

In 2020, urbaMonde was pleased to count on the valuable collaboration of four interns.

Lisa Barthe, a recent college graduate, completed a one-year internship in order to gain work experience before starting her graduate studies. During this period, she participated in the development of the “For a Solidary Habitat” campaign and in the facilitation of the participatory process for the Eco-Village of Presinge.

Anne-Lize Hertgers completed a 10-month internship as part of her Master’s degree in African Studies at the UNIGE. She was in charge of the development of the open and collaborative platform [Inondations-Dakar.org](https://inondations-dakar.org), in the framework of the PING-GIRI project, and she carried out other activities aimed at promoting this tool and increasing its visibility. Today, she is part of the operational team as a project manager.

Nina Quintas completed a 6-month internship as part of her Master’s degree in “Innovation, Human Development and Sustainability” at the UNIGE, at the end of which she joined the operational team as a project officer. Although the field research with mutual aid housing cooperatives in Uruguay could not be carried out as planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nina wrote a very interesting thesis on the topic of earthen construction and the CVAM model in the Uruguayan context.

Maira Valdiviezo carried out an internship as part of her Master’s degree at CRAterre, with the aim of launching the earth construction process in the Modesto Zeledon cooperative in Nicaragua (project supported by urbaMonde). Her fieldwork was unfortunately cut short by COVID, but her

contribution was decisive in this first phase of the process. Her experience and reflection are the subject of a memoir.

Academic partnerships

ETH zürich Wohnforum

UrbaMonde is in regular contact with the WohnForum of the ETHZ (Zürich) to discuss the cooperative housing model and its potential as a sustainable solution for access to decent and affordable housing in different contexts. In 2019, urbaMonde joined the SNIS project “Tackling the global housing challenges: Relevance and replicability of Switzerland’s and Uruguay’s housing cooperatives’ policies and strategies” as an associate member.

In 2020, urbaMonde participated in the formulation of the TRANSFORM project “Promoting cooperative housing and sustainable habitats in post-conflict Colombia” and is an associate member of the City of Zurich funded project “Promoting peace and reconciliation through cooperative housing in post-conflict Colombia”. An exchange of experiences was also jointly organised between housing co-operatives in Zurich, Uruguay and the Hunnarshala Foundation in India.



UrbaMonde and Co-Lab Research of TU Delft have started a **collaboration in order to contribute to a systematisation of collaborative housing projects across Europe** and to document them, by working with networks and umbrella organisations in different countries.



The collaboration with the University of Geneva is historic. At the end of 2020, and for the first time, the Faculty of Social Sciences of the UNIGE and *urbanoMonde* signed a memorandum of understanding for a period of four years.

The aim of this partnership is to develop action research and scientific partnership on issues such as participatory, transitional and tactical urbanism, the production of the city by its inhabitants, community-led housing, building with local materials and community journalism.

This partnership offers the opportunity to create concrete peer learning, advocacy and documentation activities with CoHabitat Network partners, and to build links and alliances with local and international researchers.

Students are also made aware of the theme of social production of housing, collaborative housing and the right to housing.

Interventions

“Faire la ville par le bas - des communautés habitantes au coeur de la fabrique de la ville” (Making the city from below - inhabitant communities at the heart of the city’s construction)

November 19, University of Aix-Marseille

Field partners



Strategic partners



With the support of



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Julien Woessner

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Mélanie Artique

Suzanne Lerch, vice president

Véréna Keller

Operational team

Anne-Lize Hertgers, trainee and project manager

Damien Varesano, project manager

Eloïse Pelaud, coordinator

Eva Aerts, financial manager

Léa Oswald, project manager

Lisa Barthe, trainee

Luisa Imperato, communications

Maira Valdiviezo, trainee

Nikos Topulos, software development

Nina Quintas, trainee and project manager

Olivier Dalang, mapping and software development

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CONTACT

Global

-  urbamonde.org
-  contact@urbamonde.org
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-  [urbamonde](https://linkedin.com/company/urbamonde)
-  [urbamonde](https://youtube.com/urbamonde)

France


Office and mailing address

-  urbaMonde
55, rue Flégier
13001 Marsella
France

Head Office

-  urbaMonde-France, c/o FPH
38, rue Saint Sabin
75011 Paris
France

Switzerland

-  urbaMonde
3, Sentier des Saules
1205 Geneva
Switzerland

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