



CoHabitat
Network

2020 ANNUAL REPORT





CoHabitat is a joint initiative by grassroots federations, umbrella and non-profit organizations and academic institutions working in the field of community-led housing.

We strive to strengthen communities in their role as urban designers, developers and builders, and more broadly, in their role as active citizens of their cities. We believe in their collective capacity to develop sustainable solutions to today's urban challenges related to climate change and social transformations through solidarity and resilience.

As an open and project-driven collaboration, we work together **to demonstrate the successes and potential of community-led housing**, and make it more widespread and attainable by **coproducing** knowledge and information through experience exchanges, peer-to-peer learning and community-managed data production; **connecting** people across countries, organizations and regions; **codesigning** affordable and self-managed financial tools.

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2020 Annual Meeting

Since 2017, CoHabitat partners gather at the annual CoHabitat meeting in Geneva. In 2020, due to the COVID pandemic, we organized a number of online sessions to maintain relationships, share learnings and plan for the year ahead.

Webinars



«Modelo uruguayo de cooperativas de vivienda»

Facilitated by Co-operative Housing International, urbaMonde, FUCVAM, Sostre Cívic

The webinar allowed for learning from cooperative housing initiatives set in Uruguay and Catalonia. Ramón Fratti from FUCVAM (Uruguay) 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 online](#)

«Cooperative Housing Development - Thinking Outside the Box»

Facilitated by Co-operative Housing International and urbaMonde

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 online](#)

Webinars

«Securing land rights: Community Land Trusts in Informal Settlements»

Facilitated by World Habitat

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 online](#)



«Student Housing Cooperatives - an International Perspective»

Facilitated by Co-operative Housing International, World Habitat and urbaMonde

This webinar is a peer to peer exchange with leaders of student housing cooperatives in Berlin (Studentendorf), North America (North American students of Cooperation NASCO), UK (Student Co-op Homes) and Switzerland (Cigüe), facilitated by World Habitat and urbaMonde.

 [Watch online](#)



CoHabitat.io collaborative database

New version

This year brought many developments on the database: the frontend, backend, user experience and speed were enhanced.

Data integration & partnerships

Throughout 2020, Co-Lab Research at TU Delft and urbaMonde collaborated on the systematisation of collaborative housing forms in Europe and the integration of datasets between cohabitat.io and umbrella organizations' databases. Additionally, Co-Lab Research will aggregate data at the country level and develop a visualization tool for their website. Conversations have also been launched with Co-operative Housing International and the Center for CLT Innovation to explore possibilities of integrating existing data.

Partner Snippet

A snippet was developed so it can display, on any website, a map showcasing all the projects documented on the database and related to the same partner. For now, the snippet will be used on We Effect's website, but the idea is to use the same snippet with a variety of partners.



 [Visit CoHabitat.io](https://cohabitat.io)

Solidarity Fund

The Solidarity Fund is a pilot initiative of the CoHabitat Network, managed by urba-Monde. 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.



Urban October Campaign

The 2020 Urban October campaign was the first social media campaign of this kind carried out by the CoHabitat Network and delivered through a collaborative approach. It was set up back to back with the UN Urban October. The campaign sought to increase the visibility of community-led housing as well as to the tools created by the Network, such as the cohabitat.io database.

The campaign resulted in more engagement on cohabitat.io, on CoHabitat's website and on the coordinators' websites. It also strengthened the exchange and collaboration with some partners on social media and with housing groups, which led to several projects updating their project descriptions on cohabitat.io. A new campaign will be organized in October 2021.

Covid-19 and resilient communities study



In 2020, urbaMonde carried out a global study **to assess the interrelations between the type of housing and the extent to which residents are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic** (in terms of health, social and economic impacts). It was implemented on behalf of We Effect and with the active contributions of all CoHabitat Network partners.

The study sought to gather evidence on the positive impact of Community-Led Housing initiatives (Housing Cooperatives, Community Land Trusts, Co-Housing, Intentional Communities and neighbourhoods with a strong sense of solidarity and participation) **and on the capacity of residents to collectively organize, develop resilience and coping mechanisms in response to the economic, social, psychological and health threats** of the COVID pandemic, and to defend their rights and prevent forced evictions.

↓ **Download the full study: [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)**



CoHabitat Network

Bringing together community-led housing organizations & allies from across the world, who work to secure housing through collective, non-speculative, people-led solutions.

#CoHabitatNetwork



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des villes durables par et pour les habitants

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