Cities are produced “by and for the people” through a process called the Social Production of Habitat (SPH), led by organized communities alongside private and public actors. Bottom-up and community-led city-making requires, however, strengthening the inhabitants in their role of urban designers, developers and builders.

UrbaMonde’s mission is to support groups of inhabitants who are committed to sustainable and inclusive city-making, particularly in terms of affordable housing provision.

Our NGO, based in Switzerland and France, consists of a team of enthusiasts from various backgrounds who share the vision of a sustainable city “by and for the inhabitants”.

UrbaMonde:
- Supports housing cooperatives and other citizen initiatives in Switzerland and France in the implementation of community-led housing projects and the design of enabling policy and institutional frameworks.
- Strengthens grassroots groups and their networks in planning, executing and managing their housing projects, while enhancing partnerships with public actors.
- Facilitates the CoHabitat Network that allows for peer-to-peer learning, experience exchange and builds international solidarity between community-led housing projects and their partners.
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Accomplishments in 2017

- Development of the online platform Co-Habitat.net (p.8) and the Solidarity Fund for Habitat (p.9) – tools for documenting and financing SPH projects.

- Facilitation of participatory planning workshops in the framework of the EcoVillage Presinge, Switzerland (p.12).

- Contribution to strengthening the Mutual Aid Cooperative Housing Movement in Latin America (p.18), and to consolidating five housing cooperatives in Matagalpa, Nicaragua (p.19).

- Support of 213 housing improvement operations in the informal settlement of Dakar, Senegal (p.24).

- Contribution to organizing the first regional Hub and Award in North America, gathering more than 540 participants (p.28).
Beyond public and private actors, organized groups of inhabitants and individuals build cities from the bottom up: they organize, plan, finance, build and manage housing, urban upgrading and infrastructure projects collectively and collaboratively.

When supported by adequate financial means and enabling policies, these processes result in permanently affordable, more sustainable and inclusive urban spaces responding to the needs of local communities.

The CoHabitat Network is a collaboration between community-led housing organizations and allies from across the world, who work together to secure housing rights through collective, non-speculative, people-led solutions.

It was launched in 2014 (under the name of Social Production of Habitat Platform) as a loose, decentralized and project-driven collaboration between some of the major grassroots organizations and federations of urban dwellers in the field of community-led housing.
THE NETWORK GATHERS:

**Housing Cooperatives**

Membership-based, non-profit entities, based on the democratic principle of ‘one (wo)man-one vote’.

**Community Land Trusts**

Nonprofit corporations that develop and steward housing, civic and commercial spaces and other community assets on behalf of a community, guaranteeing permanent affordability.

**Community-managed savings groups and collective loan schemes**

Powerful tool to draw together and empower the many people and disparate groups that exist within poor communities.

CoHabitat Partners

- **Habitat International Coalition** is a global network for housing rights.
- **Slum Dwellers International** is a network of grassroots organizations across 32 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- **Cooperative Housing International** federated housing cooperatives from around the world to enhance cooperation and their development.
- **The Asian Coalition for Housing Rights** gathers professionals, NGOs and grassroots organizations aiming to solve the housing challenges across Asia.
- **Grounded Solutions Network** is the network of US-based Community Land Trusts and other allies promoting permanent affordable housing solutions.
- **World Habitat** promotes and awards remarkable and innovative housing projects and enhances peer exchanges.

With supports of
Co-Habitat.net is a comprehensive documentation and networking tool for SPH projects and their allies and partners. Co-Habitat.net is an interactive and collaborative database showcasing qualitative and quantitative information on community-led housing projects, and a mapping tool illustrating the diversity, scope and potential of the SPH.

Regional Hubs are spaces of peer exchanges and advocacy that aim to have an impact on all levels of policy-making. They gather residents' and grassroots' groups and their federations, as well as social movements, non-profits, habitat professionals and public authorities.

CoHabitat Award is a public recognition of the capacity of inhabitants for inclusive and participatory city-making, showcasing organizational models, financial mechanisms, and innovative and enabling civic-public partnerships.

Solidarity Fund for Habitat contributes to developing solutions to the lack of access to affordable finance for SPH.
Co-Habitat.net

The current trend towards decentralisation and bottom-up approaches is the advent of a continued social, cultural and technological evolution. Information technologies can enhance the visibility, emergence and dissemination of collaborative habitat projects. By focusing and redesigning such technologies for the specific needs of the social production of habitat, urbaMonde aims to enhance this potential.

Co-Habitat.net is a global geographical database of collaborative housing projects. It is multi-lingual and just like community-led housing initiatives, it is open and collaborative with the data under Creative Commons licences. Co-Habitat.net offers the opportunity for existing projects to share their experiences with the world, establish direct links with their peers and for start-up initiatives to access valuable information concerning forms of organisation, financial and technical support mechanisms, project design and political advocacy.

For collaborative housing projects to succeed, external contributors of diverse backgrounds are required. These « partners » are also documented on the database and each one can be linked to the projects. Finally, Co-Habitat.net will provide features for social interactions between communities and a powerful API to be used by external software, for research and on websites.

Link: co-habitat.net

Regional Hubs and Award

The SPH Award is a public recognition of inspiring and innovative community-led housing projects. It is presented at the regional level during regional Hub gatherings (in Latin America, Europe, North America, Africa and Asia).

The Award and the Hub gatherings increase the visibility of the SPH enabling its actors to gain recognition and advocacy power, enabling them to influence policies on both the local and international levels.

The winners of the SPH Award are long-listed for the World Habitat Awards, which has been organized by World Habitat and UN-Habitat for 30 years.
The access to affordable finance for housing construction, improvement or the purchase of land represents one of the main challenges for vulnerable inhabitant groups.

**The Solidarity Habitat Fund is a peer-to-peer credit mechanism, which aims to facilitate the access to affordable loans for these populations organized around collective housing initiatives.**

To design the Solidarity Habitat Fund, urbaMonde - in collaboration with the International Guarantee Fund and interested Swiss housing cooperatives - conducted a feasibility study on such a peer-to-peer funding mechanism.

In December 2017, a pilot of the Solidarity Habitat Fund was launched, which will transfer the deposits of Swiss housing cooperatives and individuals to the revolving fund of the Senegalese Federation of Inhabitants (FSH) for housing improvements and rehabilitation.

**Link:** urbamonde.org/en/solidarity-fund-habitat

**HOW DOES IT WORK?**

The deposit made to the SHF is given out as a loan at a low interest rate to local revolving funds. The reimbursement is made over a period of two years.
Europe
Presinge

The municipality of Presinge has embraced cooperative housing for developing 140 housing units.

UrbaMonde, alongside acade sàrl, facilitated the participatory and innovative planning process of the newly emerging neighbourhood.

Three workshops were organised between June and November 2017, associating not only the future inhabitants but also village dwellers concerned by the new development, around the following topics: “Informing and prioritising concerns”, “Proposing and Co-producing” and “Presentation and approval of the development plan”.

Geneva Housing Cooperatives

UrbaMonde promotes the development of participatory housing cooperatives in Switzerland, and particularly in the Canton of Geneva.

Integrated by professionals from diverse background, such as civil engineers, architects and sociologists, urbaMonde provides technical support to innovative cooperative housing projects. Among others, urbaMonde supported the planning process of the Voisinaige and Codha housing cooperatives in the Eco-neighbourhood ‘Vergers’ in Meyrin.
Grand Geneva

Special Planning Zone Annemasse

UrbaMonde supports the City of Annemasse in the development of collaborative and affordable housing options on the Special Development Zone ZAC Etoile Annemasse Genève.

UrbaMonde’s work includes launching a Project Incubator and Project Call, aiming to empower inhabitant groups to actively take part in planning and conceiving the future neighbourhood.

Link: urbamonde.org/annemasse

Cross-border Platform for Urban Development

This INTERREG project aims to facilitate the cross-border exchanges and collaborations between different actors of urban development in the field of collaborative housing – inhabitants, urban professionals, politicians and technical staff. Thematic days spread across 2017 and 2018 will allow for encouraging collaborative work and the sharing of good practices.

Link: plateforme-pftu.org

Certificate for Advanced Studies – University of Geneva

The ”Urban project and capacity for action” University Certificate aims to support the emergence of new skills and working practices needed for leading complex urban projects. It refers to case studies, such as the Special Development Zone ZAC Etoile in Annemasse.
Alongside the architecture office Sathy, UrbaMonde contributed to a feasibility study on the development of low-cost intermediary housing units in the City of Saint Herblain. UrbaMonde’s contribution focused mainly on innovations in the field of collaborative housing, anti-speculation and affordability aspects and citizen participation.
Events and Partnerships

The Social Production of Habitat (SHP) - also called community-led or collaborative housing - increasingly gains attention across Europe as a response to the challenges of affordable housing shortage, demographic change, social exclusion and spatial segregation, migration, and poverty.

Experimental, self-organised, collaborative and non-speculative housing models are built on the longstanding experiences of the Cooperative and community-led housing cultures in some countries – such as Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium and The Netherlands – as much as they are reinvented by new initiatives, innovative and disruptive practices emerging across the continent.

Gatherings, research projects, conferences and publications on Collaborative Housing study innovative (and conventional) dwelling models and practices through the multiple lenses of reinventing social housing, combatting homelessness, circular economy and local development, and elderly care.

UrbaMonde contributes to the joint effort of putting Collaborative Housing into the focus by participating, for instance, in the Social Housing Festival (June 2017, Amsterdam) and the Peer to Peer Exchange with the World Habitat Awards winner Mehr Als Wohnen (September 2017, Zurich), as well as contributing to research and advocacy projects, such as the SHICC (Interreg NWE) programme on CLTs piloted by CLT Bruxelles and the Métropole de Lille.
European Hub and Collaborative Housing Award

On October 6-8, urbaMonde and id22: institute for creative sustainability co-organized the second European Collaborative Housing Hub hosted during the EXPERIMENTDAYS in Berlin.

The EXPERIMENTDAYS are a platform for cooperative housing projects, ideas and actors of creative sustainability understanding the city as a designed living space. Since 2003, the EXPERIMENTDAYS have offered the possibility to learn about different kinds of self-organized housing, find other supporters and to think about the future of urban development.

Over 150 attendees from 19 countries shared their experiences on the multiple dimensions of inclusion and collaborative housing during 16 workshops, plenary sessions, film screenings, project visits and book readings.

The Second European Collaborative Housing Hub and the Award are part of urbaMonde’s ongoing effort to link and federate the myriad of actors working in the sector across Europe with the aim to increase the visibility and impact of innovative and inclusive housing models, to drive policy change and to document existing initiatives.

The 2017 Hub triggered the creation of a working group on start-up projects in Central and Eastern Europe, integrated by 6 countries. The working group is determined to accelerate the development of collaborative housing in the sub-region.

The European Collaborative Housing Award 2017 was awarded to four inspiring and innovative housing initiatives:

- New Ground CoHousing Community, London (UK)
- Cenni di Cambiamento, Milan (IT)
- Village Vertical, Villeurbanne (FR)
- Wohnprojekt Wien, Vienna (AT)
Latin America
In 2016, urbaMonde partnered with the Uruguayan Federation for Mutual Aid Cooperatives (FUCVAM) on a new international cooperation project supporting the dissemination of the model of cooperative housing based on Mutual Aid (Cooperativas de Vivienda por Ayuda Mutua, CVAM) in Latin America.

With the support of FGC and FEDEVA-CO and in collaboration with We Effect (Swedish Cooperative Center), the first phase of this project (2016-2018) aims to strengthen the peer training on this model in Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia and Peru so as to enhance its dissemination and consolidation across the region. The project furthermore focuses on the documentation, capitalization and peer exchange of the experiences and lessons learned, as well as political advocacy.

In 2017, the FUCVAM’s Training School (ENFORMA) as well as the national federations of housing cooperatives in Paraguay and Bolivia engaged in a thorough reflection on the training methodologies based on the principles of popular education. This resulted in curricula adapted to each context. In parallel, the national federations also took important steps towards strengthening their institutions and in terms of political advocacy. The CVAM not yet having spread to Peru, the project focuses on organizing a pioneering group of inhabitants and the inception of a pilot project in collaboration with the local NGO CIDAP.

FUCVAM also continued its efforts in documenting and mapping its more than 600 cooperatives on co-habitat.net (psh.urbamonde.org). The federation released a number of publications, including a cartoon, increasing its stock of education material.
The project contributes to the dissemination of the mutual aid cooperative housing model in the department of Matagalpa through supporting the technical assistance team Multipro, a multiple services cooperative. Multipro works closely with the Nicaraguan Federation of Housing Cooperatives, CENCOVICOD, to facilitate the emergence of at least 7 housing cooperatives, establish partnerships with municipalities and train participants in self-management and collective savings.

By the end of 2017, five housing cooperatives had been established in the municipalities of Matagalpa, San Dionisio, Esquipulas, La Dalia and San Ramon with two additional cooperatives being underway in Matagalpa.

A revolving fund, endowed with the funds of FEDEVACO and self-managed by the local cooperatives and their federation CENCOVICOD, was established with the aim to facilitate the access to land and affordable finance for the cooperatives. One plot was purchased through the revolving fund in Matagalpa; one plot is being acquired in each San Dionisio and Esquipulas, with the financial support of the municipalities; whilst in La Dalia the municipality provided a building site to the Victorias de Noviembre Cooperative.

In fact, municipalities increasingly see the cooperative model as an inclusive, equitable and sustainable housing solution worth to be integrated into public policies.

The second project phase, presented in mid-2018, will seek to accelerate the development of pilot projects capable of showcasing the potential of cooperative housing and leveraging governmental support. In the effort to diversify funding sources and strategies, the project aims to build sustainable solutions to the challenges of affordable and cooperative housing finance in Nicaragua.
The urbaMatagalpa project endowed 13 municipalities of the Matagalpa Department with the tools necessary for territorial planning through a participatory process and training.

An evaluation of the project in 10 municipalities, carried out in 2016, showed that the municipalities had adopted these tools. This had a positive impact on decision-making and territorial management processes, particularly regarding agroecology, urban growth and the adaptation to climate change.

In 2017, a 4-month workshops trained approximately twenty professionals from public institutions, NGOs and universities based in the Matagalpa region on the territorial planning tools. Correspondingly, the workshop aimed to ensure the knowledge and skill-transfer of the urbaMatagalpa project.

For urbaMonde, the workshop series concludes the project cycle on territorial planning in Nicaragua, whilst we remain open to future opportunities of collaboration in this field.

Capitalisation “Strengthening of intermunicipal dynamics in territorial management”, Rio Grande de Matagalpa watershed

For urbaMonde, the workshop series concludes the project cycle on territorial planning in Nicaragua, whilst we remain open to future opportunities of collaboration in this field.

In 2017, a 4-month workshops trained approximately twenty professionals from public institutions, NGOs and universities based in the
In the framework of the international cooperation project with FUCAM, urbaMonde as well as Habitat International Coalition (HIC) contributed to the organization of the 3rd annual Latin America SPH Hub. The event took place in Mexico from June 15-20, 2017.

It merged the annual meeting of the SPH working group – facilitated by HIC – allowing to gather more than 30 grassroots organizations and non-profits in the field from 13 countries.

Between June 16 and 18, the participants visited the Cooperative Union Tosepan. Several workshops and discussions were organized around the access to land and affordable finance, as well as housing rights.

Five winners were selected by a high-level committee including Enrique Ortiz (HIC), Raquel Rolnik (former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing), Alex Frediani (DPU, Londres), Pablo Caballero (FUCVAM) and Gustavo Romero (UNAM, Mexico):

Cooperativa Habitacional Esperança, Brazil
Ecoaldea Aldeafeliz, Colombia
Los Pinos : Comunidad del Buen Vivir, Ecuador
Habitat Reconstruction in the Guerrero Mountains, Mexico
Cobañados, Paraguay

June 19 was dedicated to the attribution of the 2017 edition of the Latin American SPH Award, including a number of practical workshops and peer exchanges with the awarded projects. More than 30 initiatives had presented themselves to the awards on the online platform SPH.

Check our youtube channel and online platform Co-Habitat.net for more information and videos.
Africa
The urban upgrading programme and the restarting of the groundwater pumping in the informal settlements of the suburbs of Dakar considerably reduced the floods in the area. In parallel, a community movement emerged: Today, more than 3000 women are organized in the Senegalese Federation of Inhabitants (FSH) federating more than 100 savings groups.

Within 2 years, FSH improved the housing conditions of 213 families thanks to a Revolving Fund for Reconstruction and Urban Renewal, according to the idea “Rebuilding is good. Rebuilding well is even better!”. A brick factory, managed by urbaSEN and FSH, was launched on a site made available by the municipality with the aim to improve the quality of the bricks used in the rehabilitation projects. The FlyingLabSenegal, led by urbaSen in collaboration with WeRobotics, is the latest innovation based on drone technology. It aims to produce a detailed aerial map of the informal settlements of Dakar’s suburbs.

However, not only drones are flying high in Dakar’s sky – FSH and urbaSEN have high ambitions concerning the third phase of the urbaDTK project: **To sustainably improve up to 600 homes through the Revolving Fund for Rehabilitation and Urban renewal and aggregated community savings;** to train local craftsman and women; to expand the scope of work of the community-based organisation FSH and to consolidate its structure; to continue collecting and managing data with the aim to impact public policies from the bottom-up; to build a community center and office and to work on collective infrastructure and public spaces.

These are the many challenges to be met. How? “Mboolo Mboy Dolé!: Unity makes strength!” It’s along FSH’s slogan that the project partners are moving together towards achieving their goals.
Since 2010, Yaam Solidarité has been supporting vulnerable populations in Ouagadougou’s suburbs with the aim to improve their housing conditions by using local materials and construction techniques. In 2016, the association initiated a project that seeks to strengthen their resilience against floods, strengthen the organisational capacity of the inhabitants, and to improve the access to basic services.

urbaMonde intervenes alongside Yaam Solidarité and its partner CRA-terre within the project with the aim to facilitate the experience exchange between Burkina Faso and Senegal (urbaDTK project). urbaMonde also explores the financial, organisational, ownership models and organisational mechanisms that can be mobilised in order to strengthen the role of the inhabitants in improving their neighbourhoods. Facilitating South-South exchanges and the dissemination of community savings and community organizing for urban renewal are central to urbaMonde’s approach within the project.

Slums Dwellers International (SDI) is a network of federations of savings groups in 32 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America representing the voice of the urban poor. For more than 20 years, SDI has been supporting urban dwellers in data collection and enumeration, information management, political advocacy and improving slum settlements. SDI promotes training for community savings, self-management and facilitates experience transfer between peers.

Despite the outreach of the SDI network, the SPH projects of the affiliated federations are rarely documented and lack visibility. However, visibility is essential for scaling-up city-making processes that are par-
With the support of FGC and Fedevaco, SDI and urbaMonde launch a three-year programme encouraging bottom-up documentation of housing and habitat projects to increase the public awareness and recognition of community-led housing. The project will facilitate the emergence of the African SPH Hub.
North America
The Intersections 2017 Conference, organized by urbaMonde’s partner Grounded Solutions (GSN), hosted the first North American SPH meeting on October 9-12 in Oakland, CA. The Intersections Conference are an annual gathering of diverse stakeholders engaged in promoting community-driven housing solutions.

Over 540 participants from multiple backgrounds and practices, coming from the USA, Canada and Europe, attended the 2017 edition; including community land trusts, representatives of housing cooperatives, municipalities, habitat affiliates, international and funding organizations. More than 50 workshops, plenaries, tour of Bay Area housing programs, and full day Training Institute classes helped explore how to work collectively in order to make equitable and inclusive communities the new norm.

In the framework of GSN’s role as the North America Hub Host and thanks to the fundraising and networking efforts of Co-operative Housing International, the participation of more than 25 Canadian organizations allowed for strengthening links throughout the region, and setting the basis for promising collaborations for the future.

The North American SPH Award was awarded to Vivacité – Société Immobilière Solidaire (Canada) and the Twin Cities Program (USA) within a pilot experience feeding into the yearly Ignite Awards organized by GSN.
## Contact

**Global**

Web:  urbamonde.org  
Email:  contact@urbamonde.org  
Telephone:  +41 (0)22 320 86 06

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### Switzerland

urbaMonde  
Sentier des Saules 3  
CH - 1205 Genève

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### France

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

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### Social media

- [urbaMonde](https://www.youtube.com/@urbamonde)  
- [@urbamonde](https://www.facebook.com/@urbaMonde)  
- [@urbaMonde](https://twitter.com/@urbaMonde)

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## Team

### urbaMonde Suisse & urbaMonde Vaud

- **Cyril Royez**, president CH
- **Jan Robra**, president VD and vice-president CH
- **Hans-Rudolf Pfeifer**, vice-president VD
- **Olivia Boutay**, treasurer CH and VD
- **Suzanne Lerch**, board member CH
- **Julien Woessner**, board member CH
- **Léa Oswald**, project manager and board member CH
- **Guy Dériaz**, board member VD
- **Eva Aerts**, accountant
- **Fabrice Clavien**, coordinator
- **Nikos Topulos**, software developer

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### urbaMonde France

- **Pierre Arnold**, Board of directors member
- **Pete Kirkham**, Board of directors member
- **Damien Varesano**, Board of directors member and coordinator
- **Cyril Royez**, president
- **Eloïse Pelaud**, vice-president
- **Mathieu Falitu**, treasurer
- **Charlotte Jacquot**, secretary
- **Bea Varnai**, project manager and coordinator