



Summary – webinar cycle

# “CROSSED PERSPECTIVES FROM AFRICA AND FRANCE”

2021 - 2022

Webinar cycle on “Crossed perspectives from Africa and France” organized to prepare the AfriCities Summit in May 2022 in Kisumu (Kenya) on “The role of intermediary cities of Africa in implementing the UN 2030 Agenda and the 2063 Agenda of the African Union”



## Editorial

Our continents are facing contrasted demographic situations with, on one side, exponential demographic growth, and young population in Africa, on the other side an aging and stagnant population growth in Europe. These contrasted demographic dynamics occur in an environment of economic inequalities: Africa facing major poverty whereas Europe is one of the most developed regions in the world. This contrasted dynamic between the two continents can worsen the tensions between them, in particular about migration, or can be an opportunity for converging toward common challenges and objectives. The theme of sustainable cities has been identified as one the key point for common actions.

Even though urban histories of these two continents are very different, they both must think about how to plan and manage cities and its development in an environment that is influenced by sanitary and climate crisis. Where-

ver the region of the world, cities aim to be more inclusive, more productive, and more attractive, ecologically more sustainable, and culturally more authentic. Challenges of common interest like access to food, housing, infrastructures and essential services, mobility or financing, land use planning and management, have represented opportunities for crossing views of stakeholders from the two continents.

Seminaries that collect experience feedback such as these ones, organized in the context of the French Partnership for Cities and Territorial Development (PFVT), are opportunities for urban territories and experts to share experiences, in order to share inspiring approaches and to improve cities' strategies and action plans. Cooperation between cities and between countries encourage us to strengthen our relations, to create places to share and meet while encouraging better mutual knowledge, to head toward more territorial cohesion and sustainable cities.

Hubert Julien-Laferrrière, Deputee of Rhône and President of the French Alliance for Cities and Territorial Development (PFVT)

Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, General Secretary of UCLGA (United Cities and Local Governments of Africa)



# Acknowledgement

## Supporting this initiative :



Organizers of the webinars:

- Romain Crouzet, program director, Climate Chance
- Prudence Adjanohoun, general secretary of Réseau Habitat et Francophonie (RHF)
- Jean-Jacques Helluin, general director, Codatu
- Gilles Martin, decentralized cooperation adviser, Food and Agriculture Organization
- Jean-François Habeau, executive director, Global Fund for Cities' Development (FMDV)
- Zoé Courboin, mission officer and referee gender, Cités unies France (CUF)
- Maggie Cazal, Founding President, USF, leader of the working group on "Informal cities" French Partnership for Cities and Territories (PFVT)
- Marie Liddell, Head of International Affairs, Research Institute for Development (IRD)

African and French speakers.

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# Introduction

Started with a conversation between PFVT and UCGLA in 2020, the “Crossed Perspectives from Africa and France” webinar cycle was launched under the umbrella of PFVT and supported by the external action of local government bodies (DAECT) of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. This event happens in the context of the preparation of the Africities Summit organized by UCLG Africa in Kisumu in Kenya, between May 17 and May 21 of 2022. It will be highlighted as well during the 11th edition of the World Urban Forum (WUF) organized by UN-Habitat between June 26 and June 30 of 2022 in Katowice, Poland.

During the year 2021, this cycle of monthly meetings fostered dialogue between different urban actors of Afri-

ca and France on the topic of urban development and the challenges it triggers. These meetings also shed lights on concrete experiences and actions already implemented on territories. The conversations focused on different points: climate, affordable housing, mobility, food, funding means, gender, informal cities, hydro-climatic risks and related vulnerabilities. Each one of these topics was discussed in association with a key actor involved in the given field. These meetings were an opportunity to grow awareness among actors about a variety of issues that are common to both Africa and France. They were also an opportunity to think about ways that territories and local authorities can best cooperate regardless of their size, so to implement sustainable urban development policies.

Brigitte Bariol-Mathais, general delegate, French network of urban planning agencies (Fnau)







# CLIMATE

## Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed both our vulnerabilities and our capacity to use financial resources to act. A systemic crisis of that kind shows that we are able to act, but do we really have to wait for crisis to do so? What can we learn from this situation?

Crisis cost more than anticipation and prevention. This one created a lot of poverty, it transformed certain ways of working, of sharing and learning. Real estate demand also changed, with stronger demand now for individual housing in suburban areas. Some heavy trends will lead us to transform the way we plan our cities, and these trends are having a significant impact on the climate as well. In this context, how to impulse climate action through urban development in France and in Africa?

Romain Crouzet, Program Director at Climate Chance.

*"We have a lot to learn from our African peers, who show a lot of resilience capacity. This is why we believe in decentralized cooperation of this kind, especially between local authorities."*

Romain Crouzet, Program Director at Climate Chance.

## State of play

In Africa, responses to climate issues will turn cities into drivers of territorial planning. But how can we plan and make decisions when faced with uncertainties? Is unpredictability to be seen as the norm today?

> Inequality increase. Urbanization fostered demographic growth in African cities without however providing people with the jobs and basic services needed for individual and collective development. This situation fragilized populations by limiting their access to urban amenities.

> Limited knowledge on African cities. The difficulty to access knowledge on Africa limits the possibilities to take action. Updating data implies an engineering process which in fact cannot put up with urbanization speed.

> Low degree of decentralized cooperation between French-speaking countries and between France and Africa about climate issues

> Insufficient subsidies for resilience, adaptation and attenuation processes in France and in Africa



*"Urban planning must be more dynamic, more participatory and inclusive."*  
Luc Gnacadja, Governance & Policies for Sustainable Development

*"Neighborhoods (in Dakar) that were initially registered as wet areas were then occupied by precarious populations who now face the consequences of rising waters."*

Ndeye Rokhaya Sarr Diène, City of Dakar

## Recommendations

> Setting up actions to prevent and anticipate climate change effects and avoid waiting for crisis to happen to take action

> Improve inclusive citizen participation in urban planning processes to accelerate climate actions

> Build neighborhoods that include services and make them easily accessible with concepts such as the "15-Minute city", which helps reduce distances and mobility needs

> Improve territorial management. Set up differentiated working times depending on companies and on professional activities, in order to limit rush hours, traffic, infrastructure oversize and pollution peaks.

> Implement policies to reduce energy consumption, especially in the construction sector and mobility sector, in accordance with the goals set by the Paris agreement'.

> In Africa, improve decentralization and ensure a governance framework that fits each local context's conditions.

> Use digital tools to adapt urban management and urban planning to climate change and make them resilient to hazards and crisis.

> Provide cities with the capacity to assess the costs of climate hazards and to make them aware of the importance of such investments.

> Improve means to access services in order to enable cities' resilience capacity in case of disturbances in the supplying of basic services.

*"In some African cities, traffic was limited by implementing different closing times for public services and informal workers."*

Mohamed Nbou, CGLU Afrique

## Focus

### Brainstorm about the vulnerabilities of the population in Dakar

The city of Dakar organizes meetings in the 19 towns of its urban area, with the goal to make populations aware of their vulnerabilities and to brainstorm on how to solve vulnerabilities.

<https://tinyurl.com/57v3md7p>

### Young volunteers for the environment (JVE – Young Volunteers for the Environment)

JVE is an NGO that works to protect the environment and to instore social justice for the youth, targeting sustainable development in Africa.

<https://jve-international.net/>

### CoM SSA: Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa

This platform focusses on three main points: promoting local political commitment to get local authorities involved; making sure that governance systems are rooted in their context; setting up technical support to access energy. <https://comssa.org/en/>

### Action plan for the climate and for sustainably energy access (PAAEDC) in Sub-Saharan Africa

Created by the Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa, this plan serves as a toolbox to support local authorities and local administrations to create their climate action plans, emphasizing adaptation and attenuation processes. <https://comssa.org/fr/seacap-toolbox>

### Transitioning toward sustainable mobility in Occitanie (Southwestern France)

In Occitanie, a region in the southwest of France, mobility is the first cause of greenhouse emissions. Several actions were taken by the regional authority to fight this, like the LiO platform to facilitate shared rides (<https://lio.laregion.fr/>), like mobility eco-checks (<https://www.laregion.fr/ecoche-quemobilite>), which are bonuses granted to people buying a bike or an electric bike, or like Toten (<https://toten-occitanie.fr/>), a platform meant to centralize and communicate about the actions and initiatives taken by the Region so that citizens are encouraged to make the step toward the transition, with alternative and sustainable mobility means.





## Contributeurs

### In association with Climate Chance

Climate Chance is an organization that intends to strengthen the climate actions of local authorities, companies and civil society, and to contribute to reaching the Paris agreement (2015) goals. It intends more specifically to:

- Share information: inform people about the latest events, projects and publications by members of the Climate Chance network
- Analyze climate action: improve the visibility of climate actions led around the world
- Federate actors: create support through thematic coalitions
- Get actors involved and develop international arguments during summits

### Participants

- Hélène Hampartzoumian, Project Manager, in charge of international cooperation missions, French Ministry for European and Foreign Affairs
- Luc Gnacadja, President of GPS-Dev (Governance & Policies for Sustainable Development)
- Camille Waintrop-Boyon, responsible for project coordination et project valorization, France Ville durable
- Amaury Parelle, Project Manager, responsible for the climate observatory, Climate Chance
- Ndeye Rokhaya Sarr Diène, Coordinator of the climate-energy territorial plan, City of Dakar, Member of the Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa
- Mohamed Nbou, Director, Climate, Biodiversity and Food Systems Department, UCLG Africa







# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## Introduction

Understood as a first line of defense against crises (like with the COVID-19 for instance), housing can be one of the answers if not one of the main answers. Can we address the shortage of housing by 2030 knowing that this shortage, today, amounts to a billion houses around the world? What strategy should be defined for Africa to support property access and to support social rentals? How to better highlight and use the role of inhabitants in housing policy? Can we build new housing in a better, cheaper and quicker way, or rehabilitate run-down housing? How can social and affordable housing contribute to tackling crises, whether they are health-related, climatic, social, safety-related, economical, demographic or digital?

Prudence Adjanohoun, general secretary, Réseau Habitat et Francophonie (RHF)

## State of play

> Housing shortage around the world, especially in Africa. According to RHF, housing shortage amounts to 1 billion houses around the world today and 17 million in African cities.

> Lack of consideration of housing quality. Lockdowns have highlighted some living conditions and the necessary needs there is to enjoy good life conditions in one's own house.

> In Africa, shortage of affordable housing for all, as specified in the New Urban Agenda, especially regarding access to land property and to securing mechanisms for land property

> An ecosystem structured by and with financial ties. The private sectors, which generates income, triggers a power game between the various parties involved in the housing production chain

> In Africa, difficulty to access funding due to credit access rates and to demand not matching the offer. Most public funds are used to produce new housing while owners can in fact hardly pay for new housing given that low-income families can hardly access credits.

Example: in Madagascar, only 16% of the country's cities are built based on urban plans. 72% of inhabitants live in precarious housing conditions and a big number of households live in one-room houses. 10% of the income of households go to housing.



## Recommendations

- > Create a housing policy using a systemic approach, supported and monitored by a representative entity that would be the “conductor” of this system of actors
- > Set up multi-actor partnerships and associations to foster concertation and improve inhabitant participation in the housing production process. The goal here so to turn inhabitants into actors rather than consumers of housing.
- > Rethink the process of urbanization, by using density and urban forms, by matching housing size with population density, and by making sure at the same time that the living conditions in housing units are decent. Projects of urban renewal in city centers and in suburbs can contribute to densification.
- > In Africa, develop a social rental sector with institutional investors able to build long-term trust with social housing management organizations.
- > Set up financial models that open up affordable real estate credits and guarantee that investments get allocated to affordable housing and to improving housing.
- > Empower inhabitants and organizations involved with housing matters (especially affordable housing) to have conversations and to take action

## Focus

### Microfinance in Kenya

The Lafarge-Holcim group and IMFLAPO (Nigerian NGO) provide micro-funding systems to help provide materials and technical support to people who want to build their own houses. This system supports the creation of low-cost quality housing.  
<https://www.lafarge.co.ke/>

### Habitat bank in Senegal

This organization received funds from the State to allocate to public investments that target affordable and quality housing projects.  
<https://www.bhs.sn/>

### In France, a continuous professional training for social housing organizations

Afpols offers training, professionalization, certification, support and consultation programs. It federates 650 members who belong to the social housing field.  
<https://www.afpols.fr/>

### Guarantee Fund of Morocco (FQGARIM – guarantee fund in Morocco)

This fund guarantee mechanism is meant for people living and working in informality and represents 20% of real estate credits in Morocco.

### “Cities without slums” in Casablanca

A Moroccan program to fight slums, with three intervention tools: rehousing, restructuring and recasement (form of simplified housing estates orientated towards a low income population), suggesting that households build their own future housing, for free.  
<https://tinyurl.com/2smhz7cf>

## Contributeurs

### In association with Réseau habitat et Francophonie (RHF)

This network was created in 1987 under the impulse of three French ministries (Equipment, Industry and Cooperation), with the support of the Caisse des dépôts and of the Union des HLM (housing projects union). RHF federates actors and authorities involved in the social and affordable housing sectors in France and French-speaking areas to bring together their thoughts, skills and experiences and facilitate better access to decent housing for all.

## Participants

- Michelangelo Zasy, Vice-Minister responsible for New cities and Habitat, government of Madagascar
- Yves-Laurent Sapoval, Counselor at the Direction of Habitat, Urban planning and Landscapes, French Ministry of Ecological Transition
- Daniel Biau, international expert, former Executive Deputy Director, UN-Habitat
- Aïssata Maïga, President, Mali Yanga
- Bertrand Bret, Delegate responsible for International Relations, Paris Habitat
- Olivier Hassler, international expert
- Mounia Tagma, Regional Director, Affordable Housing Institute
- Lucie Gautherin, Project Manager, Afpols (Association for continuous profession training for representatives of social housing organizations)
- Christophe Lalande, Director, Housing Department, UN-Habitat







# MOBILITY

## Introduction

The conception and strength of decision-making processes relating to urban mobility depend on three main things: preparation for decision, the decision itself, and decision implementation.

When it comes to the phase that precedes a decision, the demand for training is strong, coming from decision-makers and technicians who work for local authorities, ministries, or authorities in charge of mobility-related matters. Observation is a big part of this step, to be able to analyze and assess public policies that get implemented. Furthermore, urban planning ensures some consistency to set efficient policies and include mobility-related matters to urban issues, pushing us to think about the role that transportation systems play in our cities and to think about the ways transportation interacts with the process of urbanization. On this last point, urban planning agencies have a particularly accurate expertise to share in regard to cities from the South.

Jean-Jacques Helliun, general director, Codatu

## State of play

> Important urbanization rates in Africa where 50% of the continent's population live in urban agglomerations, and in France, where 93% of the population live in urban areas and 51% live in a city.

> In African, city commuting is done for the most part with traditional transportation means that are, for some inhabitants of certain urban areas, the only means available.

> In Africa, transportation is mainly provided by private service providers who ensure public services but do not put the general interest first

> Increase of transportation means with less capacity. Over the past few years, we've witnessed an atomization of vehicle fleets, with vehicles getting smaller and people owning one or more of them – meaning more vehicles used.

> Unequal service offer which public authorities have a hard time regulating

> Services that lack flexibility and struggle to adapt to the existing demand but nonetheless ensure a return on investment for private providers because these providers' services are based on demand rather on the general interest.





## Recommendations

- > Implement plans and national policies for sustainable urban mobility
- > Promote decentralized cooperation between the authorities in charge of orchestrating mobility in France and in Africa
- > Set up funding mechanisms that target mobility issues and target sustainable mobility especially.

## Focus

### Innovations to serve mobility

The French organization GART (group of authorities responsible for transportation) develops cooperation by pooling good practices and experiences.

<https://www.gart.org/>

### 1% transportation rate in France

An innovative funding means in France, created for local authorities to allocate 1% of their resources to implementing decentralized cooperation projects on urban mobility.

<https://tinyurl.com/mub2vp26>

## Contributeurs

### In association with Codatu – Cooperation for urban mobility in the developing world

Created in 1980, Codatu brings together different actors connected by their common focus on urban mobility (public institutions, local authorities, professionals of the transportation field, academics and research institutions). It supports cities from the South with urban mobility-related matters. In Africa, this organization helps with:

- Governance
- Urban planning
- Funding to run buildings (more difficult than investment funding)

### Participants

- Sofia Martin-Puerta, “Africa” Project Manager, MobiliseYourCity
- Mounia Moudjeb, Project Management, Group of authorities in charge of transport (GART)
- Solène Baffi, Project Manager, Codatu
- Pulicano Ayebazibwe, responsible for Urban planning, Monitoring and Assessment, City of Kigali







# FOOD

## Introduction

Global demographic growth is a major challenge that we need to tackle if we want to develop cities. Between today and 2050, the sub-Saharan population is meant to double. Risks related to this evolution will particularly impact the most vulnerable populations who already have more difficulty accessing healthy food and basic services.

When it comes to food systems, cities are directly concerned by this issue because 70% of the food we produce goes to urban consumers. To transform our food systems globally, we have to act first on consumption and on food supplying systems for urban environments, and to then interrogate the products we feed consumers with. But these food systems are vulnerable themselves, and they have limits. This is why building food policies requires to take a close look at each food system, within each territorial context.

Gilles Martin, decentralized cooperation adviser, Food and Agriculture Organization

## State of play

> Continuous demographic growth around the world, especially in cities, a situation which makes it even more important to guarantee access to healthy and quality food for all.

> Deterioration and decrease of agricultural land and decrease of water resources on Earth. In 2020, 30% of the land around the world had deteriorated and global aquifers were overexploited.

> Lack of control of the urbanization process, a situation that hampers the protection of biodiversity and of urban farming areas. In some governance systems, this can come from off-ground planning projects that are not headed by local authorities.

> In Africa, undernourishment issues are stronger in rural areas than in urban areas; in parallel, cities (in France and in Africa equally) are very affected by obesity and by chronic diseases related to malnutrition.

> In Africa especially, situations of food insecurity and food solidarity due sometimes to exogenous crisis (geopolitical, climate-related, health-related, etc.) that can affect production and distribution systems.





## Recommendations

> Preserve and develop areas dedicated to urban agriculture by implementing systems and instruments meant to protect land management and encourage collective projects.

> Guaranteeing food safety by approaching urban planning with an integrated vision, because including agriculture to territorial projects contributes to achieving ecological and environmental goals.

> Set up local governance to deal with food-related topics. Local governance needs to be inclusive and transversal, namely by supporting decentralization, so that cities can manage each project based on the local situation.

> Lead actions that are headed or supported by local authorities, to improve consumers' health.

> Ensure food supplying systems and guarantee equal access to quality food, especially for precarious populations.

> Reclaim food waste within the food production system.

> Use digital technologies as an instrument to watch and track food production and food distribution processes.

> Make sure that citizens can take part to the conception of food projects.

> Mettre en réseau les acteurs et les parties prenantes sur les enjeux agroalimentaires urbains.

## Focus

### Preserving urban farming in Bamako, Mali

Due to strong urban growth in Bamako, preservation of green areas and urban farming areas is as an essential concern of the local authorities. The Agency for Regional Development (ADR) supports development and planning projects that encourage the preservation of these areas.

<https://adrbamako.ml/>

### An urban food policy in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad

The city of N'Djamena in the Republic of Chad set up a steering committee for urban food policy. It brought together actors involved with agroalimentary challenges.

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8fjfp5>

### Differentiated waste collection in Accra, Ghana

Accra organizes differentiated waste collection to reuse and reclaim compost and sewage sludge, and turn it into fertilizers.

<https://tinyurl.com/ykxzw3x>

### Green City initiative

The FAO launched the Green City Initiative, a program that supports the creation of partnerships between local authorities and several cities around the world, and of various sizes, to share knowledge, to share inspiring initiatives that deal projects and actions meant to support healthy and sustainable food systems, and to strengthen connections between urban and rural areas.

<https://tinyurl.com/yd9vyfyt>

### Service dedicated to urban farming in Antananarivo, Madagascar

In 2020, the city of Antananarivo created a municipal service focused on urban farming. With it, the city led actions that target vulnerable populations, in some schools and in some social centers.

<https://tinyurl.com/p8zwy3bt>

### Revaluating the green belt of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

This program was conceived to rehabilitate the green belt of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso and takes the form of participatory agroforestry actions.

<https://tinyurl.com/4atbh86j>

### "Let's eat well, let's eat healthy" in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Ouagadougou organized a campaign to grow awareness about food. It was launched in 2019 to fight sugar and salt overuse and to make people aware about nutrition and food norms.

<https://burkina24.com/2018/03/13/les-chroniques-de-lamisse-%C7%80-bien-manger-et-manger-sain/>

### Food products distribution in Antananarivo, Madagascar

The city of Antananarivo led actions during lockdown to help with food transportation and distribution in the city. Food gardens were created in schools to provide food to students from low-income families. <https://tinyurl.com/>

### Ouagayaar, a great virtual market in Burkina Faso

The city of Ouagadougou created Ouagayaar, an exchange platform for local products produced from solidarity-based economic activities. <https://ouagayaar.bf/>



## Contributeurs

### In association with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The FAO is part of the UN. It serves several missions, including that of supporting countries in implementing food policies to reach the UN's Sustainable Development Goal #2.

The FOA has the mission to provide everyone with solutions to solve food issues, especially in developing countries. It puts out international recommendations, norms, and propositions to regulate land management and regulate other topics that have to do with food and agriculture. It also supports local authorities and helps them to brainstorm about ways to implement locally suited food policy.

### Participants

- Gilles Martin, Counselor responsible for decentralized cooperation, Food and Agriculture Organization
- Scarlett Zongo, Technical Counselor, Environment and Sustainable Development, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- Mahamoudou Wadidie, Director of the Regional Development Agency (ADR) of Bamako, Mali
- Tokiana Rakotonirainy, Focal point of the Milan agreement for urban food policy, urban town of Antananarivo in Madagascar







# FUNDING

## Introduction

Whether they are metropolis or in-between places, cities are powerful catalysts for development and innovation and as such they can provide answers to global issues, provided they are equipped with the right funding means. To achieve an urban transition that would align with global goals, \$90 000 billion are needed for urban infrastructures. But a big part of these investments doesn't get allocated to cities yet.

Funding capacities that local governments have all have in common the systemic failure of their system: despite many new funding resources being deployed since the New Urban Agenda, local governments are still faced with insufficient access to resources because they have difficulties meeting the conditions set by financial actors. As to emerging countries, they are deemed to be insufficiently creditworthy, just like their projects.

This observation is particularly true in Africa although the needs there are higher. The urban African population doubled over the past 25 years and it will double once more to get past 1 billion in urban areas in 2045. The question therefore arises of how to fund that demographic transition. What challenges and opportunities do we face in this situation? what resources can we use, what actors, what mechanism? What were the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on this situation?

Jean-François Habeau, executive director, Global Fund for Cities' Development (FMDV)

## State of play

> In Africa, difficult adequation between funding offer and city demand despite the growth of urban development projects, resulting in market failure.

> In Africa, legal frameworks aren't adapted to local funding systems, especially in emerging and developing areas where local authorities do not have the legal capacity to develop territorial funds and to enter financial markets. This problem is common to some cities of Europe and of France.

> Lack of the technical capacity for some local authorities to formulate some projects that require financial engineering and techniques that these local authorities are deprived of.

> In Africa, the levels of investments aren't adapted to the needs of local authorities. Financial backers and private investors have a minimum investment limit below which they're not willing to invest, but most local authorities' funding needs are below that limit.



> In Africa, markets fluctuate a lot in emerging and developing contexts due to political, economic, monetary instabilities, and to financial actors lacking organization. The private sector doesn't invest in projects enough because of the difficulties its actors have to understand projects and because of their fear that local authorities aren't creditworthy enough.

### Recommendations

> In Africa especially, make sure local politicians get strongly involved with funding-related issues, particularly in contexts where the State works against the diversification of funding.

> Switch from a project-based approach to a transformative approach differentiated by country, by working on legal and environmental challenges related to funding. This way, we can ensure that projects that get developed by local authorities align with priorities set at the national level.

> Strengthen or create professional financial intermediations, public or private, to reinforce interactions between the available funding and projects' needs.

> Improve technical and financial project building capacities to develop a set of solid projects that rely on and involve technical or financial expertise.

> Set up a dialogue between funding actors and citizens and start a strategic dialogue on the topic of local authorities implementing funding systems.

> Multiply the positive effects of urban development by creating infrastructures using a holistic approach. This means going beyond the limits of a specific project and aim for a broader development vision of the project and of its investment strategy.

> In Africa, develop partnerships with development banks and with financiers, to make commercial banks fill in funding offers.

### Focus

#### AFD Campus, French Development Agency (AFD)

AFD created a laboratory for pedagogic innovations and a platform for local authorities to pool specific knowledges and learnings. The training offer includes a program called "local authority management", meant for executives and elected representatives from local authorities to improve their managing skills in defining, building and funding

#### LaVille+, a start-up that belongs to Société Générale

This start-up is active in France and in emerging countries. Its work uses an approach based on concertation and co-construction, and according to which successful urban project are the ones that bring together the parties involved prior to the project's construction phase, to make sure beforehand that everyone wants the same thing and shares the same interests.

### Contributeurs

#### In association with FMDV (Global Fund for Development of Cities)

FMDV is a global network of local authorities that work to find funding and investment solutions. FMDV has three main focus of action at the local, regional, national and international levels.

- Supporting the development of programs that provide funding means for urban development
- Facilitating multi-actor dialogue and partnership
- Advocating for solutions that ensure the implementation of international commitments at the local scale

#### Participants

- Jean-François Habeau, Executive Director, FMDV
- Serge Allou, Technical Counselor, UCLG
- Philippe Weill, consultant on Africa, Société Générale
- Elhadji Malick Diop, President, Commission of Economy and Finance, Council of Local Authorities of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)
- Bertrand de Dianous, Director, Local Finances, and Marie Le Gac, Project Manager, « Sustainable cities and territories », French Development Agency





# CITIES AND GENDER

## Introduction

Although to some people “city” and “gender” are two words that match perfectly, a certain kind of paternalist conservatism remains very strongly in French cities, although often subconsciously. This is why we must deconstruct stereotypes, norms and roles, in order to respect the equality and democracy. In political speeches, women are too often considered as a minority and they aren’t always taken into consideration in the decisions (even in those that have to do with exclusively).

Gender in cities is a topic that is often studied and understood through the prism of street harassment and insecurity for women. But these shouldn’t be the only topics we talk about. What different perspectives should we bring forward? Gender is a very transversal prism. If we think about gender and urban planning at once, and jointly, we save time to build more equality, to improve the way people experience their city.

Elise Pereira-Nunes, delegate, responsible for International Relations, Cities, City twinning and Francophonie networks, city of Tours, ambassador for “Tours ville alliée contre les discriminations” and President of the gender issue group, Cités unie France

*“To David Harvey, the right to the city has to do first and foremost with the right to transform the city, and to make it a place of emancipation for all. Gender is however a construction and a spatialized and hierarchical social relation, which involves power games. This social bound isn’t always the same, it rather results from relation dynamics that depend on the context where they take place.”*

Corinne Luxembourg, geography and urban development teacher, National school of architecture, Paris La Villette

*“Gender is a social construction that implies to create bi-categories between what’s masculine and what’s feminine, not so much between men and women. This bi-categorization is based on a hierarchy and depend on a power dynamic between feminine roles and masculine roles.”*

Corinne Luxembourg, geography and urban development teacher, National school of architecture, Paris La Villette

## State of play

> Gender-related inequalities remain very strong

In France, most people who live in housing projects are women because their income and their pension money are lower than men’s. The health crisis increased this situation.



> Women aren't taken into consideration enough when planning city equipment. In Africa for instance, asphaltting is a common practice, considered to be a sign of modernity. But it prevents women from selling their products on the street under the trees, which discriminates their activity.

> Local authorities have a crucial role to play on their territory, since these are the places where discriminations against women happen.

> Electoral laws don't align enough with national constitutions that promote equality between women and men in order to acknowledge women's position and acknowledge the ways in which they can take an equal part to society development.

## Recommendations

> Develop frameworks and programs that focus on women integration

> Increase women's visibility in the public space and ensure their security

> Ensure women participation to concertation and participatory processes, for instance by setting participatory budgets

> Guarantee women's inclusion to politics, to institutions and to decision-making processes

> Guarantee equipment and inclusive urban plans that make it easier for women to use the public space and to foster cohesion

> Support eco-feminism, since it reminds us that women play a key role in solving crisis, especially climate crisis.

## Focus

### Inclusion through sports in Tours (center of France)

The city of Tours developed inclusion projects using sports: basket, boxing, athletics. These sports aren't necessarily seen as women sports, but they enable young people without jobs or young immigrants to be included, and women can access such inclusion mechanisms.

<https://tinyurl.com/nzcsr87a>

### "The city, women's way", in Gennevilliers

"The city, women's way" is an action-research work done by the National Architecture School of Paris-La Villette, the Study center on globalization, conflicts, territories and vulnerabilities, commissioned by the city of Gennevilliers. The participatory methodology made it possible to bring together inhabitants, men and women, and artists. This action intended to understand how women use and appropriate the public space.

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8vkzw9>

### Local politics women's way in Africa

Refela (network for elected women representatives in Africa) was created to propose actions and strategies aiming to improve the way we take women's preoccupations into account in all fields relating to local life; improve women participation to local politics; strengthen the skills of elected local women representatives; give local elected women representative a voice in the organizations of UCLG Africa; consolidate the networked action of elected local women representatives across Africa.

<https://tinyurl.com/44yxb2mr>

### A chart for gender equality in Africa

Refela (network for elected women representative in Africa), UCLG and CCRE (Council for cities and regions of Europe) created a chart of local authorities for gender equality in Africa. The idea is to set an action framework to promote equality between men and women in African local authorities.

<https://tinyurl.com/2vyft99t>

### Egalitarian strategy in Senegal

Senegal requires, by law, parity-based electoral lists. The country also adopted the national strategy for equity and gender equality, global reference framework that explains the country's vision on gender issues and defines certain actions to be taken to include gender issues to the the "emerging Senegal" plan. [http://www.finances.gouv.sn/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/PAP2A\\_FINAL\\_VFINALE\\_14\\_12\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.finances.gouv.sn/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/PAP2A_FINAL_VFINALE_14_12_WEB.pdf)

### Parity-based city council in Tours

The city of Tours revised the repartition between female and male Mayor deputies, in the city's delegations. These delegations are now built based on a male/female duo of deputies to the Mayor, and speech times are monitored to ensure that women and men get the same.

<https://tinyurl.com/4ymh9dyt>

### Egalitarian school breaks in Tours

The "récité en herbe" program in Tours redevelops schoolyards in a way that gender gets rethought and considered. <https://tinyurl.com/zsbnb2vu>





## Contributeurs

### In association with CUF (United Cities France)

Created in 1975, CUF is a French local authority network that's involved with international action and decentralized cooperation. It promotes expertise, partnerships and funding to support local authorities of the network in implement international action. Everywhere in the world, CUF support decentralization, democracy, good governance, reinforcement of local authorities' territorial development capacities, and greater efficiency of public subsidies. Using cohesion as a mindset to foster peace and development, the guiding principles of this organization is that actions and activities have to fight discriminations and promote democracy and local independence.

### Participants

- Élise Pereira-Nunes, Delegate, responsible for International Relations, Cities, City twinning and Francophonie networks, city of Tours, ambassador for « Tours ville alliée contre les discriminations » and President of the gender issue group, Cités unies France
- Corinne Luxembourg, Geography and Urban Development teacher, National school of Architecture, Paris La Villette
- Sénamé Koffi Agbodjinou, Anthropology and Architecture researcher in, Founder of the WoeLab in Lomé, Togo
- Fatima Razouki, Coordinator, "Youth and Gender" service, Elected women representatives' network of Africa (Refela), UCLG Africa







# INFORMAL CITY

## Introduction

In Africa and in some French overseas territories, informal are faced with a lot of vulnerabilities: landlock, lack of legal protection on land use, greater exposition to natural and climatic risks, poverty triggered by the lack of access to market and to housing, insecurity (especially for women).

These urban areas are often characterized by a strong density, but they lack access to basic services. Subsequently, these services become subject to a lot of speculation, for instance to sell and access water, and speculation makes these basic services very expensive and thereby isolate even more people who live in those neighborhoods.

Maggie Cazal, Founding President, USF, leader of the work group on "Informal cities" for the French Alliance for Cities and Territories (PFVT)

## State of play

> Most of the economy and of the housing situation in African cities is informal. 80% of the economy is informal in African cities.

> African cities face exponential demographic growth. In parallel, they precarious informal neighborhoods also grow. This is why the number of slum inhabitants is meant to grow by 2 billions by 2050.

> Conflicts and city financialization, especially in relation to land use, trigger more informality and more precarity (mostly in African cities).

> Inequalities are still very strong in urban areas and need to be reduced to enable sustainable development in those cities.

> Informality areas can also be places that facilitate usage experimentations as well as urban practices.

*" Informal cities are born from the following vicious circle: poverty, rural exodus, big demography, anarchic urbanization, speculation on basic services, informal economy, precarity, insecurity, inequalities, which all together, leads even more poverty..."*

Maggie Cazal, Founding President, USF, leader of the "Informal cities" work group for the French Alliance for Cities and Territories (PFVT)







## Recommendations

> Use urban planning to control urban spread and to develop the urban fabric that already exists. Instead of tearing down neighborhoods to rebuild them, choose to rehabilitate and urbanize them.

> Connect land prices with housing prices, based on an integrated approach. In this case we need to regulate land use in neighborhoods and to secure legal frameworks.

> Connect informal neighborhoods with essential services in the city (water, sanitation, waste management) and equip provide education, health and transportation services in those neighborhoods.

> Make room for green spaces, nature areas and biodiversity areas in informal neighborhoods. This way we can change the neighborhood's configuration, which can lead to neighboring improvement, to better building quality, and to free up some ground for ecologic continuities.

> Work on the four points above by involving actors (civil societies, economic actors, administrations, financial backers that fund operations).

## Implementing recommendations

The recommendations above can only be implemented if we gather the data, competences and know how's needed to plan and if there's enough funding.

> Collect data and connect them to local knowledges to do suitable diagnosis of each site and, using these diagnoses a basis, make projections for the future. Use this to analyze and develop instruments, for instance to map out territorial vulnerabilities and to produce content to draw action plans and guide investments, as well as to draw social contracts that focus their effort on precarious informal neighborhoods.

> Use temporary and transitory urban planning tools to encourage sustainable city development that can improve the living conditions in informal neighborhoods.

> Reduce inequalities with legal frameworks

In conclusion, the recommendation is to work on a systemic approach that can be global and local and to regulate land management. This systemic approach can lead to solutions that can be implemented in our direct environment and can contribute to reducing spatial disparities.

## Focus

### Data-based policies in Cape Verde

In Cape Verde, the implementation of a participatory program to improve slums inspired an ambitious national campaign to collect reliable data meant to profile all precarious informal neighborhoods of the country. This action also gave shape to partnerships with the private sector.

<https://mirror.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=115528catid=5928typeid=6>

### Temporary welcoming place and social inclusion, Paris

The Reuilly casern is a former military casern that underwent rehabilitation. The old part of the building was used to host temporarily shared gardens and green canopies, created to foster the social inclusion of people living in precarious situations. *crescendo*. [asso.fr/caserne-de-reuilly/](http://asso.fr/caserne-de-reuilly/)

### Adapting informal neighborhoods to climate change in Fiji

In Fiji, a participatory program was created to improve slums. It supported the development of a low scale project that focused on adapting informal buildings to climate change. Two other projects were used, funded by the Adaptation fund created in Fiji and in the Solomon Islands.

<https://unfccc.int/fr/news/les-repercussions-du-changement-climatique-sur-les-iles-fidji>

### "Grands Voisins", emergency accommodation center and transitory urban planning, Paris

In Paris, a transitory urban development project (Les Grands Voisins) was created on the site of a former hospital to welcome social housing units and public infrastructure. It also provides temporary shelter to people in emergency situations.

<https://lesgrandsvoisins.org/>



## Contributeurs

### In association with Urban planners without borders (USF)

USF is a French NGO implementing international actions to promote sustainable development in cities and territories. Citizen participation is at the heart of their mission. The NGO connects various actors in different places, through global, transversal, local and partnership-based actions. It has three main fields of action:

- Competence reinforcement
- Cooperation and intervention on urban and rural development projects
- Promotion of sustainable development and of participatory governance

### Participants

- Maggie Cazal, Founding President, USF, leader of the work group on "Informal cities", French Alliance for Cities and Territories (PFVT)
- Oumar Sylla, Regional Director, UN-Habitat, Africa
- Diane Le Roux, International Cooperation Project Manager, French National Agency of urban renovation (Anru)
- Cheikhou Balde, responsible for Urban Development, African Development Bank
- Najat Zarrouk, Director of the African academy for Local Authorities (ALGA), UCLG Africa
- Me Didier Nourissat, Superior Council of Notaries
- Salomon Okiri, former General Director, National agency for territorial development, Benin
- Djamila Ioualalen-Colleu, Project Manager, "sustainable cities", Ministry of Ecological Transition and Ministry of Territorial Cohesion







# HYDRO-CLIMATIC RISKS AND RELATED VULNERABILITIES

## Introduction

In its report published on February 28, 2022, the IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) diagnoses upcoming changes that will be of dramatic scales and tells us that cities will be more and more exposed to extreme climatic events. Significant demographic and urban growth in Africa come on top of that, with at least 115 million people likely to be exposed to sea levels rising.

In this situation, the IPCC warns us about unsuited short-term solutions; to face climate change, the group encourages to think about resilience and adaptation solutions that are realistic, grounded in their local context, and rely on nature-based solutions. We must also ensure to broaden the application scale of project, which involves producing collective knowledge. To do so, we must quantify and qualify concepts of risks, vulnerabilities, resilience; we must find scientific foundations to define the socio-economic boundaries of urban ecosystems; lastly, we must come up with instruments of diagnosis and of anticipation. We also need to share our practices and failures and make sure that researchers and operation officers work together. This is why IRD organizes its research around knowledge communities, to create a dialogue between political leaders and citizens.

Corinne Brunon-Meunier, Delegate General Director at IRD  
Marie Liddell, responsible for international affairs at IRD

## State of play

> Africa is the place where urban growth happens the fastest. It affects soil impermeability and soil occupation, and this impacts water streams negatively.

Example: in 2021, Dakar (Senegal) concentrates 50% of the urban inhabitants of the country as well as 21% of the country's total population, despite an unfavorable topography due to floods and to valleys being often urbanized. In this situation, 26% of the city's surface is considered to be exposed to risks of floods and landslide.

Example : More than 50% of the urban population and 21% of the total population of the country of Ivory Coast, live in the city of Abidjan. Furthermore, the city's topography is fostering flooding, especially on valleys that are already urbanized. In this context, 26% of the city area is concerned by flood and landslide risks.





> In Africa, land available for the formal economy sector is insufficient and areas are used non aedificandi in some hydrographic contexts which are sometimes very dense and located in places where climate events are frequent.

Example: Douala (Cameroon) is a coastline city exposed to hydrological and topographical risks, and which are under a lot of demographic and urban pressure. Due to land shortage, new populations settle informally in areas exposed to flood hazards.

> In Africa, lack of hydrologic installation in the cities and lack of risk prevention plans.

> The time that applies to politics is different that the time that applies to research, and this situation create a difference of perceptions and practices between various actors working on common issues.

## Recommendations

> Anticipate floods thanks to tracking tools we can use to anticipate upcoming floods.

> Reinforce scientific communication, make sure the involved actors are informed, and co-develop university training that align with the local urban needs.

> Work together with inhabitants and communities to look for solutions with them that address their life conditions and to keep them informed them when extreme situations happen

> Improve local knowledge and strengthen capacities to face hydro-climatic risks, especially for actors of the civil engineering field, in order to develop resilient cities. This involves to lead brainstorm with different actors: national meteorologists, researchers, etc.

> Create solutions based on a comprehension of natural phenomenon and of the different kinds of vulnerabilities. To do so, create connections with universities in order to identify and understand local vulnerabilities.

> Use digital tools to implemented real time monitoring of draining networks, and to implement various scenarios that improve risk anticipation. To do so, develop partnerships with private organizations.

> Collect data relying on concrete physical data, especially by creating observatories, in order to study and map out flood-risk areas and to modelize floods. Also, use historical territorial archives to draw a summary of past floods.

*"To think about sustainable city, is obviously think about local contexts and to be in capacity to analyze complex systems, without having a priori thinking and based on local knowledges."*

Corinne Brunon-Meunier, delegate general director of IRD

## Focus

### Reducing risks related to extreme rainfalls in Abidjan

The city of Abidjan created a project called "Evidence", as part of the C2D (deleveraging and development contract). It has to do with extreme rainfalls, with vulnerability and with environmental risks, including floods and water contamination. An investigation was done in 2018 on households, and was followed by a the development of a water adduction project that started from the Aghien laguna.

<https://en.ird.fr/node/8751>

### Sustainable city Douala (Douala sustainable city)

"Douala sustainable city" is an example of local collaboration between researchers and decision-makers, based on the association of IRD, Douala University, Philia Ingénierie and BRGM (Bureau for geological and mining research). The goal of the association is to provide and install infrastructure. Through a partnership set up with Orange (phone provider), rain gauges were put up in the city to do real time measurements.

<https://tinyurl.com/3wht4uyb>

### A geographical information system to better understand floods in Senegal

This instrument of diagnosis was created by the city of Dakar to reconstitute the effects of floods on buildings, and take them into consideration to direct water flows: some natural water streams' paths have to be changed forcefully, based on buildings and water collectors.

<https://tinyurl.com/3puzttrm>





## Contributeurs

### In association with the French Institute for Research and Development (IRD)

IRD is a French public institution present in about 50 countries around the world. It collaborates with 850 researchers and research technicians who work together with scientific researchers from around the world and whose missions focus on fair partnerships, cross-disciplinarity, and multi-actor co-construction processes. This organization prioritizes dialogue between society and science, and between science and public policy making. This way, IRD intends to be an advocate for sustainability and to promote research that brings concrete and adapted solutions to development issues.

### Participants

- Corinne Brunon-Meunier, Delegate General Director at IRD
- Marie Liddell, responsible for International Affairs at IRD
- Dr Raphaël Onguene, oceanographer, Scientific Lead of the "Douala sustainable city" project at IRD, teacher and researcher at Douala University
- Marie-Claude Ngando, Project Manager at IRD
- Dr Joseph Olinga, geographer, Project Coordinator of the "Douala sustainable city" project, Douala' urban community organization, Associate Teacher, Douala University
- Laurent Pascal M. Diémé, geographer, PhD candidate, Leïdi « Territorial development dynamics », Gaston-Berger de Saint-Louis, Senegal University
- Dr Ansoumana Bodian, teacher and researcher, Geography Department, Gaston-Berger de Saint-Louis, Senegal
- Dr Éric-Pascal Zahiri, Atmospheric Physicist, teacher and researcher, Atmospheric and Fluid Mechanics Department, Cocody-Abidjan University
- Dr Jean-Louis Perrin, hydrologist, Research Associate, HydroSciences Montpellier, IRD
- Artadji Attoumane, geographer, PhD, Population, Environment and Development Laboratory, IRD





# Conclusion

## In our way to Katowice, with a stop in Kisumu

These conversations above have shown that each action context has its own specificities. However, the challenges we highlighted are common to different local contexts, and the conversations above aim to advocate for the general interest to be considered, in order to improve life conditions and face the stakes of climate change – to draw collective recommendations.

Urbanization growth is one of the main phenomena that transforms cities more and more, especially in Africa. This is why we so importantly need to improve territorial knowledge, to develop stronger resistance and adaptation capacities to unexpected risks. There isn't enough information about African cities, explaining why we do not have enough information about their limits and their configuration. The territorial engineering organizations in charge of observing and consulting cities (such as those that exist in France), together with existing digital

tools, can be inspiring examples of how to plan African territories in a better way.

To do so, we must bring political and administrative bodies closer to local contexts and adapt these bodies through the decentralization of powers and decisions; with the goal to make these local authorities real places for democracy. This way, not only will we enable these authorities to create prevention and development strategies; we will also enable them to transform current vulnerabilities into opportunities. Lastly, inter-territorial cooperation, being a tool to foster exchanges of experience and of good practices, is to be seen as real strength and added value when implementing innovative approaches, and when creating partnerships that can bring new territorial dynamics forward and contribute to setting up specific funding.







Started in 2011, the **French partnership for cities and territories (PFVT – Partenariat Français pour la Ville et les Territoires)** is a platform meant for the exchange and valorization of the French urban actor's expertise at the international level. It is a multi-actor partnership headed by Hubert JulienLaferrière, Member of Parliament, supported by the Ministry of Europe and of foreign affairs, the Ministry of territorial cohesion, the Ministry of the ecologic and fair transition, and the Ministry of culture. It brings together close to 200 organizations representing the diversity of the French expertise, contributing to the construction of a shared French vision based on a capitalization of exchanges and of innovative and sustainable experiences.

**The team of the technical secretariat of the PFVT is carried by the French network of urban planning agencies (Fnau)**

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