

ASSOCIATIVE PROJECT OF CARTONG

May 2019

CartONG is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) whose mission is to put data at the service of humanitarian, international development and social action projects. Our organization combines its multidisciplinary expertise and the commitment of its volunteer and staff teams to tackle the technical, strategic and ethical challenges of digital technologies. CartONG uses information management tools and methodologies – specifically, those designed to respond to needs arising from the use of geographic data – in order to better understand the challenges faced in field environments and the needs of target populations. In doing so, we seek to improve the quality and accountability of on-site activities by facilitating their monitoring and evaluation. To this end, we promote the sharing of data, tools and methodologies usable and accessible to all. To ensure lasting impact, our work recognizes the benefits inherent in collaboration and partnership.

Our values

- Human-centric: we put the dignity of individuals and populations at the heart of our choices and actions, respecting their rights and the principles of economic, ecological and social justice.
- Professionalism: “going the extra mile”, we aim for the highest technical quality yet seek pragmatic solutions.
- Agility: an integral part of our DNA, our team is continually looking for ways of innovating and adapting itself to each context and request.
- Autonomy: thanks to CartONG’s unique organizational structure and continuous transfer of skills, our approach is designed to empower its own members as well as our partners. Our greatest achievement is your autonomy.
- Collaboration: at all stages of our projects, in the spirit of transparency and sharing, we aim to involve each and every stakeholder.
- Connectedness: CartONG is a community nurturing mutual support, new relationships and individual fulfillment. We look out for one another, valuing our cultural diversity.

Our expertise

CartONG is a multidisciplinary resource and expertise center. We support non-governmental and international organizations, public institutions and social actors to achieve better information management, with a particular focus on geographical data. Our technical support spans the full information chain, including data collection, structuring, storage, analysis, visualization and updating. CartONG applies and develops tools, solutions and methodologies adapted to the needs of our partners, in line with current technological developments. As a resource center, CartONG's activities have a common objective, namely, to promote the sharing of experience, know-how and data for the benefit of all actors working in the aid sector. Our neutral position allows us to advise our partners by directing them, without bias, towards the most appropriate tools.

CartONG is also a training and awareness-raising actor. We are committed to strengthening the skills and knowledge of our partners as well as that of the broader humanitarian sector, including future professionals. Our commitment translates into the design and delivery of many training workshops each year. We also dedicate part of our activity to raising public awareness about

new information and communication technology and Open Data, in particular through our OpenStreetMap projects.

CartONG is a catalyst for inclusion and the exchange of ideas. The association is a dynamic actor within the humanitarian and development data ecosystem, facilitating networks and organizing events centered on information management and its stakes for the sector. CartONG also carries out numerous activities in collaboration with local communities – including those of OpenStreetMap – promoting participatory mapping workshops to a broad audience. CartONG's volunteer team is particularly committed to this collaborative approach through the design and technical implementation of new social, humanitarian and development initiatives.

Finally, without defining itself as an advocacy organization, at CartONG we position ourselves on a number of subjects that we consider essential for the sector, including the responsible management of personal data and data sharing (Open Data). The recent endorsement of the Principles for Digital Development by CartONG is an example of our commitment.

Our governance and business model

CartONG follows a standard French associative governance structure, with a Board elected by the General Assembly. The Board's role is to provide broad guidance for the association, to ensure its proper functioning and to guarantee the best possible use of resources.

From the start, CartONG has been able to rely on a highly committed staff team. Our organization has a relatively horizontal hierarchy, supported by participatory everyday management structures. Our commitment to agility and attention to the well-being of our members has led to a diverse range of legal employment statuses, multiple work locations and an intercultural team. All this has served to define our uniqueness and reinforce our strengths. The association also hosts an active volunteer team and a large community of associated contributors. We promote the exchange of views and mutual support among staff and volunteers, developing new models of cooperation which guarantee effective collaboration.

Since its creation, CartONG has been mainly financed by partnership contracts, calls for proposals, training workshops and services for NGOs and international organizations. For the past several years, we have been seeking to diversify sources of funding through sponsorships, foundations and public grants. However, apart from specific operations, our association does not actively seek donations from the general public, believing that it is more effective and relevant for the public to provide financial support to operational NGOs - some of whom are also CartONG's partners. In addition to the security that our funding model provides, the diversification of funding sources is also a way to remain more proactive in promoting new activities while simultaneously defending our values and thereby increasing our overall impact.

Finally, the logic of diversification is also reflected in the growing number and variety of our partners. They are of all sizes and backgrounds and work on an increasing number of topics, particularly in the international development sector. At CartONG, we are keenly aware of the need to adapt our own team to an ever-changing environment while remaining a human scale organization attentive to the well-being of our members and the quality of our projects. We are also reflecting on new models of growth and partnerships, aligning with our core values.

Our History

CartONG was born in the 2000s, a period marked by the emergence of innovative technologies impacting all sectors of social activity, including international solidarity. In the face of these rapid developments, humanitarian actors found themselves disadvantaged: they often lacked both the technical skills to benefit from the innovations and a broader perspective on the challenges and opportunities that data and digital technology represented for their sector.

It was in this context that CartONG was founded in Chambéry, France in 2006. We initially focused on overcoming the lack of mapping and geographical data management skills observed at the time within humanitarian organizations while promoting the sharing of tools, methods and data within the sector. In its role as a resource center, CartONG quickly positioned itself as an NGO complementing the work of international organizations, other NGOs, public and semi-public organizations and associations.

In this way, CartONG indirectly offered support to vulnerable populations and beneficiaries of aid projects. Since our beginnings, we have sought to provide high quality technical support and, through a continuous process of skills transfer, have aimed to render our action ever more sustainable. Additionally, we have always given priority to the impact of humanitarian work in the field, in keeping with the dignity and rights of vulnerable populations.

CartONG has gradually adapted itself to meet the needs and expectations of the humanitarian and international development ecosystem and to the evolution of technologies – particularly with the arrival of smartphones in 2008. We have thus diversified our areas of expertise, moving beyond mapping, to cover the entire information management spectrum, from field data collection to data analysis and sharing.

Although we initially only worked in support of projects for displaced populations, in recent years we have extended the range of contexts, partnerships and spheres of action in which we operate. These now cover numerous humanitarian and international development areas: health, nutrition, logistics, child protection, access to safe water and sanitation, disaster risk reduction and environmental protection. More recently, we have started implementing or supporting social action projects in Europe, designed to promote the integration of migrant populations.

The team, until 2010 composed principally of salaried employees, has grown significantly thanks to the commitment of volunteers, some of whom work on initiatives of smaller, local associations worldwide while others participate in projects managed directly by our staff.

A few highlights of our history...

On 26th June 2006, CartONG was created in Chambéry.

2007 was the year of a first Information Management (IM) project for UNHCR supporting the return of IDPs to Uganda. CartONG also gave its first training to Solidarités International.

2007

Its objective? Provide expertise in geographic data management and information management for humanitarian and development actors.

CartONG organized the first edition of the GeOnG forum, with 19 humanitarian organizations present. Our team gave a first training for ACF. 2008 was also the year of the first tutorials created in support of UNHCR.

2008

2 partners

12 staff

5 members

CartONG implemented its first development project in Vietnam for GIZ. We provided a training for Groupe URD.

On the volunteer side, a team supported the Shelter Cluster in Indonesia.

2009



Release of the first Android smartphones

September: earthquake in Indonesia



Development of OpenDataKit

Beginning of Mobile Data Collection (MDC) at CartONG. It was also the year of the first emergency mission to Haiti and of an important project for WHO. CartONG started giving GIS & MDC training courses at the Bioforce Institute.

2010



Development of OsmAnd

February: earthquake in Haiti



First cooperation with MSF, ICRC and WFP. CartONG implemented the NOMAD project in support of the whole humanitarian community. Beginning of annual partnership agreements signed with several UNHCR sections.

2011

On the volunteer side, first Get-Together meeting between staff and members.

The Arab Spring movements agitated the Mediterranean basin



CartONG continued to grow. It was the year of the first emergency deployment for UNHCR in Lebanon. The GeOnG Forum took place at Manège Congress Center for the first time, with more than 120 participants attending.

2012

7 partners

13 staff

17 members

First volunteer mission (Côte d'Ivoire).



Beginning of the large-scale use of KoboToolbox

November: Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines



QGIS v2 release

CartONG's activity doubled with the Ebola crisis: more than 18 field missions were supervised by our teams in 2014. First large activation of OSM-HOT contributors by CartONG.

2014

On the volunteer side, it was the year of the first web-mapping project called "Atlas Solidarité Madagascar".

March: beginning of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, which lasted almost 2 years



CartONG joined Missing Maps and organized its first mapathons. Beginning of a large-scale MDC support for Terre des hommes. CartONG joined Coordination Sud via the CHD and launched a new website.

2015

Volunteer mission to Madagascar to provide support for the launch of OSM-Mada.

April: earthquake in Nepal



CartONG published the first version of the Map Centre for MSF-CH, and our teams supported 2 consortia in Iraq and Central African Republic. We gave a first training workshop for Handicap International. CartONG also carried out a study on the use of drones in the humanitarian sector with FSD.

2016

10 partners

21 staff

69 members



10

years!

CartONG supported refugee assistance programs in Bangladesh. First projects with the French Development Agency and ACAPS, and publication of the ICT toolbox for international solidarity micro projects.

2017

On the volunteer side, a training mission took place in Madagascar.

August: beginning of massive population movements from Myanmar to Bangladesh



CartONG published the MDC Toolkit with Terre des hommes and the v2 of the Map Centre. We conducted several IM needs assessment missions and launched Maps from here & abroad. MAMAPA, CartONG's sister association, was created in Germany.

2018

This was the year of Nomad Maps, a cycling itinerary in the Andes centered around collaborative mapping.



The GDPR came into effect

September: beginning of an Ebola crisis in DRC



In early 2019, CartONG provided cartographic support to its partners working in the field in Mozambique and launched a major internal project on data protection.

2019

Beginning of monthly volunteer gatherings in Paris.

March: Hurricanes Idai & Kenneth hit Mozambique

