



CartONG

Associative Project

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.

