

A HOME FOR HOMELESS

What place for homeless during a crisis like covid-19, and beyond?

April 2020



CONTEXT

"International human rights law recognizes everyone's right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing." However, "millions around the world live in life- or health-threatening conditions, in overcrowded slums and informal settlements, or in other conditions which do not uphold their human rights and their dignity" (1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

Therefore, living in decent and dignified housing is a fundamental human right recognized worldwide and ratified by States.

For the past few months, the whole world has been in crisis, hit by a pandemic destabilizing all socio-cultural systems or economic and geopolitical forecasts. Measures have been taken to keep the population confined to the home as much as possible, in order to reduce the rate of spread of the disease. But a section of the population, the homeless, although part of the group of people most exposed to calamities, is not necessarily taken into account in these control or protection measures. This makes them more fragile, and even makes them potential fast vectors of the virus.

When everyone is asked to «stay at home», how can we help protect the homeless by helping them to also comply with this recommendation during this sensitive period, and even beyond?

Lomé, the capital of Togo, is a city of over a million people on the Atlantic coast of West Africa. This versatile city and regional economic center is not immune to the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is to assist this disadvantaged social layer that we offer a containment shelter as well as a [website](#) that will help keep everyone informed through participatory web mapping.

We inquired and also discovered that the city of Seattle, has also launched an emergency housing project for the homeless, the «Tiny House Village». What constitutes a concrete case study.

Jenny Durkan, the mayor of Seattle even said to the press: "**Our homeless citizens are more exposed to the coronavirus than we are. As a city, region and country, we have to do something to fight this**" (www.2omin.ch).



Our investigations pictures



The Seattle's Low Income Housing Institute builds emergency homes, to provide greater protection for the homeless from coronavirus (lihi.org / 2omin.ch)

INVESTIGATIONS RESULT (made protected with mask and sanitizer)

- There is a slight majority of men compared to women, and more than 80% of all those who responded to the survey are adults (fig. 1 & 2).
- Half of the respondents confirm that they do not have a place to sleep. However, 100% of those who have a place to sleep say that they pay the night at 200 FCFA and in an unsanitary and uninhabitable place (fig. 3).
- More than 80% of 2/3 of the interviewees say that we can find them at the place where they were interviewed, while the rest say they can be seen again in Hanoukpé (fig. 4)
- When asked if they would accept housing assistance, they were all positive, except the one who said «no», putting forward the fear of rent that she might not be able to afford (fig. 5).
- Over 80% of those interviewed are aware of the presence of the Corona virus in Lomé, and of the need to protect themselves from it (fig. 6).
- Another remark is that all the women surveyed have at least 02 male children on average except the one coming from Notse.

NB: They each claimed and received 200F CFA before they answered. We also disinfected their hands before leaving them.

Conclusions:

- Housing for the homeless is a real and urgent issue***
- Adapted and scalable social housing projects can help meet this challenge, especially during the outbreak.***

Fig. 1

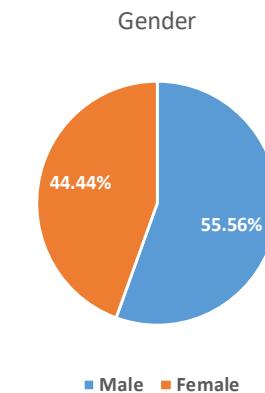


Fig. 2

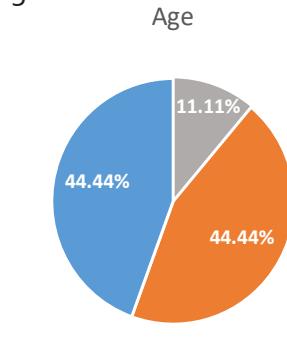


Fig. 3

Do you have a place to sleep at?

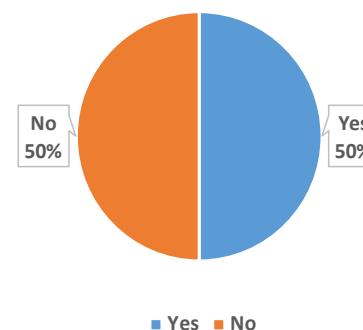


Fig. 4

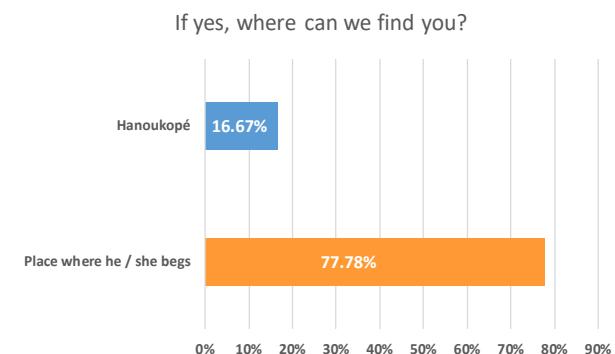


Fig. 5

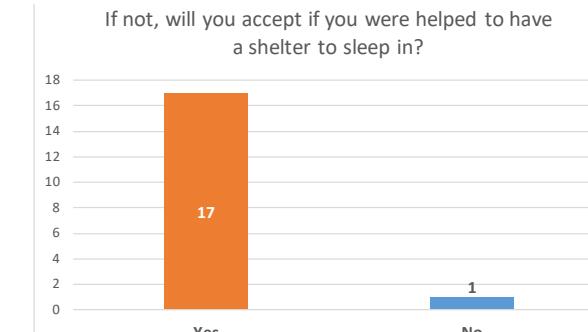
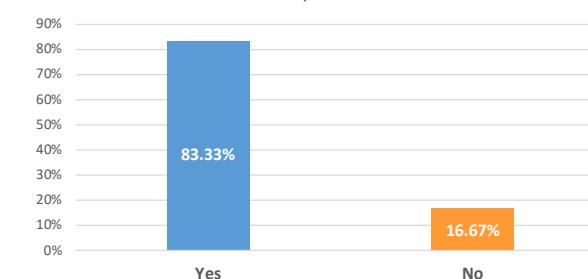


Fig. 6

If so, do you know that the virus is in Lomé and that we must protect ourselves?



LOCATION

The site we plan to set up for the pilot camp, if we have the agreement of the competent authorities, is in Lomé in the west part of the Hanoukopé Market.

The land is located near the Tokoin hospital for rapid medical assistance. The site demarcated in the area will be approximately 1 hectare and is a dry part of the lagoon of Bè. It is an governmental property according to the ordinance of February 1974 taken over in the land code. Other sites will be found in the evolution of the project, with the help from the Ministry of the City, Town Planning, Housing and Public Health.



The project consists of small houses («Tiny houses») or small bungalows. The main facades could be covered with loincloth fabrics with attractive African-inspired patterns. They will be chosen according to their origin, their production method and their ability to be waterproof.



VIEW ON THE ENTRY OF A MODULE

The mini-village should be provided with basic socio-economic services to provide minimum comfort to the beneficiaries such as drinking water and light. In the medium term and with the hope that the Covid-19 will end, we can think of adding other spaces of sociability such as shared community kitchens, community meeting space, etc.



VIEW ON AN INNER COURTYARD WITH A WATER TANK IN THE CENTER



We aspire to offer more than just shelter to the target population of this project: a “house”, a community where they can live together, regain their dignity and develop in a sustainable way.

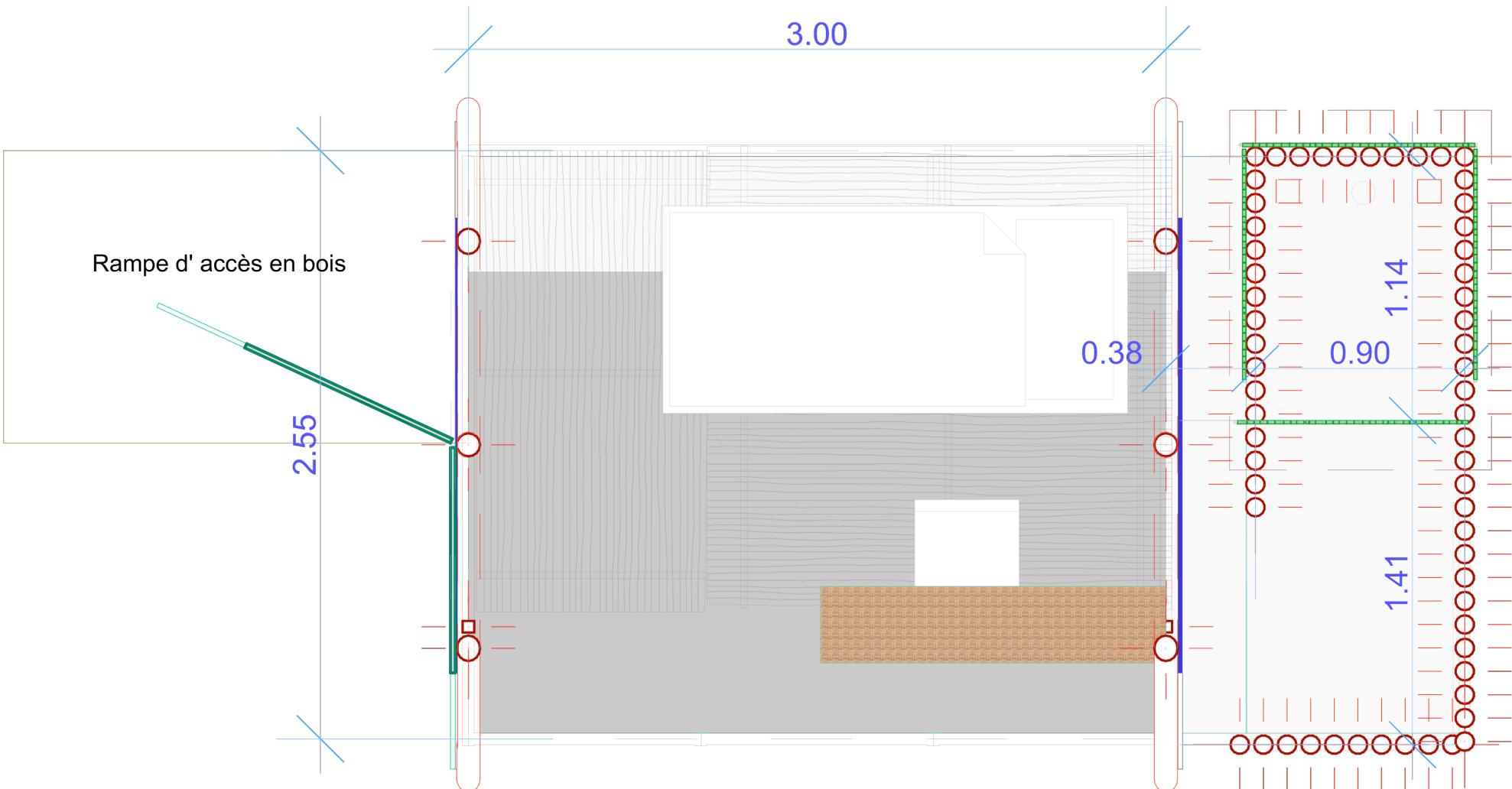


VIEW ON THE INSIDE OF A MODULE

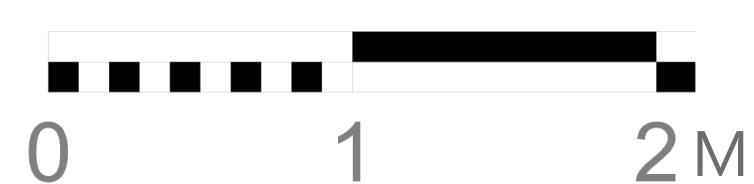


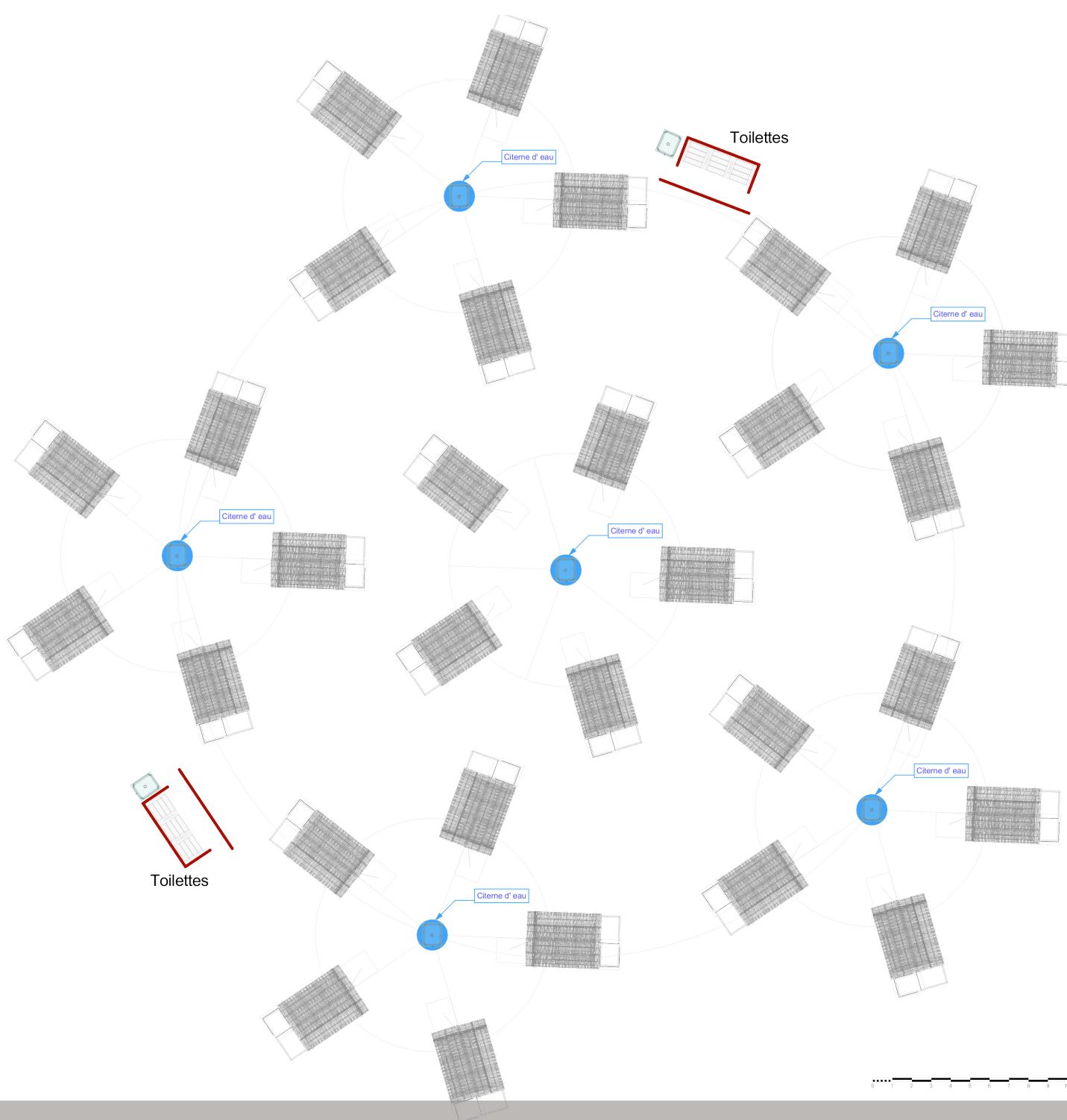
The bungalows will respect the distancing measures.

The sites which will house the shelters will be ideally chosen in order to allow the inhabitants, former homeless people, to be able to be initiated into urban agriculture, next to their homes, to ensure their empowerment, beyond the help they will have received from this project.



The capacity of tiny houses can be variable, but the prototype considered in this presentation file can take a small family of one to three people.





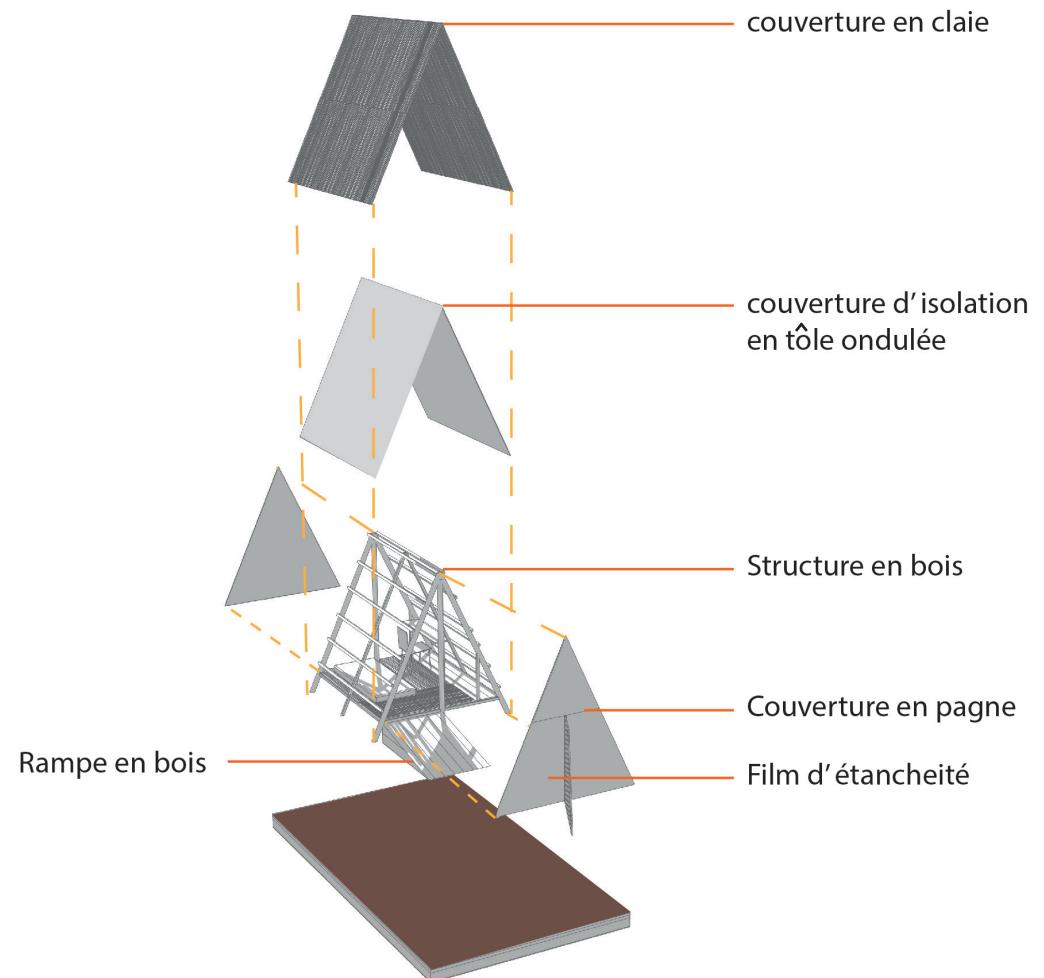
ILLUSTRATIVE MASS PLAN OF A CAMP

For the construction, we opted for the use of locally available materials such as wood, the “rack” which is a mat woven from the bark of palm branches.

The frame is made of wood, the cover is made of aluminum sheet to ensure water tightness and covered for above the racks for aesthetics and to insulate the interior from heat.



The rack





Drainable toilets

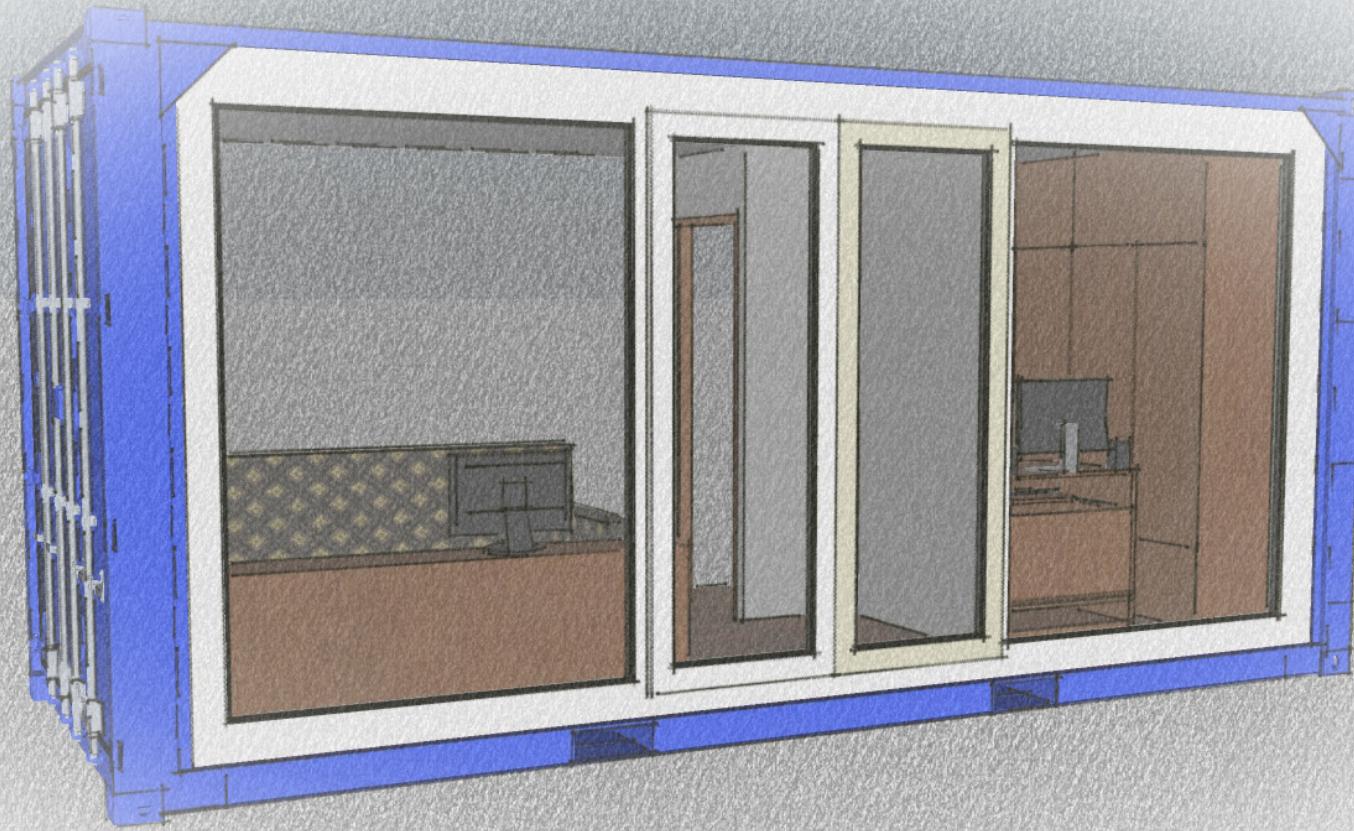


For lighting, each dwelling will be provided with a lamp with a mini solar plate to recharge the lamp.



Toilet interior





For the proper management of the site and to ensure compliance with sanitary and hygienic measures, the project will have a support center. It is designed in a container and fitted out as managers' offices to also serve as a space for psychological counseling, storage of donations, and site security.

Any additional design and organization suggestions are welcome.

FINANCIAL ESTIMATE OF A MODULE [01 (ONE) BUNGALOW UNIT FOR A FAMILY OF ONE (01) TO THREE (03) PEOPLE]

DESIGNATION	PRIX EN FCFA
15 SHEETS	35 000
15 RAFTERS	60 000
10 x 4 MILLIMETERS PLYWOOD	40 000
03 x 12 MILLIMETERS PLYWOOD	42 000
05 PACK OF NAILS "3"	12 000
02 PACK OF SHEET METAL NAILS	7 000
02 BOARDS	8 000
LOCK	6 500
HINGE	1 500
MACHINE FEES	12 000
MATERIAL TRANSPORTATION COSTS	20 000
WORKFORCE	50 000
ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE MONITORING	50 000
TOTAL	344 000 FCFA

NB: DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES AND CIVIL ENGINEERING are valued at 450,000 CFA francs are already supported by Axe Durable Sarl.

The list is not exhaustive, but we strongly count on support:

From His Excellency the President of the Togolese Republic;

From His Excellency the Ambassador of the USA to Togo;

From the Minister of Grassroot Development, of Crafts, of Youth and of Youth Employment;

The Ministry of the City, City Planning, Housing and Public Health;

From the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene;

National and International Organizations like UN Habitat, UNDP, Habitat for Humanity, FAO, etc.

*From the Municipality of Lomé and the Prefecture of the Gulf, particularly for
public toilet, recovery of non-recyclable waste, and drinking water;*

Beneficiaries to participate in the construction of their housing;

*Of all people of good will in Togo or of the Togolese diaspora, of all the earthlings sensitive to
the protection of the homeless;*

Legal professionals who wish to contribute to the legal management of donations;

*Associations and startups from all fields who would like to contribute, like those to help with the initiation
of homeless people in urban agriculture or those who can provide traditional loincloths for
making shelters visually more cheerful;*

*Of the entire population of Lomé, but also of the entire planet for the contribution to the "crowd
map" or digital participatory mapping system, listing the various sites online
where we can find homeless people: "[A Home for homeless](#)".*

*The nature of the expected donations is open and free to choose: encouragement, advice, information, money,
food, building materials and lighting accessories, labor, reusable clothing, etc.*

THANK YOU!

APPENDIX 1: Survey sheet

Questionnaire d'enquête auprès des sans-abris pour une étude académique sur l'amélioration du logement en période pandémique du Corona virus

Consignes : saluer la personne et demander comment il se porte ;

Cocher les réponses dans les cases correspondantes ;

A la fin de l'enquête, donner des conseils d'usage pour la prévention contre le corona ;
Remercier la personne.

Questionnaire N°	07	Localisation	Paci, Rue Cine magazin						
Coordonnées géographiques		Longitude			Latitude				
Genre		Masculin	X	Féminin		Age			
						0-09	X	19-45	
						10-18	X	46 et plus	
Questions				Réponses					
N°1	D'où venez-vous ?	Takoradi							
N°2	N°2.0	Avez-vous une maison où vous allez dormir le soir ?				X	Oui	Non	
	N°2.1	Si non, accepterez-vous si on vous offrait une maison ou dormir ?				X	Oui	Non	
	N°2.1.1	Si oui, où pouvons-nous vous retrouver ?				au de la rue			
	N°3.1.2	Si non, pourquoi ?							
N°3	N°3.0	Connaissez-vous ce qu'est le corona virus ?				Oui	X	Non	
	N°3.1	Si oui, savez-vous que le virus est à Lomé et qu'il faut s'en protéger ?				X	Oui		Non

Questionnaire d'enquête auprès des sans-abris pour une étude académique sur l'amélioration du logement en période pandémique du Corona virus

Consignes : saluer la personne et demander comment il se porte ;

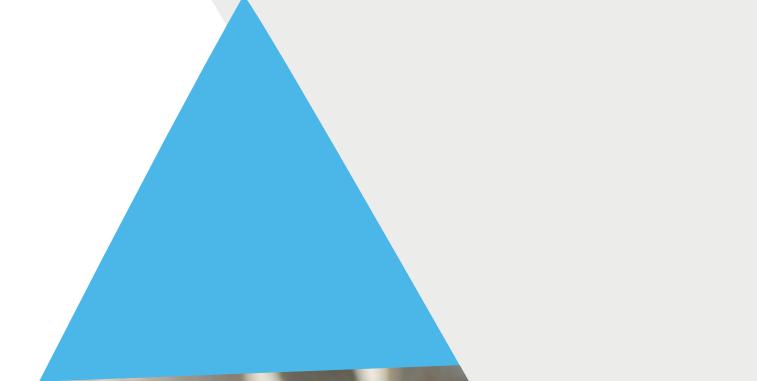
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Questionnaire N°	08	Localisation	Paci, Rue Cine magazin						
Coordonnées géographiques		Longitude			Latitude				
Genre		Masculin	X	Féminin		Age			
						0-09	X	19-45	
						10-18	X	46 et plus	
Questions				Réponses					
N°1	D'où venez-vous ?	Savédo							
N°2	N°2.0	Avez-vous une maison où vous allez dormir le soir ?				X	Oui	Non	
	N°2.1	Si non, accepterez-vous si on vous offrait une maison ou dormir ?				X	Oui	X Non	
	N°2.1.1	Si oui, où pouvons-nous vous retrouver ?				rue			
	N°3.1.2	Si non, pourquoi ?							
N°3	N°3.0	Connaissez-vous ce qu'est le corona virus ?				Oui	X	Non	
	N°3.1	Si oui, savez-vous que le virus est à Lomé et qu'il faut s'en protéger ?				X	Oui		Non

APPENDIX 2: Image showing a person we interviewed squatting precarious spaces.





**So that a homeless person finds smile,
Offer some faith from you.**

**So that they escape their nights under the stars,
Offer a piece of roof**

THANK YOU FROM THE HEART! ❤️ 😊

PROJECT DESIGN TEAM:

Project manager and architectural studies:
Akuto Akpedze Rolande KONOU, Architect Urban Planner DEIAU, ONAT 118

Project manager Assistant:
Marie Rosette MAGNE, Urban Manager DEIAU

Projection and architectural drawing:
Leopold Carios GOUTSOP, Architect DEIAU

Civil Engineering Studies:
Edem Komlan MISSOHOU, Senior Technician in Civil Engineering
Jean Marie ADOKPO, Senior Technician Civil Engineering



Axe Durable Sarl
RCM : TG-LOM 2018 B 260
NIF: 10001169919 | N° CNSS: 73142
contact@axedurable.com
+228 90 79 6996 | 92 10 9268

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