

AFD and non governmental organizations

A new partnership



COMMON STAKES

AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT AND NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS



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Prey Nup Project (Cambodia) - Samrong embankment: duck farming

For some twenty years, many NGOs and civil society organizations have played a role in implementing projects financed by Agence Française de Développement (AFD - French Development Agency) and are involved in the debates and discussions held around the major development issues. AFD's strategy for the 2007-2011 period includes implementing new ways of cooperating with civil society. Following France's recent ODA reforms, AFD has a renewed mandate and is striving to engage in in-depth and transparent dialogue with civil society organizations (CSOs) and to forge new operational partnerships with non governmental actors that are better adapted to their individual needs.

THE BENEFITS OF REINFORCED COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

In developing countries, civil society organizations are crucial partners for implementing, alongside the national and local authorities, projects financed by AFD. With their innovative approaches to development, NGOs possess quality technical expertise in many areas such as healthcare, education, microfinance, urban and rural development, among others. In these areas, NGOs have demonstrated their capacity to create lasting partnerships and solid links and networks by involving diverse actors. Hence, cooperating with NGOs offers advantages in terms of proximity, sustainability, and the recipients' ability to appropriate initiatives. In countries in crisis situations ("fragile" States, "failed" States, and countries with inadequate mandate management capacities on the local level), NGOs can also play a stabilizing role and help make permanent the development initiatives that have already been taken. Lastly, NGOs have a privileged relationship with public opinion. Through their work in development education and their capacity for broad-reaching communication, they play a key role in keeping citizens informed about questions of international solidarity.



Microfinance project in Mozambique



NEW PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

IN-DEPTH AND STRENGTHENED DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY



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Prey Nup Project (Cambodia): maintenance work

In line with the commitments it made to Social and Environmental Responsibility (SER), AFD implemented a disclosure policy to ensure that the information needed for better understanding its operational framework, strategy, and actions is readily available. The Agency intends to continue improving its capacity to meet the demand for information expressed by stakeholders and the general public concerning end-goals and results of French ODA policy. It can also reply to information requests that are sent to its transparency unit (transparence@afd.fr).

In this context, AFD implements a policy that is open to dialogue and exchange.

New consultation frameworks for sector coordination

For each of the French Cooperation's major areas of action, the Interministerial Committee on International Cooperation and Development (CICID) defines the main strategic axes. AFD is then in charge of defining the operational strategies, which translate the CICID's directives into operational language. Through its policy of dialoguing and consulting with NGOs, AFD is leading the debate about the implemented strategies and the major development issues. In this context, AFD is now committed to systematically consulting CSOs throughout its attempt to redefine its operational sector strategies.

Reinforced dialogue with local actors

In addition to sector-level coordination, AFD is committed to self-sustaining social and environmental responsibility on the local level. This policy primarily translates into an ongoing process of environmental and social assessment of the projects. In practice, at each stage of their implementation cycle, some projects are the object of exchanges and discussions between the various actors (local governments, associations, NGOs, populations...). Under the policy, projects presenting a risk of adverse environmental and social impacts will require the preparation of an environmental and social management plan.

A policy for improving communication with NGOs and civil society

AFD's website now has a portal dedicated to civil society. It is designed to help NGOs access all the information they need, in particular about the many types of existing partnerships with AFD. On the portal, visitors will find the most recent news as well as reference documents. Visit the site at: www.afd.fr/jahia/Jahia/ONG

Also, AFD helped the Micro-Projects Agency of the *Guilde Européenne du Raid* build a search engine used for financing international solidarity micro-projects. www.microprojets.org



Website of the Micro-Projects Agency

Research and accumulation initiatives: striving for knowledge sharing

Sharing knowledge and practices with NGOs is one of AFD's key operational and strategic priorities.

■ Organizing seminars and meetings

AFD's Center for Financial, Economic, and Banking Studies (CEFEB) in Marseille is committed to strengthening ties with NGOs by organizing joint seminars. A meeting between emergency assistance and development professionals on the theme of post-crisis action was organized in June, 2007.

■ Accumulating know-how and publications

AFD recently created a new collection called "Savoirs Communs" (Sharing Knowledge.) The objective of the series is to strengthen AFD's partnerships with CSOs and to promote a dynamic of mutual knowledge sharing.



Publication
Extreme poverty and development

■ Research and study initiatives

AFD is seeking the support of civil society organizations to conduct the research needed for improving its sector work. In partnership with the Forum of International Migration Solidarity Organizations (FORIM), GRET, and Finansol, the French Committee for International Solidarity (CFSI) performed a study called Migrations and Migratory Phenomena: Financial Flows, Mobilizing Savings, and Local Investment, which has improved AFD's knowledge about migrations.

A RENEWED OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The number of AFD operations undertaken in partnership with NGOs has been steadily increasing since 2003, and is expected to continue growing in the years to come. Partnerships between AFD and NGOs fall into several categories:

Financing a NGO managing the execution of projects owned by local governments and financed by AFD

For several years, local authorities responsible for projects financed with AFD's help have been maintaining operational relationships with non-governmental actors. The latter are generally selected through competitive tender procedures. Exceptionally, single tendering is allowed if the proposed NGOs possess a specific know-how that gives them an obvious comparative advantage. In both cases, official contracts are prepared between the local authorities overseeing the project and the NGO.

Co-financing projects with NGOs under a strategic framework agreement

Over the recent years, AFD has signed several strategic framework agreements with NGOs. These agreements comprise two components: a strategic component aiming at strengthening strategic partnerships and governing activities such as knowledge sharing, advocacy, implementation of common strategies and other strategy-related activities; and an operational component governing operations co-financed by NGOs and AFD. In such cases, the NGO may be co-creator of the financed project and typically plays the role of executing agency. Today, five NGOs have signed framework agreements with AFD: Aide et Action, Conservation International (CI), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), World Conservation Union (UICN), and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).



Southern Ethiopia: Clean water well installed by the NGO Inter Aide

© Thierry de Geeyer d'Orth

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Mozambique: Quirimbas National Park

AFD and WWF, partners in preserving biodiversity

WWF and AFD signed an initial framework agreement in 2003 which has resulted in several co-financed projects (forest management in the Congo basin, coral reef initiative in the south Pacific, Quirimbas National Park in Mozambique).

Thanks to this partnership, WWF and AFD have combined their biodiversity expertise, shared project ideas and performed joint studies, namely on forest management. Joint publications were also prepared. Pleased with the results of this innovative approach, WWF and AFD decided to pursue and deepen their partnership, which covers three areas:

- financing projects for the sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity preservation, the priority being the forests in the Congo basin and the coastal and marine environment in Sub-Saharan Africa and the south Pacific;
- increasing intellectual production concerning the environment and sustainable development;
- reinforcing common communication aimed at changing the perception of the role of natural resources in recipient countries and in France.

The Small initiatives programme of the French Global Environment Fund (FGEF)

The FGEF, a bilateral public fund set up in 1994 by the French government following the Rio Summit, is a key tool for forging partnerships with NGOs in areas related to the environment. In 2006, it launched the Small Initiatives Program (SIP), designed to mobilize civil society in developing countries around the world's environmental problems by financing local small-scale projects. Calls for proposals are the basis of SIP's financing. Its ambition is to implement some forty projects over two years in the countries where French cooperation is present. NGOs from developing countries, local governments, as well as small and mid-size companies are eligible to submit bids. NGOs from developed countries may also be eligible if they are supporting, in the form of a partnership, emerging structures in southern countries where civil society is still in the process of being organized. www.ffem.fr



La Facilité d'innovation sectorielle ONG (FISONG)

As parts of its efforts to deepen its operational relationships with NGOs, AFD has put in place the Facilité d'innovation sectorielle. This financing instrument, dedicated to financing projects submitted by NGOs in response to calls for proposals, is designed to encourage sector-level innovation and to help improve common operational practices. The FISONG, which was successfully tested twice in 2006 during calls for proposals to address food security issues in Niger and access to water in ACP countries, is now an integral part of AFD's financing instruments. This innovative instrument entails jointly elaborating themes of action through an original approach to consultation between NGOs and AFD's sector departments. Secretarial duties for sector-level coordination are ensured by Coordination Sud, an umbrella organization coordinating French NGOs' activities.

A call for proposals facility complementing the European Union's Water Facility: a success for French NGOs on the European level

In May 2006, AFD set up a call for proposals facility complementing the European Union (ACP-EU Water Facility) to boost French NGOs' innovative capacity and to help them prepare bidding documents required by the ACP-EU Water Facility.

AFD's objective was to facilitate relevant projects' access to EU financing by providing project developers with additional grants amounting to up to 25% to help finalize their proposals to the ACP-EU Water Facility.

In the context of this new facility, AFD has received 35 proposals, 15 of which were approved for submission to the Water Facility. Following the European Union's project analysis and selection process, 9 of the 15 projects supported by AFD were accepted. For a total cost of 17.5 million euros, including a 3.4 million euros commitment by AFD, 740,000 individuals will have access to drinking water and 140,000 will have access to sanitation systems. Such numbers attest to these actors' professionalism and the effectiveness of their operations (25-30 euros per person for access to drinking water versus 100-150 euros in a traditional project).



Low-cost local support

AFD recently adopted a decentralized procedure that enables its agencies to finance small projects. Complementary to the Social Development Fund (FSD), this tool is designed to meet local needs by financing projects ranging from 300,000 to 750,000 euros. These types of projects may be submitted to a director of one of AFD's local agencies, who may then coordinate project preparation with AFD's headquarters.

COMMON PROJECTS

The joint program for healthcare in Mali: in favor of financing non-governmental initiatives

Since 2005, AFD has been involved in an innovative program for supporting healthcare sector development in Mali by co-financing Malian and French non-governmental actors' initiatives. This is the second phase in a Franco-Malian cooperation program established in 2001, the management of which was transferred to AFD following the reform of the French Cooperation program. Up until now, 22 projects have been co-financed that total 1.4 million euros.

At the initiative of the joint Franco-Malian commission for cooperation which brings together international solidarity organizations and Malian and French territorial collectivities, the program has been helping to finance healthcare projects implemented by NGOs and Malian and French territorial collectivities since 2001. The Groupe Pivot Santé Population, a group of NGOs active in the healthcare sector, is the program's designated secretariat. Moreover, migrant associations in France often submit project proposals to the program and contribute to their financing.



Tree nursery of the NGO Green Belt Movement

Preserving the Aberdares highlands in Kenya is a focal point of AFD's collaboration with the NGO Green Belt Movement

On April 3, 2006, AFD signed a financial agreement with the Kenyan NGO "Green Belt Movement" started by Wangari Maathai, laureate of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. The project, financed by AFD for up to 1.3 million euros, principally includes restoring the water tower in the protected Aberdares highlands, which would supply drinking water to the three million inhabitants of the capital Nairobi. It also plays a role in protecting biodiversity in this protected site all while helping to spark economic activities that benefit the local populations. Reinforcing the role of women is a key aspect of the project, which includes involving nearly 300 women's associations in sensitization and forest maintenance initiatives.



Fight against HIV/AIDS in Djibouti: an innovative partnership between AFD and the NGO Handicap International

In 2006, AFD financed a cross-border project on fighting HIV/AIDS (Djibouti-Ethiopia-Somaliland) involving the NGO Handicap International. In addition to the measures taken by the Djibouti's government (improving the safety of blood transfusions, increasing virus detection measures), prevention and detection initiatives have also been implemented by the NGO Handicap International. The latter is compiling informational materials adapted to local populations, most of which have little access to education and information. It is also helping integrate detection and counseling services into healthcare centers throughout the region and along the major roads and railways where the virus is spreading more quickly. Lastly, Handicap International is helping to reinforce the capabilities of reference hospitals by organizing exchanges between healthcare professionals in the three countries.



Prevention and information session organized by Handicap International



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Agence Française de Développement is a public institution serving a mission of general interest: financing development. A specialized financial institution, the Agency provides financing on five continents - giving priority to Africa which accounts for two-thirds of AFD's commitments - for economic and social projects carried out by local authorities, public institutions, or the private and associative sector.

The projects are aimed at urban development and infrastructure, rural development, industry, financial systems, environment preservation, as well as education and healthcare.

The Agency's activities fall in the overall framework of the Millennium Goals, at the crossroads of objectives for economic growth, poverty reduction, and environment preservation. Sustainable development is the foundation of AFD's strategy, which aims at forging financial and intellectual partnerships with donor countries and at helping, alongside its supervisory authorities, create public policies and increase French influence in the development sphere.

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