



# MINKA

PEACE AND RESILIENCE FUND



## MINKA MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE

#WorldInCommon



**AFD**  
AGENCE FRANÇAISE  
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

The wars in Syria and Iraq have driven more than 15 million people to flee their homes and have caused the largest population displacement in the Middle East since World War II. The top host countries for these refugees are the neighboring countries, especially Lebanon, Turkey, and Jordan, which are confronted with the need to both extend essential public services and to preserve social cohesion between refugees and their own populations. Iraq has also suffered considerable destruction from the fighting and bombing.

To respond to these challenges, AFD launched the Minka Middle East Initiative in 2017. Its objective is to provide multiannual support to Syria's neighbors. This regional program seeks to finance development projects that mitigate the vulnerabilities generated by population displacements and strengthen the resilience of the host countries.



In the Middle East, AFD is financing the extension of essential services, especially access to safe water for all.

## The Minka Middle East Initiative at a glance

Countries concerned: **Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Turkey**

### PURPOSE

**Mitigate the vulnerabilities generated by population displacements and strengthen the resilience of the host countries.**

### OBJECTIVES

- Sustainably improve living conditions and access to essential services (drinking water, primary health care, etc.)
- Support socioeconomic insertion through education, vocational training, and jobs
- Reinforce the recovery of areas affected by the crisis (via infrastructures, economic sectors, and social links)

### POLICY GUIDELINES

- Ensure the transition from humanitarian action to a development-focused response
- Preserve social cohesion between displaced populations and host communities
- Reinforce local structures and national policies
- Foster leverage effects by working in partnership with other development actors
- Mobilize essential research on the region, to help apply the «Do No Harm» philosophy

### BENEFICIARIES

- Refugees and internally displaced persons
- Host communities
- Women and children (priority targets)
- National and local institutions (which are the most concerned by the crisis management)

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) set up a dedicated financing instrument for peacebuilding, called the Peace & Resilience Fund or 'Minka'. The Minka Fund is the main financing window for the French Government's 2018-2022 strategy for the "Prevention, Resilience and Sustainable Peace" and SDG 16 agenda. It finances regional, national or local peacebuilding programmes that help promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies, both before, during and after violent conflicts. Depending on the context, peacebuilding may involve restoring trust between social groups or repair relations between State and society, reducing tensions linked to unequal access to natural resources or ensuring equal access to security and justice to all.

Minka is the flagship of AFD's commitment to supporting conflict prevention as well as transitions from war to peace. The Minka Fund finances structural medium-term interventions, focusing on the drivers of peace and conflict. This approach ensures the causes as well as effects of crises are targeted with the dual aim of achieving rapid initial results, visible for local population from the first six months of implementation, and rebuilding trust over the longer term.

Minka is divided into four regional 'Initiatives', targeting critical conflict basins: the Sahel, Lake Chad, Central African Republic, **Syria/Iraq**.

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