




# Health and Social Protection

ACTIVITY REPORT

2021



**T**he Covid-19 epidemic is a reminder to us all of the critical importance of health and social protection in a world threatened by environmental crises. The multidimensional and long-lasting nature of this crisis jeopardizes the progress made in recent years in development and our collective capacity to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We have witnessed an increase in poverty, destabilization in health systems, and a rollback in women's sexual and reproductive health rights. To address these challenges, development actors must be mobilized urgently.

As a development finance institution, AFD remains committed to improving the resilience and adaptability of health and social protection systems, with the goals of mitigating the effects of the current crisis and anticipating future crises.

## AFD's priorities in health and social protection

The Covid-19 pandemic has underscored two threats. The first is that we are likely to face more health crises in the future, especially ones linked to climate change and biodiversity loss. The second is that those crises may lead to increasingly severe economic and social consequences.

To prevent the crises of tomorrow and to work again on progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, we must refocus our actions on setting up resilient, adaptive, and sustainable health and social protection systems. AFD continues to invest in universal health coverage and in strengthening social protection and health systems through three key priorities.

### Our priorities for action



#### Common goods for health

AFD encourages investments that contribute to promoting common goods for health. These form the foundations on which to build health systems and they require collective investment to operate properly (areas such as regulation, public health institutions and epidemiological surveillance). A One Health approach, which integrates human, animal, and environmental health, is the common thread of our action towards common goods.



#### Human resources for health

There is a worldwide shortage of healthcare personnel. This is why AFD helps countries improve the quality and quantity of human resources in this sector. To promote quality healthcare, AFD links these actions in human resources to investments in healthcare infrastructure adapted to people's needs.

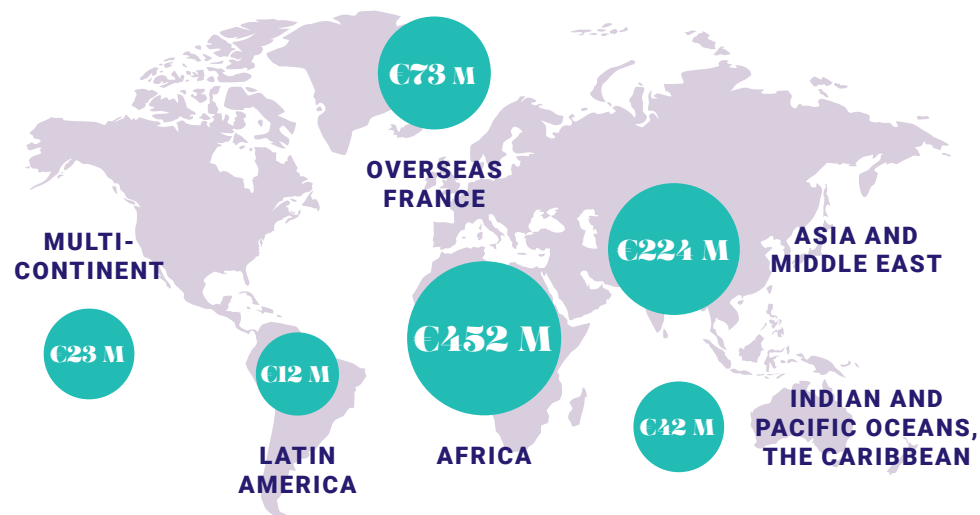


#### Social protection systems


AFD helps countries lay down the bases for national social protection to provide minimum income security for all. We support social protection system reforms to protect individuals in the face of the risks they encounter throughout their lives, (e.g., accidents, diseases, and lack of retirement benefits) and against external shocks due to climate change, the economic situation, epidemics, or others.

# Our health and social protection commitments in 2021

## Breakdown by region



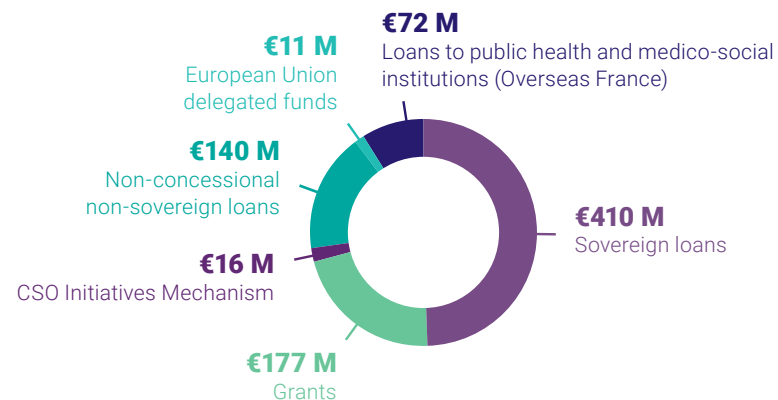
 **€826 M**  
committed in 2021

 **52 million**  
people will have better access to care thanks to AFD-financed projects in 2021

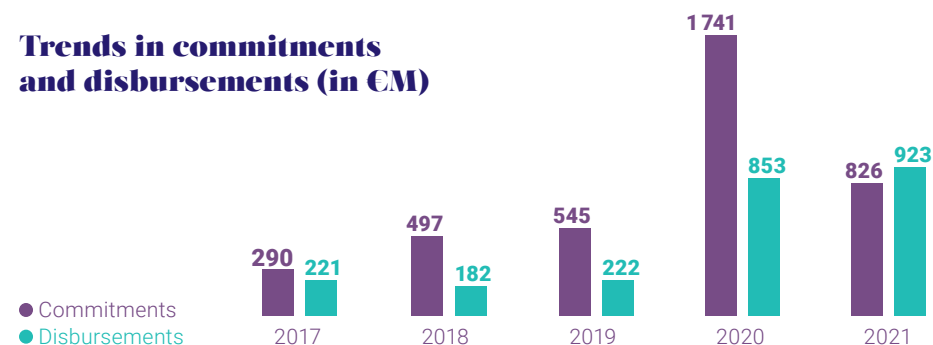
## The “Health in Common” Initiative 2021

- Renewal of the initiative to respond to new needs related to Covid-19
- New focus on increasing national and regional vaccine procurement and production capacity
- **€37.8 M** in grants and **€576 M** in loans from AFD and Proparco

## Breakdown by financial tool:



## Trends in commitments and disbursements (in €M)



## Financing volumes:

 **€1.08 BN**

(Total amount of the **87** financing agreements signed in 2021 in the health and social protection sectors)

 **171 projects**

**in progress** in the health and social protection sectors for a total amount of **€2.9 billion** in financing, including **€1.5 billion** yet to be disbursed

# Common goods for health

AFD is stepping up its investments in health to boost the capacities of national and regional public health actors. In 2021, these investments focused on four priority objectives.



## Increasing local procurement and production capacity

In the wake of the health crisis, AFD Group is committed to enhancing countries' pharmaceutical procurement and production capacities to reduce their dependence on imports and to strengthen their sovereignty.

**€50 M**  
(loan)

to support the setting up, via Afreximbank, of a regional mechanism for joint procurement of Covid-19 vaccines as part of the African Union's "African Vaccine Acquisition Trust" (AVAT) initiative.



## Strengthening laboratories and their networks

AFD is continuing its long-standing commitment to laboratories to support national diagnostic capacities and regional epidemiological surveillance networks.

**21**  
partner laboratories

The Afro-Screen project, implemented by ANRS | MIE, IRD and Institut Pasteur, helps organize an African epidemiological surveillance network on genomic sequencing (€10 M grant).



## Promoting a One Health approach

An integrated approach to health surveillance has become necessary due to the accelerated emergence of communicable diseases, their close links to zoonoses, and loss of biodiversity.

**€8 M** (grant)  
in the Democratic Republic of Congo

In partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Resoh-Labo project, implemented by Expertise France, uses a One Health approach to help organize an epidemiological surveillance network in South Kivu.



## Intensifying the European Union–African Union partnership

The crisis has increased the need for coordination. To this end, AFD and its European partners are developing concerted approaches and strengthening their partnership with African institutions.

Africa  
**CDC**

Since the Covid-19 crisis, regional health actors such as the Africa CDC have played a key role in shaping global health policies. In conjunction with its European partners, AFD has developed a closer partnership with the Africa CDC and helps strengthen the capacities of its teams.



**Proparco**, AFD Group's subsidiary dedicated to the private sector, committed **€195 million** to the health sector in 2021, mainly to support pharmaceutical production in Africa.

## South Africa:

Proparco supports the Aspen pharmaceutical group to refinance its debt and improve its balance sheet by supporting its operations, in particular the production of vaccines against Covid-19 and other therapies for African and emerging markets. **€156 M in loans.**

# Social protection

AFD is responding to countries' growing demand for social protection, both by providing financing for social safety nets and by supporting large-scale public policy reforms. We also provide co-financing with other development banks to promote a leverage effect.

## Areas of AFD Support

- Social assistance
- Health insurance
- Adaptive social protection

**€196 M**  
committed to social protection systems in 2021

**24**  
million people will benefit from better social protection thanks to AFD-financed projects in 2021

### MOROCCO

**€150 M loan and €4 M in technical assistance provided by Expertise France**

AFD is supporting Morocco in extending health coverage to its entire population.

### SUDAN

**€17 M grant**

AFD is contributing to the multi-donor fund seeking to mitigate the social impact of economic reforms and Covid-19 and to establish a sustainable social protection system.

### POLYNESIA

**Overseas France Fund – €400,000**

AFD continues to support social security system reform.

In addition to a loan of €240 million allocated in 2020, we are providing technical support to the authorities to help design the reform.

### BURKINA FASO

**€11 M grant**

Together with the World Bank and KfW, AFD is financing the extension of the social safety net program to the east of the country, with the goal of improving resilience among the most vulnerable people and especially women.

### TOGO

**€10 M grant**

Together with the World Bank, AFD is financing the institutionalization of a social safety net program for the poorest people in the country.

### BANGLADESH

**€200 M loan**

In partnership with JICA, AFD is financing the implementation of non-contributory health insurance mechanisms as part of an ambitious program of health system strengthening.

### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**€2 M grant**

AFD is co-financing the Community Resilience Partnership Program launched by the Asian Development Bank to strengthen resilience to climate shocks among poor people in Asia and the Pacific.

# “Generation Equality”

In line with the commitments France made at the Generation Equality Forum, AFD continues to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and women's empowerment.



## €518 M

in health and social protection financing to promote gender equality in 2021 (DAC1 and DAC2 projects according to the OECD gender marker)



## €50 M

committed to promote activities directly related to sexual and reproductive health and rights in 2021



### AFD's gender action

Co-hosted by France and Mexico, the Generation Equality Forum took place in March 2021 in Mexico City and in July 2021 in Paris. This Forum is the leading global initiative to accelerate investments promoting gender equality and their implementation. It has united governments, international organizations and civil society to launch a five-year course of action, backed up by \$40 billion in financial commitments. As co-president of the Forum's Action Coalition on "Bodily Autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights", France has renewed its commitments in this area. To this end, AFD has pledged to devote **€250 million over five years** to SRHR issues.



### MALI Ensuring equitable access to health care in vulnerable areas

**Minka Peace and Resilience  
Fund grant of €13 M**

AFD is supporting Doctors of the World Belgium to improve access to primary health care in the Gao and Menaka regions. The project focuses on sexual, reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent health and the strengthening of health democracy. A monitoring-evaluation and capitalization system will enable us to better assess the impact of the activities in the fight against gender inequalities, which is one of the project's priorities.



### Fighting gender-based violence

#### Feminist CSOs are taking action

**€14 M grant**

AFD is supporting a CSO consortium led by the Africa office of the International Planned Parenthood Federation to structure and sustain the actions of South feminist CSOs active in the fight against gender-based violence.

#### Local authorities are mobilizing

**€1.5 M grant**

In Vietnam, the Comoros, and Palestine, AFD is supporting a pilot program of France's Seine-Saint-Denis Departmental Council to create a global network of local authorities committed to combating violence against women.

#### Healthcare workers are organizing

**€8 M grant**

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, AFD is mobilizing the French Red Cross to support the Panzi General Referral Hospital and the Panzi Foundation, created by Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Mukwege. This project seeks to enhance the empowerment of women through a holistic response to sexual violence in South Kivu.



### Dealing with violence in care settings

## 42 %

**of women have suffered inappropriate and abusive treatment during childbirth in health facilities (WHO study in four low-income countries).**

Obstetric and gynecological violence is a structural barrier to access to quality care for women. However, it is a taboo subject that is largely ignored.

AFD is supporting Equipop in Senegal and Amref in Guinea in the development of innovative mechanisms to combat obstetric and gynecological violence. These mechanisms will be backed up by a significant capitalization and evaluation component to promote the scaling up of these innovations (a total of €3 million in grants allocated via the Sector Innovation Facility for NGOs).

## Our climate commitments

At COP26, 60 countries pledged to create resilient, low-carbon and sustainable health systems. AFD has joined the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health, launched by WHO to put these commitments into action.



# €158 M

committed in 2021 to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the health and social protection sectors



### PALESTINE Promoting energy efficiency in buildings

€14.58 M grant

In line with our commitments to climate-change mitigation, AFD is financing the construction of a building for nurse and midwife training. The building is designed to be resilient, energy efficient, and adapted to healthcare needs. This financing will have the dual effect of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the healthcare sector and improving training capacities in Palestine.



### BANGLADESH Improving surveillance of climate-sensitive diseases

€660,000 grant

AFD is providing support to the government in its policy of adapting the health sector to climate change. This takes the form of capacity building for laboratories to carry out epidemiological surveillance of climate-sensitive pathologies. To this end, we have mobilized the Mérieux Foundation, for its recognized expertise in this field.



### Developing tools to support partners

In 2021, AFD supported the NGO "The Climate Action Accelerator" through a partnership agreement to develop and share collaborative tools to support civil society organizations in their efforts to decarbonize their activities and adapt to climate change.

## Partnerships and knowledge production

AFD backs up its financing with knowledge production, in partnership with acknowledged actors in their field. The goal is to capitalize our actions and contribute to strategic and intellectual exchanges in health and social protection.



### Promoting digital health

The Covid-19 crisis has confirmed the crucial role played by information and communication technologies in access to health services, particularly in terms of quality and effectiveness. This is why AFD is continuing to support partnership platforms aimed at promoting digital health innovations in the French-speaking world:

- Partnership with the Pierre Fabre Foundation to support capitalization of its Global South e-health Observatory activities that AFD has been supporting for several years.
- Financial support to the "Digital Health Meetings" organized by Amref in December 2021.



### Contributing to the conversation

AFD is bringing its expertise, built through the projects financed in recent decades, to ongoing national and international discussions on health and social protection, in order to identify more effective ways to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. We have participated in the following, in particular:

- The "Actualités du Pharo" conference on sexual and reproductive health in countries in the Global South in October 2021 in Marseille.
- The COP26 event "Financing our Global Health Commons" in November 2021, in Glasgow.



### Training on health system financing

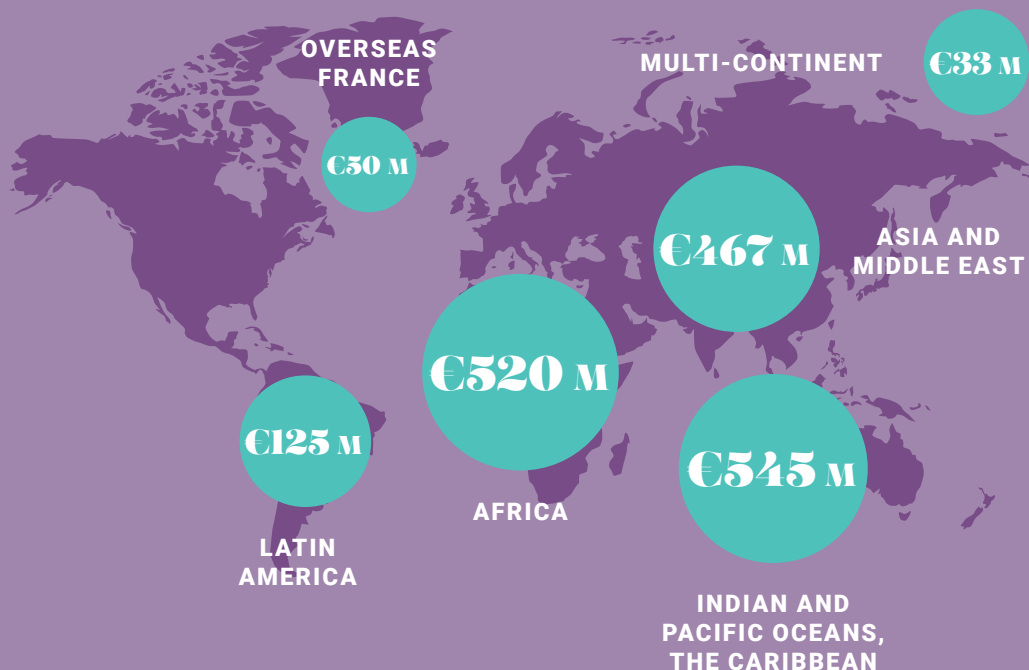
In partnership with France's École Nationale des Études Supérieures en Sécurité Sociale (EN3S), AFD organized a webinar-based training session for policy makers in French-speaking Africa on the issues of health financing and health insurance in November 2021.

# A look back on 2020

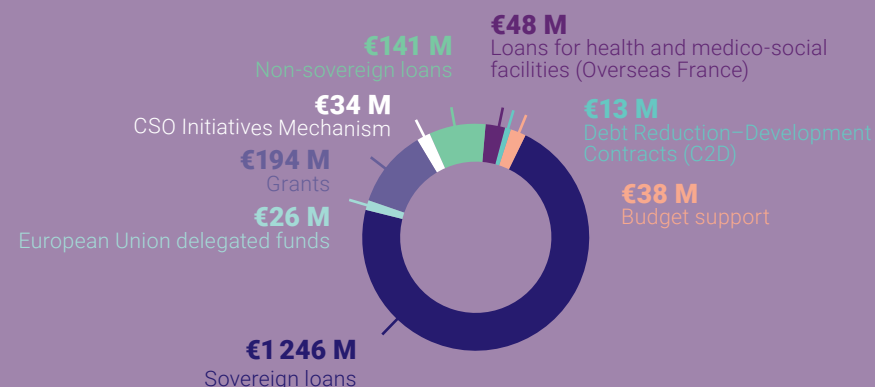
AFD's mobilization to provide an emergency response to the Covid-19 crisis made 2020 an exceptional year. Here are the main figures:



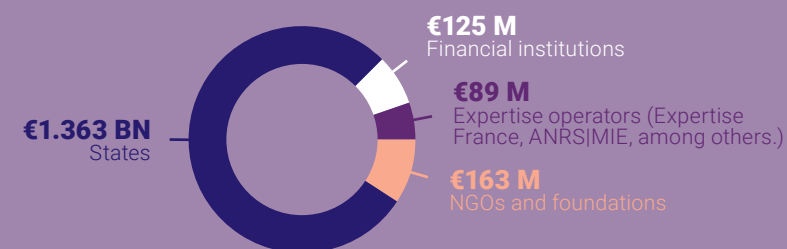
## Breakdown by region



## Breakdown by financial tool:



## Breakdown by implementing partner:



To avoid crowding out on issues other than the Covid response, AFD maintained its financing efforts on the other priority areas of its action:





# Towards a world in common

AFD Group contributes to the implementation of France's policies in the areas of development and international solidarity. The Group includes Agence Française de Développement (AFD), which finances the public sector and NGOs, as well as research and education in sustainable development; its subsidiary Proparco, which is dedicated to private sector financing; and Expertise France, a technical cooperation agency. The Group provides financing and support to speed up the transition towards a fairer, more resilient world.

With our partners, we are building shared solutions with and for populations in the Global South. Our teams are at work on more than 4,000 projects in the field, in the French Overseas Departments and Territories, in 115 countries and in regions in crisis.

We strive to protect global public goods – promoting a stable climate, biodiversity and peace, as well as gender equality, education and healthcare. In this way, we contribute to the commitment of France and the French people to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Towards a world in common.



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