



# Gender Equality

ACTIVITY REPORT

**2022**



5 GENDER  
EQUALITY



**T**he year 2022 saw a regression in women's rights around the world. In the United States, with the overturning of Roe vs Wade and the reversal of decades-old abortion rights. In Afghanistan, with the arrival of the Taliban government. In Poland, restrictions in access to contraception. These are just a few examples of the persistent resistance to progress in gender equality.

These reversals exacerbate existing gender inequalities, already aggravated by armed conflicts, health crises and climate change.

In this context, in 2022, AFD stepped up its feminist commitment to tackling this undermining of women's rights and gender inequality. It is thereby contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) n° 5 on gender equality. **61% of AFD's financing, or more than €5.1 billion, has financed 249 projects working to reduce gender inequality.** This year, the results achieved have exceeded the 50% target set by France's International Strategy on Gender Equality (2018-2022).

# AFD, a feminist development bank active on the international stage



Since 2020, AFD has asserted its position as a committed actor in the international ecosystem on gender. Having forged strategic partnerships with the United Nations and multilateral and bilateral banks, AFD has increased its visibility, credibility and expertise on gender issues.

In 2022, AFD was actively involved in high-level events on gender equality, such as the Finance in Common Summit (FICS) and International Development Finance Club (IDFC). AFD's participation in international coalitions is strategic, as they provide a space for exchanges, advocacy, improving practices and developing joint initiatives to further mainstream gender in Public Development Banks.



## A strong focus on the links between gender and climate change in 2022

At COP27, AFD was involved in several events at the day devoted to gender equality to highlight the importance of the issue of gender and climate change, and the positive effect of gender equality in climate strategies. Alongside various partners and representatives of governments and civil society, AFD organized several events to address the need to strengthen this link between gender and climate change.

This theme has also been a central focus of the international agenda. And it was the main subject of the **66<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, during which AFD co-organized an official event on the role of Public Development Banks in gender and climate change, alongside UN Women, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Argentine Bank for Investment and Foreign Trade (BICE).

# Our gender equality commitments in 2022

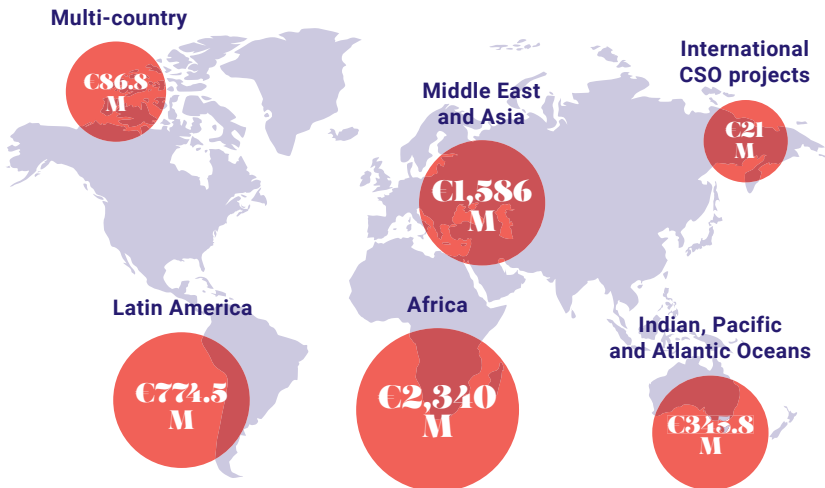


In 2022, AFD exceeded the gender targets of France's International Strategy on Gender Equality for 2018-2022 by more than ten percentage points. These results have been achieved through the mobilization of financial resources, further gender mainstreaming in projects, and an enhanced dialogue with local authorities and civil society.

## DAC G-1 and G-2 projects

**61%** of financing committed to gender equality in 2022, in 249 projects for a total of **€5.1 billion**

### Breakdown by region



**346**

G-1 and G-2 project agreements were signed in 2022 for a total of €4.6 billion

## ..... The DAC G-Marker System .....

To analyze gender mainstreaming in its projects, AFD uses a rating system based on the classification established by the OECD (G-Markers). It consists of three scores:

### **G-0**

Gender equality **is not targeted** by the project

### **G-1**

Gender equality is a **significant objective** of the project ("G-1 projects" in this activity report)

### **G-2**

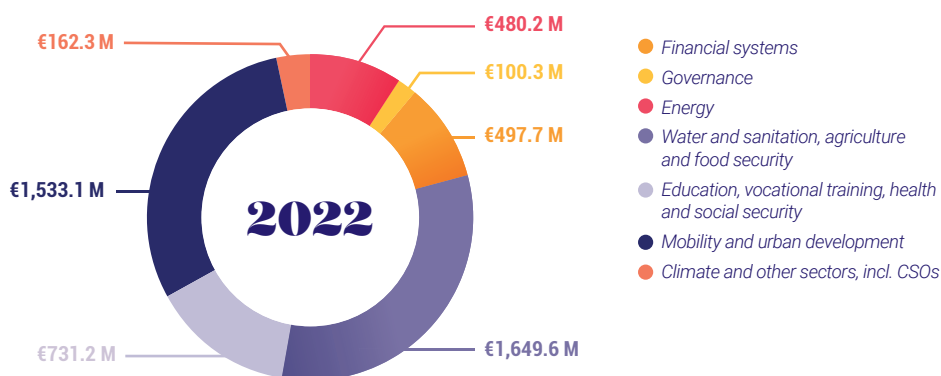
Gender equality is the **principal objective** of the project ("G-2 projects" in this activity report)



**The G-1 projects** financed this year will support equitable and sustainable access to quality essential services for women and men. They will improve their living conditions by empowering them and giving them greater opportunities.

**The G-2 projects** will mainly contribute to sustainably reducing gender inequality. They support the fight against discrimination and gender-based violence, respect for rights, and strengthen the economic empowerment of women and their participation in the decision-making and governance of projects.

## ..... Breakdown by sector .....



**More than 75%** of the projects financed by AFD in the water and sanitation, mobility and urban development sector contribute to strengthening gender equality.

**More than 80%** of the projects financed by AFD in the education, vocational training, health and social protection sector contribute to strengthening gender equality.

# Our gender equality commitments in 2022

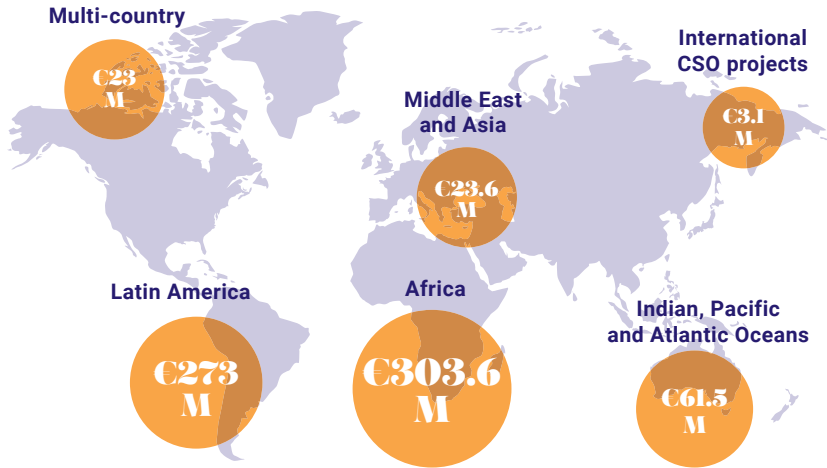


AFD has a target amount for projects whose main objective is to reduce gender inequalities: G-2 projects. AFD promotes an approach based on women's rights and gender equality. This means investing in projects that allow women and men to be free and make their own choices, without being held back by discrimination, inequalities or gender stereotypes, thereby making societies fairer and more inclusive.

## G-2 projects

**€687.8 M** committed to projects with the promotion of gender equality as a main objective (G-2 projects)  
**18.67%** of these projects are financed with grants

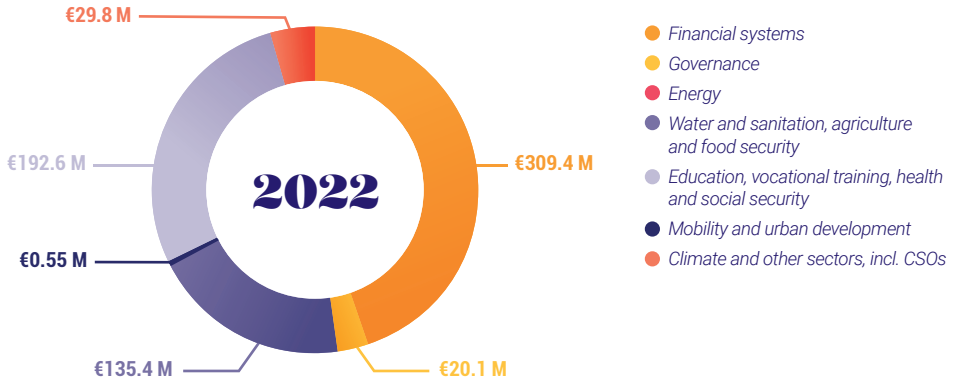
### Breakdown by region



76

G-2 project agreements were signed in 2022 for a total of €890 million, contributing to the transformation agenda on gender.

## Breakdown by sector



## Examples of projects financed in 2022

### Mexico:

€200 million policy-based loan to address gender inequalities and climate shocks.

### Ecuador:

Support for the sustainable recovery of the economy from a gender perspective (€50 million loan).

### Côte d'Ivoire:

Financing for water and sanitation infrastructure which will increase the health and social impact among women and children (€130 million loan).



## Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF)

In 2022, the Secretary of State for Development announced the extension of the FSOF for a second phase from 2023 to 2025, jointly managed by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and AFD. The evaluation of the first phase of the FSOF between 2020 and 2022 demonstrated its innovation through co-construction with feminist civil society, as well as the effective financing of small-scale feminist organizations, including unregistered organizations.

In 2022, AFD allocated a total of €35.7 million of financing under this fund, including two calls for projects for €10 million focused on education and youth and the "Women, Peace and Security" Agenda.

The funds from these two calls for projects contribute to the following SDGs:



# Our flagship projects in 2022

In addition to the projects developed under the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF), innovative projects have been financed on the themes of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), entrepreneurship, access to employment and education, as well as climate and biodiversity protection projects.



## PROJECTS FINANCED BY THE FSOF

### Multi-country

**Strengthening feminist organizations working on the agenda for “Women, Peace and Security” in crisis and conflict areas**

**€10 M**

#### Grant

The project aims to establish a financing and capacity building mechanism for feminist organizations working towards this agenda in France’s three priority crisis areas: the Sahel, Central Africa and the Middle East.

#### SDGs targeted by the project:



### Multi-country

**Gender and education: Feminist Solidarity Fund for Girls’ Education (FSF)**

**€10 M**

#### Grant

The project aims to strengthen the voice and empowerment of local feminist CSOs, so that they can be more visible and stronger in the education sector. Through this capacity building, they will be able to fight against gender norms that hinder the education of adolescent girls.

#### SDGs targeted by the project:



### SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

**SRHR continue to be a priority following France’s announcements during the Generation Equality Forum. AFD has set up projects focused on access to health services for women and health-related rights by supporting the financing of the health sector in several countries of operation.**

### Guinea

**Strengthening rights to health and sexual education**

**€10 M**

#### Grant

This project aims to promote rights to health and sexual education for adolescents by helping increase access to family planning and strengthening healthcare provision. It will also improve their knowledge of rights and their access to sexual health services adapted to their different needs.

#### SDGs targeted by the project:







## GENDER, CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION .....

Women are leading actors in the fight against climate change. They also play a key role in agriculture, food security and nutrition. To effectively consider gender-related vulnerability, AFD integrates this cross-cutting theme into key climate projects.

### Mexico

**Strengthening the economic resilience of the population to environmental and social shocks**

**€200 M**

#### Loan

The project aims to reduce the economic vulnerability of Mexican people to environmental and social shocks. To this end, it will promote gender equality and direct the financial system towards a more sustainable economic model, while increasing access to appropriate inclusive services for the population.

**SDGs targeted by the project:**



### Mediterranean Adapt'Action (Second phase)

**€30 M**

#### Grant

The AdaptAction-Mediterranean program increases the ability of partner countries to define and implement development trajectories taking the gender dimension into account. It aims to increase the resilience of people and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change.

**SDGs targeted by the project:**



### Ecuador

**"Green jobs and gender" policy-based loan**

**€50 M**

#### Loan

This budget financing aims to assist and support the development of sustainable policies to revitalize employment in Ecuador, targeting the most vulnerable people, the majority of whom are women. It will allow for the design of interventions that contribute to a just ecological transition and facilitate the economic recovery.

**SDGs targeted by the project:**





## STRENGTHENING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT THROUGH AN INCLUSION STRATEGY

The financial inclusion of women is paramount in a gender equality strategy from various perspectives, including entrepreneurship, inclusion through employment and microfinance. By financing projects that address these various aspects, AFD works to improve the economic inclusion of women around the world.

### Democratic Republic of Congo

"Pour Elles" (for women) project

€12 M

#### Grant

The project will promote the economic empowerment of women and the reduction of gender inequality by strengthening and structuring public-private actors in the ecosystem of women entrepreneurs.

SDGs targeted by the project:



### Peru

Supporting a microfinance  
institution in Cusco

€25 M

#### Loan

This project will provide financial and technical support to *Caja Municipal de Ahorro y Crédito Cusco* to promote women's entrepreneurship and the empowerment of women clients. The institution will offer financial products tailored to the specific needs of women and support services to inform them about their rights.

SDGs targeted by the project:



Under the Programming Act of August 2021 on inclusive development and the fight against global inequalities, AFD undertakes to support initiatives working for gender equality, based on a feminist transformational approach.

Consequently, AFD is continuing to take greater account of gender equality, working closely with feminist civil society in all its sectors of operation. It ensures that the strategic interests and differentiated needs of all women, men and LGBTQIA+ persons are taken into account.

# AFD Group has strengthened its gender commitments internally



In 2022, AFD and Proparco achieved a strong gender mix in their management:

**49.6%** of managers are women\*

**53%** of management positions at headquarters are held by women\*

**42%** of management positions in field offices are held by women\*



In November 2022, AFD Group signed the **Women Empowerment Principles of UN Women**, a commitment made in 2021 during the Generation Equality Forum.

To build the capacities of teams, **more than 15 training sessions and meetings were organized on gender equality**. In addition, members of the network of **gender focal points** at headquarters and in field offices were supported in their effort to strengthen their dialogue with partners and implement strategies to take greater account of gender equality in the field.



**More than 5,000** people internally and externally followed the Gender MOOC training modules of Campus AFD

## The Group's approach



- **Proparco, the Group's private sector subsidiary**, actively finances activities for gender equality through the criteria of the 2X Challenge.\*\* It has developed a gender strategy to strengthen its activities.
- In 2022, **Expertise France** also strengthened its gender monitoring system and mobilized internal and external expertise to increase gender equality in all the projects supported

\* These figures only concern employees from the general framework

\*\* The 2X Challenge was launched by the Development Finance Institutions of the G7 countries at the 2018 summit in Canada, with the objective of mobilizing \$3 billion of financing for women to increase their economic participation in developing countries. In 2022, 18 projects signed by Proparco qualified under the 2X Challenge for a total of €203 million.

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## Towards a world in common

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Agence Française de Développement (AFD) implements France's policy on international development and solidarity. Through its financing of NGOs and the public sector, as well as its research and publications, AFD supports and accelerates transitions towards a fairer, more resilient world. It also provides training in sustainable development (at AFD Campus) and other awareness-raising activities in France.

With our partners, we are building shared solutions with and for the people of the Global South. Our teams are at work on more than 3,250 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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