



ACTIVITY REPORT

# Education & training: Keys to Future Employment

2023



**Y**outh education and teacher training in developing countries is among the ten priority objectives of France's international solidarity policy. It is also gearing up to adopt a new strategy for external action for basic education (2024-2028).

While significant progress has been made in enrollment rates in most parts of the world, there are still many inequalities in access, quality, gender equality, governance, and funding for education systems. Some 244 million children aged between 6 and 18 are still out of school around the world, including 40% in Sub-Saharan Africa and 35% in Central and South Asia.<sup>1</sup> There is also a shortage of 44 million teachers for the provision of universal basic education. By 2050, more than half of Africa's population will be under 25 years old.<sup>2</sup> Every year, 40 million young people arrive on the labor market,<sup>3</sup> including between 10 and 12 million in Africa, while only 3 million formal jobs are created in economies where 86% of jobs are informal.

In this context, it is crucial to develop and recognize technical and vocational skills at all levels of qualification.

In 2023, 83% of AFD Group's commitments across the educational spectrum were made in Africa. The Group's activities to support primary and secondary education, higher education and research, vocational training, and labor market integration through employment and entrepreneurship aim to improve **access, quality, governance and funding in education and vocational training systems.**

(1) 244 Million Children Won't Start the New School Year (UNESCO) | UN News

(2) World Population Prospects - Population Division - United Nations

(3) Global Employment Trends for Youth 2015: Scaling Up Investments in Decent jobs for Youth, International Labour Organization, Geneva, ILO, 2015.

# AFD's action across the educational spectrum

Lifelong learning and skills acquisition (SDG 4) and access to employment (SDG 8) are the cornerstones of more just and sustainable economic and social development. AFD Group operates across the entire educational spectrum: primary and secondary education, higher education, vocational training, labor market integration through employment and entrepreneurship.



## €5.3 BN

committed since 2000

### This financing aims to:

**1** Promote access to quality basic education, training and higher education programs



**2** Contribute to professional integration and access to decent employment through skills development



**3** Strengthen the resilience of people and education systems in the face of crises and breakdowns by reinforcing the governance of education, training and employment systems

**4** Promote the just dimension of transitions through skills, employment, and social protection



AFD Group's action in the education sector mainly focuses on Africa, which accounted for 83% of its commitments in 2023. It is also stepping up its activity in the French Overseas Territories, as well as in emerging countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia, where the objective is to promote the social dimension of environmental and digital transitions (such as in training in green professions and professional retraining).

# AFD's activity in education, training and employment **in 2023**



**€384 M**

disbursed



**€681 M**

through new agreements

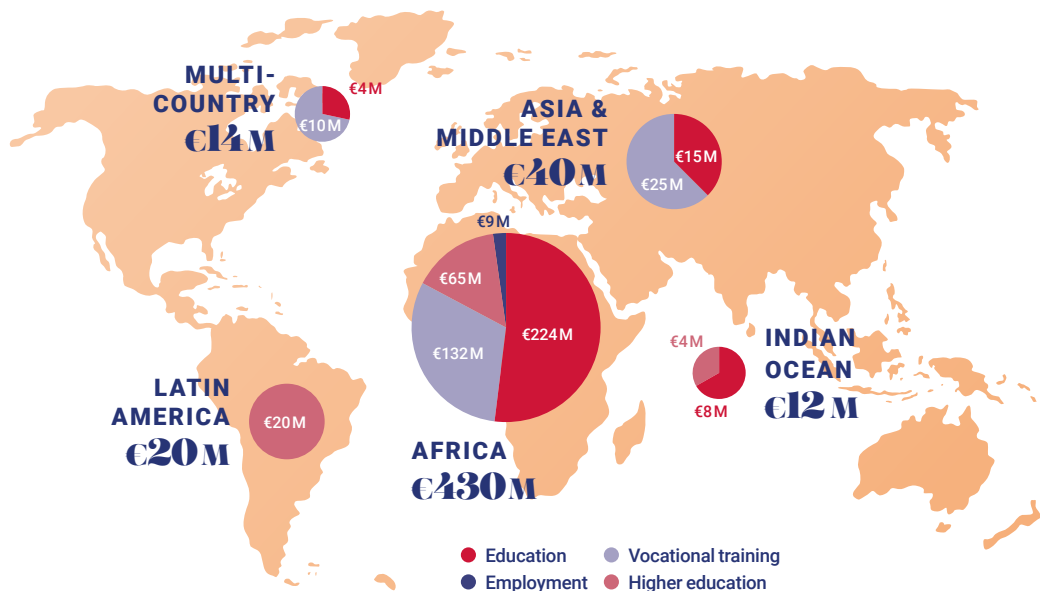


(61 projects)

**€516 M**

of new commitments

## New commitments - breakdown by region



**€98 M**

of delegated funds

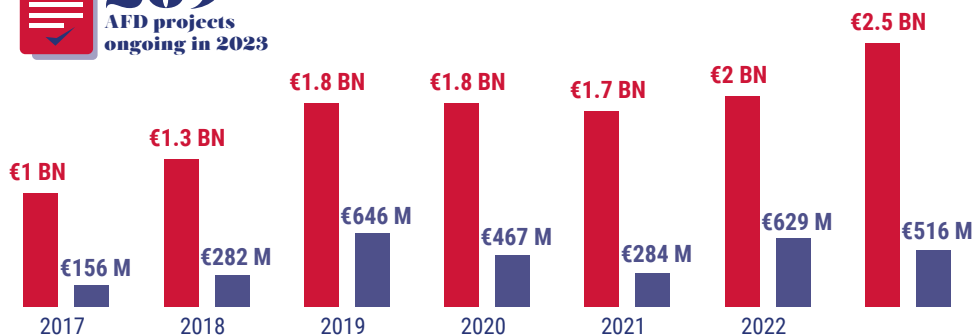
(€67 M from the GPE and €31 M from the European Union)

## Trend in AFD's activity since 2017



**269**

AFD projects  
ongoing in 2023

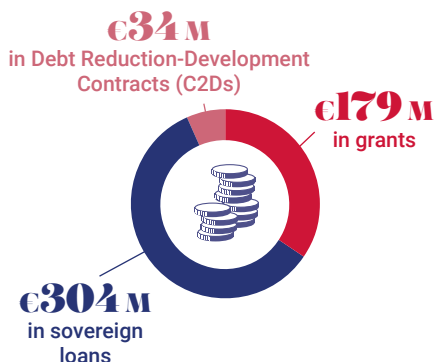


**2023**

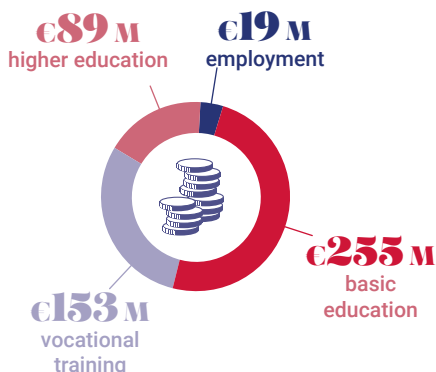
■ Ongoing financing operations

■ New commitments  
(new financing granted for the current year)

### Breakdown by financial instrument



### Breakdown by strategic sector



**EXPERTISE  
FRANCE**  
GROUPE AFD



**€63.9 M**  
basic education, higher  
education and research  
(9 projects ongoing)

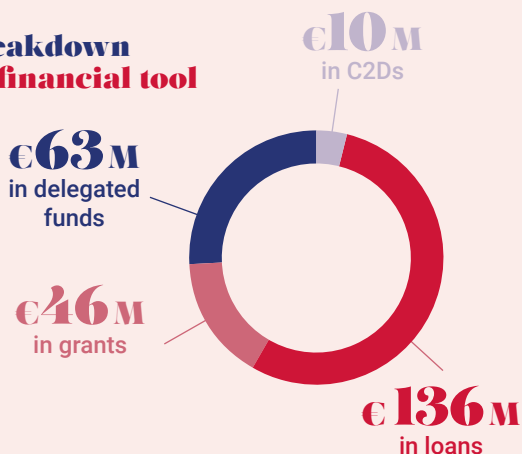
**€75 M**  
vocational training  
(15 projects ongoing)

# Basic education

AFD Group works to make access to basic education universal, especially at the secondary school level, and promotes improvement in the quality of teaching and learning. We support our partner countries' national policies, especially in the least developed countries, with emphasis on the enrollment of girls and the most vulnerable populations. We also focus on the professionalization of teachers and on effective management of education systems.

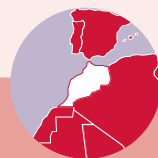


## Breakdown by financial tool



### Morocco - Education 2026

€130 M sovereign loan and €4.7 M grant



While the sector's performance has seen improvements in access to education, nearly two-thirds of students in Morocco's public schools do not master basic skills. AFD's support is focusing on improving the level of French of teachers and students, reducing the school drop-out rate, and promoting extra-curricular activities at secondary school.

# Vocational training

AFD Group promotes training opportunities that foster lifelong learning and respond to the needs of the labor market. We support the design and implementation of national training systems, especially for agricultural and rural training. These systems systematically involve socio-economic operators and aim to empower vulnerable people, especially women. Special attention is paid to developing the skills needed for the environmental transition and for professions in the healthcare and energy sectors.



**€153 M**  
committed

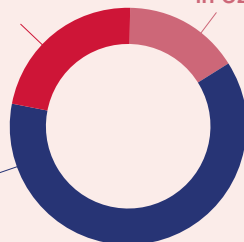


## Breakdown by financial tool

**€34 M**  
in grants

**€95 M**  
in sovereign loans

**€24 M**  
in C2Ds



### Rwanda – Supporting vocational training in Rwanda (After II)

€29 M loan and €6.8 M grant

Building on the success of the After I project implemented with Expertise France, the Rwandan authorities have asked AFD to scale up the project. **After II** aims to improve technical and vocational training, as well as learning conditions. The objective is to build skills among Rwandan young people to match labor market needs.

### Burundi – Improving teacher training for quality and inclusive basic education

8,5 M€ subvention (2024)

Co-financed by AFD and the European Union and implemented by Expertise France, this project will help promote quality basic education. It will also focus on mainstreaming the issues of gender, disability inclusion, the environment, and digital technology through two main lines of action.

# Higher education and scientific research

AFD Group promotes equitable access to higher education of good quality that leads to professionalization and boosts innovation. Our goals are to a) enhance the sustainability and governance of higher education and scientific research; b) improve the quality of the training available and make it more relevant; and c) support the continuity between higher education, research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

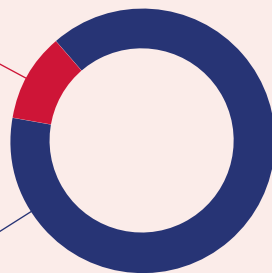


**€89 M**  
committed

## Breakdown by financial tool

**€15 M**  
in grants

**€ 74 M**  
in sovereign loans



**Colombia – Project for the construction of the National  
Faculty of Public Health at the University of Antioquia**  
**€19.5 M non-sovereign loan**



AFD is supporting the construction of a new building for the National Faculty of Public Health at the University of Antioquia. This project will improve working and learning conditions for the Faculty's academic and scientific community. It will also enhance its attractiveness and ensure that the University of Antioquia plays a leading role in local and economic development through the increase in applied research. It promotes academic and scientific excellence by providing improved teaching and research conditions.



# Employment

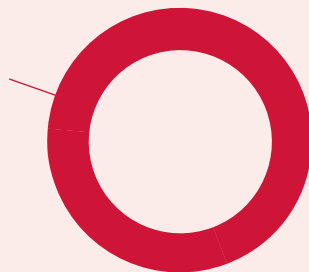
AFD Group promotes the development of active labor market policies, access to employment and entrepreneurship, especially for women and vulnerable people, and improvement in job quality. Its action is consistent with the other support that AFD Group provides to the job-creating private sector, the strengthening of financial systems and the regulatory environment of companies, and social protection.



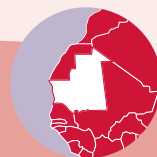
**€19 M**  
committed

## Breakdown by financial tool

**€19 M**  
in grants



**Mauritania – Supporting the development  
of women's entrepreneurship in Mauritania**  
**€8.6 M grant**



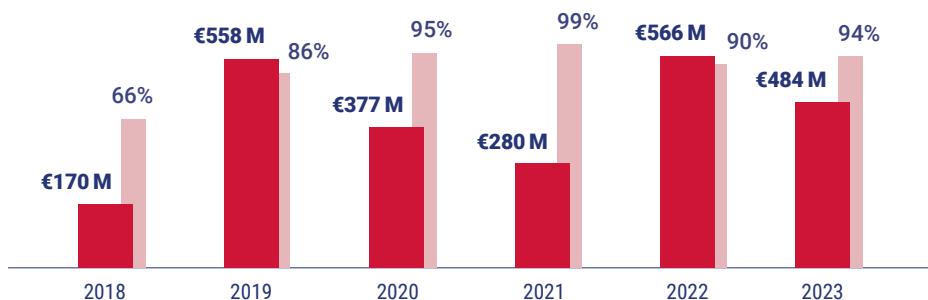
The employment situation of youth in Mauritania is a major concern for the public authorities and their partners. The participation rate for men stands at 63%, compared to 29% for women. This project will support the development of entrepreneurship and strengthen the public-private employment support ecosystem. It specifically aims to increase the participation rate of women in entrepreneurship. It will also promote the professional integration of foreign residents in Mauritania through technical and financial assistance for these entrepreneurs for their self-employment projects.

# Our commitments to gender equality



The education of girls and women is an important tool for individual development and the transition of societies towards sustainable and just economic models. AFD Group's action in the education, training, higher education and employment sectors actively contributes to the fight against gender inequality and to women's empowerment.

## Trend in gender commitments in the sector (OECD/DAC G-1 and G-2 projects)



**Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guinea, Morocco, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Togo - FAME: Feminism, action and mobilization for an inclusive economy**  
**€10 M grant**



This project is financed by the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF) co-managed by AFD and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. During its four years of implementation, it is working with local feminist CSOs that are active in the field of the rights of women and LGBTQIA+ persons. The funds are implemented by GERES, the leader of the consortium which also includes CARE France, Conlactraho, Empow'Her, SAWDF and WACSI. They will help give a greater voice to feminist CSOs and increase their capacity for action for the empowerment of women and LGBTQIA+ persons, as well as their participation in economic life.

# Our climate commitments



AFD Group's action in the education continuum actively contributes to the Group's commitments to combat climate change and preserve biodiversity.

## Our action lines:



Mainstream issues related to the environmental transition into educational pathways.



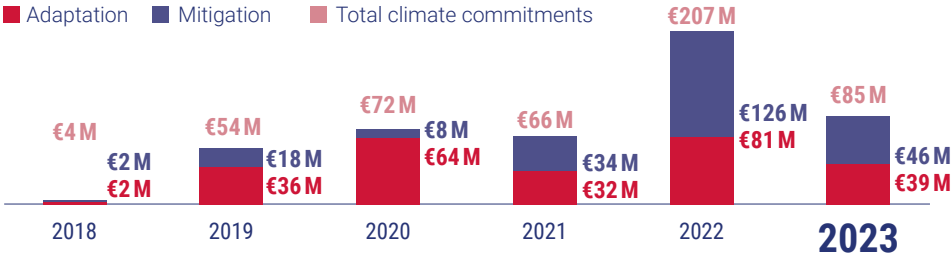
Develop sustainable, environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient infrastructure.



Help those most affected by decarbonization find a job or retrain, with the inclusion of social coverage.



Develop the skills needed for the environmental transition, support research and innovation.



**Benin – Third financing operation for the National Program for the Development of Agricultural and Rural Training (PD-FAR)**  
**€70 M loan (policy-based budget financing)**  
**and €3 M grant (technical cooperation program)**



The ProFAR program works to give young people in Benin wider opportunities in access to decent work in the agricultural and rural sectors in northern Benin. It aims to establish a sustainable economic model for the six agricultural education institutions, each having a maximum capacity of 900 learners. It will help ensure that social and land tenure issues are taken into account, and promote the inclusion of vulnerable people. In addition, it will promote ecological and organic farming, biodiversity conservation, and the fight against climate change.

# Building sustainable educational infrastructure

To address the challenges of growth in mass education and improving reception and management conditions, AFD includes major infrastructure components in its financing plans to build or rehabilitate buildings for educational or similar purposes.



**for infrastructure components,**  
or 21% of total AFD commitments in 2023



AFD Group pays careful attention to the environmental and social impact of this infrastructure: local building techniques and materials are used wherever possible and energy efficiency in buildings is a priority. The construction of local schools in rural areas is a strong focus of the Group's action to ensure access to quality education for all, especially for girls.



## Improving the school environment

**Comoros – Improving the school environment €21.9 M grant**

To offer a better learning environment to Comorian students, AFD is financing the renovation and extension of 45 primary, middle and high schools on the country's three islands. The works include the use of local materials, the bioclimatic renovation of the buildings, the development of water, sanitation and hygiene services, sustainable constructions requiring low maintenance, and the development of outdoor spaces to promote sports.

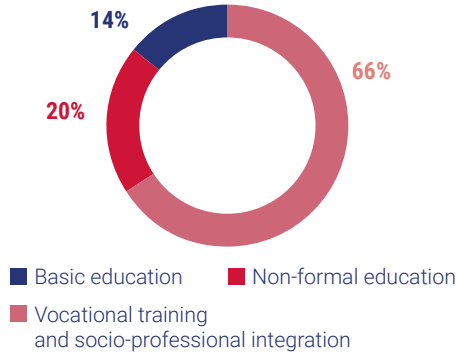


# Civil society initiatives

AFD has a mechanism dedicated to financing the initiatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and their local partners. Since 2023, the mechanism has been open to direct financing for NGOs in countries of the Global South.



## Breakdown by sub-sector



## Key projects

### CPP IECD

**Youth employment  
and entrepreneurship (phase 2)**

**Amount: €4.5 M**

Objective: Support integration and training systems for young people and entrepreneurs, both men and women.

### GRET

**Young People as Stakeholders  
in the Future (JADE)**

**Amount: €2.4 M**

Objective: Civic engagement of young people.

### UNMFREO

**Establishment and Recognition  
of Rural Family Homes (MFR)**

**Amount: €2.1 M**

Objective: Provide quality agricultural and rural training in support of regions.

### Secours islamique

**Inclusion of Talibés in Senegal**

**Amount: €1.8 M**

Objective: Promote the social and educational inclusion of Talibés.

# Expected outcomes

Our impact through the financing committed by AFD in 2023:

**760,000**  
**students**

of whom 53% are girls,  
enrolled in primary  
and middle school



**11**  
**higher education**  
**institutions**  
supported in 2023

**300**  
**companies**

receiving support  
for recruitment  
and/or job-quality  
improvement



**31,500**  
**people**

benefit from projects in  
crisis and/or fragile areas

**2,522**  
**trainers**

and tutors trained



**7,500**  
**direct full-time jobs**  
created through  
employment support

**3,150**  
**individuals**

benefiting  
from entrepreneurship  
or self-employment support

**2,600**  
**people**

benefit from programs  
for access to employment,  
excluding entrepreneurship

## Our contribution to gender equality issues



**95%**

of AFD's financing contributed positively  
to reducing gender inequalities in 2023

# Partnerships and networking



## Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

To promote a sustainable transformation of education systems in developing countries, France supports the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the only global fund devoted exclusively to basic education in developing countries.

In ten years of cooperation, AFD has become the GPE's third main representative entrusted with funds, with nearly \$650 million of funds delegated since 2013 in six countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, DRC, Guinea, Niger and Senegal).



### Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

#### Making basic education more inclusive

**\$68.5 M – Funds delegated by the GPE**



Inequalities in access to education between boys and girls, along with the generally low level of school attainment, are priority issues in the DRC. In 2021, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) selected the country as a pilot for its new financing program (2021-2025). Co-managed by AFD and the World Bank, the program aims to improve teachers' skills by revising pre-service and in-service teacher training, create protective and enabling conditions for learning, ensure continuity in the education of children affected by crises in unstable regions, and improve budget management for teachers at the end of their career.

## Our platforms of expertise

AFD Group mobilizes a number of platforms of expertise, assisted by the main operators in the education and vocational training sector:



Cap  
Compétences  
platform  
of expertise



"Apprendre"  
program



Educational  
Resources  
Program



School and  
National  
Languages in  
Africa Program  
(ELAN)



Program for  
the Analysis  
of Educational  
Systems of  
CONFEMEN  
(PASEC)



FAR Network  
(Agricultural  
and Rural  
Training)

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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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