

AFD Group Offer FOR THE DIGITAL SECTOR



€288 M

committed in the digital
sector between 2021 and 2023

€293 M

allocated to projects that contribute
to the digital transformation of public
services (including health, education
and governance) between 2021 and
2023

2,087

organizations and
institutions assisted
with the use of digital
technologies

AFD Group assists public authorities, enterprises, civil society and innovative ecosystems on their path towards a more open, more accessible and more responsible digital world. It works with them to unleash the full potential of digital solutions towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



AFD Group offer for the digital sector

The digital transition is an essential pillar of global economic and social development.

However, the increase and rapid roll-out of new uses and technologies can generate major inequalities. It can also pose economic, social, societal and environmental risks.

Through its assistance, AFD Group promotes digital transitions that incorporate the principles of sustainable and inclusive development:

- More open for partner countries that need to secure their digital sovereignty, and for citizens and their uses
- More accessible and inclusive for all, especially for women and the most vulnerable
- More responsible through its security and protection of personal data and the environment

AFD GROUP'S 3 LINES OF ACTION FOR THE DIGITAL TRANSITION



PROVIDE ACCESS TO INTERNET AND ITS SERVICES FOR ALL

- Physical infrastructure for connectivity
- Information systems & software infrastructure for access to digital services
- Design of online services accessible to all
- Securing the digital space



SUPPORT THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF SERVICES ESSENTIAL TO THE SDGs

- Digitalization of organizations
- E-education, training & employment
- E-health & social protection
- E-governance
- Smart infrastructure
- E-agriculture & agritech
- Digital financial services



HARNESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE CREATION OF INNOVATIVE JOBS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Support and financing for entrepreneurship in the digital sector
- Entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems in the sector
- Democratization of successful digital innovations
- Digital skills
- Development of occupations related to the digital transition

3 TOOLS

RECONCILE CLIMATE, NATURE AND DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTE EQUALITY AND INCLUSION IN ACCESS TO DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND ITS USES

PUT CITIZENS AND THEIR RIGHTS AT THE CENTER OF THE GOVERNANCE OF DIGITAL SPACES

Our areas of activity



CONNECTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND DIGITAL PLANNING

- Regulation of the telecoms sector
- Fixed and mobile connectivity infrastructure (including fiber, mobile and satellite networks)
- Associated digital infrastructure and data centers



INNOVATION, RESEARCH AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- Scientific and academic research on AI
- Public policies and regulation on AI
- Development of uses based on AI



STATE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND E-GOVERNMENT

- IT equipment and networks of administrations
- Digital governance of administrations
- Public software infrastructure, data management
- Deployment of quality, accessible and inclusive digital public services



CYBERSECURITY AND CYBER RESILIENCE

- Governance and regulatory framework
- Risk management and infrastructure protection
- Support for cybersecurity centers/response to cyber incidents
- Regional and international cooperation



INCLUSION, GENDER EQUALITY AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

- Gender and digital equality
- Reduction of inequalities & support for digital inclusion
- Countering misinformation and providing media education
- Protection of personal data
- Prevention of violence facilitated by technologies
- Support for digital commons and e-participation



CLIMATE AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

- Reuse and recycling of electronic waste
- Mitigation of the carbon and environmental footprint of networks and IT (including AI and Green IT)
- Digital technology and climate resilience



DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL SKILLS AND JOBS

- Basic training
- Vocational and continuing training
- Networks of digital excellence
- Job sectors linked to digital transitions



SATELLITE AND GEOSPATIAL DATA

- Support for space agencies
- Development of civilian uses and applications for sustainable development
- Strengthening of the private sector on the use of Earth observation data



SUPPORT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Conception/incubation/acceleration
- Financing of post-incubation start-ups
- Public policies for innovation and digital entrepreneurship
- Capacity building on emerging technologies
- Strengthening entrepreneurial skills



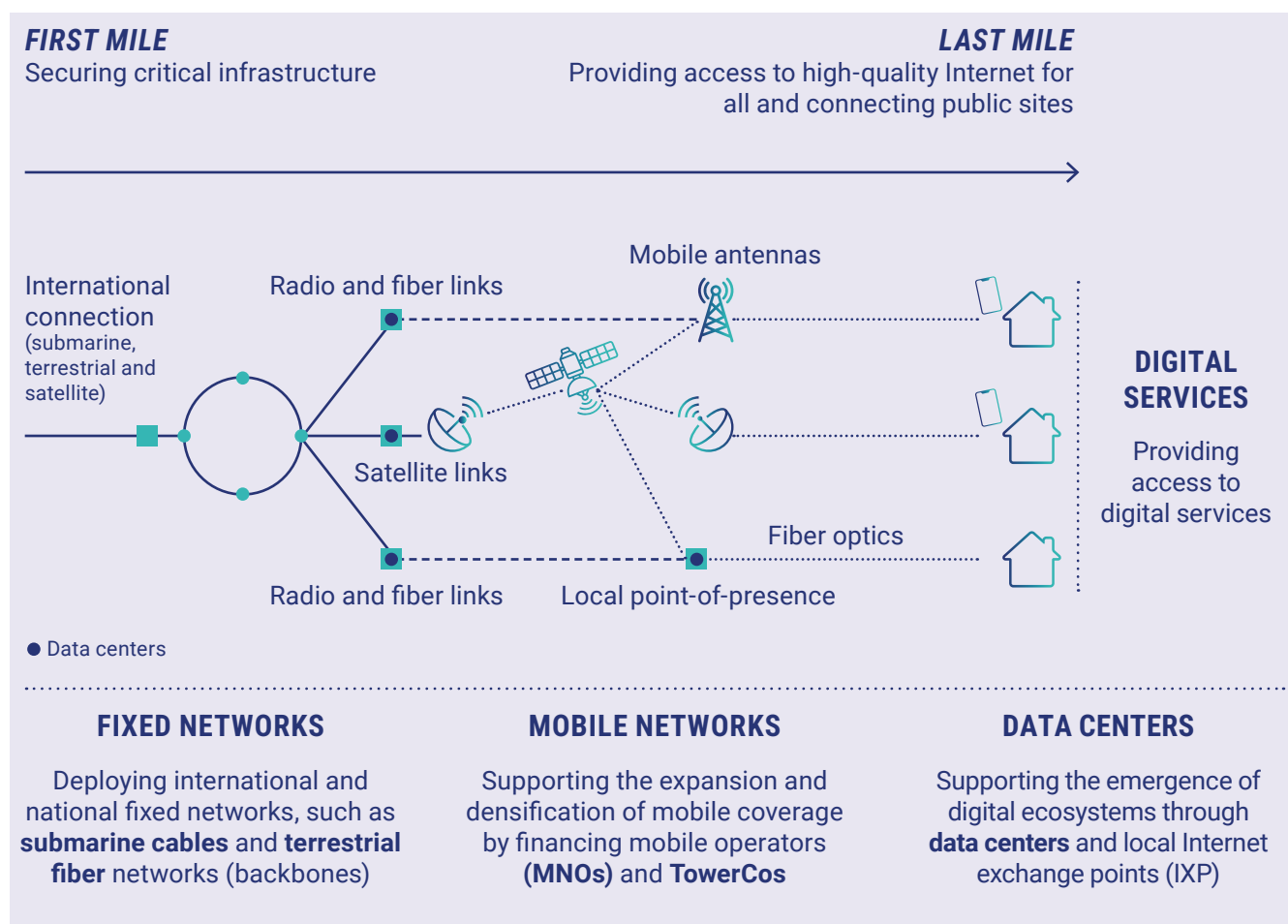
SUPPORT FOR SECTORAL DIGITAL TRANSFORMATIONS

- Digital transformation of organizations
- Smart infrastructure, cities and networks (including smart mobility, smart grids and water and sanitation)
- E-governance, digital education, digital technology in CCIs, digital health, digitalization of training, access to employment, social protection and justice
- E-agriculture & agritech
- Digital financial services & fintech

Connectivity infrastructure and digital planning

Almost all of the three billion people not connected to the Internet live in developing countries (source: ITU). While the financing for private operators provided by Proparco continues to drive the expansion of network coverage, AFD Group builds on the complementarity of its subsidiaries to finance and support the implementation of public policies for regional digital development.

LINE OF ACTION: AFD Group finances digital infrastructure from the first to the last mile, from submarine cables to mobile coverage in rural areas, and including the deployment of terrestrial fiber optic networks and the creation of data centers.



A wide range of financial products:

- Sovereign loans
- Direct loans to public operators
- Direct loans to local authorities
- Loans to private entities: long-term senior debt, CGS/corporate bonds
- Equity, debt funds
- Grants

01

Decarbonization of infrastructure

Supply networks with carbon-free energy and improve energy efficiency in data centers to support digital and energy transitions (twin transitions).

02

Human-centered digital governance

Structure the regulatory framework, support sector regulation and ensure the resilience of networks to promote an open, diversified and trustworthy digital world.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

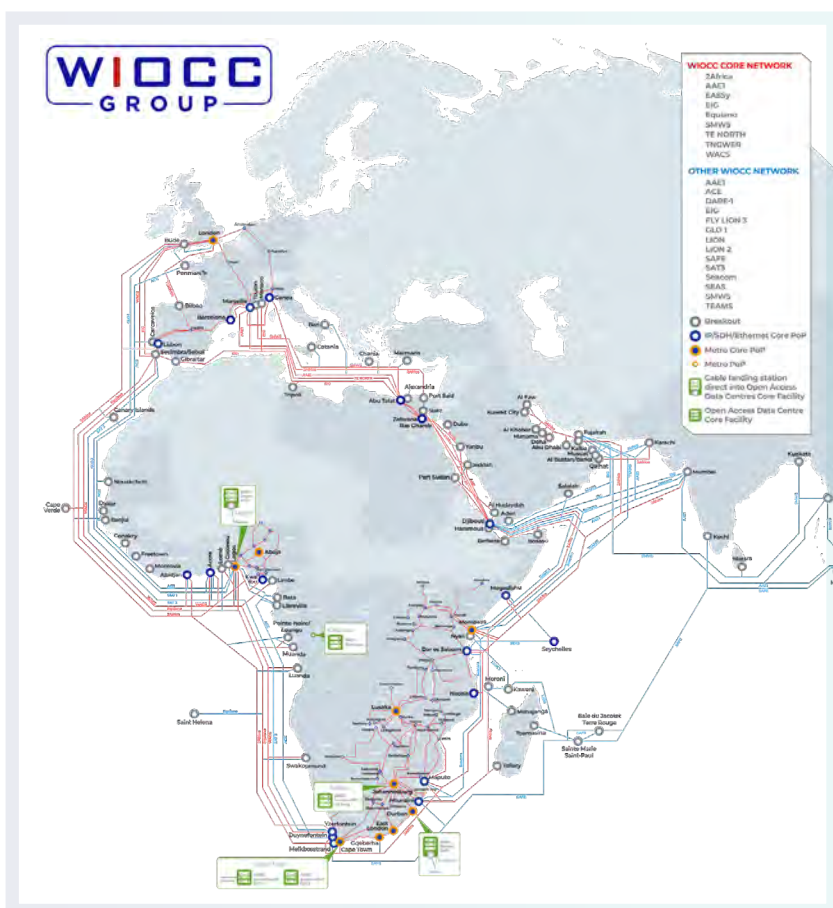
AFD Group is co-financing a comprehensive digital transformation program with the World Bank.

Objectives

- Improve access to Internet in isolated provinces
- Develop the connection of public institutions and the digitalization of public services

How?

- By modernizing the sector's regulatory and institutional framework
- By expanding the backbone and cross-border fiber optic network



WIOCC: THE BACKBONE OF AFRICA

WIOCC was founded in 2007 by 11 African telecom operators with the aim of deploying the first submarine cable on the east coast of Africa (EASSy).

Through three successive loans, from AFD (2008) then Proparco (2020, 2023), WIOCC has since expanded its networks which now cover more than 1,000 sites in 30 African countries. WIOCC is today contributing to the deployment of new generation submarine cables (2Africa, Equiano). It is also building six new data centers through its subsidiary Open Access Data Centres.

Entrepreneurship, employment and digital skills

AFD Group supports digital entrepreneurship with comprehensive financing and technical assistance solutions. The objective is to establish enabling governance models for the emergence of sustainable innovations and the structuring of technological ecosystems able to attract investment and strengthen competitiveness. The Group also conducts activities to raise awareness on digital technologies in the basic education system, and develop digital skills through diploma-based and vocational training.



STRENGTHENING DIGITAL SKILLS, SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF OCCUPATIONS

- Developing learning in basic and specific digital skills
- Training in digital occupations through career-focused systems, and assistance in access to employment
- Establishing digital excellence programs
- Occupational reorganization following the digital transition
- Creating training and employment pathways in connection with the transitions



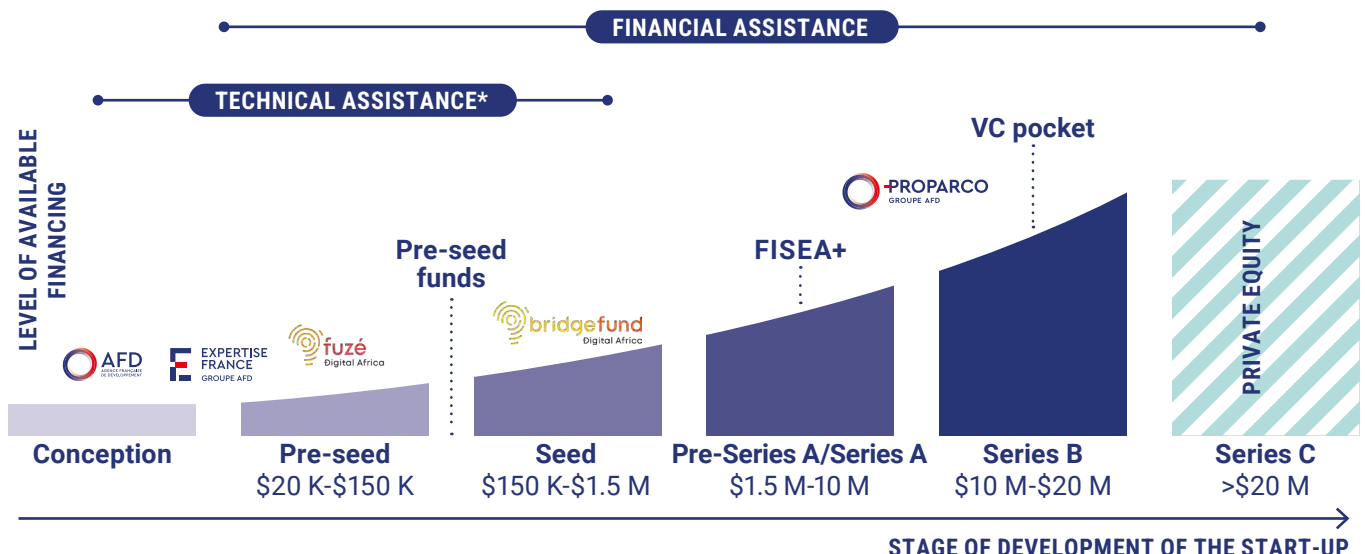
SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF START-UPS

- Structuring and strengthening the capacities of entrepreneurial and technological ecosystems
- Improving digital and entrepreneurial skills
- Establishing comprehensive approaches for partnerships between Europe and the partner countries



FINANCING ENTREPRENEURIAL INNOVATION

- Financing programs to support innovation, either directly or through local financial institutions
- Direct venture capital investments in start-ups
- Investment through the FISEA+ fund of funds



*Sometimes supported with grants

APPRENDRE | 26 COUNTRIES | €27 M (AFD financing, 2017-2027)

APPRENDRE is a platform for expertise implemented by the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) in 26 French-speaking African countries.

Objective

Develop teachers' skills

How?

Through an innovation lab which helps drive public policies. This includes:

- The development of digital resources for pre-service and in-service training
- Support for the scriptwriting and online publishing of training content and educational content
- A dialogue with Ministries of Education on the need to strengthen training in the digital age

Result

More than 8,000 people trained, more than 1 million teachers and 350 researchers supported

APPRENDRE



DIGITAL AFRICA A subsidiary of Proparco

Digital Africa works to **equip Africa's tech entrepreneurs with the capabilities** to design and scale-up groundbreaking innovations for the real economy. Digital Africa also finances early-stage start-ups through various financial vehicles, such as the Fuzé fund and Bridge Fund.

INNOV'I TUNISIA | €14.5 M (EU financing, Expertise France)

Since 2019, Innov'i has been contributing to strengthening and structuring the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in Tunisia.

How?

By assisting with the implementation of a regulatory and financial framework conducive to innovative entrepreneurship. The project also promotes the ecosystem nationally and internationally.

Result

More than **100 Tunisian entrepreneurs** in cultural and creative industries supported through a grant to the incubator Minassa.





Digital technologies give rise to changes in public action and administrations. AFD Group assists them with the various aspects of their digitalization processes.

OUR EXPERTISE:

- **Reinforcement of digital governance** for administrations and public institutions:
 - Digital strategies, legal and institutional regulatory frameworks, training
 - Policies on the governance of data throughout their value cycle: creation, collection, storage, use, reuse, protection, access, sharing and deletion
- **Modernization of the local IT networks of administrations**
- **Deployment of secure and interoperable digital public infrastructure (DPI)** as the backbone of digital services:
 - Including databases, identification systems, e-signatures and e-payment systems
 - Data exchange, sharing and interoperability, open standards and protocols
- **Deployment of high-quality, accessible and inclusive public services:**
 - Digital transformation of organizations and digitalization of public services
 - Data-based services, tools and information (such as data analytics), AI models for administrations
 - Citizen e-participation and transparency of public action

OUR LINES OF ACTION:

- **Financing:** sovereign loans, non-sovereign loans to public enterprises, grants
- **Technical assistance** drawing on French public and private expertise in digital public services and “digital public goods” (including France Connect, Socle code.gouv.fr and Etalab)
- **Methodological assistance** for the deployment of digital projects

DIGITAL IDENTITY IN NIGERIA

The project benefits from financing from AFD (\$100 million sovereign loan), the World Bank and the EIB. It aims to ensure that 65% of Nigerian people are given a legally recognized, reliable and secure ID, enabling them to register with the civil registry and gain easier access to public and digital services.



MODERNIZATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION THROUGH DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN VIETNAM

This two-year project financed by AFD and implemented by Expertise France has **assisted the transformation of the administration**.

Objective

Reduce, simplify and digitalize administrative procedures, and improve the efficiency of public services for citizens and companies.

How?

Expertise France organized workshops with French institutions on issues such as the circulation and protection of data.

Result

A revision of the legal framework for the administration and the preparation of founding decrees, training for more than 500 officials, and the publication of a digitalization guide.

SATELLITE AND GEOSPATIAL DATA



Satellite data are today widely accessible and can be mobilized to address the challenges posed by sustainable development and the ecological transition. There are many applications: agricultural productivity, food security, natural resources management, spatial planning, disaster risk management, protection of oceans and forests... AFD Group has been supporting public institutions and governments in the Global South in the geospatial sector for many years.

OUR EXPERTISE:

- **Preparation and financing of investments in the infrastructure and software** needed to host and process satellite data
- Acquisition and analysis of satellite imagery data, support for public decision-making based on spatial data
- **Prototyping and development of geospatial data platforms** open to a wide public
- **Development of dedicated applications** based on Earth observation data
- **Capacity building and training on accessing, analyzing and using spatial data** for national and regional institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs) and companies
- Support for **partnerships with public, private and academic ecosystems in the geospatial sector in Europe**

SUPPORT FOR THE RWANDA SPACE AGENCY FOR ITS GEOSPATIAL DATA HUB

AFD is financing the development of the “Geohub” (acquisition of the equipment and software needed to store and process satellite data), as well as the development of applications to improve the resilience of the agriculture sector, the preservation of forest areas, and water management. AFD is also financing the operations of Expertise France for capacity building, the development of a framework for the adoption of geospatial data by the private sector, and the creation of a user community.

SUPPORT FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATIONS



Digital technologies are part of our daily lives and require all sectors and actors to make transformations: companies, financial institutions, administrations, schools, service operators, civil society organizations... AFD Group assists them with their digital transformations to simplify, improve and revolutionize their products, services and ways of doing things.

With digital education, the digitalization of social protection and job search systems, digital health, smart mobility, smart cities, smart grids, fintech, agritech, and in many other sectors, new digital solutions revolutionize the way in which services to citizens are designed and delivered, as well as the related economic models. Every year, a number of projects developed by AFD Group thus include specific support for digital transformation.



DIGITAL ENERGY

Since 2020, AFD has been implementing the Digital Energy program with the support of the European Union and ADEME.

Objective

Offer a comprehensive range of instruments to support the digitalization of public electricity utilities in collaboration with the private sector.

How?

Through studies and technical assistance, support for innovation, networking opportunities and seed funding.

Result

To date, the program has supported close to 40 projects.

CYBERSECURITY AND CYBER RESILIENCE



AFD Group contributes to strengthening the security and resilience of cyberspace around the world. In collaboration with national and international actors, the objective is to protect people, organizations and critical infrastructure against the growing and multifaceted cyber threats, in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

OUR EXPERTISE:

- Formulation of national and regional **policies and strategies** on **cybersecurity, the fight against cybercrime and the protection of critical infrastructure**; support for the creation of **cybersecurity authorities, and incident monitoring, alert and response capabilities (CERT/CIRT/SOC)**
- Strengthening of the **cybersecurity of critical infrastructure and core services**
- **Development of expertise** in cybersecurity
- **Promotion** of the **culture of cybersecurity** and **awareness-raising on cyber hygiene** for citizens
- **Promotion** of national, regional and international **cooperation**

OCWAR-C PROJECT

Between 2019 and 2024, Expertise France contributed to strengthening cybersecurity and the fight against cybercrime in the Member States of ECOWAS and in Mauritania through the implementation of the **OCWAR-C** project. This project has improved the resilience and robustness of information infrastructure and local capabilities for the fight against cybercrime.

How?

By establishing strategic and legal frameworks, strengthening cybersecurity institutions, raising awareness on cyber hygiene, and building and improving national capabilities to respond to computer incidents.



INNOVATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



Through a multi-stakeholder approach, AFD Group assists countries with the use of inclusive, sustainable and responsible AI.

OUR EXPERTISE:

- **Use of AI for inclusive economic growth, the green transition and the reduction of inequalities**
- **Preparation of countries for AI** by strengthening infrastructure, local expertise and data governance
- **Support for regulations based on responsible AI** promoting confidence, transparency, non-discrimination, security and cooperation



SENEGAL'S NATIONAL AI STRATEGY AND ROADMAP

Presented in 2023, they were developed with support from Expertise France and a partnership with the EU, following a process of open and participatory co-creation involving a number of public, private and academic actors in Senegal's digital ecosystem.

Objective

Promote the use of AI in key sectors such as education, health and agriculture.

AFD Group



AFD Group offers a comprehensive range of products and services for the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, through three complementary entities: AFD, Proparco, and Expertise France.



PUBLIC SECTOR

Agence Française de Développement finances and supports public partners and civil society organizations through:

- Sovereign loans
- Non-sovereign loans to public enterprises
- Financing for projects and public policies
- Partnerships and public policy dialogue
- Loans, grants and the mobilization of delegated financing



PRIVATE SECTOR

Proparco is dedicated to financing and supporting the private sector through :

- Project financing
- Long-term senior debt
- Equity and quasi-equity
- Guarantees
- Donor syndications
- Expertise and advisory services
- Expertise et conseils



TECHNICAL COOPERATION

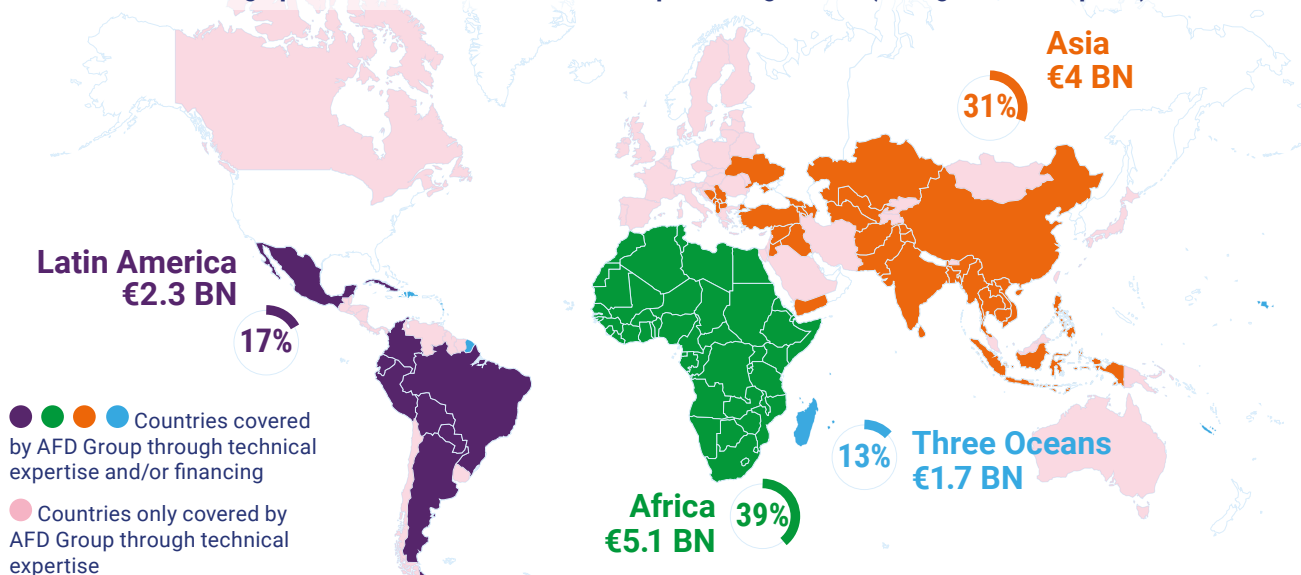
Expertise France designs and implements technical cooperation projects that strengthen the public policies of our partners over the long term through:

- The provision of public expertise and capacity building
- Advisory and networking services
- The development and management of technical assistance programs
- Project management through grants

AFD GROUP

AFD Group supports, finances and assists the dynamics of sustainable development in more than 160 countries and in 11 French overseas departments and territories

Geographical breakdown of new AFD Group financing in 2023 (through AFD & Proparco)



For a world in common

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Group finances, supports and accelerates the transitions necessary for a more just and resilient world. It thus contributes to implementing France's policy on sustainable development and international solidarity. It is with and for communities that we build, with our partners, solutions in more than 160 countries, as well as in 11 French overseas departments and territories.

Our objective: To reconcile economic development with the preservation of common goods: the climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality, education and health. Our teams are involved in more than 3,600 projects in the field, which are part of the commitment of France and the French people to fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals. For a world in common.



www.afd.fr/en

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