



Support for Civil Society Organizations

ACTIVITY REPORT

2023

The year 2023 was marked by a series of events and transformations that once again, underscored the need to take action at grassroots level to support communities. The proliferation of conflicts and the various political and climatic upheavals have exacerbated the crises, deepened inequalities, and increased the needs of the most vulnerable populations, highlighting the crucial role and added value of CSOs.

In this context, the AFD maintained its commitment towards civil society organizations (CSOs), dedicating nearly €389.1 million to them, including €163.4 million for the CSO Initiatives Fund. Expertise France and Proparco committed €50 million and €4.5 million for CSOs, respectively, for a total of €444 million for the AFD Group, including delegated funds. This high level of commitment, roughly equal to that of 2022, confirms the uniqueness of the AFD group in working with civil society actors. Funding for local CSOs has increased, with the opening of the CSO Initiatives Fund and the financing from Expertise France.

The AFD continued to engage in joined-up thinking with its partners on issues related to gender inequality, migration, climate transitions, and the promotion of human rights-based approaches. In 2023, civil society also stepped up its mobilization at international level through major events such as the 4th Finance in Common Summit (FiCS) in Cartagena and the Climate and Biodiversity COPs. New partnerships were initiated, others were strengthened and renewed, demonstrating the key role played by CSOs in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Despite the continued shrinking of civic space, CSOs have managed to adapt and keep going, demonstrating resilience and effectiveness in coming up with solutions to these challenging situations. The year 2023 again underscores the importance of the partnership between CSOs and AFD Group.

AFD Group action for CSOs in 2023

Key figures



€444 M

to support civil society organizations when delegated funds are included



323 CSOs supported by the Group,

including **155 French CSOs (48%)**, **154 local CSOs (48%)** and **14 international CSOs (4%)**.

The three sectors the most supported in 2023



Health **€115 M**

Environment/climate/biodiversity

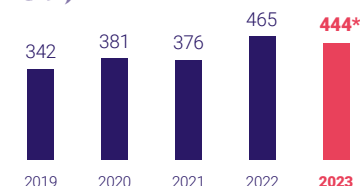
€73 M



Governance **€59 M**

Trend in commitments

Across all mechanisms (in €M)

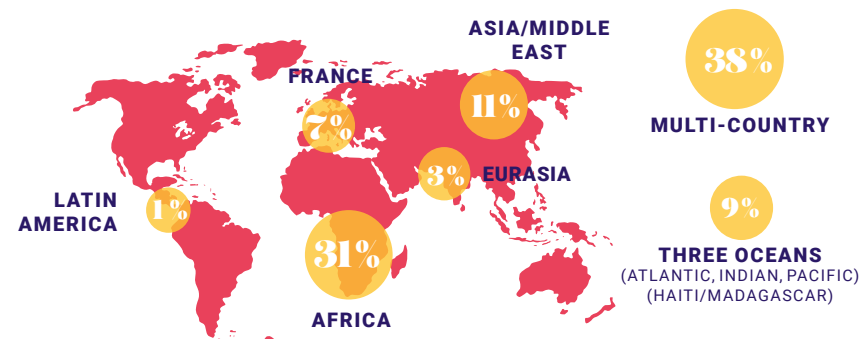


* As of 2023, delegated funds have been included in the consolidated results.

Breakdown by financial tool (in €M)

- 163** CSO Initiatives Fund
- 153** Other operations of the Sectoral Divisions of the Department for Sustainable Development Solutions
- 50** Expertise France
- 39** Vulnerabilities Facility (FAV)
- 10.4** Fonds d'innovation pour le développement (FID)
- 10** French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)
- 6** Trade Capacity Building Program (TCBP)
- 4.5** Proparco
- 0.9** Project Support, Preparation and Monitoring Fund (FAPS)
- 6.6** Other operations

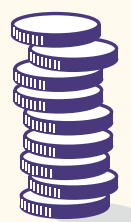
Breakdown by region



CSO Initiatives Fund

A financing mechanism for French and local CSOs

With the CSO Initiatives Fund, CSOs can submit a project, on their own initiative, to request co-financing from AFD. It thereby contributes to strengthening civil societies and their action all over the world, in conjunction with local organizations.



€163.4 M

committed by the CSO Initiatives Fund in 2023

and more than €106 million of financing mobilized by other co-financiers (public, private, French, international, local)

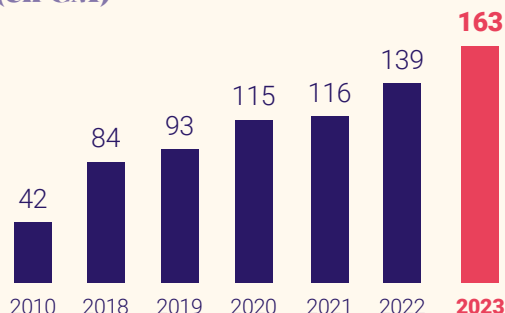


119

French CSOs financed in partnership with more than **7,000** local CSOs



A fund in constant growth (en €M)

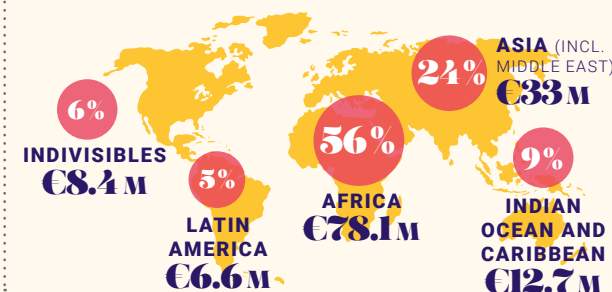


607
projects
financed by
the fund ongoing
in 2023

Field projects in 2023: 85 % of projects financed

Nearly
€139 M
for the field
projects financed,
including 30 projects led
by first-time CSOs

Breakdown by region



Thematic breakdown



Agriculture and food security

In an effort to help partners cope with climate change, Lebanese CSO, **Fair Trade Lebanon** is working to increase the resilience of farmers and producers in the Bekaa plains by raising awareness, broadening access to education and providing economic support. The project aims to facilitate the emergence of innovative companies in the agri-food sector, and integrate unemployed young people in the labor market.

Project amount: €783,809 and AFD grant: €700,000



Governance and human rights

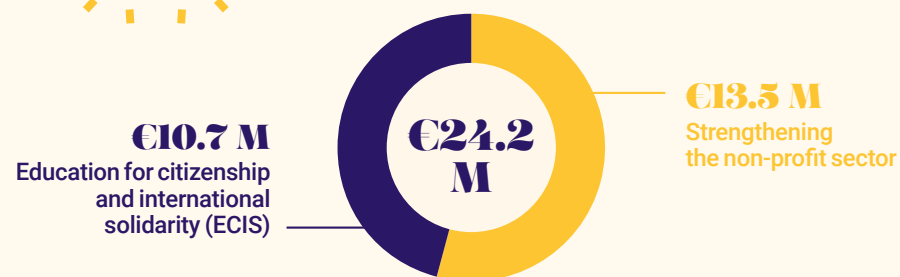
The **European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA)** works to promote economic and social development in the Western Balkans. It supports civil society through initiatives focused on youth, entrepreneurship, rural development, the environment, and cultural heritage preservation. This project aims to promote a constructive dialogue between citizens and decision-makers, with the aim of strengthening local governance in a difficult political and economic environment.

Project amount: €3.7 M and AFD grant: €3 M

Projects of public interest in 2023: 15 % of projects financed

Projects of general interest aim firstly to support French civil society in its efforts to group together and secondly, to raise awareness among French citizens and mobilize them on international issues.

26 - projects of general interest financed



Science, Ocean, Society: Educating youth in sustainable development and international solidarity

With this ECIS project, the **Tara Ocean Foundation** aims to encourage primary and secondary students in France and abroad to carry out ocean-related projects. Through experiences on a vessel at sea, the objective is to raise awareness of international solidarity issues among teachers and students, enrich teaching methods, and generate an interest in taking action for the planet.

Project amount: €910,320
AFD grant: €350,000



Promoting “Recipro’citizenship – youth engagement for active citizenship between regions”

Cool’eurs du Monde is leading a reciprocal volunteer program through which it is mentoring young volunteers for missions to raise awareness of sustainable development. The international volunteers are working in France, and the French volunteers are abroad (Guinea, Madagascar, Morocco, Senegal, Togo, and Tunisia). The project partners, in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region and abroad, receive training to build their skills in ECIS and provide a framework for the activities.

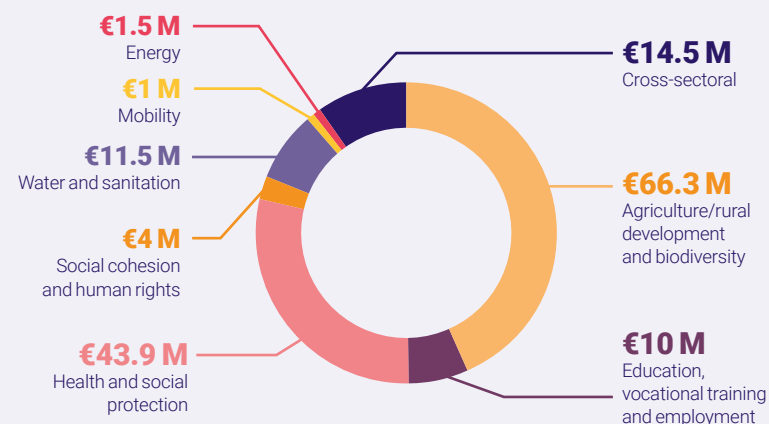
Project amount: €1,102,250
AFD grant: €350,000

Other grants for CSOs

**Grants from AFD’s
sectoral divisions**

€153 M
of grants,
mainly via calls
for projects

Thematic breakdown



“Let’s just talk about sports!” African Sports Movement

AFD supports projects led by civil society and operators in the sports ecosystem. The objective is to foster experience sharing and capacity building. The **African Sports Movement** program supports the professionalization of African team sports federations and the development of women's sports. It is assisted by French rugby, handball, volleyball and basketball federations. The objective is to create new inclusive opportunities for African youth through sport, by helping to strengthen the capacities of 27 sports federations.

The program is divided into three projects, led by the **French Sport Foundation/Havoba** (€2.5 M) and **Rugby Africa** (€0.5 M).

Amount of the project and AFD grant: €3 M

Vulnerabilities Facility



Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Togo • For “Women, Peace and Security” Agendas

In West Africa and the Sahel, women are taking action to protect themselves against attacks and support their communities. The project led by **Equipop** aims to strengthen feminist CSOs actively involved in the implementation of the “Women, Peace and Security” (WPS) Agenda. By integrating gender inequalities and working on the representations at the root of the culture of war, the project aims to develop transformative pathways to combat all forms of violence.

Project amount: €4.75 M

FAV grant: €1.5 M

€39.1 M

of grants
for **9 projects**,
for **8 international**
and **French CSOs**

French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)



Senegal • Preserving natural resources in the Saloum Delta

The project of the association **Nébédjay** supports communities along and around the Sine Saloum Delta in a context of environmental, economic and climatic vulnerability. It is helping to promote nature-based solutions for managing coastal risks, improving the revenues of groups of women who process fisheries products, managing community marine protected areas, and sharing tried and tested solutions to stimulate the local economy.

Project amount: €3 M

FFEM grant: €1.5 M

€9.97 M

of grants.

Seven substantial grants have been allocated to international, French and local CSOs for the climate, oceans, Mediterranean ecosystems and biodiversity.

Expertise France



Ukraine • Gender-focused medical and

psychosocial services for women with opioid addiction

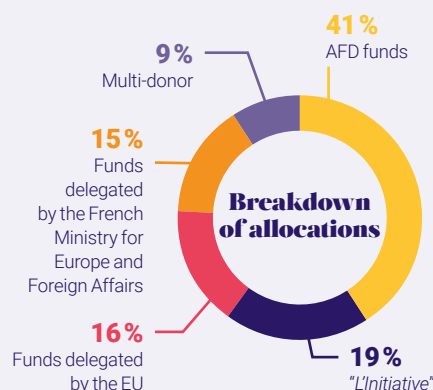
This call for projects led by the Ukrainian NGO **Alliance for Public Health** aims to provide health services and psychosocial support to marginalized women and girls in Ukraine (including drug users, sex workers, and trans and non-binary persons). The objective is to facilitate their integration into substitution therapy programs, and improve their access to HIV prevention, care and treatment.

Project amount: €3 M

L'Initiative grant: €1.5 M

€50 M

of grants for
145 projects, including
117 to local CSOs
and **14 for French CSOs**



Fund for Innovation in Development (FID)



India • A classroom program in India to improve students' wellbeing for better academic outcomes

In partnership with the Government of Tripura, the Indian organization **Labhya** is offering a learning program aimed at enhancing the well-being of students from low-income backgrounds across north-east India. The FID funding seeks to understand the potential impact of this program on students' academic performance, as well as their social-emotional development.

Grant for the project: €578,000

€10.4 M

of grants mainly to local, British, American, Swiss and French CSOs.

PROPARCO**Multi-country •
One Acre Fund**

As part of the international "FARM" initiative spearheaded by France, the NGO **One Acre**

Fund is working to improve the living standards and health of smallholder farmers and their families by supporting them throughout the agricultural cycle. The loan allocated by Proparco will enable the NGO to scale up its action in nine Sub-Saharan African countries. It will also help increase the production capacity of food systems in rural areas and vulnerable geographical situations.

Loan amount: €10 M

€4.5 M

of grants
and
between

**€5 million
and €10
million**
in outstanding
loans

Study Funds**Multi-country •
Abidjan-Lagos
Corridor**

This project, led by **TradeMark Africa** as part of the AfCFTA Continental Integration Agenda, aims to strengthen the Abidjan-Lagos corridor to facilitate trade between Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo. Its objective is to harmonize trade procedures, strengthen local capacities, promote ecological corridors, and facilitate access to the economic opportunities offered by this corridor for vulnerable people.

Amount of project and grant: €6 M

€6 M
of grants allocated
by the Trade Capacity
Building Program
(TCBP) and

€0.9 M
by the Project Support,
Preparation and
Monitoring Fund (FAPS)
for local CSOs.

Partnership and dialogue, an eventful and increasingly diverse outcome for the year



In conjunction with the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, AFD Group maintained a high level of dialogue and consultation with CSOs and foundations. Several events and forums for dialogue strengthened relations with partners.

January	Conference on Diabetes in Paris Jointly organized by AFD Group, <i>Santé Diabète</i> , and the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF), the conference was an opportunity to consider ways of integrating the management of diabetes/HIV and diabetes/TB comorbidities, with the aim of strengthening health systems and improving access to healthcare.
February	FIDH Exhibition AFD hosted the photo exhibition "Our Rights, Our Fight, Our Future" on the link between the SDGs and human rights. Over the last 10 years, the partnership between AFD and FIDH has supported 250 CSOs in 120 countries, promoting women's rights and combating impunity for the benefit of the most vulnerable groups.
February	Conference-exhibition with AFRAT on the great hiking trails in the Middle East AFD is assisting the NGO AFRAT with the creation of the first network of great hiking trails in the Middle East, by fostering exchanges, studies, and experience sharing. This project aims to boost rural economic development through hiking tourism.
February	Migration and Development Conference
March	Conference on agroecology with CSOs
May	Women in Migration exhibition at the #WomenMatter exhibition at La Gaîté Lyrique
October	Conference on mental health
October	FiCS 2023 in Cartagena
December	Human Rights Conference

Towards 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 over-seas departments and territories.

Our objective: To reconcile economic development with the pre-servation 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.



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