



**ACTIVITY REPORT**

# **Support for civil society organizations**

**2024**

**T**he year 2024 marked the 15th anniversary of the CSO Initiatives Fund, a key moment to review the progress made, highlight the relations developed with CSOs, and reaffirm their pivotal role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Behind the numbers, the anniversary is marked by 15 years of sustained commitments, ever-increasing confidence, and a common vision of international solidarity. Despite a tight budgetary situation, AFD Group continued to maintain a high level of commitments in support of CSOs, with nearly €520.7 million in grants, including €153.5 million via the CSO Initiatives Fund. Expertise France, the Fund for Innovation in Development (FID) and the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) committed €114.5 million, including delegated funds. Our sectoral divisions and the Crises and Conflicts Division mobilized €148 million and €89 million, respectively. This high level of commitments underscores the specific place of civil society within AFD Group's action.

Through its partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs), AFD Group has continued its work in the field and its engagement on issues related to gender inequality, migration, climate transition, and the promotion of human rights-based approaches. In an increasingly unstable and fragmented environment – marked by multiple climate, political, and social crises – it is essential to maintain strong ties with civil society actors.

The year was also marked by strong engagement in support of young people: nearly 100 out of 132 projects funded under the I-OSC mechanism were partially or fully targeted toward youth – a key focus of AFD Group's 100% "Social Link" strategy.

Lastly, 2024 was marked by significant international instability, growing challenges to official development assistance, a shrinking civic space in many countries, and a deepening polarization of views on international solidarity. These developments are threatening the stability of the sector and of civil society organizations (CSOs), and call for an even stronger strategic partnership. They also require us to rethink and renew our ways of working and our alliances in order to face these challenges. Being able to build on 15 years of close cooperation and mutual understanding between AFD Group and its partners is a valuable foundation for this reflection.

# AFD Group action for CSOs in 2024

AFD Group offers a wide range of instruments tailored to the demands of CSOs and their added value.

## Key figures



**€520 M**  
in grants to support civil society organizations (including delegated funds)



Nearly **420 CSOs** supported by AFD Group, including **187 French CSOs (45%), 186 local CSOs (44%) and 46 international CSOs (10%)**

## The three most supported sectors in 2024



**€128 M**  
Health



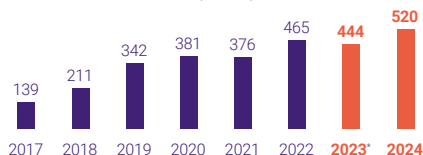
**€76 M**  
Environment/  
climate/  
biodiversity



**€89 M**  
Governance

## Evolution in commitments

Across all mechanisms (in €M)

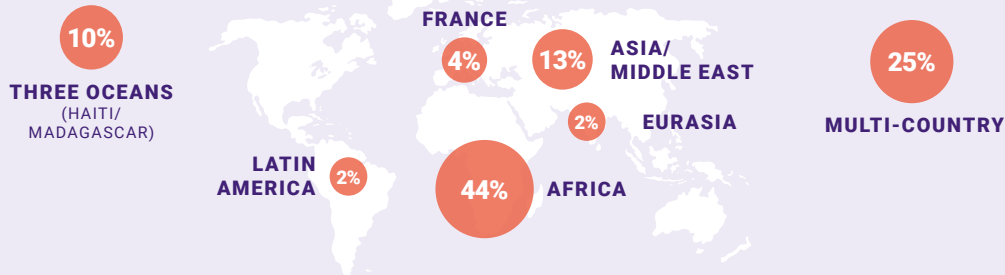


\* As of 2023, delegated funds have been included in the consolidated results.

## Breakdown by financial tool (in €M)

<b>153</b>	CSO Initiatives Fund
<b>148</b>	Other operations – Sectoral Divisions of the Sustainable Development Solutions Department
<b>90</b>	Expertise France (including delegated funds)
<b>89</b>	Minka Peace and Resilience Instrument
<b>14</b>	Fund for Innovation in Development (FID)
<b>10</b>	French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)
<b>9</b>	Trade Capacity Building Program (TCBP)
<b>7,2</b>	Other
<b>0,5</b>	Proparco
<b>0,5</b>	Project Support, Preparation and Monitoring Fund (FAPS)

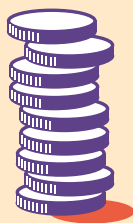
## Geographical breakdown



# CSO Initiatives Fund

**A financing mechanism for French and locally registered CSOs since 2009**

With the CSO Initiatives Fund, CSOs can submit a project amounting to **€500,000** or above, on their own initiative, to request co-financing from AFD (up to 80% for French CSOs and 90% for local CSOs). It thereby contributes to strengthening civil societies and their action all over the world, especially in the least developed countries (LDCs), in conjunction with local organizations.



**€153 M**  
committed by the CSO  
Initiatives Fund in 2024

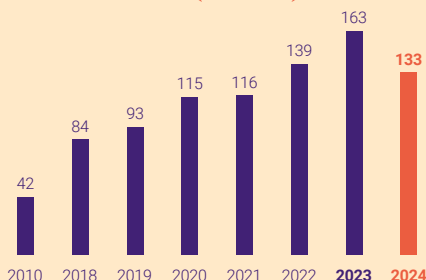
and more than **€136 million**  
of co-financing mobilized by  
other co-financiers (public, private,  
French, international, local).



**97**

French CSOs financed in  
partnership with more than  
**5,000 local CSOs**

**A fund in constant growth  
until 2023 (in €M)**



**631**

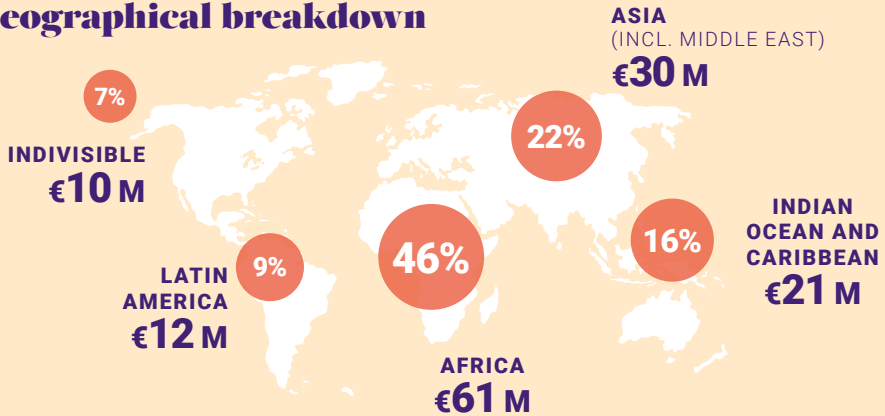
projects financed  
by the fund  
ongoing in 2024

## Field projects in 2024: 88% of funded projects

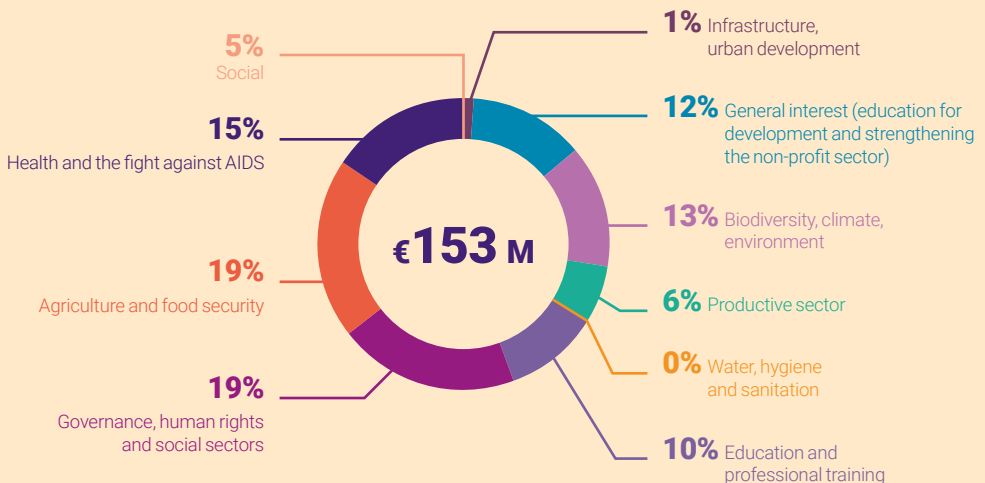
**107**

field projects financed including 26 projects led by first-time CSO recipients

### Geographical breakdown



### Thematic breakdown



## Gender and women's rights: Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF)

**48 projects financed by AFD for €49 M in 2024**

The Support Fund for Feminist Organizations has been jointly managed with the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) since 2020 and embodies France's commitment to feminist diplomacy. This fund supports CSOs working for women's rights and gender equality.



 **Support for the Maferinya Center for Survivors of Sexual Violence**

 **Guinea**

 **Project amount: €555,000 - AFD grant: €500,000**

This project aims to provide assistance to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Conakry by supporting the operation, implementation of activities, and long-term sustainability of the Center for Survivors of Sexual Violence committed during the September 28, 2009 stadium massacre.



**Governance and human rights** 

**Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) in Africa, Asia and the Middle East**

**Project amount: €3.38 million** 

**AFD grant: €1.45 million**

Led by **ECPM**, this project contributes actively to the fight for the universal abolition of the death penalty in 11 countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. It is strengthening expertise, synergies and the capacity for dialogue between national authorities, civil society and criminal justice stakeholders, with the aim of driving positive political and societal change. This project is reinforcing national and international advocacy with institutions in order to move forward the debate within civil society and the media. It also focuses on young people, with specific action targeting 120 young people in support of abolition. Through this work, it is strengthening transparency and support for the legal representation of convicted persons. Ultimately, the initiative also strengthens transparency and support for the legal representation of those convicted.

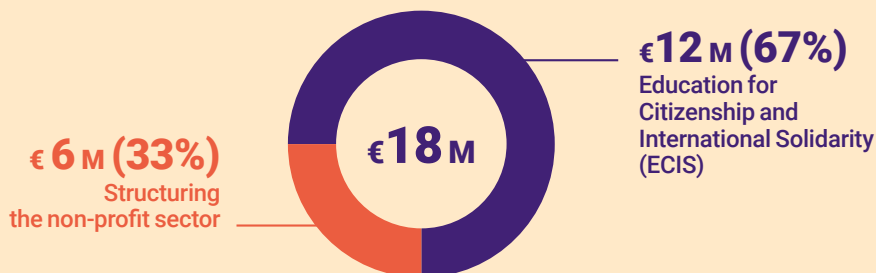
## Projects for Education for Citizenship and International Solidarity (ECIS) and structuring the non-profit sector (SMA) in 2024:

### 12% of funded projects

Projects for ECIS and SMA aim to reinforce the network of French associations and mobilize citizens around international issues.

# 25

Education for Citizenship and International Solidarity (ECIS) projects financed



#### Editorial cartooning in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

 **Project amount: €615,809**  
**AFD grant: €296,000**

Given the interlinkages between the realization of human rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the association **Cartooning for Peace** mobilizes its network of cartoonists to raise awareness among young people and adults of the interlinkages between human rights and sustainable development. It develops educational resources and organizes exhibitions, training and debates to promote civic engagement for human rights and the SDGs.

#### Supporting the structuring and empowerment of diaspora organizations and their networks

 **Project amount: €1.6 million**  
**AFD grant: €1.2 million**

This project aims to connect migration stakeholders both here and abroad. Through capacity-building initiatives for organizations, **FORIM**, known as the principal representative of diaspora and migrant associations, seeks to strengthen international solidarity efforts led by migrant organizations. These efforts are part of long-term strategic alliances that can amplify their contributions toward the Sustainable Development Goals.

# Other AFD Group financing to support CSOs in 2024

**Grants from the sectoral divisions of AFD's Sustainable Development Solutions division (SDD)**

**€148 M**

in grants, mainly via calls for projects, including €51.8 M of funds delegated by the European Union.

## Thematic breakdown



### Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

Created in 2000, **CEPF** aims to preserve the ecological integrity of 36 biodiversity hotspots that are among the most threatened in the world. It provides funding and long-term capacity building for local populations, organized as CSOs, while aligning with national priorities.

According to its 2023 annual report, CEPF supported 2,735 CSOs in 112 countries (in 25 of the 36 hotspots), contributing to improved conservation of more than 55 million hectares and the protection of 17.1 million hectares within these hotspots.

In 2024, €26.5 million was allocated through an EU delegated fund (€21.5 million) and an AFD grant (€5 million) to support conservation efforts in four priority hotspots – Indo-Burma, Eastern Melanesia, the Brazilian Cerrado and the Mountains of Central Asia – and to establish a CEPF emergency response mechanism for interventions following natural disasters.



## The Minka Instrument

### 🏛️ Civil Society Innovation Fund 2 Program in Ethiopia

💶 Amount of the project and Minka grant: €4.5 million

This flagship initiative to protect and expand civic space in Ethiopia plays a key role in supporting local civil society organizations (CSOs) and advancing aid localization. One of its components involves providing technical and financial support to 23 emerging Ethiopian CSOs, grouped into six consortia, to strengthen their work on peacebuilding, democratic dialogue, and the promotion of fundamental rights.

€89 M

in grants for 15 French and international CSOs.



## Expertise France

### 🏛️ PRIM: Regional Program for Migration Initiatives in Morocco

💶 Project amount: €3 million  
Expertise France grant: €2 million

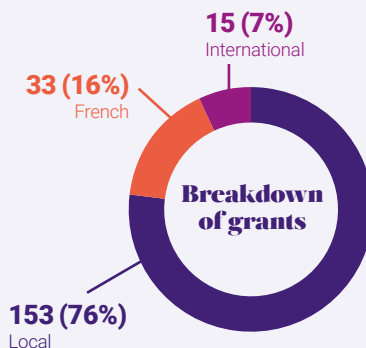
Led by the Migration and Development program (AFD financing – €9 million), the PRIM project is contributing to the implementation of Morocco's migration policy at regional level. The activities are mainly implemented by CSOs, in conjunction with local authorities and diaspora associations, third-country nationals, and local associations. The objective is to promote migration as a factor of development in areas in the Souss-Massa and Oriental regions. It provides funding for concrete initiatives, most of which are led by civil society organizations working on migration and development. These initiatives are aligned with regional, provincial and municipal development plans related to migration. To this end, local stakeholders (including decentralized state services and public agencies) are involved in project selection, drawing on their in-depth knowledge of local needs and realities.



€90 M

76% allocated to 153 local CSOs.

### Typology of CSOs benefiting from Expertise France grants





## French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM)

Six large-scale projects have been implemented for international, French and local CSOs on issues including biodiversity, the sustainable management of agricultural and forest land, climate change, etc.

**€10 M**  
in grants.


### Côte d'Ivoire - Creation of a "Zero Deforestation" sector

 **Project amount: €3 million – FFEM grant: €1.5 million**

The "Équité cacao" project, co-financed by the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and AFD, is led by the CSO Commerce Équitable France in partnership with Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières. It aims to develop a zero-deforestation cocoa supply chain that benefits small-scale producers in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. The project draws on fair trade networks to support the adoption of agroecological practices and help producers comply with new anti-deforestation regulations in the targeted areas.

## Fund for Innovation in Development (FID)

### Madagascar - Improving learning outcomes by promoting menstrual hygiene

 **Amount of the project and FID grant: €1.5 million**

In Madagascar, the NGO CARE is implementing the Kilonga program to improve menstrual hygiene. By combining health facilities, awareness-raising, training, and an innovative approach using "Young Girl Leaders" to tackle stigma, this project has had a positive impact on the academic success of girls. An evaluation is currently being conducted in 140 schools, and the authorities are showing interest in scaling it up.

**€14 M**

in grants to CSOs,  
mainly local, American,  
Belgian, Dutch and French.



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



In coordination with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AFD maintained a high level of dialogue and consultation with civil society organizations and foundations. Several events and dialogue platforms helped strengthen ties with partners.

## February

### **"Champions of Education" seminars with the Education Coalition**

Since their launch in 2018, the Education Champions initiative, co-organized by AFD and the Coalition Éducation, has aimed to promote cooperation and facilitate the exchange of practices and operational recommendations on education challenges in partner countries, with the goal of strengthening education policies and programs.

### **Conference on responsible tourism**

AFD supports the NGO AFRAT in creating the first long-distance hiking trail network in the Middle East, promoting exchanges, research and knowledge sharing. The project aims to boost rural economic development through hiking tourism.

## March

### **Conference on feminism in Tunis**

AFD hosted the photo exhibition "Our Rights, Our Struggle, Our Future", which explores the link between the Sustainable Development Goals and human rights. Over the past ten years, the AFD-FIDH partnership has supported 250 civil society organizations in 120 countries, promoting women's rights and fighting impunity affecting vulnerable populations.

### **Conference on diabetes**

Organized by AFD Group, Santé Diabète and the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF), the conference provided an opportunity to reflect on how to integrate care for diabetes/HIV and diabetes/tuberculosis comorbidities in order to strengthen health systems and improve access to care.

### **Joint organization of a conference with the Water Solidarity Program (pS-Eau)**

## April

### **Organization of a conference on nutrition with GRET**

## June

### **15th anniversary of the CSO division**

## November

### **Festisol (Solidarity Festival) hosted at AFD**

## December

### **Participation in the Press Freedom Awards ceremony in Washington**

### **Organization of Microprojects Day with La Guilde européenne du Raid**

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## Toward a world in common

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AFD Group finances and drives the transition to a fairer, safer and more resilient world, working with its partners to support communities all over the world. Drawing on the complementary strengths of its entities — Agence Française de Développement for public financing, Proparco for responsible private investment, and Expertise France for technical expertise — the Group is ideally positioned to meet all sustainable development challenges. Working in over 160 countries, including France's Overseas Territories, the Group adapts its operations to the realities on the ground, actively supporting local initiatives.

With over 4,000 projects, whose objectives are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AFD Group works on behalf of the French people, together with all stakeholders committed to economic development and the preservation of common goods: climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality and global health. Working by your side, toward a world in common.



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