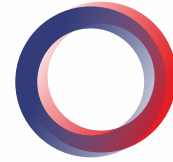




RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



AFD
AGENCE FRANÇAISE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT



Ukraine

4 FLAGSHIP PROJECTS SUPPORTING
CIVIL SOCIETY

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HOW DOES AFD SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY IN UKRAINE?

Since the beginning of Russia's war of aggression, **Ukrainian civil society organizations have played a central role in strengthening the country's resilience.** Working in close proximity to local communities, they help maintain essential services, protect the most vulnerable groups, defend fundamental rights, and preserve social and democratic cohesion in a context of prolonged crisis.

AFD supports these actors through partnerships with French and Ukrainian civil society organizations, notably via the Initiatives OSC mechanism and projects that include an implementation component tailored to the Ukrainian context. These interventions address

urgent needs while embedding action within a longer-term perspective of **sustainable reconstruction and European convergence.**

The projects supported focus on key priorities such as the energy resilience of essential services, child protection and mental health, the defence of human rights and equality, and the preservation of a free and independent information space. By strengthening the capacities of local organisations and fostering cooperation with regional and international networks, **AFD helps consolidate a dynamic civil society as a key driver of Ukraine's economic, social and environmental recovery.**

Since 2009, AFD has been mobilizing its financing in support of Ukrainian civil society, with 7 projects supported and €2.7 million committed in the country. The brochure below presents some of the flagship projects currently underway.

THE FLAGSHIP PROJECTS



Energy

In a context of prolonged war, the **PHENIX project** aims to strengthen the **resilience of essential services** in Ukraine while anticipating the country's reconstruction.

Implemented by the French NGO **Électriciens sans Frontières**, the project aims to deploy decentralized energy solutions that will not only enable the country to better withstand Russian attacks in the immediate term, but also to work towards a sustainable energy transition in the long term. It supports local civil society organisations by strengthening their capacities to design and implement community-based renewable energy projects.

Ten essential facilities in the health, education and agriculture sectors, located in several western Ukrainian oblasts, will be equipped with hybrid solar solutions. The project will benefit more than **60,000 people** by ensuring autonomous, reliable and sustainable access to electricity.



PHENIX – Strengthening essential services resilience through sustainable, low-carbon energy solutions

Project fully implemented in Ukraine



French civil society partner:
Électriciens sans Frontières



Ukrainian civil society partners:
Medical Aid Committee of Zakarpattia (CAMZ) and Transcarpathian Association for Local Development (ATDL)



Child protection

Deployed in Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia, the project "Childhood without Violence" operates in geopolitical contexts that undermine children's mental health. This project aims to **prevent violence** and **strengthen their psychosocial resilience**.

In Ukraine, since the beginning of the conflict in 2022, the first phase has allowed the creation of **Resilience Spaces** (physical, mobile and online), offering psychosocial support to thousands of children and families facing major cognitive disorders. **Phase 2**, currently underway, systematizes this approach to support child victims of trauma in the mobilization of their internal and external resources.

Implemented by the Ukrainian CSO, **Women's Consortium of Ukraine (WCU)**, the project strengthens the capacities of child professionals in the regions of Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Odessa and Kharkiv. Its objective is to establish **sustainable child protection practices** and **improve psychosocial follow-up methodologies**, in order to meet the specific needs of children living in conflict zones.



Enfance sans Violences – Strengthening the psychosocial resilience of children affected by conflict

Multi-country project implemented in 2 phases (Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia)



French civil society partner:
Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE)



Ukrainian civil society partners:
Women's Consortium of Ukraine (WCU)



Tackling inequalities

Implemented across several countries in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, the FIER-ES project aims to **strengthen the capacities and resilience of LGBTQIA+ organizations and activists** facing rising discrimination and hate speech.

In Ukraine, where the war significantly increases the vulnerability of LGBTQIA+ people, the project supports local organizations through **organizational capacity-building, advocacy actions and psychosocial support**.

Implemented by the French NGO ERIM, the project helps improve the safety, mental health and operational capacity of activists, while promoting a more inclusive perception of LGBTQIA+ communities. It also aligns with the reform dynamics undertaken by Ukraine as part of its path towards **closer integration with the European Union**.



FIER-ES – Promoting inclusion, equality and resilience for LGBTQIA+ people

Multi-country project implemented in the Balkans and Eastern Europe



French civil society partner:
ERIM (IREX Europe)

Ukrainian civil society partners:
GENDERDOC Moldova et ERA – LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Türkiye



Ukrainian CSOs beneficiary
local LGBTQIA+ organizations and initiatives



Freedom of the press

Implemented worldwide, this project led by Reporters sans frontières aims to defend **the right to free, reliable and pluralistic information**, a cornerstone of civil societies.

In Ukraine, where journalists are directly targeted by violence linked to the conflict and face an unprecedented information war, the project provides strengthened support to independent media and information professionals. It combines **emergency protection, legal assistance, psychosocial support and capacity-building**, in close cooperation with Ukrainian partner organizations.

The project also supports **advocacy actions and efforts to combat impunity**, in order to preserve media independence and guarantee citizens' access to quality information, both in times of war and in the context of democratic reconstruction.



Defending and promoting the right to reliable information

Multi-country project supporting independent journalism



French civil society partner:
Reporters sans frontières (RSF)



Ukrainian civil society partners:
independent media actors and networks (AIRPPU, IMI, Lviv Media Forum)

For a world in common

AFD Group contributes to the implementation of France's policies for sustainable development and international solidarity. The Group includes Agence Française de Développement (AFD), which finances the public sector, NGOs, research and training; its subsidiary Proparco, which is dedicated to the private sector; and Expertise France, a technical cooperation agency. The Group finances, supports and accelerates the transitions needed for a fairer, more resilient world.

With our partners, we are building shared solutions with and for the people in more than 150 countries, as well as in 11 French Overseas Departments and Territories. As part of the commitment of France and the French people to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, our teams are at work on more than 4,200 projects in the field. Our objective is to reconcile economic development with the preservation of common goods, from peace, the climate and biodiversity to health, education and gender equality. Towards a world in common.

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