

STUDIES AND RESEARCH

SECTOR OVERVIEW 2025



Providing insight on the ecological transition, economic diversification, and social inclusion

In 2025, our research continued its focus on the major challenges of sustainable development, with special attention paid to biodiversity, climate, natural resources, agriculture, and food security. Our research also expanded on the issues of fragility, crises, conflicts, and the dynamics behind inequalities.

2025 trends

- A conference on France's overseas territories and their place in their respective regions, held ahead of the UN Ocean Conference.
- The extension of the European Union–AFD Facility on Inequalities: more operational and focused on investments and infrastructure (2026-2028.)
- A new research focus on development financing and geopolitics.

Key figures

62

studies and research projects were launched in 2025 covering **26** partner countries and territories.



50

are conducted through contracts with partners such as research institutes, universities, think tanks, consulting firms, etc. (**€4.5 M**)

27

involving at least one partner from the **Global South**

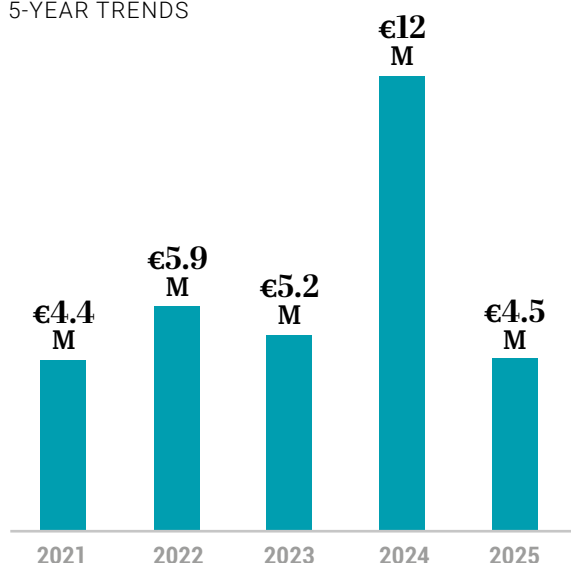
20

involving French partners

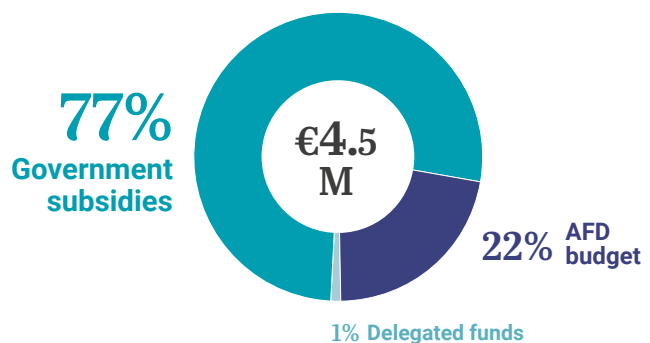


Trends in AFD Group commitments

5-YEAR TRENDS



SOURCE OF FUNDING



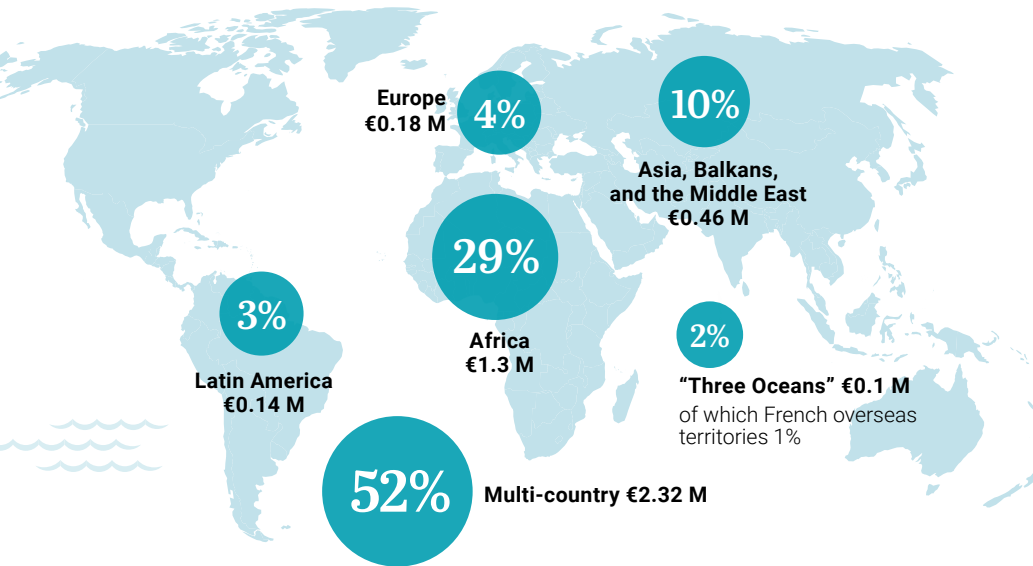
After a peak in activity in 2024 because of two research projects on the French overseas territories with exceptionally high funding amounts, 2025 saw a return to normal trends. The funds for 2025 projects came mainly from the French government (budget line 209) the AFD general budget, and – to a lesser extent – European Union delegated funds.

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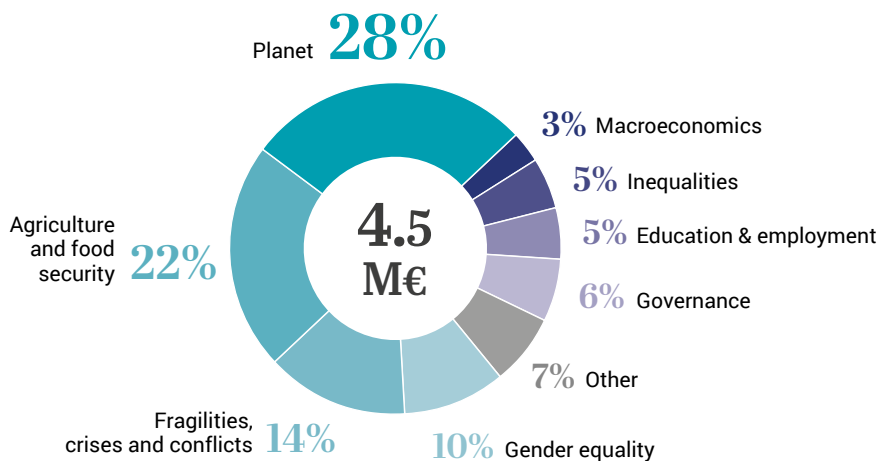
SECTOR OVERVIEW 2025

On the ground

AMOUNTS ALLOCATED TO STUDIES AND RESEARCH PROJECTS
UNDER CONTRACT, BY REGION



BREAKDOWN BY THEME



Fostering dialogue between researchers and experts to drive action



The partnerships forged by AFD among researchers, development practitioners, and public policymakers are designed to fulfil its ambition of putting research into action by producing rigorous and useful knowledge to help develop projects and public policies for sustainable development.

92

opinion pieces and
publications in 2025,
including:

“L'économie africaine 2025”

AI, climate change, armed conflicts... Exclusive analyses of the socioeconomic challenges facing Africa in 2025 (in French.)



Reducing Inequalities

Recommendations based on research conducted in South Africa, Colombia, Indonesia, and Mexico.



Three flagship projects

Middle East Reconstruction Observatory

This Ifri-led observatory analyzes the conditions for future reconstruction in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria, as well as the role of external actors.



The SIMCA Model

This model simulates the short- and medium-term effects of various scenarios for the development of New Caledonia's economy.



Track Adapt

This project, conducted with the University of Cape Town and IDDRI, analyzes the adaptation efforts in Cape Town and Nelson Mandela Bay to deal with drought and coastal erosion risks.



Did you know?

“Savoirs AFD” is AFD Group's news feed dedicated to sharing, promoting, and fostering discussion about development-related knowledge, in the form of studies, events, podcasts, and more.

Discover our
latest news

