



Health and social protection

ACTIVITY REPORT

2024



Ecological, social, and geopolitical crises are increasingly interconnected on an international scale, illustrating the growing convergence of global issues. As a result, the path to sustainable development and global stability is fraught with challenges, requiring cross-sectoral responses more than ever before.

This is made clear in the Lancet Countdown's 2024 Report, which reveals record-level health risks linked to climate change, emphasizing the urgency to engage in an energy transition that involves investing in more resilient health systems.

The health and social protection sectors were at the heart of emerging countries' concerns in 2024, proof of a growing demand for inclusive and resilient systems, especially to deal with climate shocks. At the same time, these sectors have also become central concerns for areas of crisis or vulnerability. AFD Group has been able to provide differentiated responses to its partners by adapting its offer to their requests and to the specific nature of each context.

Facing a world in crisis, AFD, Expertise France (EF), and Proparco are showing their ability to adapt and innovate. For example, by working with Team France, AFD Group now has an integrated offer that combines financing from the public and private sectors and that also mobilizes expertise adapted to the needs expressed both in partner countries and in the French overseas territories.

Our activities in 2024 reflect our partners' concern for harmonious development, in which health and social protection are intrinsically linked to environmental challenges, in order to achieve a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

AFD Group's priorities in healthcare and social protection

AFD Group activities are fully aligned with France's global health strategy for 2023-2027. It is continuing its investments in universal healthcare coverage and stronger social protection and health systems, with a focus on three priorities and increased support for human resources in health.

→ Our strategic priorities



1

Promote common goods in health

- Strengthen health-related regulatory institutions and frameworks.
- Support access to quality health products, from production and distribution to use.
- Improve health security using the "One Health" approach, which integrates human, animal, and environmental health.
- Promote education, prevention, and health – in particular sexual and reproductive rights – and support the response to the HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria pandemics.

2



Support the development of a resilient and sustainable healthcare offer

- Support local, integrated, and patient-focused healthcare.
- Develop low-carbon and climate-resilient healthcare facilities.
- Strengthen the availability and quality of human resources in health.

3

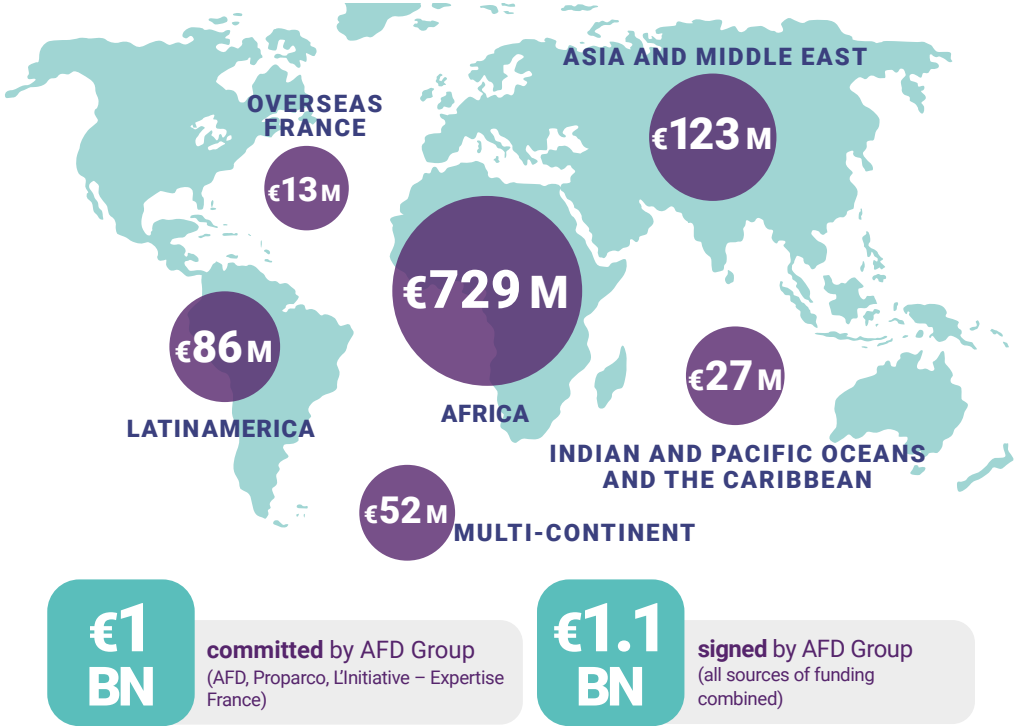


Strengthen social protection to fight poverty and inequality

- Strengthen social protection systems and make them adaptable to protect people from shocks, especially climate-related.
- Support environmental transitions.
- Develop programs for social action, economic inclusion, and care.

Our health and social protection commitments in 2024

Breakdown of AFD Group commitments by region



Our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals



Target 1.3

31 million people

will benefit from better social protection thanks to projects financed by AFD in 2024

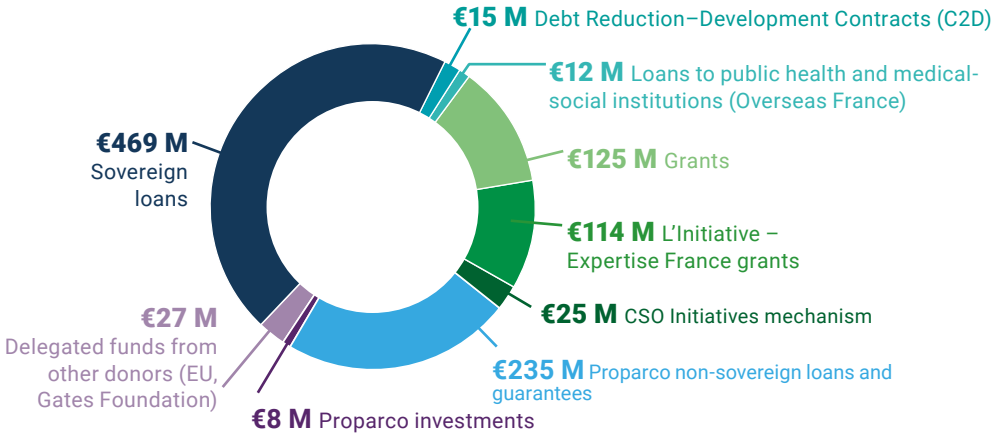


Target 3.8

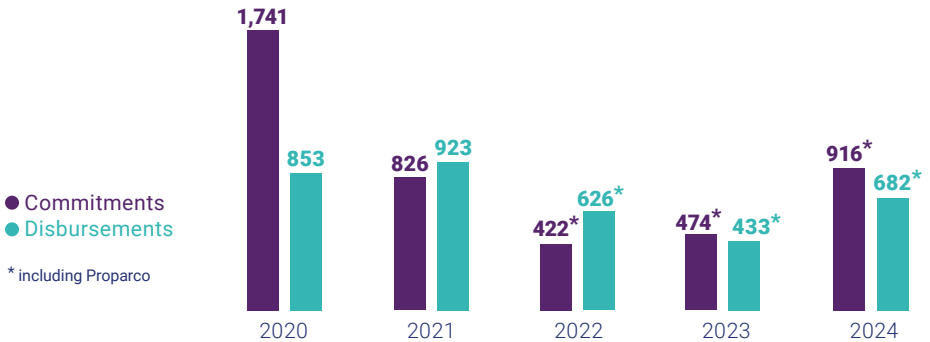
5.7 million people

will obtain better access to healthcare thanks to projects financed by AFD in 2024

Breakdown of AFD Group commitments per financial instrument



Trends in AFD commitments and disbursements (€ M)



Target 5.1

97%

of AFD's commitments aim for positive impact on gender equality

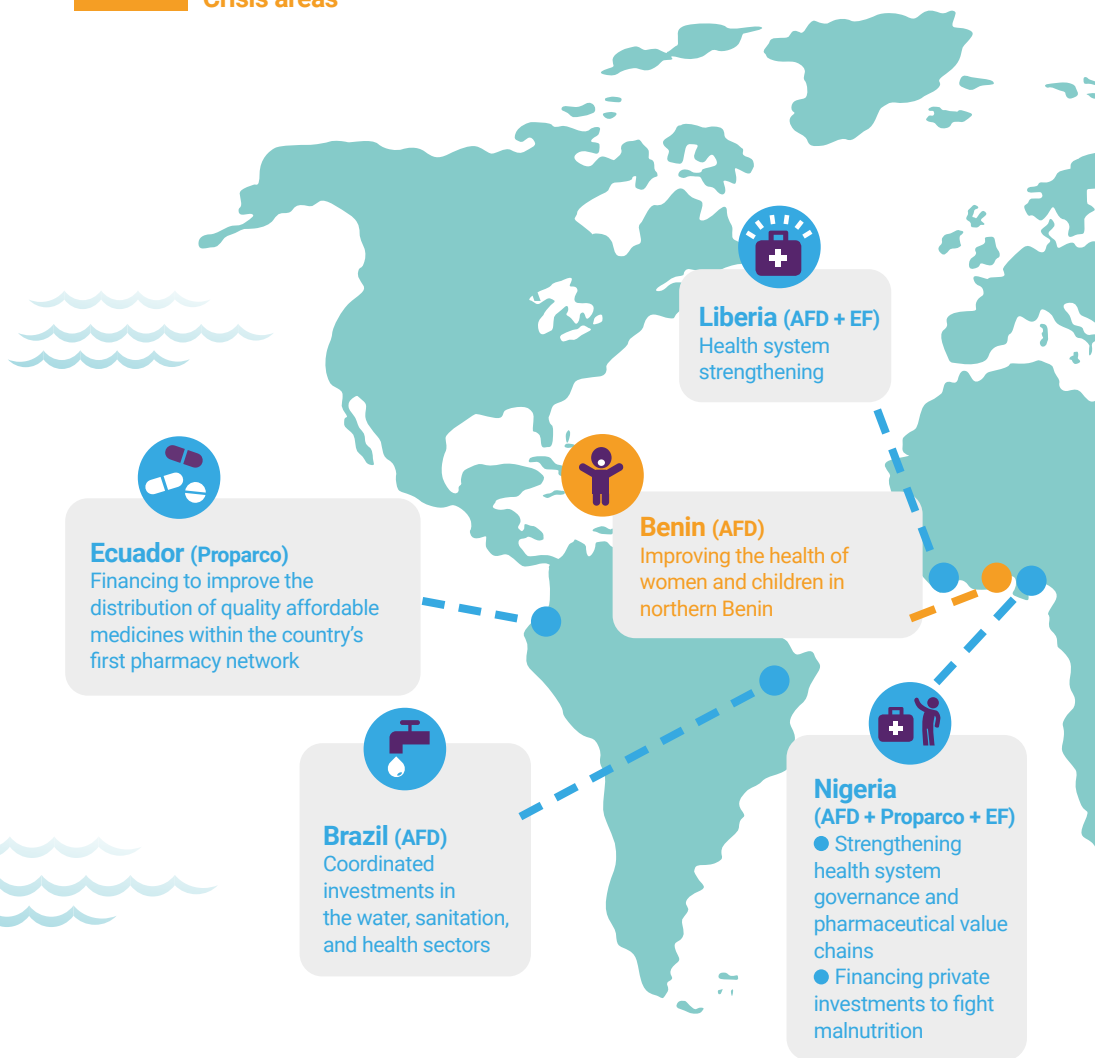


Target 13.2

74%

of AFD's commitments contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation

Requests for support in new areas



In 2024, AFD Group provided support to countries with diverse development contexts and trajectories. For example, AFD Group has demonstrated its ability to meet its partners' requests for support in healthcare and social protection, both in crisis areas and in emerging countries, thanks to its unique combination of financing and expertise.



Common goods in health

AFD Group continues to invest in the basics of health systems, focusing on healthcare products, laboratories, and the integrated “One Health” approach.

€356 M

committed to promoting common goods in health in 2024



African Union

Supporting the continental “One Health” strategy

AFD is supporting the “New Public Health Order” by bolstering Africa CDC, the African Union’s public health agency. Through its approach integrating human, animal, and ecosystem health, AFD is working to prevent and better respond to epidemics.

France (through AFD Group) and Germany are supporting Africa CDC in a joint European Union – African Union program to develop the continent’s health sovereignty, strengthen health security, and combat antimicrobial resistance.

Grants: €1 M AFD,
€2.6 M Germany,
€10 M European Union



Brazil

Improving water resource management to promote health

AFD supports Brazil’s development trajectory towards a low-carbon, resilient, and equitable model. In the state of Bahia, AFD is financing a cross-sectoral approach between water and health to reduce waterborne diseases linked to climate change.

AFD investments are helping to establish drinking water supply systems and the improvement of water resource management and primary healthcare services. The project aims to mitigate the effects of climate change on water availability and quality and to reduce the spread of waterborne and climate-sensitive diseases.

Loan: €132 M



OSH FORUM

Uniting on “One Health” challenges

Since 2021, the One Sustainable Health (OSH) Forum, supported by AFD, has united international transdisciplinary experts on “One Health” challenges. The second edition, held in 2024 in Dakar, was dedicated to the challenges of the health–environment–social nexus, with a focus on priorities and solutions in Africa. At the OSH Forum, AFD recalled the growing interconnection between climate, social, and economic upheavals that affect human, animal, and environmental health. These experiences can help Africa pioneer a new approach to global health focused on public health fundamentals.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

In line with France's strategy, AFD acts to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights and the empowerment of women and girls.

€82 M

committed to promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights in 2024



Benin

Improving the health of women and children in northern Benin



Benin faces a variety of health challenges: weak human resources in health, stagnant maternal and infant indicators, and gaps in infrastructure between urban and rural areas. Northern Benin, which suffers from a shortage of skilled personnel in obstetrics and neonatology, has high rates of maternal and infant mortality. This project, implemented by Médecins du Monde Switzerland, aims to improve the health of women and children in the region, supporting the proactive policies launched by the national authorities.

Grant: €9.9 M

Argentina, Benin, Kenya, Uganda, Madagascar, Mexico, DRC, and Senegal

Improving the effective exercise of bodily autonomy in sexual and reproductive health



Bodily autonomy is a fundamental human right, but only 55% of women worldwide can make decisions about their health, contraception, and sexual life. This has serious consequences on their lives. This project of the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations improves knowledge about rights and access to quality care. It supports about 100 civil society organizations working for the right to bodily autonomy in sexual and reproductive health.

Grant: €6 M

Tanzania and Kenya

Improving care for women's cancers in East Africa



In East Africa, cancer has become one of the leading causes of death. The East Africa Cancer Care project improves cancer care via awareness-raising, diagnosis, training, research, and the modernization of national strategies. The project targets women's cancers (breast and cervical) and brings together eight public and four private non-profit facilities in Kenya and Tanzania. French experts from Institut Curie and an oncology specialist contribute to the project, which is implemented by the Aga Khan Development Network along with the public authorities of both Kenya and Tanzania. This project is the result of a partnership between AFD, the Aga Khan Development Network, and the Gates Foundation to improve maternal and infant health.

Grants: €4.2 M AFD, €3 M Gates Foundation, and €2 M Aga Khan Development Network

Human resources in health

A global shortage of 18 million health workers is expected by 2030, which is why strengthening development policies on health human resources is a priority for France. In 2024, AFD Group worked to meet this objective by mobilizing French expertise, which is recognized internationally.

68%

of the funds committed in 2024 to the health sector contribute to strengthening human resources in health



Multi-country

Supporting modernization of health human resources management and training



This funding helps health training institutes and programs in sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. It helps identify and support innovative projects that respond to the projected healthcare worker shortage by improving the availability, quality, accessibility and attractiveness of jobs, and the loyalty of healthcare professionals. This program, supported by Expertise France, strengthens training curricula by including awareness-raising on climate issues and gender inequalities within a predominantly female job sector.

Grant: €6.1 M

Rwanda

Supporting health system strength and sustainability



To support Rwanda's "4x4 Reform" strategy to quadruple the number of health professionals in the country in four years and develop primary and community health, Team France is financing training schools, curricula, national and French scholarships, trainer recruitment, and equipment. Team France also works to ensure access to healthcare for vulnerable population segments by targeting the reduction of inequalities, drug-related risks, and young people's mental health.

Loan of €35 M and grant of €9 M from AFD and L'Initiative – EF

Training the medical personnel of tomorrow



Senegal

In Senegal, Proparco is partnering with Admaius Capital Partners to support the St. Christopher Iba Mar Diop College of Medicine. Founded in Dakar in 2003, this top medical training institution in French-speaking Africa currently trains more than 2,000 students in the fields of medicine, pharmacy, and dentistry. This work is crucial in a country where there is only one doctor for every 10,000 inhabitants. St. Christopher University, where the majority of students are female, promotes women's access to higher education and qualified medical careers.

Equity investment: €7.5 M

Healthcare services

AFD Group supports the development of locally based healthcare focused on the patient, and it gives priority to financing low-carbon infrastructure resilient to climate change.

€287 M

committed to improving healthcare services in 2024



Kazakhstan

Building a major hospital in the city of Kokshetau



Cooperation in the health sector is a priority of AFD Group's mandate in Kazakhstan. Together with several other financial institutions, Proparco is co-financing the country's first public-private partnership (PPP) health facility. This loan will be used to build a major hospital in Kokshetau according to the best practices and technologies in green building, as well as to support its management. The hospital will serve more than 730,000 people.

Loan: €60 M

Ukraine

Addressing the mental health and disability consequences of conflict



In early 2024, AFD was authorized to start operations in Ukraine. An initial project in the priority region of Odessa has the goal of renovating three rehabilitation services and building a mental health center to respond to the consequences of the war. The project includes the training of health workers, in partnership with the NGO Superhumans, which specializes in amputee care. It will also help operationalize ministerial reforms in mental health and functional rehabilitation. It is implemented by Expertise France with French public partners (AP-HP Foundation) as part of a program funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs crisis center.

Grant: €5 M

Palestine

Improving access to healthcare in East Jerusalem



This project supports the modernization and expansion of St. Joseph's Hospital in East Jerusalem by increasing its capacity from 155 to 225 beds. It is co-financed by the EU via PEEB Med (Programme for Energy Efficiency in Buildings in the Mediterranean) to provide energy-efficient and climate-resilient infrastructure. A training component for medical personnel is also included, with support from European experts.

Grant: €12 M and €1 M European Union PEEB Med

Social protection

Social protection policies are powerful tools to support climate change adaptation and ensure social justice.

€357 M

committed to social protection systems in six countries in 2024



South Africa

Developing models for a just energy transition



Despite its status as Africa's leading economy, South Africa is facing climate and socioeconomic challenges that are holding back its development. In response, its government is undertaking an energy transition with support from AFD. This financing seeks to strengthen governance, promote sustainable and accessible energy, diversify the economy, and improve employment, with plans to create 10,000 jobs and support inclusive entrepreneurship. The project also includes a program to reduce gender inequality through support for vulnerable women and women's enterprise.

Loan of €400 M and a grant of €1.5 M

Supporting mandatory health insurance expansion



Morocco

The goal of this program is to expand mandatory health insurance to more people. It targets currently excluded population segments, such as self-employed and domestic workers, most of whom are women. By 2027, it plans to expand coverage from 27 million to 30 million people, out of a total population of 38 million. This loan is accompanied by a grant managed by Expertise France to strengthen the institutions responsible for the reform, including the newly created High Authority for Health.

Loan of €100 M and a grant of €2.6 M

France – Réunion

Supporting an aging population



AFD is guiding the Réunion Departmental Council in its "Grand Âge" strategy to develop solutions adapted to older adults, promoting autonomy in their life choices, actions to plan for old-age dependency, and the development of innovative care. This partnership takes advantage of the economic opportunities of aging, particularly in terms of employment, while also responding to its financial challenges. With AFD, the departmental government of Réunion is strengthening its commitment to solidarity-based care for older adults.

Grant: €600,000

Nutrition

To combat malnutrition, AFD Group is mobilizing its expertise in health, social protection, agriculture, water, sanitation and education.

€214 M

committed to promoting
nutritional security in 2024



Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean

Supporting public policies for nutrition



The EU4SUN project supports some 30 countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean in implementing sustainable nutrition strategies. The project is led by Expertise France and the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Public Administration and Policy (FIIAPP) and involves governments, civil society, young people, international partners, and the private sector on nutrition issues. Its activities include evaluating the cost of malnutrition in Senegal, strengthening the advocacy of a youth network in Côte d'Ivoire, evaluating Togo's strategic nutrition plan, and creating a nutrition information platform in Guinea.

Grant: €6.4 M European Union

Event – N4G

The Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris



On March 27 and 28, 2025, France hosted the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) summit, a global event organized every four years by the host country of the Olympic Games. This event mobilizes governments, private players, and civil society in support of nutrition. AFD Group, which is committed to fighting malnutrition, is actively involved.

Nigeria

Increasing local production of therapeutic foods



In Nigeria, one of the countries most affected by malnutrition in sub-Saharan Africa, Proparco finances NutriK, a subsidiary of the French company Nutriset, a leader in the production of emergency therapeutic food. NutriK will be able to develop its therapeutic food production and R&D activity. The company will also strengthen its cooperation with local peanut producers.

Loan: €2 M

The Philippines

Informing food aid programs through research



AFD supports the Philippine program *Walang Gutom 2027* ("Zero Hunger 2027"). Designed and implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, this program provides food and nutrition aid to the most vulnerable Filipino households to reduce food insecurity and build resilience.

A pilot phase that included impact evaluation revealed the need to increase the value of food stamps, to review their composition in order to increase the share of proteins, and to increase awareness on good dietary practices.

Working with **civil society**

L'Initiative, managed by Expertise France, supports French and local civil society organizations (CSOs) to improve pandemic responses. In 2024, it continued to support those involved in combating HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria pandemics and to back up health systems, including community-based health systems, as well as operational research.

€114 M

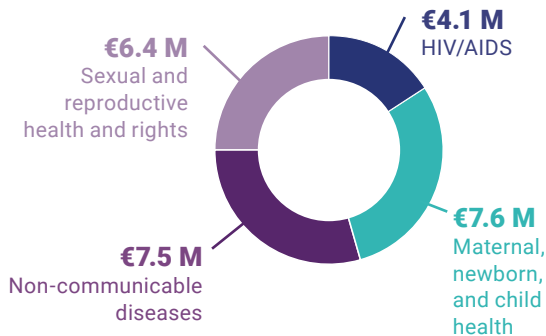
committed by L'Initiative to combat pandemics



AFD uses a dedicated mechanism to finance and support the initiatives of CSOs in France and the Global South.



€25 M
committed through
13 CSO initiatives
in France and
the Global South
in the health sector



Countries: Madagascar and the Union of the Comoros



Improving access to pediatric heart surgery care

AFD is co-financing a project by the NGO *La Chaîne de l'Espoir* to improve access to pediatric heart surgery care in Madagascar and the Comoros. The project combines community prevention, strengthening of health facilities, training of professionals, and care for children with heart conditions. The project includes the facilitation of a subregional community of practices, internships abroad, training, and on-site mentorship missions for surgical operations.

Grant: €1.4 M

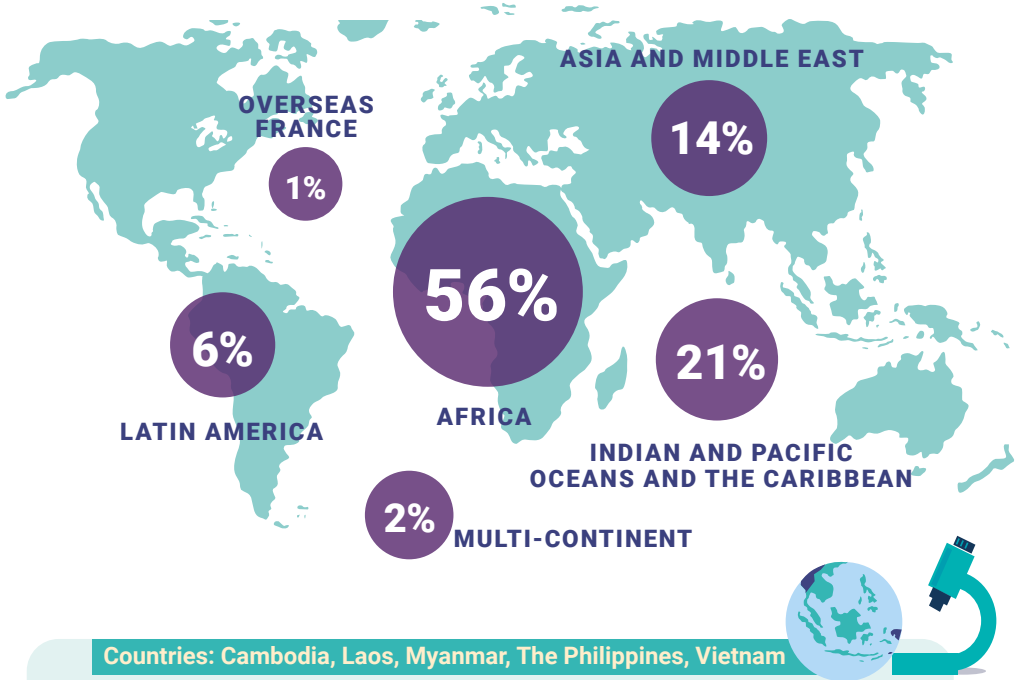
Portfolio of projects in progress



214

AFD projects in progress for a total financing amount of €3.5 BN, including €1.6 BN yet to be disbursed

Breakdown by region



Developing capacities for the surveillance of, and response to, emerging diseases

The second phase of the ECOMORE project (ECONomic development, ecosystem MO-difications, and emerging infectious diseases Risk Evaluation) is led by the Institut Pasteur in Paris. It has strengthened a network of partners in Southeast Asia, improved monitoring, and boosted national and regional cooperation via a "One Health" approach. It is now possible to better understand the changes in ecological mechanisms caused by the region's rapid economic development, which is responsible for the emergence of infectious diseases, and to measure the health risks for local communities.

Grant: €6 M

Project completed in 2024

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 and Departments, 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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