



# Health and social protection

ACTIVITY REPORT

2023



**T**he year 2023 was rich in strategic developments in the health and social protection sectors, both in France and around the world.

In France, the Presidential Development Council and the Inter-ministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development laid down the key priorities for the country's development actions. France's new global health strategy constitutes an operational roadmap for AFD Group operations, which focus on the human resources needed to achieve universal health coverage.

Meanwhile, 2023 saw widespread recognition of the role of health and social protection in meeting global challenges. At COP28, an entire day was devoted for the first time to the interactions between health and climate change. Health and social protection are now a core aspect of the climate agenda and constitute an asset to promote the social acceptability of ecological transitions.

In line with these priorities, AFD Group continues to strive for adaptive and inclusive health and social protection systems, which are crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Thanks to their wide range of technical and financial tools, AFD, Proparco, and Expertise France offer their partners solutions tailored to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges.

# AFD Group's priorities in health and social protection

---

**Two issues are at the heart of the 2023-2027 France's global health strategy and the 2023 Inter-ministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development: human resources for health and pandemic preparedness and response in a "One Health" approach.**

In line with this strategy, and through its investments, AFD continues to promote universal health coverage and stronger social protection and health systems through three key priorities.

## Our priorities for action



### Common goods for health

AFD Group provides support to institutions that carry out essential functions for health systems, such as regulation, epidemiological surveillance, and health promotion. The roll-out of a One Health approach - which incorporates human, animal, and environmental health - represents the common thread of its actions.



### Service delivery: human resources and resilient infrastructure

In light of the worldwide shortage of healthcare personnel, AFD Group helps countries in their efforts to improve the quality and quantity of human resources in this sector. In order to improve the quality of service delivery, AFD Group combines its human resources-oriented actions with investments in lower-emission and more sustainable infrastructure.

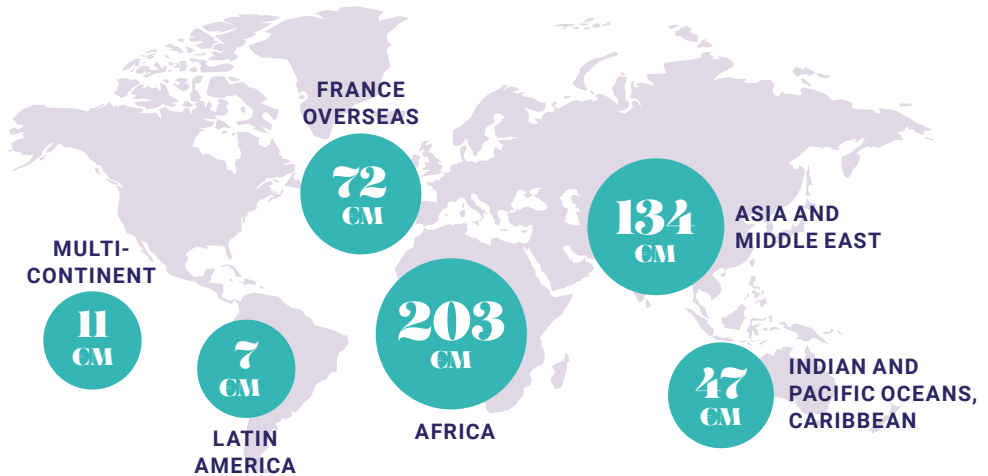


### Social protection systems

AFD Group works to strengthen and reform national social protection systems. The aim is to protect individuals from life risks and external shocks (e.g., from climate change, economic crises, or epidemics).

# Our health and social protection commitments in 2023

## Breakdown by region



**€474 M**

committed in 2023 by AFD and Proparco



**€430 M**

signed in 2023 by AFD and Proparco

## Our contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals



**Target 2.2**

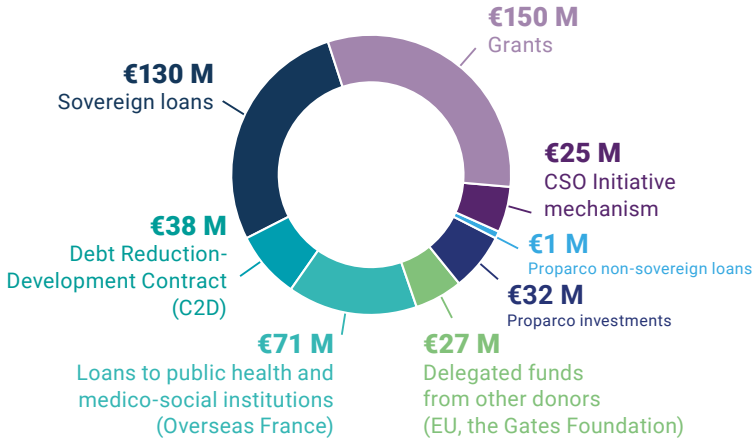
**€160 M** committed to fight malnutrition



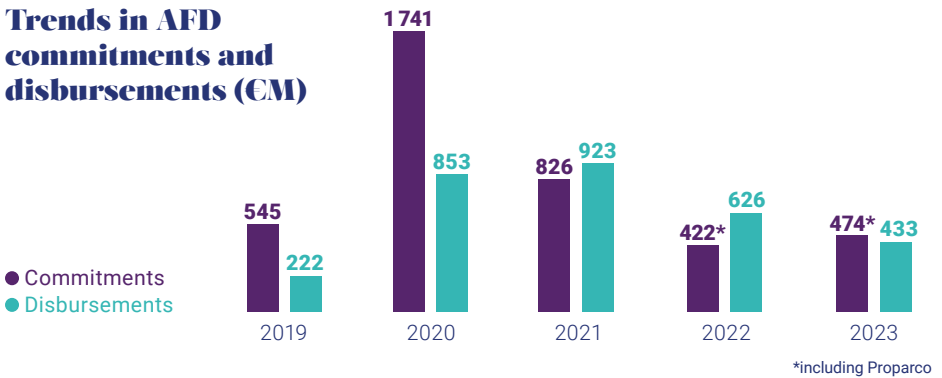
**Target 3.8**

**31 million** people will have better access to care, thanks to AFD-financed projects

## Breakdown by financial tool



## Trends in AFD commitments and disbursements (€M)



**Target 5.1**

**92%** of commitments aim for a positive impact on gender equality



**Target 13.2**

**28%** of commitments promote climate change adaptation and mitigation (including for France's overseas territories)

# Common goods for health

AFD Group continues to invest in public health institutions and health surveillance using a One Health approach.



**€133 M** committed to promote common goods for health in 2023

## Indian and Pacific Oceans, Southeast Asia Strengthening health security and surveillance networks



This project builds upon AFD's long-standing support to health surveillance networks in these regions. It contributes to epidemic prevention, preparedness, and response in partnership with the Indian Ocean Commission, the Pacific Community and the Ecomore program led by the Institut Pasteur in Southeast Asia. Inter-network cooperation helps create communities of practice and boost the capacities of the various networks.

**€15 M grant**

## Pakistan

### A Gates Foundation-AFD partnership for health



AFD has allocated a first round of financing to the Government of Pakistan, to increase the resilience of the health system and the population. It supports the national program to eradicate polio by 2026, with the objective of making the achievements of the polio program sustainable. The partnership focuses on the surveillance of communicable diseases, vaccination, and increasing the involvement of women in health projects. This operation is AFD's first blending of loans and grants with the Gates Foundation.

**\$55 M sovereign loan including \$20 M Gates Foundation grant**



## Capitalizing on our support for laboratories

AFD, which has provided support to bolster health laboratories for many years, carried out a cluster evaluation of such projects financed recently. This evaluation highlighted the benefits of these projects in access to diagnostics, the quality of laboratory services, and epidemiological surveillance capacities in the targeted countries. It has enabled AFD and its key partners to identify the best practices to promote.



## 21 countries supported in 2023 to improve their health surveillance

### Madagascar

#### Expanding health product availability



AFD provides support to Salama, Madagascar's central medical store, to optimize the availability, accessibility, and affordability of health products throughout the country. This project, co-financed by the European Union, seeks to improve Salama's management and investment capacities as well as increase its storage capacities by building new decentralized warehouses.

**€8 M grant + €9 M EU grant**



### Africa

#### Afroscreen – enhancing genomic sequencing in Africa



The Afroscreen project works to enhance genomic sequencing capacities in Africa. It has gradually expanded its surveillance activities from Covid-19 to emerging or re-emerging infectious pathogens, using a One Health approach. The project, which has been implemented by ANRS, IRD and Institut Pasteur since 2021, has culminated in 34 training courses and about 8,000 screening tests in support of 77 sentinel sites in 11 countries. Teams from the African laboratories working on the project were involved in sequencing the monkeypox virus and in dealing with the Marburg epidemic in Equatorial Guinea.



#### A global dialog on climate and health

AFD is involved in international discussions on decarbonizing and adapting the health sector to the challenges of climate change:

- We co-organized the first edition of the "One Sustainable Health for All" forum (Lyon, July 5 to 7) to draw up recommendations on how to put the One Health approach into action;
- We participated in four high-level events at COP28, with special emphasis on highlighting the key role of development banks in supporting the global agenda on health, social protection, and climate change.

# Service delivery

AFD Group is expanding its investments to boost human resources (a crucial issue for health systems), and prioritizes financing low-carbon infrastructure.



**€299 M** committed to improving health services in 2023

## Côte d'Ivoire

### Supporting the national policy for human resources for health



AFD supports the national program for human resources for health launched by the government in 2016. This support seeks to expand, decentralize, and improve the quality of initial and continuous training for medical and paramedical personnel in the country. It also helps bolster the governance and regulation of this sector. Expertise France is implementing a technical assistance program to support these reforms with the use of expertise from the French public sector.

**€36.5 M in C2D**

## South & Southeast Asia

### Supporting the development of the private health sector



In May, Proparco signed an agreement to invest in Quadria Capital's third fund. The goal is to raise and deploy close to US \$1 billion to fund investment by healthcare companies in private hospitals and clinics. This fund contributes to the development of good-quality, affordable, and accessible medical services in areas where they are not available or lacking.

**Equity investment of US \$35 M**



### Promoting our infrastructure expertise internationally

Our participation in international conferences, such as the International Hospital Federation Congress in Lisbon in October 2023, was an opportunity to share AFD Group's experience in supporting low-carbon transitions for hospitals in different settings.





# 13 establishments supported in Overseas France

## Martinique

### Building a facility for people with autism spectrum disorders



AFD financing for the construction of a facility for the Martinique Autism Association will increase available capacity (including for emergency cases), improve reception conditions, and create a space dedicated to care givers. All this will help improve the care provided to people supported by the association.

**€11,6 M loan**

## Rwanda

### Improving access to care in Northern Province



This project supports the modernization of the Musanze referral hospital in Northern Province. The aim is to increase capacity, from 350 to 550 beds. The focus is on completing the hospital's mother-child unit at the heart of its activity. The loan includes a capacity-building component, implemented by Expertise France, for the Rwanda Biomedical Center, the public agency in charge of major investment projects.

**€75 M loan + €4 M grant**



## French Guiana

### Strengthening healthcare services in French Guiana

A loan allocated in 2020 to the Cayenne Hospital Center (CHAR) in French Guiana enabled the launch of renovation and modernization of buildings housing medical and surgical services. CHAR, which is the administrative department's referral hospital, was able to continue providing healthcare services throughout the renovation work.



### Organizing French expertise in the fight against cancer

Following initial collaboration in Tanzania, a partnership between AFD and Institut Curie was signed in June 2023. Its goal is to help organize French expertise to meet the challenges of cancer prevention and care in developing countries.

# Social protection

AFD Group continues to invest in strengthening social protection systems, which are crucial tools for climate adaptation and better social justice.



€42M

committed to social protection systems in eight countries in 2023

## Cambodia

### Bolstering adaptive social insurance



AFD is mobilizing the expertise of the NGO Gret to support the National Social Security Fund of Cambodia in its strategy of extending social insurance coverage to the agricultural sector. Adaptation to climate change is the approach behind the strategy.

€750,000 grant

## Jordan

### Promoting inclusive social services



Expertise France is working to develop inclusive and sustainable social services for Jordanians and refugees. The project includes strengthening for Local Community Development Centers that offer these services as well as support for the Ministry of Social Development in its role of coordinating these centers and the sectoral dialog on social protection. Gender equality and social cohesion are among this project's central themes.

€10 M grant



### Rethinking social protection in the era of climate change

Following COP27, AFD hosted a conference in March 2023 illustrating how social protection can be used to promote the ecological transition and to mitigate the effects of climate change. This approach has already been applied to AFD operations.



**11**  
**million**

people will benefit  
from **better social protection**  
thanks to AFD-financed projects in 2023

**Madagascar, Mauritius, Comoros**

## **Facilitating women's empowerment and reduction of inequalities in the workplace**



AFD is mobilizing Expertise France for a regional program to bolster women's empowerment and reduce gender inequalities in the three targeted countries. This support is provided in both the personal and professional spheres by developing childcare services, organizing the care sector, and improving both working conditions for women and gender equality in the workplace. It will also help start up public policy dialogue with national authorities on these issues.

**€10 M grant**



**Asia and the Pacific**

## **Strengthening communities' resilience to climate change shocks**



Since 2021, AFD has been co-financing the Community Resilience Partnership Program launched by the Asian Development Bank to help people in countries of the region deal with climate change shocks. The partnership stemming from this pooling of resources created dynamics that raised US \$120 million in co-financing from the Green Climate Fund. This funding brought stakeholders in the area to organize public policy dialogs on these issues, and to approve eight projects to increase community resilience in some countries.



## **Developing an offer to support the just energy transition**

To support workers, communities, and regions affected by the withdrawal from fossil fuels, AFD supports the social dialogue and reforms needed to mitigate the inequalities that result from this transition. This support will be developed into financial operations in 2024.

# Sexual and reproductive health and rights

In line with France's strategy, AFD supports actions to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, and to empower women and girls.



€66 M

committed to sexual and reproductive health and rights in 2023

## Multi-country

### Improving menstrual health and hygiene



As part of the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations, AFD supports a consortium of NGOs led by Fos Feminista to reduce the structural factors of menstrual discrimination in nine countries (Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic). This grant supports feminist organizations working to improve young girls' access to health services and menstrual hygiene products. It also encourages local production of those products.

€10 M grant



PROJECT IN PROGRESS

## West Africa

### Promoting a regional approach to sexual and reproductive health



Since 2017, AFD has been supporting the West African Health Organization (WAHO), an ECOWAS specialized agency, in strengthening its actions to promote the health of mothers and youth. WAHO carried out consultation and dialogues with the ECOWAS Member States, which led to the adoption of an ECOWAS Council of Ministers directive in 2022 on sexual and reproductive health. WAHO then worked on promoting and disseminating this directive in 2023. This work will continue in 2024 to ensure its transposition at Member State level.



### AFD at the Women Deliver conference in Rwanda

As a feminist agency, AFD organized a panel discussion at Women Deliver, the international conference to protect the rights of women and gender minorities. This sixth edition of Women Deliver was held in Rwanda, in July. The panel discussion brought together key AFD partners and emphasized the need to "catalyze action to address the neglected challenges of sexual and reproductive health and rights".

# Civil society initiatives

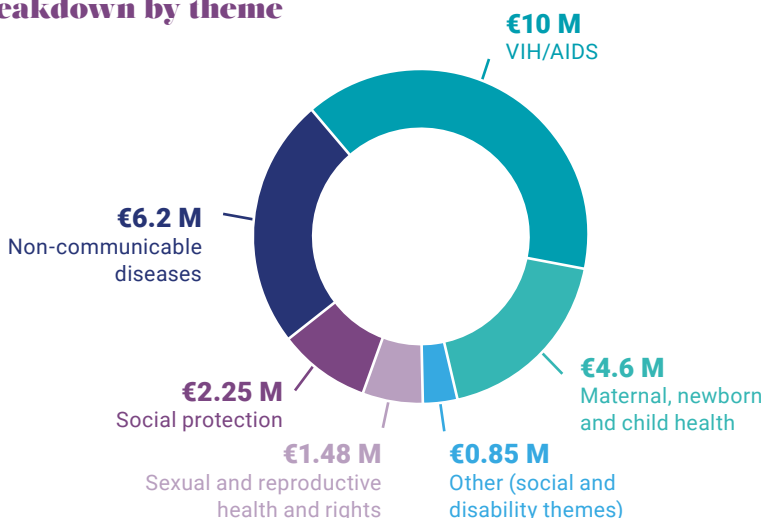
AFD uses a dedicated mechanism to finance the initiatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and their local partners. This mechanism has been open since 2023 to direct funding to NGOs in the Global South.



€25 M

committed through 21 CSO initiatives, both French and from across the Global South in the health and social protection sectors

## Breakdown by theme



### Côte d'Ivoire

## Scaling up the HIV/AIDS response among key populations



AFD co-finances Espace Confiance, an Ivorian NGO fighting HIV/AIDS. The goal is to offer integrated health services, including in mental health, gender identity, and sexual and reproductive health to key populations (men having sex with men, transgender women, etc.) and to ensure that their rights are respected. This is the first time that AFD has provided direct financing for Espace Confiance, which has been a key partner of French NGOs for many years.

€1.2 M grant

# Mobilizing for greater impact

---

The Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, held in Paris in June 2023, called for new forms of cooperation and extra investments in order to achieve the SDGs. By giving priority to co-financing, AFD Group seeks to amplify the impact of its investments.



## Strengthening the partnership with the Gates Foundation

AFD and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have renewed and expanded their partnership to promote gender equality and human development. Health and social protection are at the heart of this alliance. In 2023, this partnership resulted in AFD managing two delegated funds totaling €23 M: one focusing on Pakistan to strengthen its health system and the other on Senegal to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights.



## Develop a “Team Europe” approach

AFD Group is fully involved in developing and implementing regional “Team Europe Initiatives” on health. These initiatives seek to renew the European Union - African Union partnership through coordinated investments in key priorities for both continents.

In 2023, AFD also mobilized a total of €23.5 M in European Union delegated funds in various countries such as Georgia, Madagascar, and Cuba.



## Bringing together banks for climate protection

AFD, co-founder of the Social Investment Coalition of the Finance in Common Summit, is now contributing alongside the World Bank and other regional development banks to the “Development Bank Working Group for Climate-Health Finance” announced at COP28. This working group intends to develop common investment agendas on health and climate issues.

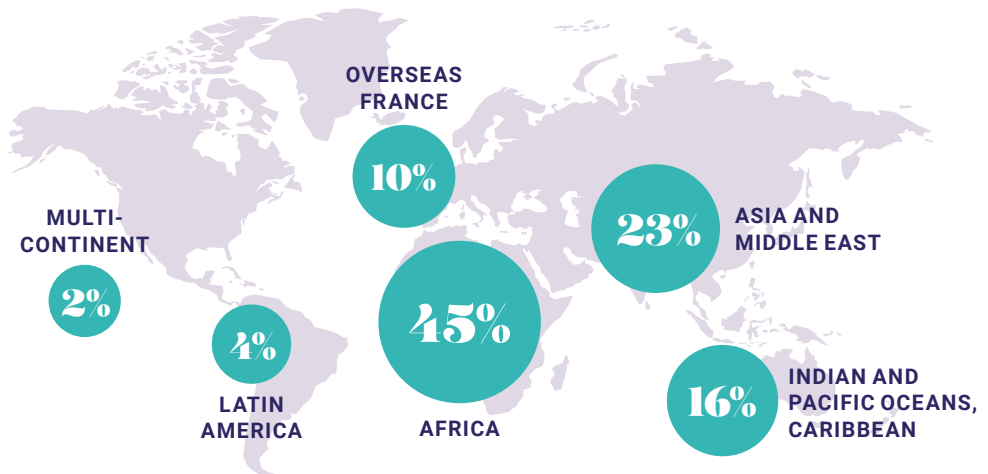
# Portfolio of ongoing projects



# 446

ongoing projects for a total financing amount of €4.6 BN, including €1.4 BN in future disbursements

## Breakdown by region



### PROJECT COMPLETED IN 2023

#### Africa

### Fighting neglected tropical diseases



Since 2020, AFD has supported DNDi (Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative) in the development of new treatments for neglected tropical diseases. This financing helped support DNDi in the development of fexinidazole, the first all-oral treatment for sleeping sickness. A total of 413 people have received this treatment, paving the way for the eradication of this disease worldwide.

---

## Towards 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 financing and supporting the private sector; and Expertise France, a technical cooperation agency. AFD 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 of more than 150 countries and 11 French Overseas Departments and Territories. Our objective is to reconcile economic development with the preservation of common goods including climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality, education, and health care. The work of our teams on 4,200 projects in the field is contributing to the commitment of France and French people to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Towards a world in common.



[www.afd.fr](http://www.afd.fr) - X @AFD\_France - Facebook : AFDOfficiel

5, rue Roland-Barthes - 75598 Paris Cedex 12 - France

Tel. : +33 1 53 44 31 31