

LEBANON

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## AFD Group and the Palestinian Territories

49 AFD group funded projects since 2016 More than **C500 M** committed by AFD group since 1999

of AFD group's commitments since 1999 in the water sector

54 %

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11111

Present since 1999 in the Palestinian Territories where it has already invested more than 500 million euros, AFD group continues, as part of its country strategy 2021-25, to contribute to the implementation of the French policy which aims at the establishment of a viable and democratic Palestinian State, living in peace and security alongside with Israel on the basis of the 1967 borders and with Jerusalem as the capital of the two States.

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### OUR ACTION IN THE Palestinian Territories

AFD's intervention strategy in the Palestinian territories is structured around 3 priority areas: (i) strengthening Palestinian institutions through structuring public investment projects, (ii) contributing to human development and preserving Palestinian identity, and (iii) supporting private sector economic actors.

#### Strengthening institutions while helping to guide public policies

AFD group provides institutional accompaniment, particularly in the water and sanitation and local development sectors. The objective is to provide equitable access to quality basic services, with a view to reducing inequalities.

To this end, AFD partners with a wide range of implementing actors. While the Palestinian Authority is the focal point, together with the Prime Minister's Office and sectoral ministries, AFD also involves other actors such as municipalities, village councils, joint service councils or civil society organizations, especially when the Palestinian Authority does not have the capacity to intervene, such as in East Jerusalem, Gaza or Area C.

In addition to providing quality services, AFD supports the municipalities in their policy of mitigation and adaptation policies to the effects of climate change, notably through the Municipal Development Lending Fund (MDLF).



#### Human development and preservation of the Palestinian identity

The provision of basic services goes hand in hand with the strengthening of social ties, the preservation of culture and local heritage to anchor Palestinians in their territories, in a logic of human and economic development. AFD gives particular attention to projects linking youth, training, heritage and development.

Especially related to the project supporting Palestinian associations in East Jerusalem, "100% social link", which, targeting youth and vulnerable communities, aims at consolidating social cohesion between populations and neighbourhoods, through the improvement of the educational and cultural offer. This is also the case for the socio-economic development project at the archeological site of Saint Hilarion (Tell Umm El Amr) in Gaza, which, by uncovering and exposing Palestinian cultural and heritage richness, will contribute to the socio-economic development of youth and local populations, as well as contribute to the achievement of at least eight sustainable development goals. At the crossroads between humanitarian response and sustainable development issues, this project led by the French NGO Première Urgence Internationale, will use culture as a leverage to respond to the current and future challenges of the Gaza Strip.

Finally, AFD has developed interventions in the health sector through a maternal and child health project in Gaza as well as, together with the ministries of health and higher education, a nursing and midwives college in the West Bank project. By improving the quality of care, the project will contribute to strengthening the social bond and confidence of Palestinians with their institutions.

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#### Supporting private sector actors

Proparco is deploying its range of financial instruments (loans, guarantees, equity) to strengthen the Palestinian economic fabric and support job creation. More than €100 million has been committed since 2017, mainly in the form of support to local banks and microfinance institutions. Proparco's activity mainly relies on high-quality Palestinian banking partners (Bank of Palestine, Cairo-Amman Bank, Quds Bank) and microfinance institutions (Faten, Vitas) and is reinforced by EU delegated funds.

In addition to supporting the financial system and as part of its "fragile countries" strategy, Proparco aims to diversify its activities in other sectors such as agriculture and in more risky areas, notably through the mobilization of concessional resources.

# OUR ACTION IN THE **Palestinian Territories**

AFD group supports the Palestinian Authority's development strategy, ensuring that all central and local, governmental and civil, public and private structures, are strengthened to provide the essential services expected by citizens in an equitable manner as well as to facilitate access to economic opportunities and decent jobs. AFD has been investing for more than 20 years in the water and sanitation sectors, in local government infrastructure and services, in renewable energy and access to affordable electricity, and in civil society organizations' projects.

#### **OUR KEY FIGURES**





Total amount of AFD group's commitments since 2016

of AFD group's total commitments in the Middle

East since 2016

Total number of AFD group funded projects from 2016 to 2021



Since 2016, Proparco has funded 8 projects in the Palestinian Territories for



to support job creation and the fight against climate change. Proparco works to promote financial inclusion, renewable energy and the agri-food industry.

#### The action of Expertise France

Expertise France is mobilized to support the Palestinian territories in capacity-building projects for Palestinian administrations, particularly in the area of financial governance. It is also involved in disaster risk reduction.

#### **Public finances:**

- The Palestinian Institute of Public Finance is updating/developing the pedagogical design of **18 additional training modules** to be used as comprehensive training kits;
- A total of **252 organizations** and at least **3,700 civil servants**, including 1,564 young women, received training between 2018 and 2020.

AFD Group implements France's policy in the areas of development and international solidarity. The Group includes Agence Française de Développement (AFD), which finances the public sector and NGOs, as well as research and education in sustainable development; its subsidiary Proparco, which is dedicated to private sector financing; and Expertise France, a technical cooperation agency. The Group finances, supports and accelerates transitions towards a fairer, more resilient world.

With our partners, we are building shared solutions with and for the people of the Global South. Our teams are at work on more than 4,000 projects in the field, in the French Overseas Departments and Territories, in 115 countries and in regions in crisis. We strive to protect global public goods – promoting a stable climate, biodiversity and peace, as well as gender equality, education and healthcare. In this way, we contribute to the commitment of France and the French people to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Towards a world in common.



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