



Support for Civil Society Organizations

ACTIVITY REPORT

2021

CSO Initiatives Fund in 2021

With the CSO Initiatives Fund, CSOs can submit a project for co-financing by AFD. It thereby contributes to strengthening civil societies and their action all over the world, in conjunction with local organizations.

The year 2021 was rich and dense, with the financing of 145 new projects led by French CSOs, in partnership with local Civil Society Organizations. **The year also allowed for the preparation of the launch of the fund in 2022** for CSOs governed by local law and in line with the programming law on inclusive development and combating global inequalities adopted in August 2021.

The year 2021, like 2020, was marked by the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences, and by multiple political and security crises, as well as natural disasters (particularly in Haiti, Lebanon, Myanmar and the Sahel). Civil society organizations (CSOs) once again took large-scale action to address the needs of people in matters of health, education, human rights, climate and biodiversity, as well as gender equality, migration, youth, agriculture and access to water and sanitation.

The year serves as a reminder of the key role that CSOs play in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the relevance of their action during crises.

AFD took action to address the difficulties experienced by CSOs during this period (such as delays in the implementation of projects and the reorientation of activities to better respond to the consequences of the crisis). Once again this year, AFD reaffirmed its support for CSOs by devoting €376 million to them via its various financial tools (FISONG, Minka Peace and Resilience Fund, sectoral calls for projects), including €116 million from the CSO Initiatives Fund.

Key figures



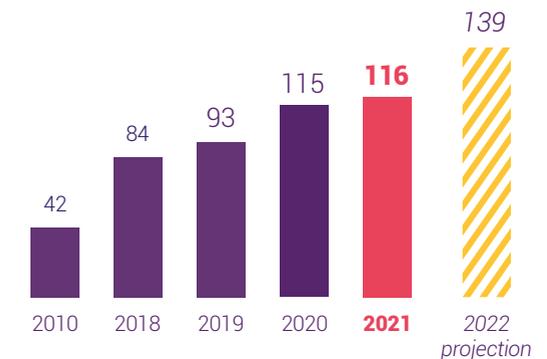
145
new projects
financed in 2021

Including → 115 field projects
→ 26 projects of general interest
→ 4 studies

114 
French CSOs financed
in partnership
with
7,500 local CSOs



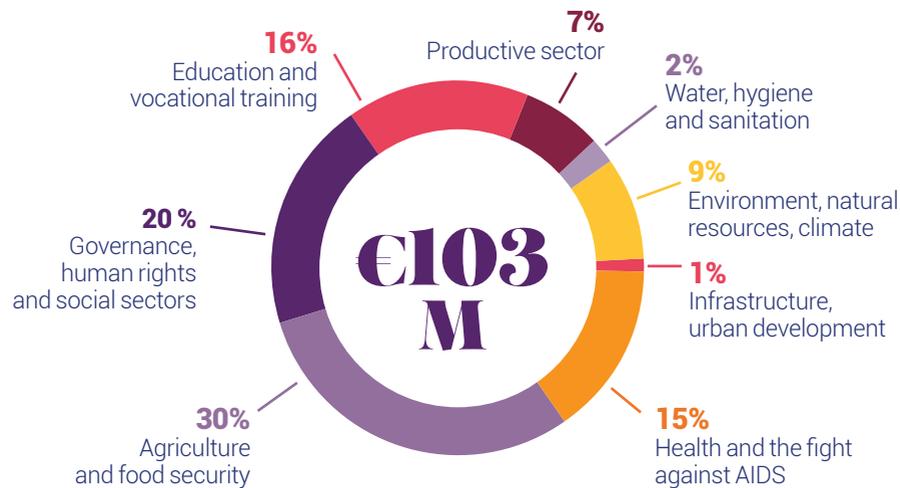
A fund experiencing growth (commitments in € M)



Field projects in 2021

115 field projects
financed in 2021

Breakdown by thematic area



Sustainable agriculture

To promote sustainable family farming in Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Laos, Madagascar and Senegal, the Agrisud International project is being deployed at territorial level, as well as on family farms and in agricultural sectors. The objective is to improve the performance and efficiency of agro-environmental microenterprises and of the sector in general. It will achieve this by adapting farming practices to make farms more productive, resilient and economically viable.

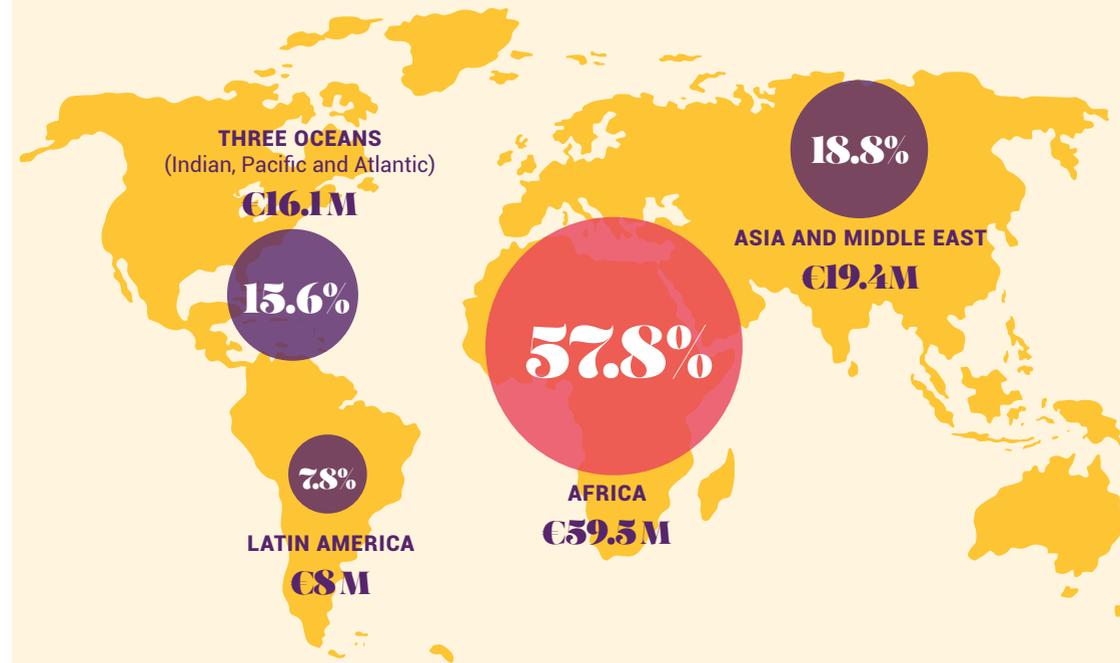
- Project amount: €3.8 M
- including an AFD grant: €2.1 M

Human rights

Led by the CSO Agir Ensemble, PEUPLE ("Promote the participation of indigenous Pygmy peoples in the sustainable management of land and biodiversity") is a project promoting the fundamental rights and ways of life of indigenous Pygmy peoples in the North Kivu and Equateur regions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Through the project, five Congolese indigenous human rights organizations are receiving support to improve the impact of their advocacy and other activities. Some 43,000 indigenous Pygmies are indirectly benefiting from this project.

- Project amount: €380,000
- including an AFD grant: €180,000

Breakdown by region



The main countries supported in 2021 are: Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Mali, Niger and Senegal (€38.8 million).

MALI: working for the reintegration of street children



The Apprentis d'Auteuil Foundation is deploying its expertise in child protection to assist Caritas Ségo with this new project, which covers a range of work, from child protection to professional training, and include educational activities, support for families, community outreach and active advocacy.

- Project amount: €1.1 M
- including an AFD grant: €575,600

Focus on...

First-time CSOs

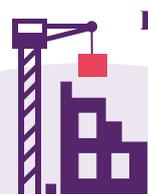


La Voix de l'enfant, (the Child's Voice), a first-time CSO working to give children in DRC access to civil registration

The lack of civil registration for children is a widespread problem in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) where only 30% of children are registered in the Congolese civil register. The "Civil Registration in DRC" project is led by La Voix de l'Enfant in cooperation with CIVIPOL, DIGITECH and three CSOs governed by local law. It ultimately aims for every child born in the DRC to have a birth certificate, the first step in enabling a child to exercise his or her rights. This project will thereby give over 230,000 children in the North Kivu region access to their fundamental rights.

- **Project amount: €1.6 M**
- **including an AFD grant: €950,000**

20 projects led by "first-time CSOs" (which have never benefited from financing from the CSO Initiatives Fund) were supported in 2021, accounting for 7% of commitments and 14% of the projects financed in 2021.



Emergency response

Supporting post-earthquake reconstruction in Haiti

On 14 August 2021, an earthquake devastated southern Haiti, killing over 2,000 people with some 13,000 injured. It also caused immense material damage. Some 1,250 schools were destroyed or damaged. In response to this emergency and in coordination with AFD, the NGOs Solidarité Laïque and ACTED have deployed two projects to build the resilience of the education system. They include reconstruction and rehabilitation work, the electrification of schools and provision of supplies for over 7,000 students, teaching support, housing reconstruction, the rehabilitation of water supply systems, and support in reviving economic activities.

- **Amount of the ACTED project: €2,529,724***
- **Including an AFD grant: €1.8 M**
- **Amount of the Solidarité Laïque project: €1,714,383****
- **Including an AFD grant: €1.2 M**

* (with Un Enfant par la Main and the Architectes de l'Urgence Foundation)
** (with Aide et Action and Electriciens sans Frontières)

Projects of general interest in 2021

Projects of general interest aim to support French civil society and disseminate values of solidarity and citizenship.

26 projects of general interest financed in 2021



Water Coalition: taking action for water and sanitation

"Coalition Eau" is a group of 30 French NGOs advocating for universal access to drinking water and sanitation, especially for the most vulnerable. The program contributes to developing ambitious public policies and ensuring that French and global commitments are met. It produces expertise to increase the knowledge of NGOs. It also develops partnerships with ten civil society networks in Africa to build their advocacy capacity and promote collective action.

- **Project amount: €1,151,000**
- **including an AFD grant: €650,000**



ECSI: Editorial cartoons are raising awareness

Through its international network of over 200 newspaper cartoonists, "Cartooning for Peace" seeks to raise awareness of global inequalities and ways to get involved to build a fairer, inclusive and sustainable world. Exhibitions, educational kits and digital campaigns will address issues such as gender equality, children's rights and the environment. These tools will be disseminated in France and abroad via partner associations and institutions, as well as through some 400 meetings between cartoonists and young people.

- **Project amount: €600,000**
- **including an AFD grant: €300,000**

Partnership-based dialogue:

Publications and evaluation documents published in 2021 have helped increase dialogue and consultation between AFD and CSOs

Champions of Education

4 meetings in 2021 jointly organized with the Coalition for Education

May



Gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR): capitalization on projects financed by the CSO Initiatives Fund

How to mainstream gender issues into SRHR activities in practice? This informative booklet provides answers based on the innovative practices of CSOs, which gathered for the Generation Equality Forum in June 2021. These practices are addressed from four different perspectives: projects targeting teens and young people; the empowerment of girls and women; the involvement of boys and men; the construction of an integrated approach to SRHR. The booklet also addresses gender mainstreaming in project engineering and in organizations.

Find out more on www.afd.fr/en

June



Inter-ministerial conference on mental health

June

July



Generation Equality Forum

Sept.



IUCN World Conservation Congress

This congress was held in Marseille. It was an opportunity for AFD to promote projects supported by the CSO Initiatives Fund and hold discussions with both its CSO partners and donors in order to accelerate support to civil society initiatives for biodiversity. About a quarter of the projects supported by the CSO Initiatives Fund also have benefits for biodiversity, but there are still substantial needs in terms of strengthening the action of civil societies.

key events in 2021

Nov.



2nd Finance in Common Summit (Fics)

Dec.



An agreement with France Volontaires to mobilize youth

AFD Group and France Volontaires have joined hands to make young people actors in international solidarity and the SDGs. The goal is to mobilize young people through volunteering to ensure their integration at all levels: economic/professional, social/civic, environmental/climate. A common challenge to make these young people actors in at least half of AFD's projects!

Dec.



AFD's first international rights and development conference

With human rights threatened on a global scale, on 10 December 2021, AFD Group organized its first conference on the issue. It gathered stakeholders working in both the North and South to ensure that development does more to take human rights into account. The day was an opportunity to address civil rights, economic, social and cultural policies, just transitions and the duty of vigilance. The commitment and expertise of CSOs featured prominently on this occasion.

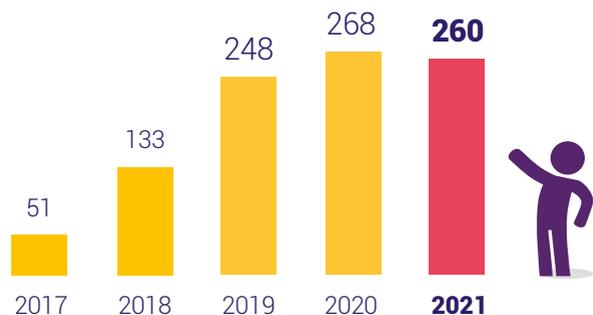
Replay online: <https://events.pointe-noire.agency/droits-humains-developpement/?lang=en>



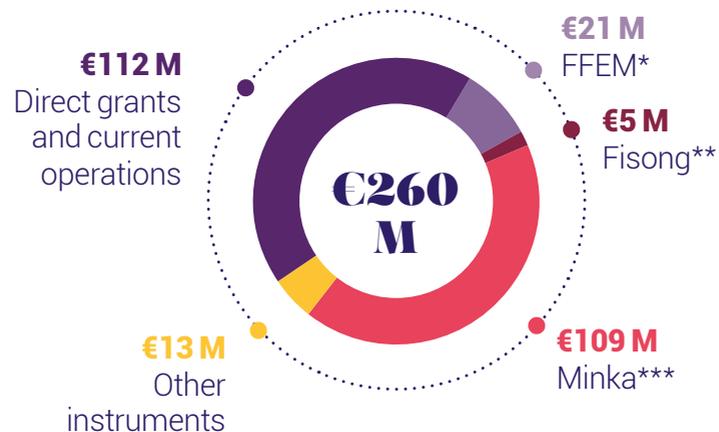
AFD grants for CSOs, outside the CSO Initiatives Fund

In addition to the CSO Initiatives Fund, AFD organizes a number of calls for projects every year through various mechanisms: the Sectoral Innovation Facility for NGOs (FISONG), financing from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the Minka Peace and Resilience Fund for operations in crisis and post-crisis situations.

Trend in commitments (in € M)



Breakdown by instrument outside the CSO Initiatives Fund (in € M)



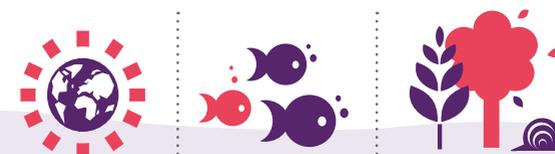
* French Facility for Global Environment / **Sectoral Innovation Facility for NGOs
 *** Peace and Resilience Fund MINKA



Fisong: Combating gynecological and obstetrical violence in Guinea

Amref Health Africa, in partnership with the NGO CERREGUI, is implementing a research-experimentation project on gynecological and obstetrical violence. This project will deploy activities aimed at changing gender perceptions and norms. The objective is to improve the practices and quality of reproductive healthcare.

■ Project amount: €1.13 million (Fisong)



FFEM Small-Scale Initiatives Program

Since 2006, FFEM has been helping African civil society preserve biodiversity and improve local living conditions through the Small-Scale Initiatives Program (PPI). Implemented by IUCN, the PPI contributes to building the capacities of field-based CSOs and increasing their legitimacy in the public debate. In 2021, this program was renewed for Central and West Africa (PPI 6) and North Africa (PPI OSCAN 3).

- PPI 6 Project amount: €5.3 M
- Including an FFEM grant: €3 M
- PPI OSCAN 3 project: €2.9 M
- Including an FFEM grant: €1.3 M

Towards a World in Common

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) implements France's policy on international development and solidarity. Through its financing of NGOs and the public sector, as well as its research and publications, AFD supports and accelerates transitions towards a fairer, more resilient world. It also provides training in sustainable development (at AFD Campus) and other awareness-raising activities in France.

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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