



Support for Civil Society Organizations

ACTIVITY REPORT

2020

CSO Initiatives Fund in 2020

The CSO Initiatives Fund is an AFD tool for French CSOs. It is financed by funds delegated by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and is dedicated to strengthening civil societies and their activities around the world through multi-stakeholder projects.

Twenty-twenty was a year of intense activity for the CSO Initiatives Fund, which confirmed the utility of supporting civil society actors and the benefits of their work in times of crisis. This intensity is reflected in the record amount of grants allocated to French CSOs and their local partners.

The year 2020 was marked by the Covid-19 pandemic, which caused a global health, economic and social crisis. This crisis mobilized all public, private and non-profit actors. They strengthened their dialogue and stepped up their action to address the many challenges. Civil society organizations (CSOs) took unprecedented action to provide targeted, innovative and swift solutions for people and public actors at the local, national and international levels.

In 2020, AFD reaffirmed its support for CSOs and maintained the partnership-based dialogue. It devoted €383 million to them (+12% compared to 2019) through its various financial instruments: the CSO Initiatives Fund to support civil society, FISONG (Facility for Sectoral Innovation for Non-Governmental Organizations), the Minka Peace and Resilience Fund and sectoral calls for projects. AFD Group mobilized the recognized expertise of CSOs, especially in crisis situations and for key issues such as gender equality.

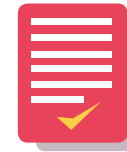
The strategic dialogue between AFD and civil society was marked by a number of meetings focusing on various strategic issues. These include social cohesion and human rights, and international events, such as the *Finance in Common Summit* organized in November 2020.

€115 M
Committed by the CSO Initiatives Fund



including €10 M for the response to the Covid-19 crisis

121 projects
financed
in 2020

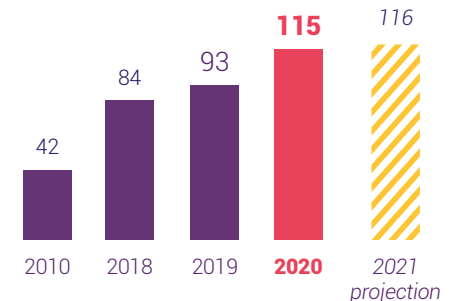


494
ongoing
projects

99
French
CSOs
financed



Trend in commitments (in € M)



Taking action to address the social and economic crisis caused by Covid-19

In collaboration with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AFD mobilized an additional €10 million through the CSO Initiatives Fund to address the needs of vulnerable people. It co-financed the projects of 20 French CSOs and their local partners. These projects are part of AFD's Health in Common Initiative and concern:

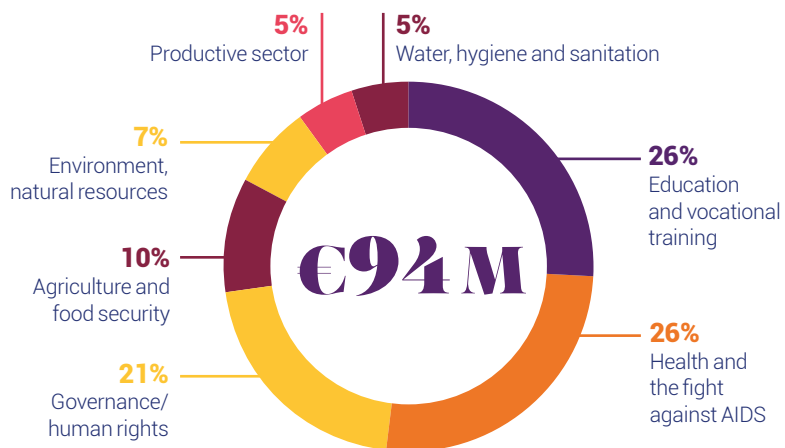
- Health, hygiene and social protection
- Food, nutritional security and sustainable agriculture, mainly in Africa and Madagascar.

These projects are complementary to the 13 humanitarian projects financed in parallel by the Ministry's Crisis and Support Center (CDCS).

Field projects in 2020

101 field projects financed in 2020

Breakdown by thematic area



Education and vocational training

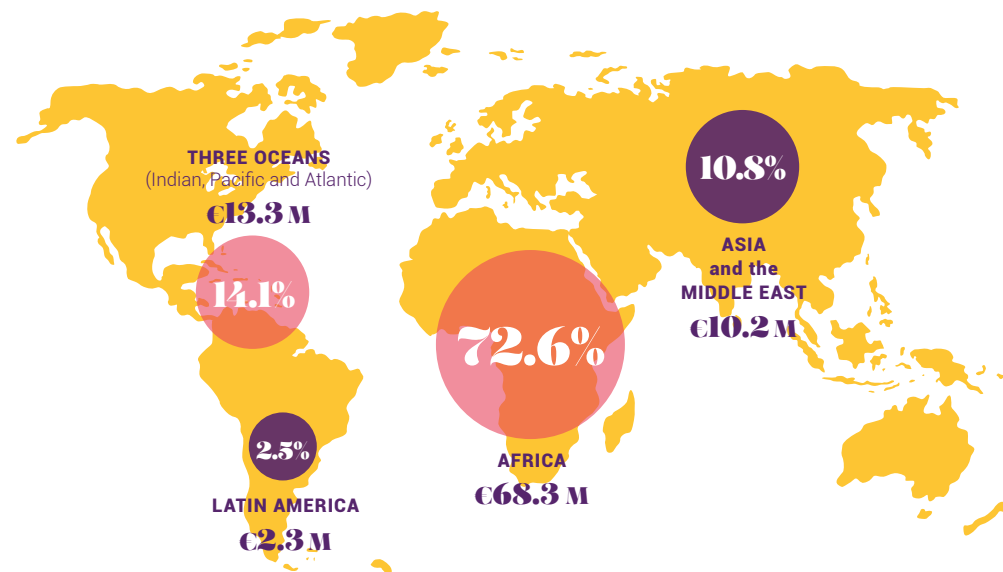
The action of CSOs covers all the issues related to education and vocational training: inclusive education, girls' education, youth training and integration, quality of education, structuring non-formal education. **There has been a fivefold increase in financing dedicated to education and vocational integration over the last ten years.** This increase is related to the strong mobilization of French CSOs in these thematic areas, but also to the vitality of the education ecosystem, which has been stimulated by forums for exchanges and reflection between actors, such as the Champions of Education, jointly led by the CSO Coalition for education and AFD since 2018.

Risk reduction and sexual and reproductive health

The multi-year strategic program of *Médecins du Monde* focuses on two areas: reducing risks among drug users and sex workers and sexual and reproductive health. The project has modeled an approach to reduce risks, which is subsequently used by national stakeholders. It has also deployed an innovative approach against cervical cancer based on screening.

Project amount: €7 million including an AFD grant: €4.7 million

Breakdown by region



The most supported countries in 2020:

Burkina Faso, Haiti, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal (€35.8 M)

LEBANON: an innovative partnership with Fondation de France

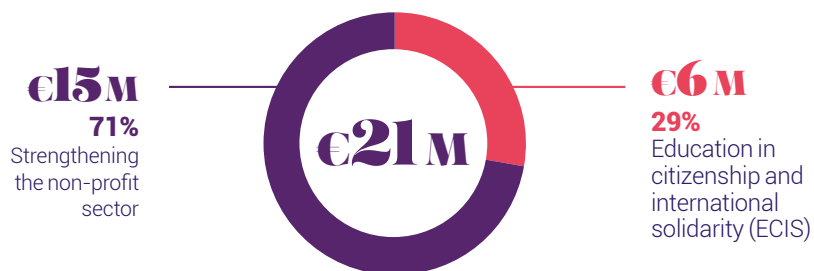


Following the explosion in Beirut in August 2020, *Fondation de France* launched a call for solidarity and collected over **€3 million in donations**. AFD pledged to contribute to the funds collected through its CSO Initiatives Fund. The two organizations agreed to support partnerships between French and Lebanese CSOs and projects providing opportunities to scale up. In 2021, several operations based on psychosocial support, training and vocational integration, with a focus on young people, will take over from the post-explosion reconstruction.

Projects of general interest in 2020

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

20 projects of general interest financed in 2020



Strengthening the non-profit sector

AFD co-finances projects to allow French CSOs to organize networks or platforms in France and at the regional and international levels, set up support funds, strengthen their expertise and make their voices heard in France and internationally.

For an influential and coordinated civil society to achieve the 2030 Agenda

FORUS gathers 69 national NGO platforms and seven coalitions of regional NGOs, i.e. some 22,000 organizations. It coordinates civil society at the international level and takes action to strengthen its influence and participation in public policies and the 2030 Agenda. *FORUS* also campaigns to preserve the citizen space and an environment conducive to CSOs. Through this project, *FORUS* is connecting its members and strengthening them by promoting peer-to-peer learning, their joint action and their common advocacy in two thematic areas: the 2030 Agenda and preserving an environment conducive to CSOs.

Project amount: €2.3 million
including an AFD grant: €1 million

Education in citizenship and international solidarity (ECIS)

ECIS facilitates an understanding of the world and its main issues, promotes values of openness and solidarity and encourages citizens to get involved, either individually or collectively. These projects target all audiences through workshops, festivals, campaigns and activities in classrooms and social centers. They contribute to disseminating key concepts on inequality, the environment, migration and human rights.

Pélico's Voyage



With Pélico's Voyage, the association Par *Le Monde* offers an online educational exchange program to primary school children in France and abroad. This virtual voyage offers children in several countries a window onto the world. It allows them to share their daily lives and culture throughout the school year. This project is based on two digital platforms: one for pupils to share reports and testimonies, the other offering educational resources to teachers and educators.

Project amount: €535,920
including an AFD grant: €250,000



A statement to understand everything about ECIS

Launched by AFD in 2017, the consultation group on education in citizenship and international solidarity is a space for dialogue and experience sharing. It gathers representatives from associations, ministries, AFD, regional and local authorities and multi-stakeholder regional networks (*RRMA*). These institutions and organizations have a great diversity of approaches, actions and target publics and gather around a common mission: to promote, through ECIS activities, the individual and collective contribution of French citizens of all ages to building a fair, inclusive and sustainable society. **In November 2020, the members of the group produced a common statement giving the reasons why ECIS must be a priority for public policies** and a key component of the action of organizations.

Focus on three key issues

Addressing climate and biodiversity issues



27% of the financing of CSO Initiatives Fund directly contributes to the fight against climate change, i.e. **€31.2 million**

64%

and

36%

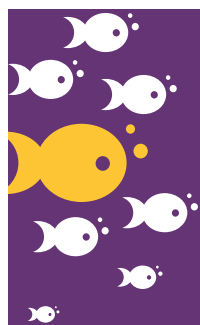
of projects contribute to adaptation to climate change

of projects to the mitigation of its effects



Convergence of climate and biodiversity

50% of climate projects have benefits for biodiversity. They are mainly devoted to sustainable agriculture, the environment and the preservation of natural resources. All these sectors contribute to biodiversity conservation (for example, agroecology, protected areas and reforestation).



20%

of projects financed by CSO-F preserve biodiversity

Helping structure the network of French biodiversity CSOs operating in developing countries

The "Biodiversity and Development" (B&D) network, led by the French Committee of the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature), strengthens and promotes the expertise of French CSOs and coordinates their overall action. This optimizes their contribution to the achievement of the objectives to conserve nature around the world. The project's objective is to structure the B&D network and help it expand through collective approaches for information sharing, capitalization of experience, communication and advocacy. It also aims to build the capacities of the members and promote the development of partnerships between French and local CSOs.

Project amount: €510,000
including an AFD grant: **€300,000**

Supporting human rights



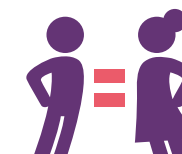
Some **€8 million** devoted to human rights projects in 2020

Guaranteeing access to justice for detainees in pre-trial custody

Prisons in the Congo and Madagascar are overcrowded due to extensive recourse to detention, delays in court proceedings and the lack of collaboration between prison officers, magistrates and CSOs. The project of the International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture) will address this situation by building the capacities of the judiciary, prison administrations and CSOs. It will also facilitate the dialogue and synergies between these various actors. The expertise of the ACAT (the national associations) and the FIACAT is recognized by the authorities, the judiciary, prison administrations and public opinion. They work with the authorities to assist them with the implementation of their obligations and international commitments.

Project amount: €496,647
including an AFD grant: **€245,000**

Promoting gender equality



77% of CSO- Initiatives Fund financing supports gender equality (DAC 1 and DAC 2 projects) i.e. **€88.8 million**

Strengthening young feminist movements in French-speaking West Africa

To improve synergies between young feminists in West Africa, to take action and influence international policies, Equipop is mobilizing its expertise through an approach based on rights and supporting civil societies. It is strengthening the organization of feminist movements and supporting their collective action at the sub-regional and national levels (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal). The project aims to have a transformative effect on existing policies and programs, and increase the participation of young feminists in future policy-building spaces. This project is certified by the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF).






Project amount: €3.5 million
including an AFD grant: **€2.1 million**

Partnership-based dialogue: key events in 2020

2020 was marked by a number of French and international events, publications, as well as a joint reflection based on a rich dialogue between AFD, civil society organizations and the French CSOs' platform *Coordination SUD*.

Champions of Education

4 meetings in 2020 jointly organized with the Coalition for education

July		Launch of the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF)
August		Partnership with the <i>Fondation de France</i> for Lebanon following the Beirut Port blast
September		Publication of <i>La Face Cachée des Sociétés Civiles au Maghreb</i> , jointly produced by AFD's Civil society Division, Innovation, Research and Knowledge Department and a multidisciplinary team of researchers from Aix-Marseille University.
November		Finance in Common , the first international summit of Public Development Banks
		Publication of a joint statement to promote ECIS



Finance in Common

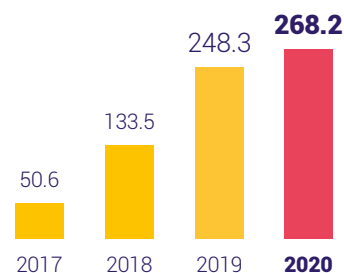
First Finance in Common Summit (FiCS)

Hosted by AFD and gathering over 450 development banks, the Finance in Common Summit involved civil society before, during and after the event. The organizations *RAC France*, *Coordination SUD* and *FORUS International* represented civil society on the Executive Committee for the organization of the summit. Civil society thereby contributed to raising the ambition of the final joint declaration. The second edition of FiCS, held on 19-20 October, focused on sustainable agriculture and food security

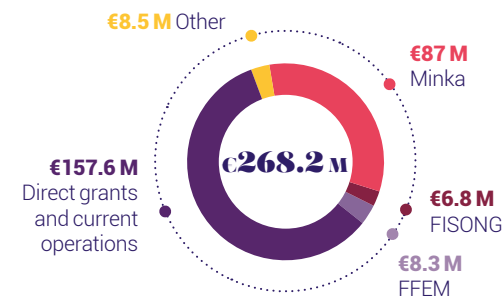
AFD grants for CSOs, outside CSO Initiatives Fund

In addition to the CSO Initiatives Fund, AFD proposes 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)



Operationalization of the One Health community-based approach in the Guinea Forest Region

→ The *GRET* project is contributing to building the resilience of people in three rural communities in terms of overall health via the One Health approach (integrated and systemic approach to public health). It involves integrating One Health issues into the decision-making and farming practices of households by giving advice for family farming and supporting the agro-ecological transition in three sectors. The One Health approach is also integrated into the management of village resources through support to village land management committees. In addition, the project is supporting the effective and inclusive operation of One Health community platforms through training and innovative financing mechanisms.

Project amount: €823,272 including an AFD grant: €730,000



Eight innovative projects financed by FISONG

With two thematic calls for projects a year, FISONG finances innovative projects led by CSOs. It enables collective learning through monitoring-evaluation and capitalization. In 2020, eight projects were selected in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Madagascar and Senegal which support citizen participation in the water and sanitation sector and the economic, social and citizen reintegration of young people in outlying neighborhoods.

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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