




# Gender Equality

ACTIVITY REPORT

2021



**I**n 2021, AFD managed, financed and participated in projects that contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5, dedicated to gender equality. AFD has been doing this work alongside its partners and civil society organizations around the world.

Highlights of 2021 include high-level international events in which AFD participated (Generation Equality Forum – GEF, Finance in Common Summit, COP26). They reflected and reinforced AFD's mobilization in the implementation of the international agenda on gender equality, in line with the feminist principles of French diplomacy.

AFD achieved the objectives of the gender-related projects tied to France's International Strategy for Gender Equality 2018-2022. As a feminist development bank, it financed flagship projects that have anchored gender in public policy dialogue in all sectors striving towards gender equality.

AFD also continued to support projects to step up action to combat violence against women, taking into account the issue of the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls and promoting a culture of gender equality.

# AFD, a feminist development bank active on the international stage



In 2021, AFD promoted the feminist principles championed by France at the Generation Equality Forum (GEF) hosted by Mexico and France in Paris from 30 June to 2 July 2021, gathering 50,000 participants. The event raised over **\$40 billion of investment** for the promotion of gender equality. AFD made strong financial commitments through the "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights" coalition, with a total budget of €250 million for a 5-year period. It also fulfilled two commitments: the implementation of the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF) and the coordination of the gender coalition of Public Development Banks launched at the first Finance in Common Summit<sup>1</sup>.

## Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF)

Launched in July 2020, the FSOF is a €120 million fund for a 3-year period (2020, 2021, 2022) managed by AFD and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. It contributes to financing feminist civil society associations in partner countries of France's development and international solidarity policy, with 65% giving priority to initiatives in Africa. **In 2021, the FSOF financed two calls for projects: the first devoted to combating gender-based violence (€14 million) and the second on the theme "gender and climate" (€5 million).**

## Finance in Common Summit (FiCS) second edition

At the international summit of Public Development Banks gathering over 500 Public Development Banks (PDBs), **AFD and UN Women jointly coordinated the work of the gender coalition.** Over 50 PDBs and partners contributed to the production of the report "Public Development Banks Driving Gender Equality: An Overview of Practices and Measurement Frameworks", which aims to enhance the implementation of development projects for gender equality.

## COP26

At COP26 in Glasgow, **AFD took part in the IDFC gender working group on the theme "gender and climate"**. Organized by the Turkish development bank TSKB, the event gathered the teams of AFD, DBSA (South Africa) and BICE (Argentina). AFD presented gender inclusion in the new edition of the Adapt'Action 2 program (€15 million) to assist African countries with their adaptation to climate change.

<sup>1</sup> In partnership with the International Development Finance Club (IDFC) working group coordinated by the Turkish bank TSKB.

# Our gender equality commitments in 2021

## DAC G-1 and G-2 projects



### Objective = 50%

AFD's gender objectives for 2021, set out in France's International Strategy for Gender Equality 2018-2022, were for **50% of projects, in terms of the volume of commitments, to score 1 or 2 under the DAC gender marker**, and for a volume of €600 million of projects to obtain a G-2 score.

## The DAC G-Marker System

The Gender Equality Policy Marker (G-Marker) is an indicator developed by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) to evaluate the integration of gender in resources allocated to development. It consists of three scores, used throughout this report:

### G-0

Gender equality is **not targeted** by the project

### G-1

Gender equality is **a significant objective** of the project

### G-2

Gender equality is **the principal objective** of the project

## In 2021

# 49.56%

of the volume of AFD's commitments with gender equality as a main or significant objective (G-1 and G-2 projects) *i.e.*

# €4.2 BN

committed to projects that help reduce gender inequalities.



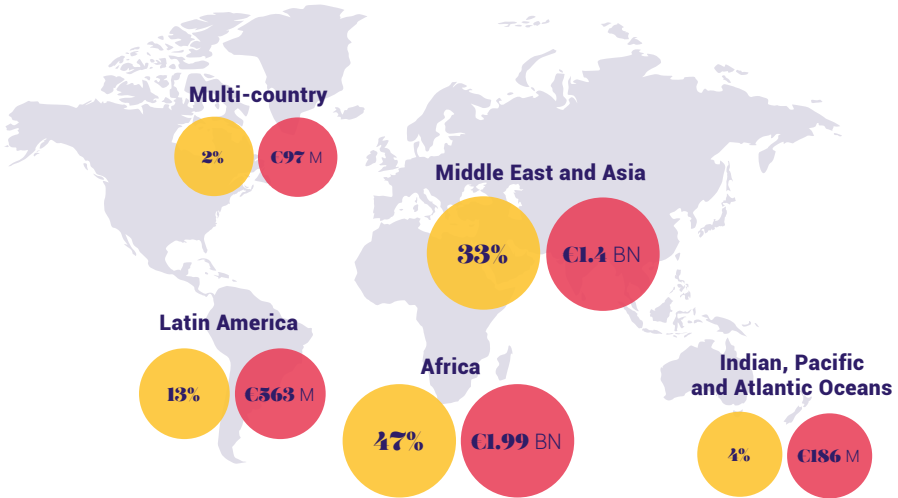
# 63

projects with a transformative and structuring objective (G-2) were set up for a total of **€857 million**.

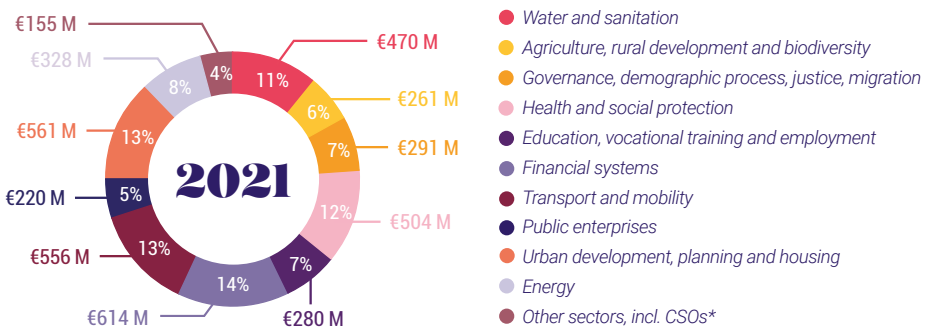
These objectives have been achieved through a better identification of the needs for technical and financial assistance of the projects prioritized on the ground, and by a greater understanding of the issues and ownership of the gender methodology by AFD's teams.

This improvement has also come about through the deployment of AFD Group's gender expertise and its recognition during the prospecting and identification stages for projects.

## Breakdown by region



## Breakdown by sector



\* Projects led by the Civil Society Organizations, Social Cohesion, Climate, Digital and Territories and Enterprises Divisions

# Our gender equality commitments in 2021

## G-2 projects

AFD has a target amount for **projects whose main objective is to reduce gender inequalities: G-2 projects**. In 2021, the target was €600 million of loans and grants. The data on these two pages show the amounts committed to projects scored G-2.

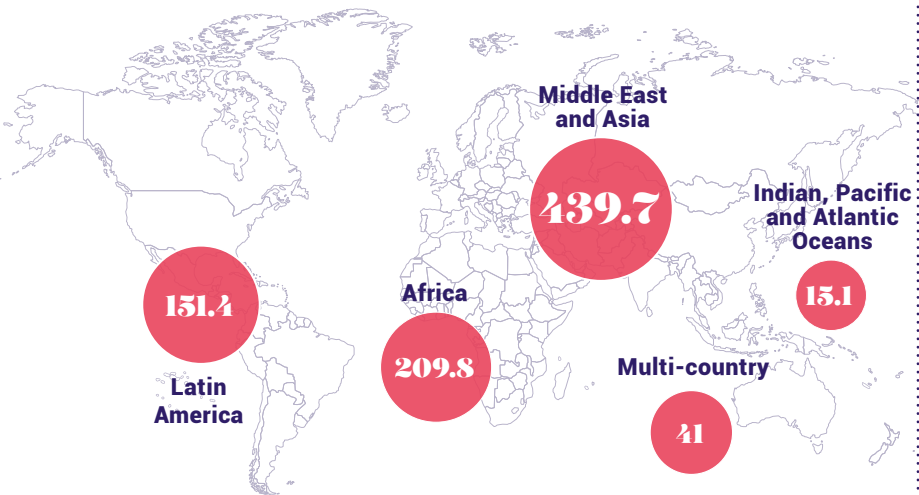


# €857 M

**committed in 2021** for projects whose main objective is to promote gender equality. Commitments for G-2 projects thereby exceeded both the target amount of €600 million and the target percentage of 15% of grant commitments, which reached **24.47%**.

## Breakdown by region

in € M

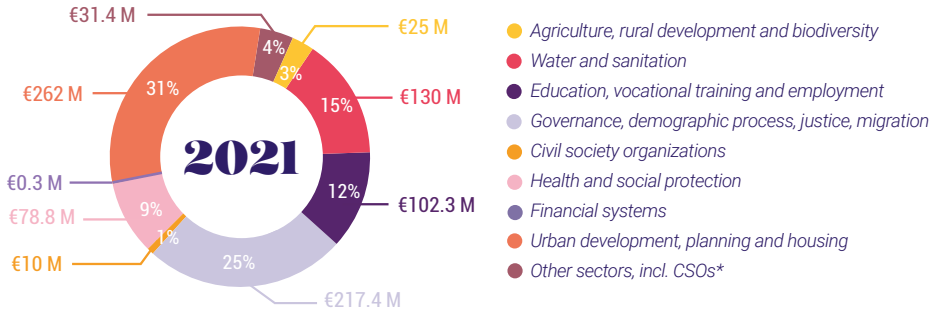


In Eurasia, the Middle East and Asia, the amount for G-2 projects reached €439 million, an increase compared to 2020.

In Latin America, the amounts were on par with 2020, in particular due to financing for a project to support the sustainable and low-carbon trajectory of Costa Rica (€150 million).

In Africa, the projects focused on the infrastructure sector (improvement in the quality of people's lives in deprived neighborhoods, sustainable forest management, drinking water supply).

## Breakdown of G-2 projects by sector



## A wide range of commitments

In 2021, G-2 projects financed with loans are **supporting reform of governance and of public policies as well as of sectoral dialogue** through the gender-responsive budgeting tool in Morocco (an increase of €50 million for a €100 million project) and in Jordan (€150 million).

**Projects financed in 2021 also include:**

- **Bangladesh:** improvement in access to facilities and basic social services for women and vulnerable groups from low-income communities (€130 million);
- **Costa Rica:** support for the country's low-carbon, inclusive and just trajectory and adoption of a holistic approach to reducing gender inequalities (€150 million);
- **Ethiopia:** improvement in living conditions for women and girls during menstruation and improvement in their health by reducing vaginal infections caused by the use of unsuitable materials (€3 million).

\* Projects led by the Civil Society Organizations, Social Cohesion, Climate, Digital and Territories and Enterprises Divisions

# Taking greater account of the gender and development approach in our operations

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In 2021, the recommendations of the evaluation of the Crosscutting Intervention Framework on Gender 2014-2018 reiterated the strategic importance of reducing inequalities for AFD, as well as the need for its institutionalization at all levels and for all its officers to take ownership of this issue.

To improve gender mainstreaming in AFD operations, project monitoring and the deployment of effective strategies to address inequalities on the ground, **in 2021, AFD scaled up its training, coordination and empowerment activity in the network of gender focal points.**



## Network of gender focal points

**The network of gender focal points includes over 142 such points around the world, at headquarters and field offices. Proparco has three people working part-time on gender and Expertise France also has a network of gender focal points, along with a focal point liaising with AFD.**

Quarterly meetings of the gender focal points were organized in 2021, and 300 people signed up for the sessions on awareness raising and strengthening the methodology for gender mainstreaming in projects.



2021 also saw **the launch of the "Gender and Development" MOOC proposed by AFD Campus**, a result of the work jointly carried out by Expertise France, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and AFD. The MOOC has been designed to strengthen the gender mainstreaming approach in international cooperation and in development projects. It has been followed by over 3,000 people.

To improve the definition of gender issues and strengthen the transformative approach of the projects in its portfolio, **AFD has also mobilized a project seed fund dedicated to gender equality (€5 million)**. Its resources have financed the start-up of over 20 G-2 projects for a total of €456 million (€327 million in loans and €129 million in grants).



# Our flagship gender projects in 2021

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In 2021, AFD developed the strategic focuses of its gender and development approach, which aims to promote equal rights and the fair sharing of resources and responsibilities between women and men. Its support for the feminist movement of associations in countries in the Global South is implemented through projects focused on the rights of women and girls, the culture of equality, climate action and the fight against gender-based violence.



## ENHANCING PUBLIC POLICY DIALOGUE ON GENDER EQUALITY

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**Gender-responsive budgeting (GRB)** is a budgetary approach based on results showing that gender inequality is being systematically and holistically taken into account. Its purpose is to ensure gender mainstreaming in the planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of public policies in the interest of performance, transparency and accountability.

### Morocco

€150 M

#### Loan

This project involves analyzing the budget of the Moroccan Government, in particular eight ministries, from a gender perspective. This analysis is part of the new budget law and is allowing for a gender-based planning, implementation and evaluation of the public policies of these ministries.

### Jordan

€150 M

#### Loan

The project aims to reduce gender inequalities by strengthening and implementing GRB. Its specific objectives are to include GRB in the country's budget cycle and help consolidate and operationalize Jordan's gender equality commitments.



## PROMOTING THE CULTURE OF EQUALITY

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### Multi-country

**Ajyal Égalité: promoting a culture of gender equality**

€5.5 M

#### Grant

The project targets countries in North Africa, a region faced with marked socioeconomic inequalities and hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. The program's objective is to reduce gender inequalities, with a focus on women's leadership, help promote a culture of gender equality in the Maghreb and support feminist movements.

### Multi-country

**Advocacy for a greater promotion of the rights of women and girls**

€2.8 M

#### Grant

This project aims to strengthen feminist organizations in Benin, Madagascar, Mali and the subregion in order to promote the collective voice of women and girls in the preparation, updating and implementation of laws, standards and policies taking gender-specific barriers into account. Its ultimate aim is to improve the exercise of human rights for women and girls, as well as gender equality.



## GENDER, CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

Women are leading actors in the fight against climate change. They also play a key role in agriculture, food security and nutrition. To effectively consider gender-related vulnerability, AFD promotes gender mainstreaming in the formulation of its policies and the execution of projects, whether they relate to climate change, biodiversity protection or rural development.

### Costa Rica

#### Financing the low-carbon trajectory

€150 M

##### Loan

The project contributes to policy-based loans to support the country's sustainable and low-carbon trajectory in three thematic areas (sustainable construction, solid waste management, and the just transition). This project has a dual crosscutting and specific approach to gender, which involves taking gender into consideration in each of the project components (for example, deconstruction of gender stereotypes in employment in the solid waste management sector).

### Multi-country

#### Adapt'Action – Phase 2

€15 M

##### Grant

Adapt'Action is assisting African countries that are vulnerable to climate change with the implementation of the Paris Agreement. It aims to strengthen their technical, organizational and institutional capacities, with a focus on the theme of climate change adaptation. In this second phase of the project, gender relations are considered both on their own terms and as they relate to other aspects of life. The project will contribute to extending and developing the outcomes of Adapt'Action 1, which has been supporting 13 countries and 2 regional organizations since 2017.

### Bangladesh

#### Sustainable development of water supply in Dhaka

€130 M

##### Loan

The project follows on from a first phase launched by AFD in 2013. This additional funding phase is co-financed with the Asian Development Bank and the European Investment Bank. This major drinking water supply project in Dhaka and its region is implemented by the Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) and will preserve groundwater resources which are currently overexploited. It will also be part of the city's efforts to adapt to the effects of climate change. Gender mainstreaming is a core component of this project, through training for the teams in gender issues and women's employment in unskilled and semi-skilled jobs.

### Multi-country

#### "Feminists for Climate and Environment Alternatives" (FACE) program

€5 M

##### Grant

The FACE project is financed by the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations. It is strengthening and developing feminist associations for the promotion of women's rights in the response to the climate and environmental challenges. The program makes financing available and organizes advocacy outreach and knowledge production activities on these issues. It will contribute to the implementation of institutional changes and will increase women's participation in economic and political decision-making spaces.



## CONFRONTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND VYING FOR THE RIGHT TO HAVE CONTROL OVER ONE'S OWN BODY

AFD implements its feminist commitment through projects on the right to have control over one's own body. These projects focus on both sexual and reproductive health and rights, and on efforts to reduce gender-based violence. These are particularly sensitive issues in areas caught up in crises and conflict, and are addressed through the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

### **Central African Republic (CAR)**

**NINGO project: holistic care for victims of sexual and gender-based violence**

**€6 M**

#### **Grant**

The project follows on from a first phase launched by AFD in 2019, which set up a care center for victims of gender-based violence. This new phase has the same objectives, namely to provide victims of sexual violence with access to high-quality holistic care based on a coordinated, assisted and comprehensive pathway. To this end, it will set up a "single window" at the University Hospital Center of the Sino-Central African Friendship (CHUASC) and at the Central African Association of Women Lawyers (AFJC) in Bangui. It also has the overall objective of preventing sexual violence in the country.

### **Multi-country**

**"Feminist Opportunities Now" (FON) against gender-based violence (GBV)**

**€14 M**

#### **Grant**

This call for projects by the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations aims to create an enabling environment for feminist CSOs in the Global South to prevent and try to eliminate GBV. It is financing feminist organizations in the Global South working on this issue, while developing knowledge and advocacy in each country where the project is implemented.

### **Republic of Guinea**

**Training and awareness-raising to combat obstetric and gynecological violence**

**€1.1 M**

#### **Grant**

The project supports the development of programs and practices to promote respectful and wellness care and thereby reduce gender-based violence in the form of obstetric and gynecological violence. More generally, this grant will finance projects that address violence, and the factors that give rise to it, long term. This project is an example of AFD's involvement in an issue as yet little explored. The lessons and good practices learned from the approaches developed by local NGOs will allow AFD to finance operations tailored to the needs of the final beneficiaries.

### **Ethiopia**

**Improving menstrual hygiene management (MHM)**

**€2.4 M**

#### **Grant**

This project is reducing "period poverty" by improving access to information and menstrual hygiene products for women and girls. The objective is for them to be able to manage their periods with dignity. A systemic transformation of practices and perceptions related to menstrual hygiene is essential for improving its management.

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## Towards a World in Common

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Agence Française de Développement (AFD) contributes to implement 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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