



RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



The
Minka

Peace and Resilience Fund

ACTIVITY REPORT

2023

#WorldInCommon

By 2030, nearly 60% of people suffering from extreme poverty will be living in a fragile state or a country affected by violent conflict.¹

The worldwide proliferation of protracted crises and violent conflicts is a major obstacle to peace and international security, and thus to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. That's why France has made preventing and addressing such crises and fragile contexts one of the key objectives of its policy on inclusive development and the fight against global inequalities.

Faithful to these commitments, AFD has made action in crisis areas one of its far-reaching goals by mobilizing the three entities of AFD Group (AFD, Expertise France and Proparco), its wide range of financial tools, and its mobilization capacities. This strategic priority led in 2017 to the creation of the "Minka Peace and Resilience Fund". Minka is AFD's dedicated grant instrument for action in situations of crises and violent conflicts.

The "Minka projects", which use custom-made operating procedures, are designed to focus on vulnerabilities to conflicts and to address their causes and consequences. In all the Minka operations, the objective is to bolster social cohesion and boost people's abilities to withstand shocks.

¹<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/overview>

in 2023

Minka Fund:

€124 M

for crisis and violent conflict prevention and response.

Representing

15%
of grants

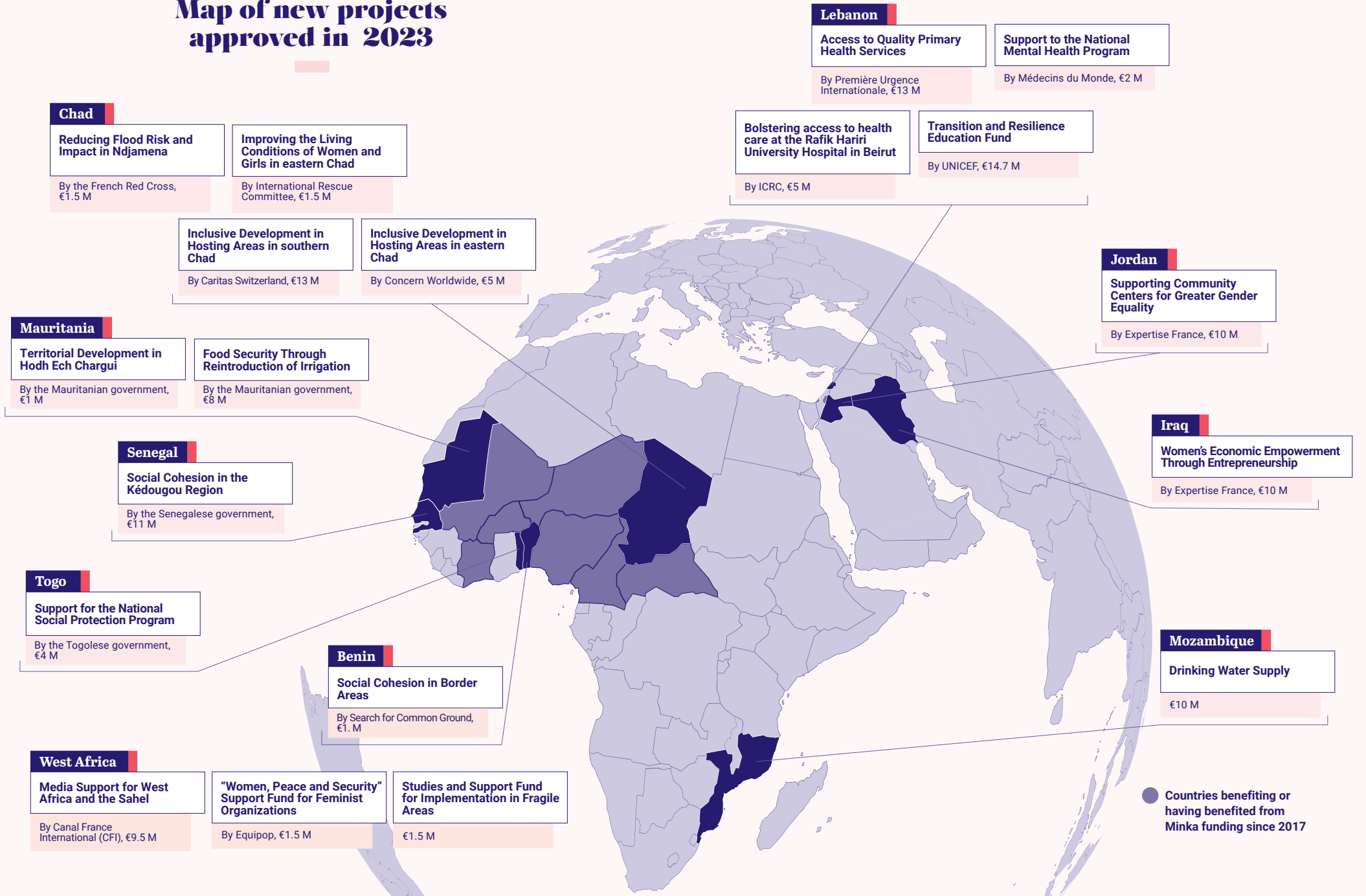
entrusted to AFD by the French government.

This amount is substantially lower than in 2022, as new funding was suspended due to changes in the political situation in Central Sahel. The €124 M were used to finance 25 operations in the four traditional crisis regions where the Minka Fund has focused its financing since 2017 (the Sahel, Lake Chad, the Central African Republic and the Middle East), in areas threatened by the extension of the Sahel crisis, and in Mozambique.

In 2023, nearly 100% of Minka projects helped boost gender equality, and for 25% gender equality was their principal objective. These figures mean that the Minka Fund has surpassed the objectives set by French law², making Minka a pioneer fund for both AFD and for the French government's system to take into account gender and gender-based violence in crisis situations.

²The Act of 2021 on Inclusive Development and Combating Global Inequalities (Loi du 4 août 2021) stipulates that 85% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) should have gender equality as its principal objective (DAC 2) or as a significant objective (DAC1), with 20% as its principal objective by 2025.

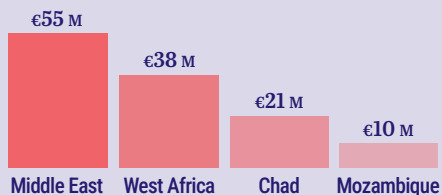
Map of new projects approved in 2023



2023: a geographic scope disrupted by geopolitical developments

Following the suspension of grants in Central Sahel in 2023, the geographic scope of Minka funding has partially changed.

➤ Breakdown of 2023 commitments, by geographical area



In 2023, Lebanon remained the Minka Fund top beneficiary country, **with €35 M in new financing**.

In the Sahel, new Minka funding focused on **Mauritania**, for a total of **€9 M**. Despite the deteriorating security situation in Central Sahel, some projects implemented by NGOs in Burkina Faso and Niger were able to continue, so as to provide long-term support to vulnerable people.

In response to the extension of the effects of the Sahel crisis, a total of **€16.5 M** in funding was deployed in **Senegal, Togo, and Benin**. An additional €12.5 M was allocated to three regional projects in West Africa, with the aim of preventing violent conflict.



Senegal

Preventing tensions linked to population displacement

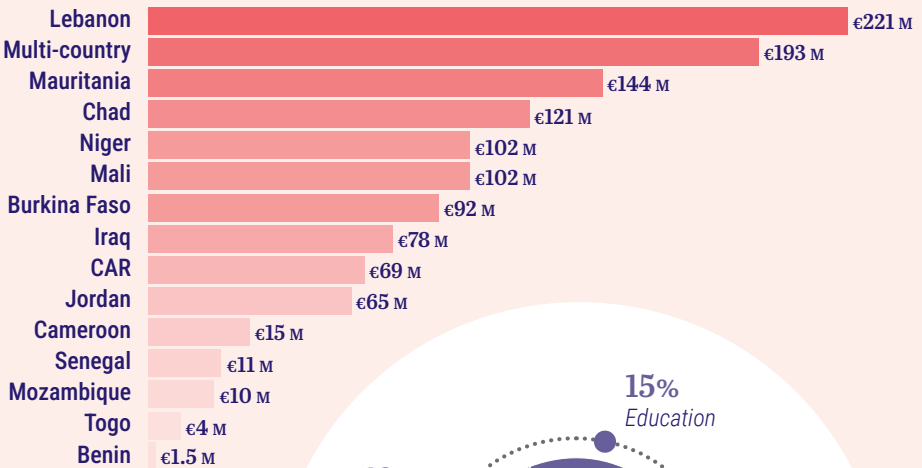
The Kédougou region bordering Mali and Guinea faces risks of destabilization. In response, the Senegalese Ministry of Local Authorities, Planning and Territorial Development launched a project to bolster local governance to prevent tensions and provide socio-economic support, in particular via the economic empowerment of women.

Support for vulnerable people in conflict or crisis areas since Minka's creation in 2017

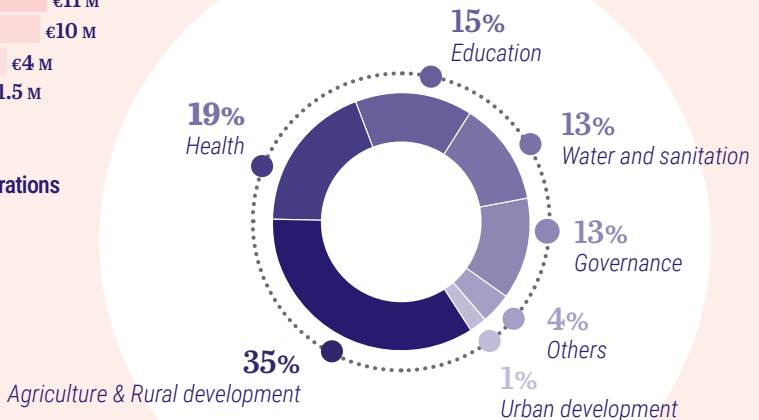
From 2017 to 2023, AFD committed more than €1.2 BN through the Minka Fund, to 175 operations in the four above-mentioned priority crisis areas for France.

An evaluation carried out in 2022 showed that the Minka Fund has enabled in-depth transformations in AFD's approach to crisis areas. AFD is now able to maintain a presence and support its partners in crisis situations, within the framework set by the French government. It has operating procedures adapted for crisis areas, which can help deliver initial support to people faster and provide greater flexibility in the operations.

Breakdown of financing, by country - 2017-2023



Breakdown of operations financed, by sector - 2017-2023



Increasingly diversified partners, to work as closely as possible with people on the ground

Since its creation, Minka has enabled AFD to maintain its presence and activities in crisis areas by developing a culture of partnership with a wide range of project owners.

For prevention and response challenges, public institutions are key stakeholders. That's why most Minka projects financed in Mauritania, Togo, Senegal or Jordan are implemented by national institutions. But when it comes to providing support to vulnerable people, it's consistently also crucial to mobilize CSOs; operators such as Expertise France; or international organizations such as the ICRC, UNICEF or UNRWA. Most Minka projects involve these stakeholders to work at different scales.



Mauritania

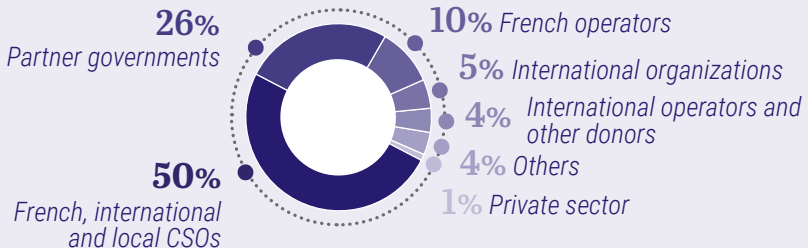
Promoting access to justice

To strengthen the rule of law in an area affected by a massive influx of Malian refugees, the project to improve access to justice in Mauritania is being carried out jointly by the Mauritanian Ministry of Justice and the CSO Terre des Hommes, in partnership with the Mauritanian Association of Women Heads of Families.

➤ ICRC: a proven partnership

Since 2017, the ICRC and AFD have been implementing joint projects in the Middle East and Africa working together in the fields of water and sanitation, health care, food and agricultural systems, and the strengthening of people's resilience. The ICRC has become a key partner of AFD in crisis situations, where it has unparalleled legitimacy and capacity for action. This partnership has been renewed and strengthened for the 2022-2025 period.

➤ Breakdown of commitments under implementation, by project owner - 2017-2023



Minka, an essential tool for implementing the “Women, Peace and Security” agenda

Since its creation, the Minka Fund has sought to respond to the incommensurate impact of crises and armed conflicts on women and children.

That’s why Minka is helping to implement “Women, Peace and Security 2021-2025”. The four pillars of this French national action plan are (i) prevention of gender-based violence; (ii) protection of women and children; (iii) participation by women in crisis and conflict prevention, management and resolution mechanisms; and (iv) promotion of women’s rights in fragile contexts.

France and AFD have committed considerable resources to the “Women, Peace and Security” agenda:

between 2017 and 2023, the Minka Fund committed over €1 BN to support more than 120 projects to further the rights of women and children affected by conflicts in the Middle East, the Sahel and Central Africa.



Chad

Working to eliminate gender-based violence

In eastern Chad, a project to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights and to eliminate gender-based violence has targeted areas that host refugees. It has helped to strengthen 20 health centers and improve healthcare access for 550,000 people, including 220,000 refugees. Implemented by IRC.

Increased focus on forcibly displaced persons and the host communities

Since 2017, AFD has used the Minka Fund to invest more than €360 M in projects whose main objective is to strengthen the resilience of forcibly displaced persons and their host communities.

These financed operations have centered mainly on access to essential services (health care, water, and sanitation), improvement of social cohesion, and socio-economic integration with a focus on the agriculture sector.

➤ In the **Middle East**, €270 M in grants have financed 26 projects since 2017 to help Syrian refugees and host communities in Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq. The projects focus on mitigating the vulnerabilities of communities forcibly displaced by the Syrian crisis and on boosting the resilience of their host countries, especially in their capacity to provide inclusive public services.

At the last Global Refugee Forum in December 2023, AFD committed to allocating €150 M over four years, via Minka, to projects targeting displaced and refugee populations and the host communities.



Central African Republic

The political and security crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR) has led to the displacement of nearly 550,000 people in the country, either internally or to neighboring countries. The I Yéké Oko project (2019-2023) provided cross-border support to areas affected by forced displacements. It carried out activities aimed at promoting civic, social, and socio-economic cohesion for 236,000 beneficiaries (host, refugee and returnee populations) in Cameroon and CAR. Appraisal is underway for a second phase with the same NGO consortium lead partner, the French Red Cross.

Prospects for 2024

The 2023 results of the Minka Peace and Resilience Fund show that AFD's action in crisis areas needs to adapt to geopolitical upheavals (e.g., war in Ukraine and Palestine, reconfiguration in Central Sahel). Through Minka, we can see that AFD has made progress since 2017 in operating in crisis areas more effectively and flexibly. In 2023, Minka was deployed in Mozambique and in the West African countries affected by the Sahel crisis, especially population displacement.

In 2024, the Minka Fund continues to evolve: It now has a clear doctrine of action on crisis prevention and response, with a special focus on vulnerable and forcibly displaced people and host communities, as well as on the situation of women and children in conflict situations. Its operational aspects (especially procedural

and contractual developments) will also be improved. The geographical focus of its financing will be determined more clearly with the French government, to allow for more flexibility, responsiveness, and long-term investment that will prevent and respond to the vulnerabilities that arise from conflicts.

There will be improved links between the Minka instrument and the Team France tools working on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach. Ties with funding from the Crisis and Support Center in particular will be strengthened, including for a joint operation in Ukraine from 2024 onwards.

About AFD

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 2,700 projects in the field, in 120 countries and French Overseas Departments and Territories. 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.

AFD

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