



# Gender Equality

ACTIVITY REPORT

2019  
2020

A stylized world map with white outlines of continents and countries, set against a solid orange background. The map is centered, with North and South America on the left and Europe, Africa, and Asia on the right.

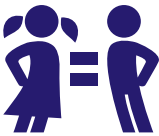
## AFD: a feminist institution

**G**ender equality contributes to accelerating development. Women's rights and their empowerment are central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are priorities for AFD.

A key actor in France's feminist diplomacy, AFD is actively working to reach Sustainable Development Goal n° 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". Indeed, it is convinced that women play a key role in building fairer, prosperous and inclusive societies.

AFD works closely with people and its partners. It takes gender analysis into account in all its projects and targets the structural causes of inequality by implementing transformative actions.

# Gender equality central to the 100% Social Link strategy



Social cohesion is a major pillar of AFD’s action. Its 100% Social Link strategy aims to reduce multidimensional inequalities and strengthen people’s inclusion in different contexts.

Gender equality is a cross-cutting thematic area and a strong marker of this strategy. Our actions have several operational objectives:

- **Increase access to essential services**, including sexual and reproductive health and services
- **Promote civil and political rights**, women’s leadership and their participation in the economy
- **Strengthen the economic and social rights of women.**

AFD is actively involved in key sectors that promote women’s empowerment: health and education, sexual and reproductive health and rights, women’s entrepreneurship, the fight against sexist and sexual violence. It also contributes to the implementation of the “Women, Peace and Security Agenda” in fragile and crisis areas (including the fight against sexual violence as a weapon of war).

AFD takes the gender analysis into account in all its operations: 100% of projects are scored according to the OECD’s DAC gender marker.

We promote a gender-responsive and systemic approach to equality, considering the diversity of contexts and interactions between sectors.

## The DAC G-Marker System

We screen all our projects according to the OECD-DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker to track the effectiveness of our resource allocation for gender equality.

**G-Marker stands for Gender Equality Policy Marker, and consists of three scores:**

**G-0**  
Gender equality  
**is not targeted**  
by the project

**G-1**  
Gender equality  
**is a significant objective**  
of the project

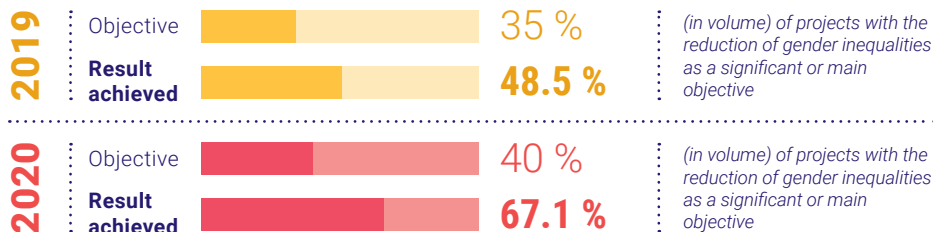
**G-2**  
Gender equality  
**is the principal objective**  
of the project

# Our gender equality commitments in 2019-2020

## G-1 and G-2 projects

In 2019 and 2020, all the projects and programs financed by AFD in foreign countries have been subject to the gender analysis and screened rating according to the OECD's G-Marker. The data on these two pages show the total amount committed to G-1 and G-2 projects.

AFD has made a special effort to promote gender equality, human rights and the rights of woman and girls in particular. AFD has exceeded the objectives of France's international strategy for gender equality for 2018-2022.



## The objectives have been exceeded

through a proactive approach to mainstream this dimension in all AFD's sectoral operations.

## Commitments that contribute to promoting gender equality

€4.8 BN

committed in 2019

€5.8 BN

committed in 2020

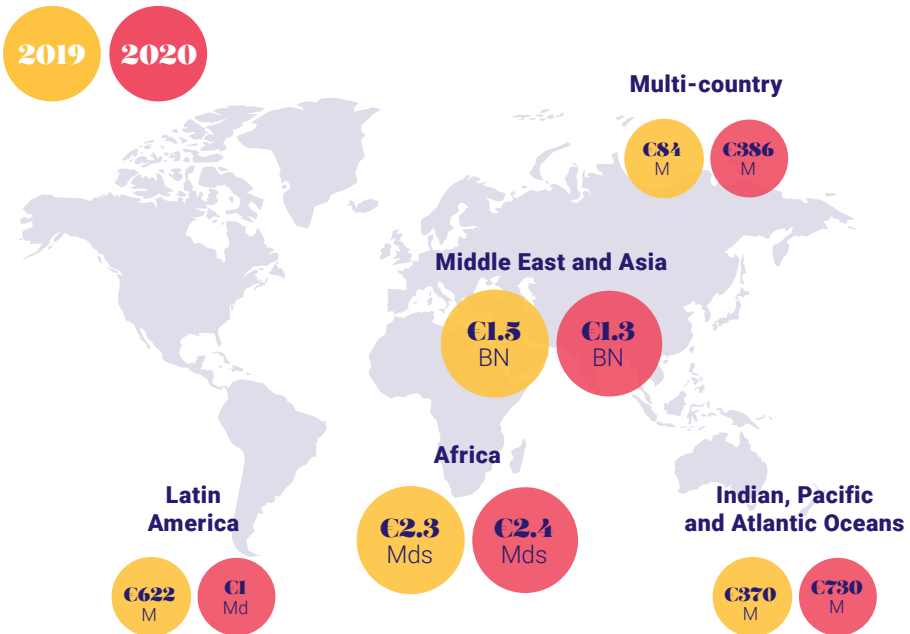


Over

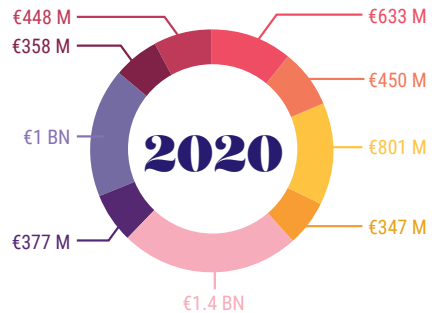
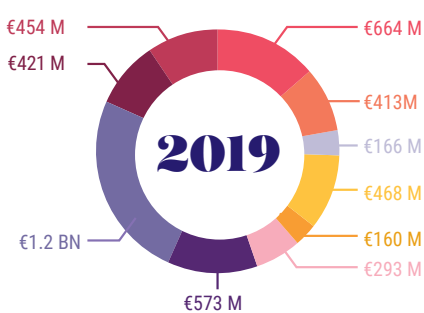
€10 BN

committed for projects that contribute to reducing gender inequalities in 2019 and 2020

## Breakdown by region



## Breakdown by sector



- Water and sanitation
- Energy
- Other sectors
- Agriculture, rural development and biodiversity
- Governance

- Health and social protection
- Education, vocational training and employment
- Financial institutions and access to financing
- Transports and mobility
- Urban development, planning and housing

# Our gender equality commitments in 2019-2020

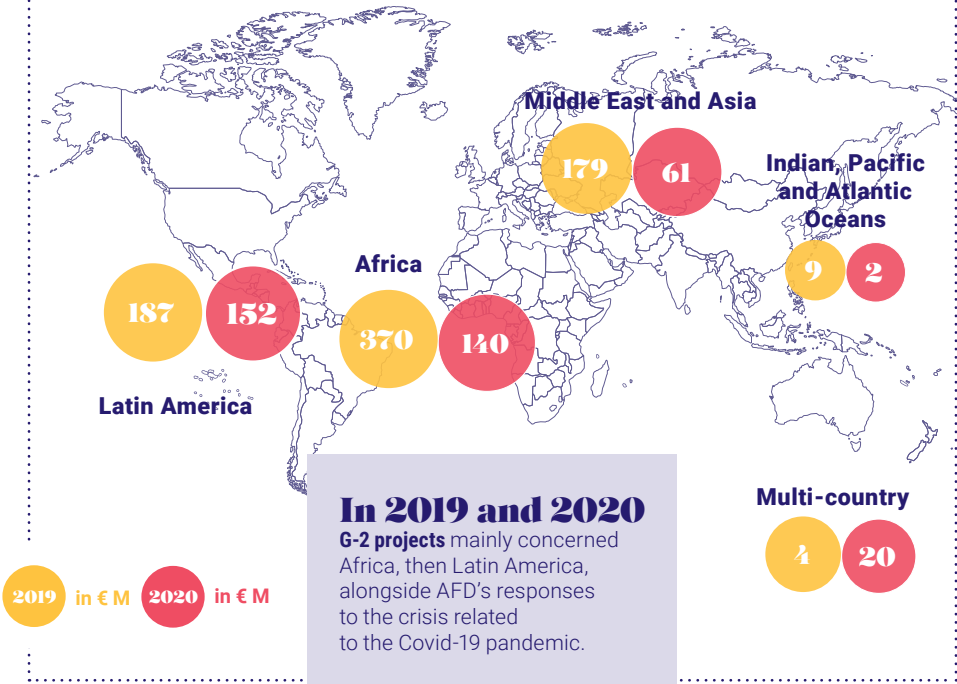
## G-1 and G-2 projects

AFD finances projects whose main objective is to reduce gender inequalities: G-2 projects. The data on these two pages show the amounts committed to projects scored G-2.

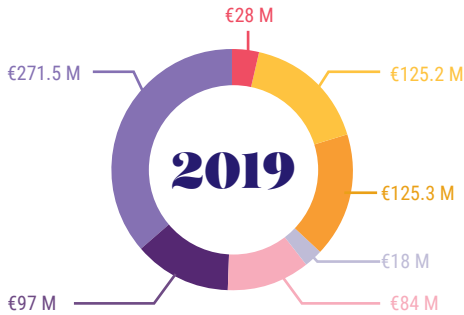
### Commitments with the promotion of gender equality as the main objective



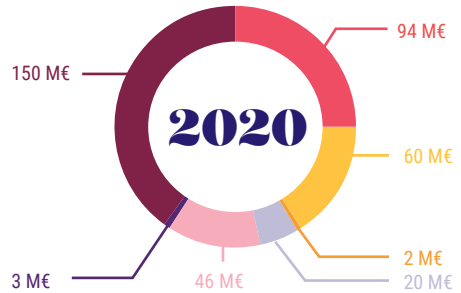
### Breakdown by region



## Breakdown by sector



- Water and sanitation
- Agriculture, rural development and biodiversity
- Governance
- Other sectors



- Health and social protection
- Education, vocational training and employment
- Financial institutions and access to financing
- Urban development, planning and housing

## A wide range of commitments

**G-2 projects** focus on the sectors of agriculture, rural development and biodiversity, governance, access to financing and the economic empowerment of women.

In the health and social protection sector, G-2 projects focus on thematic areas such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, the fight against gender-based violence and strengthening neonatal health systems.

# New initiatives in favor of gender equality

Building on political and proactive support for equality, AFD has implemented several actions to give weight to the Generation Equality Forum, the largest international meeting for gender equality since the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995.



## A strategic initiative: the coalition of public development banks (PDBs)

In November 2020, the Finance in Common Summit gathered 450 international Public Development Banks. They built a coalition determined to take action for the planet and people. Twenty-six of them signed **a joint statement on gender equality and women's empowerment**. In addition, in the context of the Generation Equality Forum, AFD and UN Women have launched several working groups with 50 development banks on financing equality, good practices and accountability.



## A flagship fund dedicated to feminist organizations

Launched in July 2020, the **Support Fund for Feminist Organizations (FSOF)** aims at supporting feminist civil society organizations in partner countries of France's international development policy. Jointly managed by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and AFD, this fund is mobilizing €120 million for a three-year period (2020, 2021, 2022) to finance the activities of feminist movements in partner countries working for gender equality and the rights of women and girls.

€120 M



## Actions to closely support AFD's operations

A €5 million budget (10% of the total budget of €50 million) from the Project Start-up, Preparation and Monitoring facility (FAPS) has targeted the theme of gender equality. The objective: finance operational studies for pre-identified projects devoted to gender equality G-2 Marker). This facility will also finance studies for the preparation of gender responsive sectoral projects.

€5 M





# Supporting the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda



On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security". The objective is to increase the participation of women in the processes of conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding. Other resolutions have strengthened this commitment, thereby forming an international mechanism: "The Women, Peace and Security Agenda". AFD is contributing to the achievement of this agenda through the Minka Peace and Resilience Fund. With an annual budget of €200 million, the Minka fund operates in several crisis areas: the Sahel region, the Lake Chad Basin, the Central African Republic and Syria's neighboring countries.

## In 2019 and 2020

**80 %**

of Minka projects scored G-1 and G-2, including **21 %** of G-2 projects.



**15**

projects (for a total amount of **€94.2 million**) directly and specifically target the inclusion of women in access to essential services (health, education, water, land) and governance in Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Mauritania and the Middle East.

**€364 M**

committed for peacebuilding projects, taking into account the voices, rights and specific needs of women and girls (G-1 and G-2 projects).

↓  
**€229 M**  
in 2019

↓  
**€135 M**  
in 2020

## Project focus

**Fight against sexual violence as a weapon of war**



**Central African Republic**

**Improving treatment for victims of sexual violence**

**€4.2 million | Grant**

Capitalizing on their common experience in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Pierre Fabre Foundation, the Panzi Foundation DRC and the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation have launched the "Nengo" ("dignity" in Sango) project. This project is based on setting up a center for the holistic treatment of victims of gender-based violence in Bangui. This approach helps victims permanently rebuild their lives by offering them not only access to conventional medical care, but also long-term psychological, socioeconomic and legal assistance.

# Flagship projects

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## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

### Turkey

**Promoting professional  
gender equality**

**€85 million**

**Loan**

The partnership between the Turkish development bank TSKB (Türkiye Sınai Kalkınma Bankası) and AFD involves supporting the investments of companies that contribute to women's empowerment and commit to professional gender equality, as well as women's employment in Turkey. This project is in the form of a credit line, the first gender-based one for AFD.



## SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

### Multi-country

**Call for projects  
"Feminists in action"**

**€15 million**

**Grant, Support Fund  
for Feminist Organizations**

This call for projects is an intermediated fund to finance the activities of feminist movements in partner countries of France's international cooperation on the following themes: reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence, economic empowerment and access to rights.



## FIGHT AGAINST GENDER-BASED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

### Chad

**€10  
million**

**Grant**

**Preventing gender-based  
violence in the Lake Chad region**

The "Support for the Development of Young Children from the Lake Region (ADELAC)" project aims to create favorable conditions for the overall development of young children, from birth until the completion of primary school, in the Mamdi Department. It will focus on developing activities to empower mothers and protect them against gender-based violence.

# Gender, climate and environment

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.



## Project focus

G-2 projects



### **Madagascar**

**Training women solar engineers in remote rural areas**

**€400,000 | Grant**

To ensure sustainable access to modern lighting and electricity for some four million people living in remote rural areas, the project is focusing on transferring know-how to village communities, especially to women. The "Women Solar Engineers" approach involves training women in rural areas so that they can make the components of a solar system, assemble them, install them and handle their maintenance and repairs for households in their villages.



### **India**

**Restoring forest ecosystems with residents of Assam**

**€50 million | Loan**

The project follows on from a first phase initiated by AFD in 2012, during which over 21,000 hectares were replanted, 136 village communities were supported and over 300 officers were trained in sustainable forest management. This new phase will continue the objectives of participatory nature conservation, combined with the sustainable development of local communities. It also has a cross-cutting objective of mainstreaming gender issues.



### **Mauritania**

**Improving food security by reviving irrigated agriculture**

**€10 million | Grant**

The project targets the Gorgol and Guidimakha regions, which are particularly vulnerable to climate hazards, with underlying socio-political weaknesses. It has the cross-cutting objective of reducing gender inequality in order to improve access to land for women and promote sustainable natural resources management.

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## Towards a World in Common

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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.



[www.afd.fr/en](http://www.afd.fr/en)

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