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FRANÇAISE

*Liberté  
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# — Gulf of Guinea

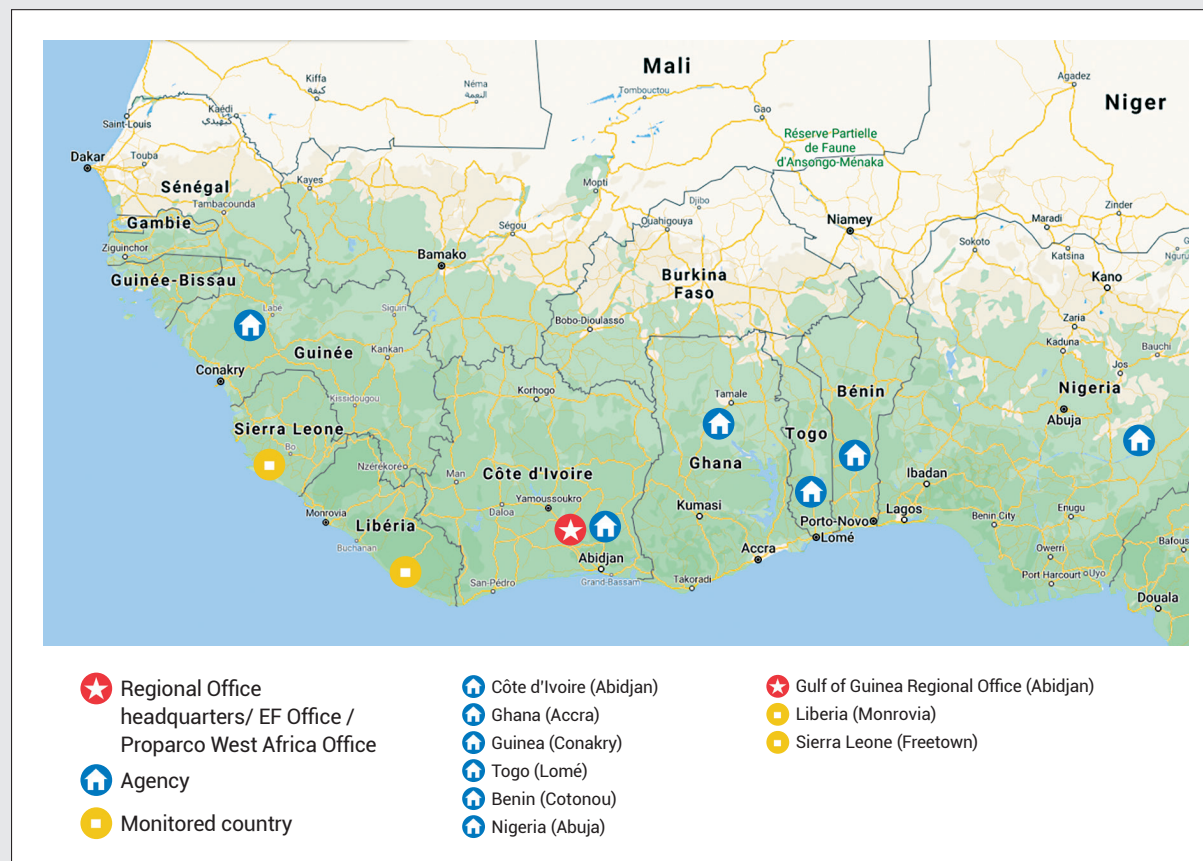
## Regional Strategy 2020-2024

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Between 2017 and 2019, AFD reorganised its network around 17 Regional Offices, with the dual aim of devolving decision-making and sharing skills. Based in Abidjan, the Gulf of Guinea Regional Office covers Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo.

The Regional Office's mission is to implement the Group's strategy in the Gulf of Guinea, working with teams from AFD, Proparco (a subsidiary which focuses on the private sector) and Expertise France, which provides technical cooperation.



This strategy was prepared on the basis of broad consultations and was the subject of discussions with the authorities responsible for supervising AFD and the French representative offices in the countries concerned. It sets out the priorities of French development policy defined by the Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) and adopted by the Group in its 2018-2022 Strategy in order to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. The strategy also responds to a speech given by French President Emmanuel Macron, in Ouagadougou in 2017, in which he called for official development assistance to be more effective, more partnership-focused and more closely connected to situations on the ground, and to be based on a stronger culture of evaluation.

The strategy sets out the AFD Group's priorities aimed at building momentum towards prosperity in the Gulf of Guinea and addressing its areas of vulnerability. The Group will focus on supporting the economic and social integration of youth in this West African region, promoting demographic and civic transition and establishing sustainable, value-creating urban spaces. It will also provide for an integrated response to the risks of instability in the border areas of the Sahel and Lake Chad.

This regional strategy indicates the priority direction of actions for subsequent implementation in each country. The country strategies for the region will be formulated on this basis, taking into account specific local issues. The regional strategy covers the period 2020-2024 and may be reviewed before the end of that time frame as circumstances evolve.

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**1.**

**THE GULF OF GUINEA**

# 1.1. THE REGION AND ITS CHALLENGES

**Composed of eight countries, the Gulf of Guinea is a demographic and economic heavyweight on the continent.**

By 2050, the region will account for 25% of the African population at a time when Africa will be home to 50% of the world's youth. The Gulf of Guinea's gross domestic product (GDP) currently exceeds 500 billion euros and the region benefits from a dynamic economy that produces growth rates of over 6% in most countries. Within the region, Nigeria faces enormous and specific challenges due to its demography;<sup>1</sup> its economic standing, which is greater than that of the other countries combined; and its federal structure. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana also stand out with their robust economic fundamentals,<sup>2</sup> which make them highly attractive in the region and afford them a degree of influence that has yet to be fully unleashed.

**As the point of entry to the Sahel and the Lake Chad region, the Gulf of Guinea is at once a gateway, a place of reception and a space for exchanges.** It already constitutes a free trade area that draws on supply chains linking the Sahel and the Gulf of Guinea via corridors leading to different ports, and is powered by legal and labour migration, which also contribute to the resilience of economies.<sup>3</sup> A vast interdependent West African collective is forming, with the prospect of a monetary union through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the coming years.

**This "vertical" Sahel, which unites coastal and Sahelian countries, is also illustrated through the rise of shared vulnerabilities.**<sup>4</sup> In addition to the threat of terrorism facing Nigeria over recent years and the phenomenon of piracy and robbery at sea, which has seen a worrying upsurge, there is also the risk of the Sahel's areas of instability extending into coastal countries. The potential domino effect includes hindered access to basic services, people fleeing the insecurity in certain areas, degraded pastoral dynamics, the deterioration of food security and nutrition, a weakened civil society due to security crackdowns by public authorities and the economic destabilisation of tourist areas. The effects of climate change in the region may also disrupt the production and sale of agricultural resources, both for subsistence and export, thus reinforcing the destabilising factors. In a context where this interdependence is vital and consubstantial to both areas, it is unrealistic to seek complete containment. There is an inevitable obligation to anticipate the future.

**Population growth (2.6% on average per year over the past decade) is the region's major concern, offering the opportunity to harness the demographic dividend while also representing a significant challenge in terms of employment<sup>5</sup> and citizenship.** In fact, unemployment among young people and the poor quality of their existing jobs means that development is currently suboptimal.<sup>6</sup> Pressure on land resources is also increasing in rural areas where young people make up 65% of the agricultural workforce. This rapid demographic growth is also being accompanied by a boom in urbanisation.<sup>7</sup> Urban expansion is a source of development thanks to the productivity gains it generates and through the redefinition of the agricultural functions required to supply cities. The urban corridor, which extends over 1,000 km from Abidjan to Lagos, via Accra, Lomé and Cotonou, now has a population of 40 million, making it the largest conurbation in Africa. The multiplication of intermediary cities, resulting in a virtually unplanned territorial rebalancing, complicates this urban reality.

**However, the zone's growth trend should not mask its endogenous weaknesses.** Above all, access to a stable and clean energy supply is a major economic, climate and social priority. Inequalities persist and are even worsening when it comes to access to basic services, thereby making it difficult to address societal challenges<sup>8</sup> and issues of social cohesion in the long term. This is especially true when these inequalities are part of a context in which major gender disparities persist and, in certain countries and regions, harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation continue to occur. The situation with regard to sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal and nutritional health remains a concern. Emerging health problems (malnutrition in all its forms, non-communicable diseases, diseases linked to pollution, new forms of disability, and emerging epidemics such as COVID-19) are added to still prevalent communicable and/or tropical diseases. The problems of exclusion and impoverishment are increasing in certain urban areas. Poorly controlled urban growth has serious negative consequences: the loss of lagoon environments threatens the future of often already vulnerable districts, while urban population density on the coast places a strain on ecosystems. Lastly, demographic growth has led to a severe deterioration in forest cover and biodiversity, disrupting the entire region's rainfall and hydrological systems and threatening the social equilibrium of rural areas. The expected effects of climate change could further aggravate the intrinsic vulnerabilities of the zone.

<sup>1</sup> For example, in Nigeria there are currently 80 million poor people, which is more than in India.

<sup>2</sup> Their GDP per capita is in excess of USD 1,500, more than double that of Togo, Benin and Guinea.

<sup>3</sup> Côte d'Ivoire hosts 2.2 million migrants, Nigeria 1.2 million, Ghana 417,000, Togo 284,000 and Benin 250,000. Some 95% of migrants come from the region itself (source: International Organization for Migration).

<sup>4</sup> In 2014, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Togo and Liberia signed a "New Deal" between fragile states, development partners and civil society.

<sup>5</sup> The region has a literacy rate of 57%.

<sup>6</sup> Depending on the country, employment rates for young people are approximately 20 percentage points lower than for adults.

<sup>7</sup> Some 49% of the Gulf of Guinea population lives in urban areas.

<sup>8</sup> The under-five mortality rate is above 0.9 % – the highest in Africa. Life expectancy at birth is 55 years.

**Despite its vulnerabilities, the region is undoubtedly acquiring a new geopolitical dimension owing to its demographic and economic standing and its generally peaceful political and security environment, in a context of interdependence with the neighbouring states to the north.** In fact, the entire zone is now attracting new development actors from emerging countries (China, Turkey,

Middle Eastern countries) alongside traditional Western donors.<sup>9</sup> AFD Group remains uniquely positioned in the region, with a mandate to operate in the eight countries of the Gulf of Guinea, as well as a physical presence in seven of these countries, thanks to successive waves of implementation.

## 1.2. THE POSITIONING OF AFD GROUP

**In this shifting landscape, AFD Group can rely on a very strong, multidimensional relationship built on common interests between France and this regional grouping:**

four Gulf of Guinea countries are French-speaking, with a significant number of French schools and large contingents of students in France;<sup>10</sup> a monetary cooperation agreement (the CFA Franc Zone and, soon, the ECOWAS single currency, the Eco) unites three countries; and four countries have a "common history" with France – in which the AFD's predecessors, the Caisse Centrale de la France Libre [Central Fund for Free France] and, later, the Caisse Centrale de Coopération Économique [Central Fund for Economic Cooperation] played their part – and are the origin of the second largest diaspora in France after the North Africa diaspora. France's economic and financial presence is evident.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, the English-speaking part of the Gulf of Guinea includes two countries – Ghana and Nigeria – that are major economic and demographic powerhouses.

**Thus, in this context conducive to a strong relationship between France and the Gulf of Guinea, AFD Group (AFD and Proparco) authorised funding projects totalling 5.3 billion euros during the 2015-2019 period.** A particularly significant year for the Group was 2019 with nearly 1.283 billion euros granted, including 355 million euros by Proparco. With a broad portfolio and a variety of tools, states are taking on an increasing level of exposure: sovereign activity has recently grown based on improved debt sustainability in several countries. Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria have received significant volumes (77% between them),

although resources in the form of grants (excluding debt reduction and development contracts, known as C2Ds, and subsidies) are concentrated in the four priority countries for French development aid in the region, namely Benin, Guinea, Liberia and Togo (see box on next page).

**The territorial and ecological transition and the energy transition account for nearly 60% of funding (2.1 billion and 1 billion euros respectively)** with significant activity in the infrastructure and urban development sectors (40% of total commitments) and agriculture (10% of total commitments).

**It should be noted that the implementation of projects, particularly those involving major infrastructure, remains relatively slow for a number of reasons** which vary depending on the project: heterogeneous contracting authorities, feasibility studies that are not always sufficiently prepared, and environmental and social issues that may be poorly addressed. This generates large volumes of undisbursed funds (4 billion euros at the end of 2019). In the area of basic infrastructure (energy, water, sanitation), **public policy dialogue is sought** beyond project funding in order to find a balance between meeting the vast needs of the population on the one hand and the vital importance of supporting sectoral reforms on the other. The objective of combatting climate change and the gender equality agenda now play a major role in the Group's activities: **in 2019, 58% of projects were estimated to have a climate co-benefit while 66% of commitments contributed to gender equality.**

<sup>9</sup> Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea and Togo are members of the G20 Compact with Africa, which is backed by Germany; the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has extensive programmes in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia and Togo. In 2017, French official development assistance represented 7% of development aid in the Gulf of Guinea, the same level as that of Germany but lower than that of the UK and the United States, despite considerable activity in Côte d'Ivoire (where France represents 25% of official development assistance).

<sup>10</sup> Sixteen schools are affiliated to the Agence pour l'Enseignement Français à l'Étranger [Agency for French Education Abroad], with 12,500 students enrolled, including 7,500 non-French students. Some 21% of foreign students in France are from sub-Saharan Africa. Ghana, where 0.8% of the population speaks French, wants to establish French as its second official language.

<sup>11</sup> French foreign direct investment totalled nearly €13 billion in 2017. In 2018, exports from France to the zone amounted to €2.5 billion, a large share of which went to Côte d'Ivoire.

While the contribution of the local productive sector is essential for job creation and financing the economy, **Proparco's interventions to assist the private sector amounted to nearly 780 million euros over the 2015-2019 period**, mainly in Côte d'Ivoire (nearly 50% of authorised amounts) and Nigeria (37% of authorised amounts). Expertise France<sup>12</sup> operates in the Gulf of Guinea region

through some 20 bilateral projects totalling nearly 50 million euros (almost half of which are allocated to Côte d'Ivoire), to which a dozen or so multi-country projects worth more than 90 million euros can also be added (2019). **Expertise France is particularly active in the fields of security, human rights and sustainable development.**

### The four priority countries: Benin, Guinea, Liberia, Togo

The CICID makes it clear that two-thirds of the grants made by AFD (global budget support and project grants, excluding funds for project preparation) must go to a list of 19 priority countries, four of which are in the Gulf of Guinea: Benin, Guinea, Liberia and Togo.

Between 2015 and 2019, the region benefitted from 226 million euros in grants, including 106 million euros in 2019. These grants were largely shared between Guinea (86 million euros), Benin (58 million euros), Togo (54 million euros) and Liberia (20 million euros) and funded projects in the agricultural sector (26%), education (24%), urban development (15%) and health (13%).

Operations in Guinea represented 445 million euros over five years (2015-2019), 34% of which was provided in sovereign loans, 22% in debt reduction and development contracts (C2D) and 17% in grants from the French Government. In terms of sectors, infrastructure, urban development, agriculture and food security are the main areas of focus for all financial instruments.

Benin received 376 million euros in funding authorisations during the 2015-2019 period, 72% of which took the form of sovereign loans and 15% grants. Over 76% of this sum was allocated to the infrastructure and urban development sectors.

In Togo, there were interventions worth nearly 162 million euros over the same period, 49% in sovereign loans, 33% in grants and 14% in delegated grants from other donors.

Liberia has been on the priority country list since 2018. Intervention volumes are lower here, as the absence of an agreement between the Liberian government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) until December 2019 prevented the use of sovereign loans. Consequently, subsidies from the French government have been the main financial instruments used. Liberia has received 25 million euros in authorisations over the past five years, mainly in the youth sector (education and employment).

<sup>12</sup> Expertise France's activity in the region is mainly financed by the European Union, which accounts for over 85% of the total project portfolio. AFD funding represented 10% of the total volume, which includes bilateral C2D projects in Côte d'Ivoire.



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# 2.

**AFD GROUP'S  
PRIORITIES FOR ACTION  
IN THE GULF OF GUINEA**

**In the vast territory of West Africa, the Gulf of Guinea region is emerging as a cornerstone – a relatively stable economic and social area in which progress towards prosperity must be supported and upon which West Africa as a whole will be able to establish a dynamic of development, protection and inclusion to the benefit of its people.**

**AFD Group has identified four lines of action** to consolidate the prosperity of the Gulf of Guinea and provide a specific response to its areas of vulnerability: 1) supporting the economic and social integration of youth; 2) promoting democratic and civic transition through the strengthening of states and civil society; 3) offering an integrated response to the risks of instability in the border areas of the Sahel

and Lake Chad; and 4) promoting the emergence of resilient, value-creating urban spaces with low environmental and climate footprints.

As part of its 100% Social Link commitment, the Group will ensure that all of its actions contribute to strengthening – and not weakening – social cohesion. In particular, it will aim to improve access to essential services, combat inequalities between individuals and between territories, and promote participatory approaches. In addition, as the environmental and climate crises are undermining efforts to bring about development and combat inequalities, the Group will ensure that each funding initiative contributes to sustainable, low-carbon, resilient development, in line with its 100% Paris Agreement commitment.

## 2.1. SUPPORT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF YOUTH

In the Gulf of Guinea, AFD Group will contribute to the inclusion of youth – who are all too often excluded – in this energetic period of growth and development. In this respect, the Group will launch a “100% Youth” initiative, which will first entail supporting the educational continuum. Priority will be given to basic education and vocational training, while not neglecting higher education. The ultimate goal is to ensure that young people acquire adequate basic knowledge and vocational skills to enhance their employability, while also assisting their regional mobility to ensure that opportunities are shared by all. AFD will conduct a more detailed analysis of regional migration, given the size of these flows and their evolution, in order to verify the extent to which migration represents a lever or challenge for development for host and origin countries and, thus, to develop regional and sectoral courses of action. Emphasis will also be placed on encouraging girls into vocational training, scientific and technical subjects, and sectors of economic growth.

Furthermore, AFD Group will focus on gender equality among the younger generations. To do this, it will act in a coordinated manner to promote effective, universal access to quality education that is sensitive to gender-specific issues, including access to financing, land, decent employment and health (particularly sexual and reproductive health) and combatting harmful practices. This early, cross-cutting action will bring about changes capable of generating long-term, systemic results with regard to gender equality.

Specific attention will also be paid to promoting entrepreneurship, by highlighting its positive effects on women's empowerment, and to supporting digital technology with a view to developing universal access and addressing the gender digital divide. The promotion of decent employment will also be strongly encouraged, in particular through Proparco's efforts in support of the private sector, including in highly labour-intensive sectors such as food production and industry. Particular emphasis will be placed on Expertise France's experience of programmes concerning access to employment, entrepreneurship, gender equality and migration.

Special effort will be made to reach youth living in rural areas. This will be done through agricultural vocational training, which will favour regenerative agriculture and the development of agroecology, as well as through support for entrepreneurship. This initiative will also support family farms and large agricultural value chains that create decent jobs, with a view to developing sustainable food production systems that embrace the objectives of biodiversity conservation and, more broadly, environmental sustainability. There will be increased focus on Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria to boost their regional appeal – a driver of stability and growth shared with other countries in the region.

Lastly, with a growing proportion of the population aged under 25, AFD Group will seek to strengthen social and economic cohesion, in particular through sports and cultural creation, which act as factors for unification and inclusion.

## 2.2. PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC AND CIVIC TRANSITION THROUGH ACTIONS AT STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY LEVEL

Worsening inequalities, including gender inequality, represent a risk to the Gulf of Guinea's path towards prosperity. In a context where traditional systems of solidarity are being diluted, it is necessary to support the development of both a strong state capable of tackling inequalities and a civil society with a capacity for innovation and participation that is conducive to achieving democratic and civic transition in the region. The emergence of decentralised local authorities can also act as a link between central and local initiatives, including in rural areas.

First and foremost, AFD and Expertise France will work to improve the structure and performance of administrations through programmes to better organise and strengthen administrative operations, facilitate access to public services by individuals and enterprises, and deploy universal social services (e.g. health, education). These services should be accessible to all communities in all territories, especially the remotest areas, with particular attention being paid to vulnerable populations as well as women, children and young people. The COVID-19 health crisis has highlighted the need for the systematic strengthening of health systems, including with regard to the nutritional component. Innovation, digital in particular, will be encouraged to reduce the marginal costs of certain services.

Furthermore, AFD and Expertise France will seek to support the Gulf of Guinea countries in improving their financial management and the effectiveness of their actions. Indeed, promoting healthy public finances (debt management, better tax yields, efficient spending) makes it possible to guarantee the long-term sustainability of public policies, especially those that benefit the most deprived sectors of society.

This is also a way to release the fiscal space necessary for implementing targeted development programmes, including during major crises (food security and nutrition, access to health care and adaptation of school programmes, including in the remotest regions, support for small and micro enterprises, etc.). These interventions will be complemented by improving the governance of public enterprises and the regulatory frameworks for basic services, including through a gender-sensitive approach. Modelling low-carbon development trajectories and analysing inequalities in the region will be priorities for action research in the framework of strategic memorandums of development and multi-country research programmes.

Lastly, AFD will support the development of civil society and the media in order to consolidate community networks, facilitate innovative citizen initiatives and boost access to information and public debate for all communities. In so doing, AFD will contribute to strengthened civic participation, with young people, women and men playing an active role in oversight of public policy. AFD's work will ultimately contribute to strengthening protective, transparent and open states based on the rule of law. Expertise France will contribute its expertise and capacity to develop regional programmes to meet all the objectives in this area. Digital technology will be promoted as a driver of innovation and greater effectiveness for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and for access to social services. Fair and equal access to law and justice for all, issues of civil status and access to legal identity, and advocacy for gender equality legislation (sexual and reproductive rights, economic rights, political rights and rights of representation, etc.) will all be promoted.

## 2.3. PROPOSE AN INTEGRATED RESPONSE TO INSTABILITY IN THE BORDER AREAS OF THE SAHEL AND LAKE CHAD

In view of the risks of destabilisation linked to the Sahelian arc of crisis heading towards the Gulf of Guinea countries, AFD Group will endeavour to anticipate the risks of instability, reduce tensions and strengthen the resilience of institutions, territories and populations.

The Group will prioritise, in its programming exercises, areas at risk of instability in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo ("acting in the North") and areas already in crisis (Lake Chad). It will address the root causes of vulnerabilities. To some extent, these fragile or at-risk areas must be supported in ways that can build their resilience. With this in mind, it is of primary importance to support agricultural sectors, the food economy and rural development on the one hand, and improve access to clean and cheap energy, drinking water, sanitation and basic social services (health and education) on the other. Efforts to strengthen social inclusion and the social link, notably gender equality, will be implemented in a cross-cutting manner. The systematic participation of women in the design of projects will be sought in order to improve project results. Regionalised approaches based on detailed field analyses will be promoted. Increased activity by Proparco in these fragile areas will also be sought. In general, areas at risk of instability will benefit from a dedicated anticipatory approach in the programming exercises.

AFD and Expertise France will also seek to support efforts to better organise and assist population movements such as pastoral nomadism, labour migration or displaced persons. In this regard, AFD Group will address the anticipated

effects of climate change on agricultural dynamics, people's livelihoods and the risks of intracommunity conflicts. The Group will support projects for environmental conservation (forests, savannahs), biodiversity protection and climate change adaptation by ensuring that they are better shared by communities: only projects for the conservation of natural areas and climate projects that demonstrate a "social co-benefit" will be retained (e.g. income-generating activities; support for the enrichment of soils affected by climate change; cheap, clean energy), to avoid further destabilising the communities in these vulnerable areas.

Lastly, the Group will support regional economic integration in order to help in opening up the Sahel. It will contribute to the implementation of the regional energy market (support for interconnections, regional green production initiatives); facilitate transnational approaches aimed at reducing health risks (epidemiological monitoring, "One Health" approach) to prevent barriers to trade; and support certain strategic corridors, using Expertise France's know-how in securing maritime areas and ports, an essential condition for the development of a blue economy. More generally, the implementation of projects to protect and safeguard the oceans may include areas affected by piracy and banditry at sea. The facilitation of the trade in goods, and financial and non-financial services can also be dealt with at the level of regulators and market authorities to ensure a harmonised body of regulation. Expertise France and Proparco will be involved in this integrated development initiative.

## 2.4. FOSTER THE EMERGENCE OF RESILIENT, VALUE-CREATING URBAN SPACES WITH LOW ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE FOOTPRINTS

AFD Group wants to help turn the Gulf of Guinea's cities into low-carbon spaces and will support energy policies and urban planning that have a dramatic impact on high-emission sectors (energy, transport, construction, waste). Furthermore, in addition to this mitigation target, the Group will adjust its activities to promote climate change adaptation in a particularly climate-vulnerable region – and a challenge on which France has made major commitments. The Group will strengthen the resilience of urban spaces and their populations by protecting lagoons and coastal areas, supporting sanitation and flood management policies, assisting “nature in the city” initiatives, and reducing vulnerability in deprived neighbourhoods. The continuous urban space along the coastal strip facilitates the fluidity of trade and is conducive to promoting an urban society based on digital skills, knowledge and entrepreneurship, including among women, and establishing connected cities rich in employment opportunities. Both Proparco and AFD will take an active interest in the development of business networks and their ecosystems through financing that is closer to the creators of the future. Expertise France can also be mobilised when French public expertise exists with regard to these urban issues.

However, these areas, which are highly attractive to the surrounding populations and more widely to the people of neighbouring countries, are not very inclusive. In this respect, AFD Group will encourage the proactive deployment of health and education services for all (with particular attention being paid to the specific needs of women, children and young people), affordable housing, and improved policy on access to water and sanitation. As a condition for sustainable urban growth, access to sufficient, healthy, varied food requires the development of peri-urban agriculture, oriented towards urban areas, and the establishment of food processing, marketing and distribution systems, within the framework of sustainable food systems. The quest for balanced development across the region, and not only capital cities, while also supporting secondary and border towns, will also contribute to strengthening efforts to combat inequalities.

The characteristics of the region's institutional framework mean that the Group operates both at the national level and at devolved and decentralised levels. At the national level, the Group mainly works in urban areas, promoting dialogue on public policy; at the devolved and decentralised levels, the Group supports local communities and enterprises, particularly through the involvement of Proparco.



**3.**

**AFD GROUP'S  
PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES**

The four priorities in this zone require an integrated, regional approach, rising above the temptation of sectoral or geographical compartmentalisation. Achieving these priorities first requires the selective and coordinated support of partners in the area, in order to act in a sustainable manner.

In addition, AFD's priorities in the Gulf of Guinea stem from the commitments of French President Emmanuel Macron's speech, made in Ouagadougou in November 2017. These commitments can be bolstered through openness between the partners.

## 3.1. RELY ON PARTNERS IN THE AREA TO BETTER ADDRESS THE REGION'S CHALLENGES

Firstly, regional institutions, particularly ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), are essential partners, as are their development banks (West African Development Bank [BOAD] and the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development [EBID]). These institutions are uniquely positioned at the interface between the private sector, governments and regional organisations; they have a strong capacity to bring parties together, particularly when it comes to global issues, such as climate change, and have significant financial standing.<sup>13</sup>

Four sectors of cooperation will be prioritised with ECOWAS: health, agriculture, energy and financial governance. A cross-cutting approach will be developed aiming to: 1) better draw on the expertise of its specialist technical agencies;<sup>14</sup> 2) strengthen ECOWAS's regulatory function; 3) give priority to programmes to address fragile situations (health and phytosanitary risks, risks associated with pastoralism, etc.); and 4) support the economic integration potential of ECOWAS in certain markets (e.g. energy).

Regarding WAEMU, the priority will be to support the Commission in fulfilling its core mandate, namely establishing regional regulations and supporting programmes aimed at the zone's economic integration. WAEMU and ECOWAS will be important partners in addressing the Sahelian crisis, as will the G5 Sahel. AFD will promote coordination between the two regional institutions, which cover much of the same area and have comparable objectives.

Next, certain donor initiatives will be supported whenever they coincide with the Group's priorities in the region: the World Bank's West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program (WACA) strengthens the resilience of urban areas to deal with threats to the coastline; the Clean the Oceans initiative, which brings together AFD, KfW (the German investment and development bank) and the European Investment Bank, is likewise being established in the Gulf of Guinea (e.g. through urban drainage and sewage treatment programmes).

In this landscape, the consolidation and extension of the partnership with the European Union is a priority in the Gulf of Guinea, where, since 2013, European cooperation mechanisms have been implemented through 25 projects delegated to or conducted jointly with AFD, representing European financing of 275 million euros. This financial aid will be extended into the next programming period (2021–2027) by means of active support to embassies in joint programming exercises, a specific dialogue on ECOWAS, the search for synergies in new geographical areas (Liberia, Sierra Leone) and measures to better support the private sector through the involvement of Proparco.

French public research institutions with a presence in the region will participate in the implementation of local solutions. On urban topics, the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement [French Institute of Research for Development] can aid in understanding the urban dynamic through an integrated, multi-stakeholder approach. The French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) will be associated with programmes to support agricultural and food dynamics in fragile areas and to reduce the loss of biodiversity and forest cover, in a virtuous social and economic circle.

French enterprises will continue to be leading partners of AFD Group due to their historical presence in the region and their capacity to innovate and promote accelerated development in Africa. Indeed, they can contribute to achieving the infrastructures required to implement the four priorities. They are also capable of fostering the creation of jobs and fiscal wealth with a view to improving the economic and social integration of young people on the one hand and empowering states on the other. More specifically, French enterprises are solution providers in the design and promotion of sustainable cities in the Gulf of Guinea.

<sup>13</sup> Given their broad geographical coverage, the approach in respect of these regional institutions should be considered jointly with AFD's Greater Sahel Regional Office.

<sup>14</sup> West African Health Organization (WAHO), West African Power Pool (WAPP), Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA).

French, international and local civil society organisations – partners of the 2030 Agenda to combat social and territorial inequalities – contribute to creating a society of trust and offering innovative solutions to dealing with fragile

areas. Direct funding for civil society organisations will be boosted to support the implementation of certain projects outsourced to a delegated contracting authority or in support of contracting authorities.

## 3.2. SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP INNOVATION TO ATTAIN THE OBJECTIVES OF THE OUAGADOUGOU SPEECH

Partnership initiatives will be used in the Gulf of Guinea to attain the key objectives of the Ouagadougou speech, with a renewed approach in favour of youth.

Funding for entrepreneurship and innovation will be supported: 1) through the Choose Africa initiative being presented and deployed as a matter of routine by Proparco and AFD in all Gulf of Guinea countries; 2) by including African partners in incubation support programmes; and 3) by setting up a regional Social and Inclusive Business Camp. Achieving France's objectives regarding gender equality will also be systematically pursued in all projects supporting major coalitions of actors such as the French Muskoka Fund, the Ouagadougou Partnership, Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) and the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) project. This complements the integration of these objectives into the projects implemented by AFD.

The Group will actively contribute to developing university partnerships between France and the countries of the Gulf of Guinea, in conjunction with the promotion of university excellence by the African Centers of Excellence (ACE) programme, and through the Ivorian educational hub, sup-

ported by dedicated programmes. A proactive approach to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), as is the case in Guinea, will be encouraged in other countries with a view to increasing the means to respond to the challenges facing youth. The Group will position itself as a facilitator to bring to fruition the potential offered by major partners signed up to the Sport and Development Strategy (FIFA, NBA). New development actors, such as foundations, will be approached to better understand cross-border issues. Innovative funding models will be developed (e.g. West African Savannah Foundation) to effectively combat the instability of peripheral areas, acting in conjunction with certain governmental mechanisms.

Lastly, decentralised cooperation is a means of encouraging new themes, particularly regarding the cultural and creative industries, sport and support for youth, in a context where France wants to support the outward-looking policies of French local authorities towards Africa.<sup>15</sup> These new approaches are complementary to the sectors in which local authorities are already active within the scope of their powers, including in the areas of urban development and vocational training and in line with the priorities for action in the Gulf of Guinea.

<sup>15</sup> The Ledoux report on bill for budget discharge and the approval of the 2018 accounts, Report No. 1990, Annexe 1, [http://www2.assemblee-nationale.fr/documents/notice/15/rapports/r1990-a1/\(index\)/rapports](http://www2.assemblee-nationale.fr/documents/notice/15/rapports/r1990-a1/(index)/rapports) (in French).



The background features several thin, green concentric circles and a spiral line that starts near the center and expands outwards, creating a dynamic, organic feel.

# 4.

## **FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES AND INTERVENTION MODALITIES**

## 4.1. SUSTAIN EFFORTS, OPTIMISE THE AVAILABLE FINANCIAL TOOLS

AFD Group can mobilise a broad portfolio of financial instruments in the Gulf of Guinea to support the achievement of its objectives.

**Non-sovereign financing** to public entities will be more systematically sought through greater efforts to find partners and a renewed level of support for public development banks. AFD Group will continue to set up co-financing arrangements with the European Union within the framework of its 2021-2027 programming and will develop new partner-ships (GPE and Green Climate Fund). **The third C2D in Côte d'Ivoire**, for the years 2021-2024

(totalling 1.1 billion euros), will provide significant funding. The prospects of **grants** for the four priority poor countries (Benin, Guinea, Liberia and Togo) should be maintained.

The sovereign debt of the countries remains at a moderate level, but the COVID-19 crisis could disrupt fiscal balances: **provided that the principles of sustainable debt can be respected, the continuation of financing in the form of loans to states is envisaged. Lastly, Proparco will continue to support the private sector** by mobilising guarantee, loan and equity instruments, both to financial intermediaries and directly to enterprises.

## 4.2. ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK AND MONITORING-EVALUATION MECHANISM

The Gulf of Guinea Regional Office plans to develop **cross-cutting indicators covering all the Group's activities in the region**. These cross-cutting indicators will feed into the **Africa Department's accountability framework** and reflect the **added value of the Group's regional activities**. The indicators underlying the most relevant commitments of the Group's 2018-2022 Strategy for the region and certain major sectoral markers are as follows:

- Volume of Group commitments; analysis by instrument, sector, geographic area
- Volume of disbursements
- Volume of external financing mobilised
- Number and volumes of co-financed projects
- Number and volumes of regional cross-border projects
- Volume of commitments and percentage of projects with climate co-benefits
- Percentage of projects with a gender objective and volume share of annual commitments
- Number of projects with gender as a primary objective (DAC G-2 according to OECD markers)
- Number of Group-financed projects involving at least one French stakeholder

- Number of projects with a digital, Sport and Development, or cultural and creative industries component
- Proportion of projects incorporating an anticipatory approach.

The Group will focus on the following markers for the Gulf of Guinea to measure the impact of projects:

- Number of children enrolled in primary and secondary education, vocational training and higher education by gender; primary and secondary completion rates by gender;
- Ratio of tax revenue/GDP
- Area in hectares benefitting from biodiversity conservation, restoration or sustainable management programmes; type (creation, extension, improvement or sustainable financing of protected areas)
- Number of people gaining improved access to essential services (water, sanitation, energy, waste management, etc.)
- Number of family-run farms supported.

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# 5.

## APPENDICES

# APPENDIX 1. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

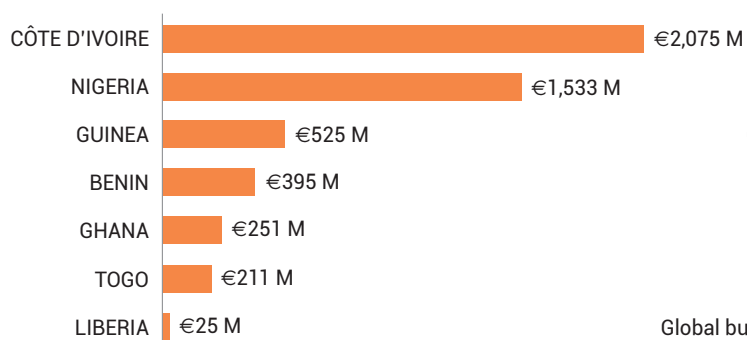
END GOAL	OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES		
<p>Support progress towards prosperity in the Gulf of Guinea region, the "cornerstone" of West Africa</p> <p>To support a dynamic of development, protection and inclusion to the benefit of people in the region.</p>	<p><b>Support the economic and social integration of youth</b> Be "100% youth"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Support the <b>educational continuum</b>, from basic education to vocational training and higher education, to employment, with an emphasis on young people's <b>regional mobility</b> and with <b>special focus on rural areas</b></li> <li>→ Promote <b>employment</b>, support the <b>private sector</b>; understand <b>economic migration</b></li> <li>→ Support <b>gender equality among the younger generations</b> by acting in a coordinated manner to ensure the effective access of young women to education, financing, land, employment and health, including sexual and reproductive health</li> <li>→ Strengthen <b>social and economic cohesion</b> through sport and cultural and creative initiatives</li> </ul>	<p>Capitalise on the Group's approach, and work in partnership</p>	<p>100% Paris Agreement</p>
	<p><b>Promote democratic and civic transition through actions at state and civil society level</b> Act to make societies more inclusive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Act for <b>inclusive public policies</b>: guaranteeing <b>accessible justice for all and universal public services</b> (health, education); focus on the inclusivity of policies and effective delivery in northern regions</li> <li>→ Strengthen <b>state financial management</b> and efficiency to <b>reinforce the sustainability of policies</b></li> <li>→ Support the <b>development of civil society</b></li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Propose an integrated response to the risks of instability in the border areas of the Sahel and Lake Chad</b> Anticipate the risks of instability, reduce tensions and strengthen the resilience of institutions, territories and populations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Target <b>areas at risk of instability</b> ("acting in the North") and <b>areas already in crisis</b>, support <b>agricultural development, the food economy and access to basic services</b> (energy, water, etc.), with more regionalised approaches</li> <li>→ Assist <b>population movements (nomadism, migration)</b> by incorporating the anticipated effects of climate change into these dynamics</li> <li>→ Support <b>projects for environmental conservation</b> (forests, savannah areas) and <b>climate change adaptation</b> that are better shared by communities ("<b>social co-benefit</b>")</li> <li>→ Support <b>regional economic integration</b> to help open up the Sahel</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Foster the emergence of value-creating urban spaces with low environmental and climate footprints</b> Act centrally through public policy dialogue and at devolved and decentralised levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Support energy policies and urban transport plans for <b>low-carbon cities</b></li> <li>→ Preserve natural resources and protect lagoons and coastal areas to create <b>urban areas that are more resilient to climate change</b></li> <li>→ Support an urban society based on digital skills, knowledge and entrepreneurship, establishing <b>connected cities rich in employment opportunities</b></li> <li>→ Develop health and education services for all and encourage sustainable agricultural and food supply systems oriented towards urban areas to encourage <b>inclusive cities</b></li> </ul>		
			<p>100% Social Link</p>	

# APPENDIX 2. OVERVIEW OF THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES IN THE GULF OF GUINEA

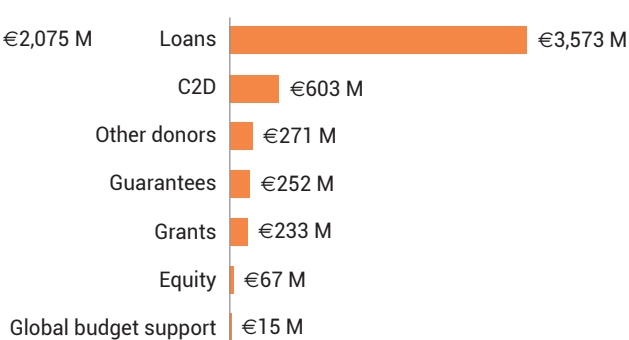
## Overview of AFD Group's activities in the Gulf of Guinea 2016-2020

Total approvals	€5,015 M
Of which Proparco	€ 826 M
Total approvals with climate co-benefits	€1,930 M
Total approvals with gender co-benefits (2018-2019)	€1,232 M
Total state cost mobilised	€485 M
<hr/>	
Total disbursements	€2,422 M
Of which Proparco	€441 M

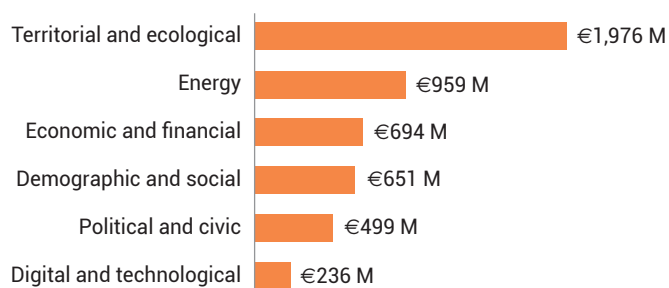
### Group approvals by country 2016–2020



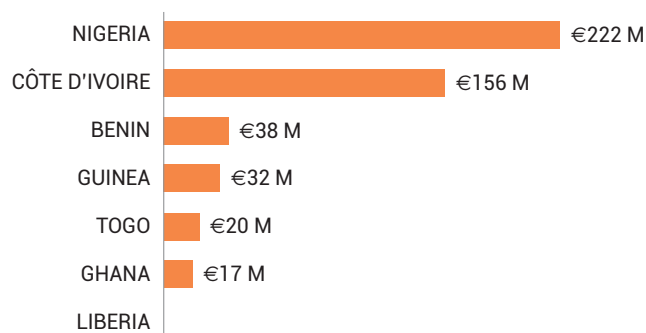
### Group approvals by instrument 2016–2020



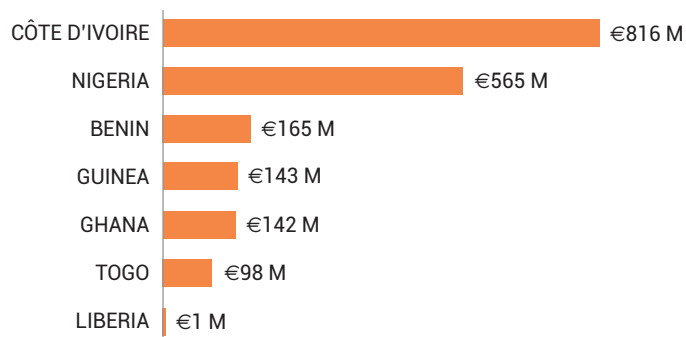
### Group approvals by transition type 2016–2020



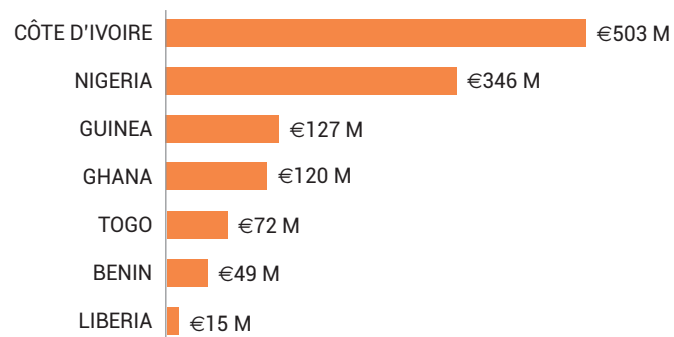
### State cost mobilised 2016–2020



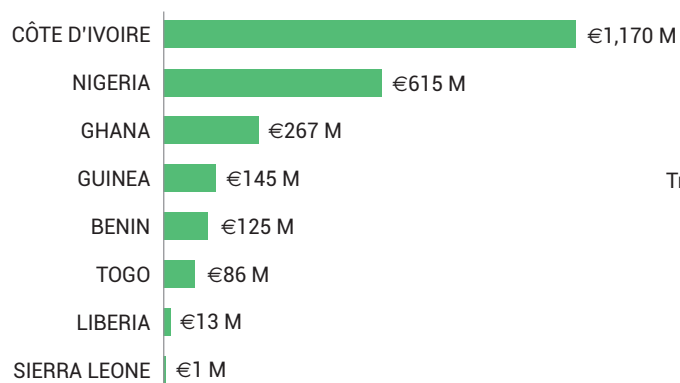
### Approvals with climate co-benefits by country 2016–2020



### Approvals with gender co-benefits by country 2016–2020



### Group disbursements by country 2016–2020

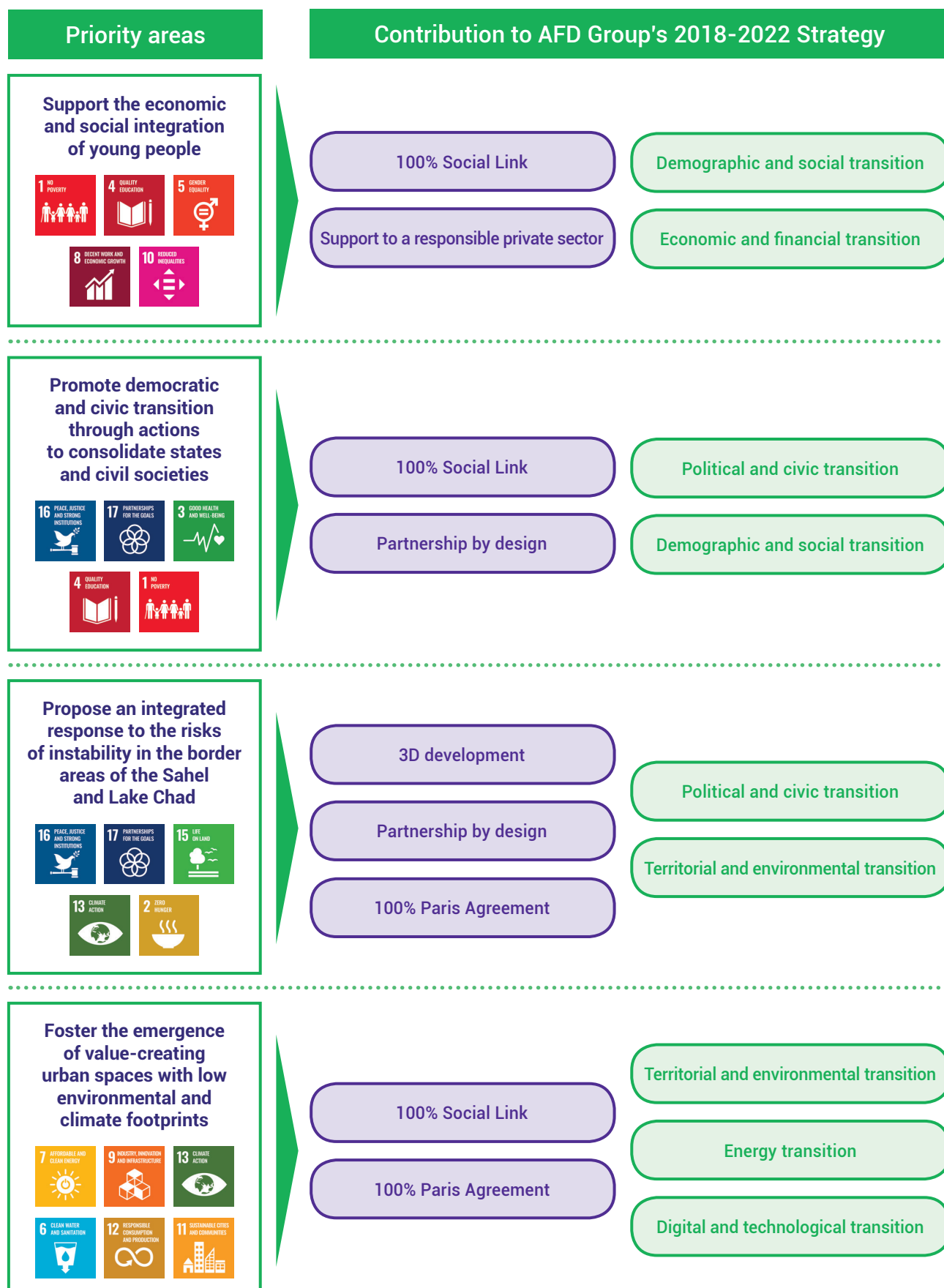


### Group disbursements by sector 2016–2020



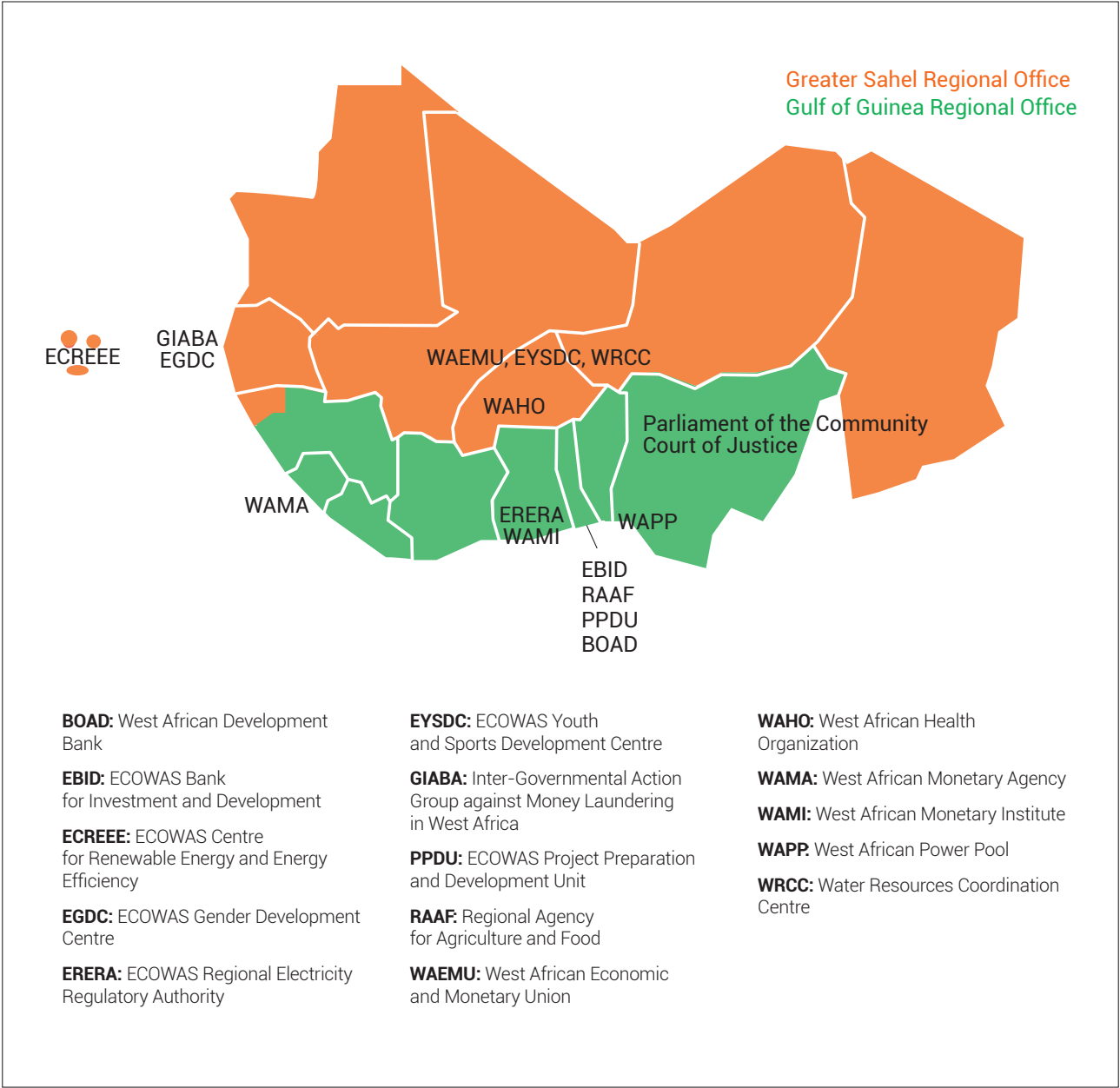
Multi-country projects are not taken into account in this Appendix.

# APPENDIX 3. CONTRIBUTION TO AFD GROUP'S STRATEGIC THEMES



# APPENDIX 4. REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

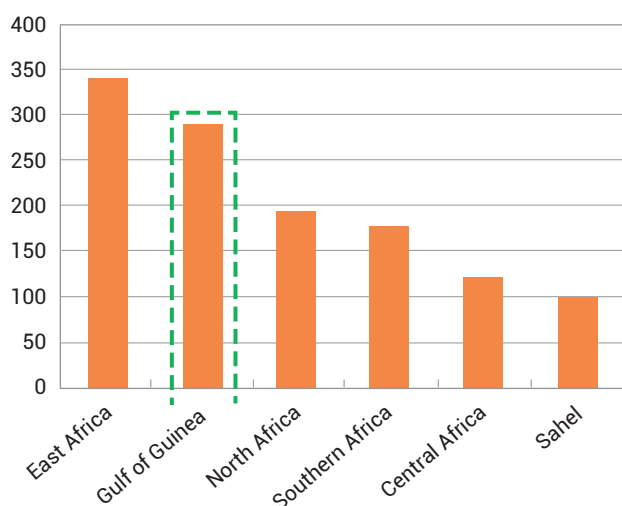
Partnership management shared by the Sahel and Gulf of Guinea Regional Offices



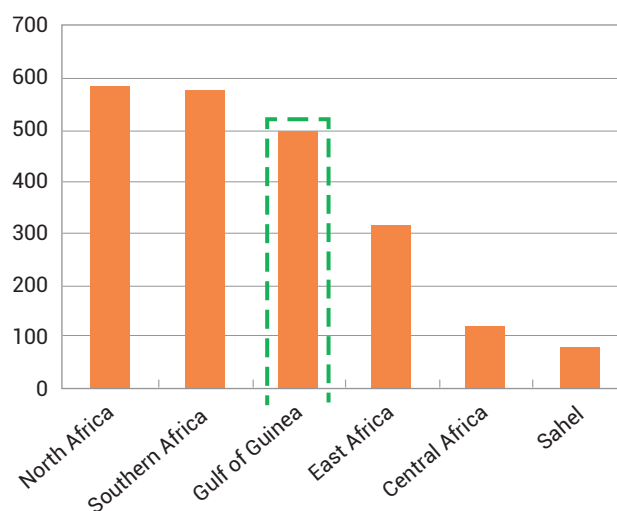


# APPENDIX 5. COMPARATIVE INDICATORS FOR THE REGIONS OF AFRICA (2019)

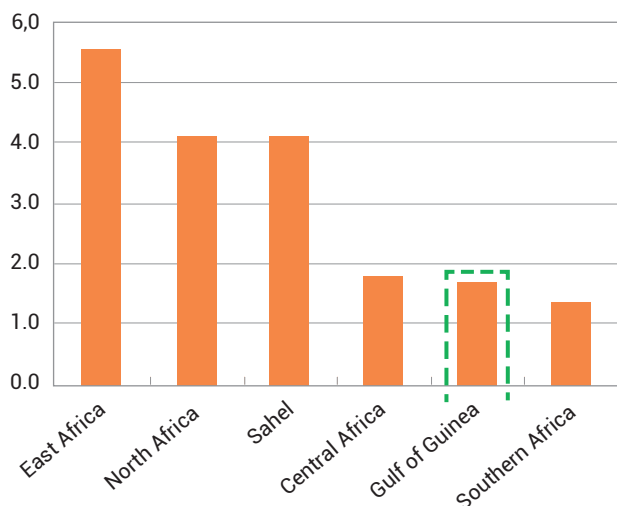
**Population (millions)**



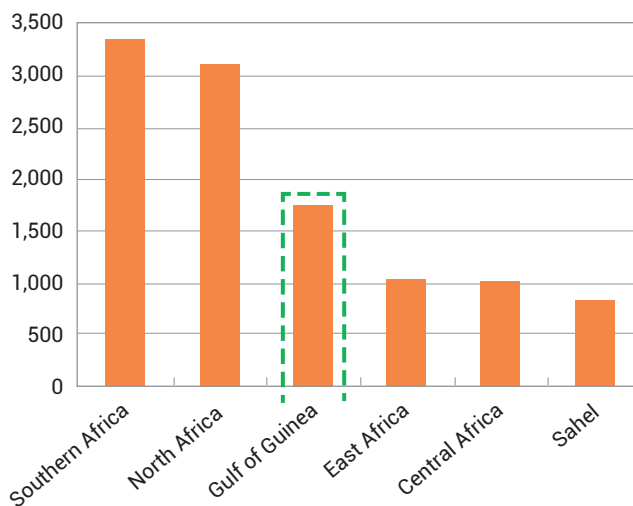
**GDP in value (USD billions)**



**Average real GDP growth (%) 2015–2017**



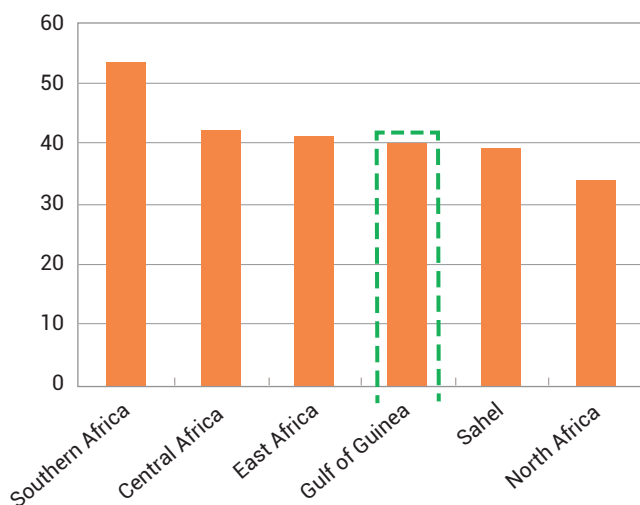
**GDP/capita (USD)**



Source: IMF/WEO

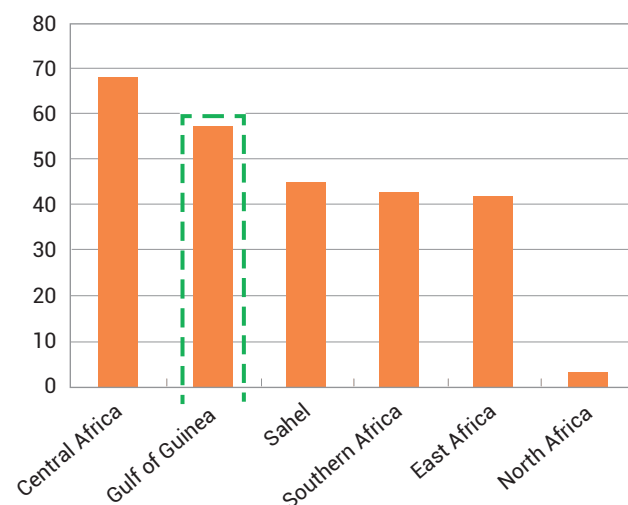
Source: IMF/WEO

### Gini Index



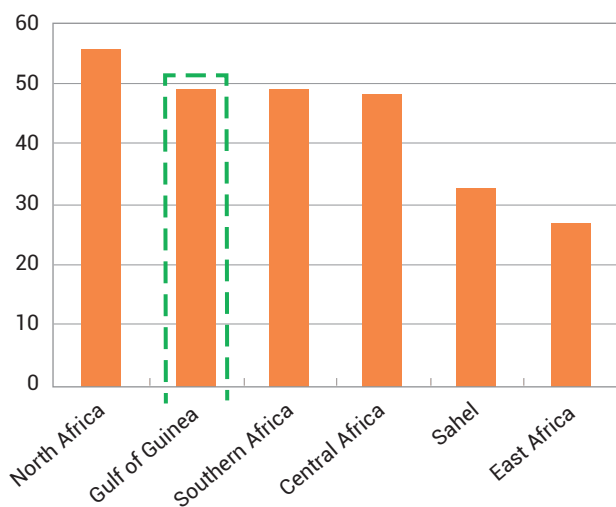
Source: World Bank/WDI

### Poverty rate (%)



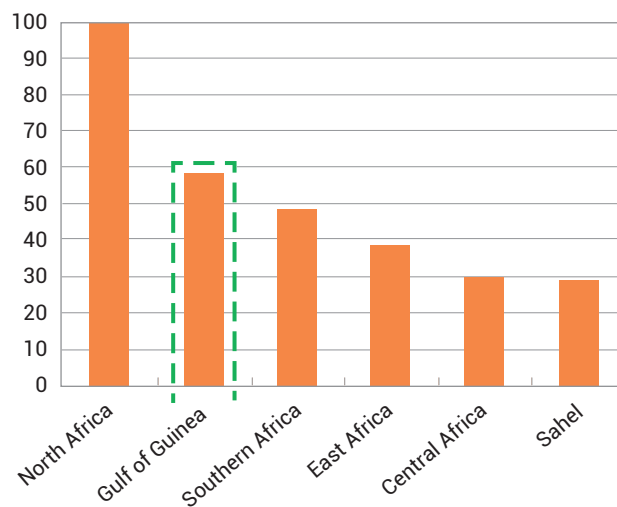
Source: World Bank/WDI

### Urbanisation rate (%)



Source: World Bank/WDI

### Access to electricity (% population)



Source: World Bank/WDI

# LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

**ACE:** African Centers of Excellence

**AFAWA:** Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa

**AFD:** Agence Française de Développement

**BOAD:** West African Development Bank

**C2D:** Debt reduction and development contract

**CICID:** Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development

**COVID-19:** Coronavirus disease 2019

**DAC:** Development Assistance Committee (OECD)

**EBID:** ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development

**ECOWAS:** Economic Community of West African States

**FIFA:** Fédération Internationale de Football Association

**GDP:** Gross domestic product

**GIABA:** Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa

**GPE:** Global Partnership for Education

**IMF:** International Monetary Fund

**NBA:** National Basketball Association

**OECD:** Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**MCC:** Millennium Challenge Corporation

**WACA:** West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program

**WAHO:** West African Health Organization

**WAEMU:** West African Economic and Monetary Union

**WAMA:** West African Monetary Agency

**WAPP:** West African Power Pool

## AFD Group

AFD Group implements France's policy in the areas of development and international solidarity. The Group includes Agence Française de Développement (AFD), which finances the public sector and NGOs, as well as research and education in sustainable development; its subsidiary Proparco, which is dedicated to private sector financing; and soon, Expertise France, a technical cooperation agency. The Group finances, supports and accelerates transitions towards a fairer, more resilient world.

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.

<http://www.afd.fr>

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