



ACTIVITY REPORT

Education & Training: the keys to the jobs of tomorrow

2024



For every individual, being educated, receiving training, and acquiring skills and knowledge are essential steps toward living a dignified life, accessing meaningful work, and exercising full citizenship. Education and training also represent a long-term investment whose impacts help to build a dynamic and innovative economy and a more inclusive society.

AFD Group is therefore committed to making lifelong learning possible and to promoting access to education and decent work. To this end, we finance the implementation of policies and programs to develop infrastructure for equitable, resilient, and high-quality education, training, research and employment. We pay particular attention to success for women and girls' empowerment.

Together, AFD, Expertise France and Proparco promote the acquisition of fundamental knowledge and skills, with the goal of enhancing employability, stimulating innovation and encouraging civic engagement. Together, we support the professions of the future and encourage the mobilization of French and European partners as well as South-South cooperation.

AFD Group's actions in 2024 (designated by the African Union as the "Year of Education") helped fulfill our commitments to **education and training-employment in 19 foreign countries and several French Overseas Territories**. We put special emphasis on inclusion for the most vulnerable people and on promoting increased visibility in French-speaking countries. The year 2024 – an Olympics year – was also marked by innovative projects dedicated **to sports and education**, especially in Tunisia, Rwanda and the Comoros. We were also involved in organizing the **WorldSkills** international vocational skills competition in Lyon from September 10–14, 2024, at which 1,500 young people from 65 countries competed across 62 trades.

Education-training-employment: priorities for AFD Group

AFD Group is currently involved in nearly 300 projects amounting to more than €2.5 billion. While they contribute to achieving all the SDGS, these projects specifically target SDGs 4 ("Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all") and 8 ("Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all").

Our priorities for action:



Strengthen education as a basis for sustainable development

- **Access and equity:** reduce inequalities, especially for girls and students in vulnerable circumstances
- **Quality:** improve teacher training and see that it includes education in climate and digital technology issues
- **Governance:** support more effective and resilient education systems aligned with national policies



Support lifelong skills development

- Finance the **creation of sector-based training centers** in partnership with the private sector
- Finance **onsite training**
- Bolster **employment and training policies**



Invest in higher education and research as levers for innovation

- Expand **access** to higher education while reducing **inequalities**
- Develop **appropriate training offers** in response to needs for local skills
- Improve the quality of teaching and research, and contribute to their **international visibility**



Encourage job insertion for youth and their access to decent work

- Bolster **active policies** targeting the labor market
- Encourage youth **entrepreneurship**
- Promote **decent work** and integrate the social elements of job transitions
- Foster economic **empowerment** for women

Our education-training-employment commitments in 2024



€418 M

in new project financing approved



34

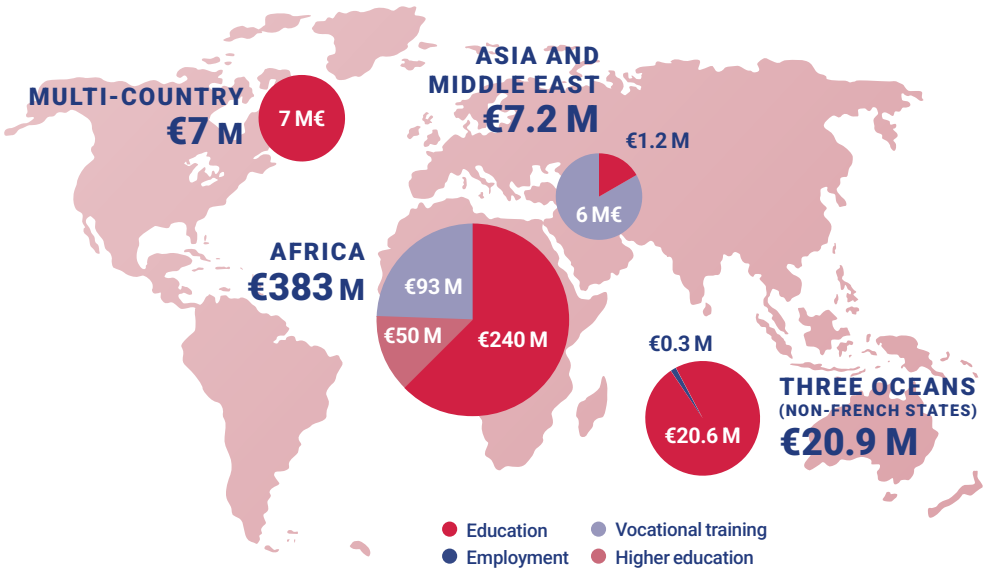
new projects



€381 M

in agreements signed

Breakdown by region



Agreements signed in 2024



EXPERTISE FRANCE
GROUPE AFD

Education, higher education and research

€50 M
for 5 projects

Vocational training

€32,4 M
for 6 projects

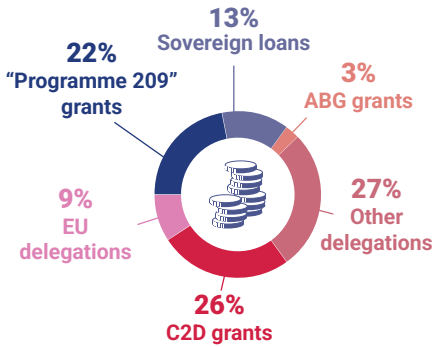


PROPARCO
GROUPE AFD

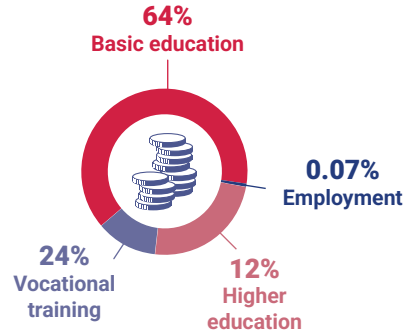
Education and higher education

€23 M
for 3 projects

Breakdown by financial tool



Breakdown by strategic sector



Our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The financing authorized in 2024 seeks to achieve the following goals in the coming years:

- More than **1 million children** enrolled in primary and secondary school, with girls representing 52.3%
- Vocational training for more than **41,000 young people**, access to higher education for **12,000 students** and integration into the labor market for 3,500 young people
- Support for 3,225 companies to improve recruitment and/or job quality
- Partnerships with **21 French higher education institutions**

In terms of impact, the projects completed in 2024 have enabled **308,485 young people** to follow a program of basic education, vocational training or higher education.

This financing will also contribute to achieving all the other SDGs.



Improving education as a basis for sustainable development

AFD Group actions span all stages of education, but priority is given to primary school level, middle school level and transitions between levels.



FRENCH-SPEAKING PARTNER COUNTRIES



Apprendre



€27 M grant, including €7 M for a new 2024-2027 phase that includes the creation of a French-speaking network of teacher-training institutions

Since 2017, the **Apprendre** program, implemented by the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie, has been helping ministries of education in French-speaking countries improve their initial and continuing teacher training. Designed at the request of partner countries, Apprendre prioritizes expertise from the Global South and promotes approaches based on real-life situations. The program has trained more than 7,000 educational coordinators and supported nearly 1 million teachers in 21 countries.



EL SALVADOR



Agustine



€18 M grant from the European Union

The **Agustine** project is coordinated by Expertise France and implemented with UNESCO and UNICEF. Its objective is to improve the living conditions of children and adolescents and to reduce their vulnerability to violence and delinquency. The project mainstreams psychosocial and socio-emotional skills, positive conflict management and citizen participation in the education system. The active involvement of girls in school inclusion programs is the project's guiding principle. Project agreement signed in 2024



Promoting higher education and research as levers of innovation

AFD Group promotes equitable access to quality higher education that leads to professionalization and boosts innovation.



📍 BENIN, SENEGAL, CHAD, TOGO



🎓 PeA

€ €55 M grant
(including €15 M in 2024)

Through the **Academia Partnerships Africa-France (PeA)** program, 50 African and French universities are offering professional training courses in Africa in priority sectors for development: agroecology in Senegal, computer science and data science in Togo, renewable energy in Chad and Madagascar, and public health in Benin.



📍 KENYA



🎓 Amref International University

€ USD 5 M senior loan

Proparco is funding the construction of the new **Amref International University (AMIU)** campus, north of Nairobi. AMIU specializes in medical sciences and public health. This financing will increase the capacity of the university to 10,000 students, in person and online, in order to meet the growing demand for the training of health workers in sub-Saharan Africa.

Supporting young people's access to the labor market and decent work

AFD Group promotes (i) the development of active policies in the labor market, (ii) access by individuals (women and vulnerable people in particular) to jobs and entrepreneurship, and (iii) improvement in job quality in local areas.



📍 CÔTE D'IVOIRE



🎓 Defi I

€ €33 M in financing

AFD supports job insertion for young people in Côte d'Ivoire via the sector's main bodies: the public employment service, regions and local authorities,

and civic service organizations that provide employment assistance.

Through the **Defi I** project, more than 30,500 young people were provided support with access to the labor market through various schemes throughout Côte d'Ivoire (e.g. labor-intensive work, placement in internships, on-site training, civic service, job insertion via entrepreneurship, etc.).


Supporting lifelong professional skills development

AFD Group promotes approaches adapted to local contexts to support economic development and encourage the emergence of a sustainable training and employment service. Special attention is paid to the development of key sectors such as energy, agriculture, health and transport, which create opportunities for decent work and play a key role in economic growth and in people's well-being.



 **MOROCCO**



 **Delegated management institutes**

 **Total amount: €41.5 M**

AFD has supported the creation of **delegated management institutes** to meet the challenges linked to the development of strategic sectors and to integrate young people into professional life. AFD financed 9 out of 13 of the delegated management institutes in various sectors: aeronautics, automobiles, energy/energy efficiency, fashion, bakery/pastry-making, construction, logistics/transport, agribusiness and the pharmaceutical industry. More than 40,000 young people have been trained (over 5,000 per year), with a job insertion rate often over 90%.



 **MEXICO**



 **Edilar**

 **Seven-year mezzanine loan, equivalent to €11 M**


Proparco granted a new loan to **Edilar**, a family business that provides teaching materials and tools as well as training for teachers in the public education system.



 **RWANDA**



 **TVET Agri - Ubuinzi Skills+**

 **Financing from the European Union and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (€16.2 M over five years)**

This project, implemented by **Expertise France**, supports the creation of agricultural centers of excellence with the aim of increasing sustainability and climate resilience, and promoting agricultural practices, through upskilling women and young people. It is actively contributing to the transformation of the agricultural sector, which is crucial for Rwanda's economy, where 77% of farmers are women.

Working with civil society

In 2024, AFD provided €33 million in financing for **projects implemented by civil society organizations (CSOs) in the education**, vocational training and employment sectors.



 **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

 **Reducing gender inequalities in and through education**

 **€13 M grant**

In five prefectures of the Central African Republic, **Finn Church Aid, Mercy Corps, Alima and the Central African Women's Organization** are working to reduce gender inequalities in and through education by using an intersectoral approach to the issues of access to education, teaching quality, health in schools, and access to water. The project will reach 25,000 students and 50 schools. Local authorities are closely involved in order to monitor the changes made possible by the project.

AFD also finances **initiatives of CSOs** and of their local partners via a dedicated facility, which has made direct funding to NGOs of the Global South available since 2023. In 2024, AFD committed €11 million and signed agreements for 18 projects expected to benefit 85,000 people and involve 78 CSOs, including 24 local CSOs.



 **LEBANON**

 **Yalla for Employment and Protection**

 **Overall budget €808,000, AFD contribution of €527,000 via the CSO-I**

This project, implemented by the CSO **Asmae** in partnership with two Lebanese associations, aims to improve the social, economic, and psychological well-being of young people. Nearly 300 young people benefit from professional and social reintegration programs and entrepreneurship training led by Lebanese CSOs. They also receive training in essential life skills and tailored psychological support to help facilitate their reintegration into the workforce and society.



Expertise France committed €5.55 million in 2024 to CSOs, with four projects in the basic education sector and three projects in the vocational training, job insertion and employment sectors.

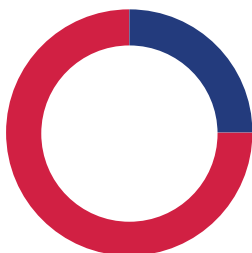
Partnerships for greater impact



AFD Group prioritizes a partnership-based approach to enhance the impact and effectiveness of its financing on the ground.

In 2024, we consolidated our joint work with the European Union and its Member States, as well as with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE).

€14.6 M – 25%
European Union
delegated credits



€45.5 M – 75%
GPE delegated fund



Finance
in Common

AFD Group is also continuing its commitment alongside public development banks. In this context, it helped create a working group dedicated to financing education within the FiCS Coalition for Social Investment.

Our expertise platforms

AFD Group also mobilizes numerous platforms of expertise from France and the Global South, with support from some of the main bodies from the education and vocational training sector:



**Plateforme
d'expertise Cap
Compétences**



**Programme
Apprendre**



**Programme
Ressources
éducatives**



**Programme
École et langue
nationale
en Afrique
(Elan)**



**Programme
d'analyse
des systèmes
éducatifs de
la Confemem
(Pasec)**



**The
Agriculture
and Rural
Training (FAR)
International
Network**



Toward a world in common

AFD Group finances and drives the transition to a fairer, safer and more resilient world, working with its partners to support communities all over the world. Drawing on the complementary strengths of its entities – Agence Française de Développement for public financing, Proparco for responsible private investment, and Expertise France for technical expertise – the Group is ideally positioned to meet all sustainable development challenges.

Working in over 160 countries, including France's Overseas Territories and Departments, the Group adapts its operations to the realities on the ground, actively supporting local initiatives. With over 4,000 projects, whose objectives are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AFD Group works on behalf of the French people, together with all stakeholders committed to economic development and the preservation of common goods: climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality and global health. Working by your side, toward a world in common.



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