



AFD AND

Gender Equality in South Asia



© AFD

Agence Française de Développement is committed to gender mainstreaming in all operations, recognizing that sustainable development cannot be achieved without gender equality. Financing projects that promote women empowerment, leadership and the effective exercise of women's rights is at the very core of AFD commitments, aligned with France's feminist foreign policy.

75% of all AFD operations will include gender equality as a main or significant objective by 2025. To this end, the AFD Group adopted a social strategy in 2021 aiming to reduce all forms of inequality, while strengthening social inclusion. It developed a systematic methodology to take gender into account in all the projects it finances, as well as in all countries and sectors of operation.

In South Asia, AFD backs initiatives that contribute to women's economic empowerment, increases their access to basic services, improve their security by tackling violence against women and promote their participation in governance.

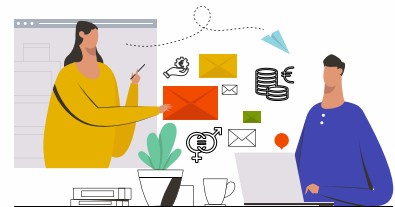
MAINSTREAMING GENDER IN EVERY ACTIVITY

100% of AFD-funded projects will aim at strengthening social inclusion and reducing all forms of inequalities, including gender discrimination. The group has developed **a pro-gender approach to mainstream gender during the whole project cycle**, from the design phase through to implementation.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

1 Identification phase

Based on the proposed project scope of work and preliminary discussions with the parties involved, **a first screening of the project gender implications** takes place as part of preliminary due diligence.

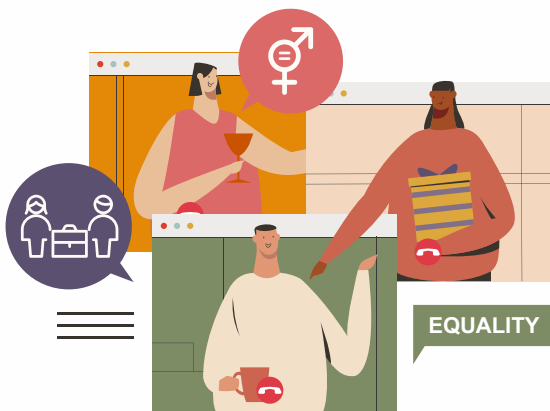


2 Financing Appraisal Phase

A feasibility study is launched following an in-depth dialogue on all proposed project components to identify appropriate approaches to minimize environmental and social risks (including the risk of exacerbating gender inequalities), while maximizing development impacts, especially towards gender equality. It includes a **dedicated gender-based diagnosis**, which would yield a **Gender Action Plan (GAP)** when useful. Objectives and actions of the GAP are fully embedded within the project logical framework.

The project's expected contribution towards gender equality will be initially assessed by an AFD finance approval committee, as per a rating system aligned with OECD classification, or DAC markers:

- DAC 0: Gender blind project – no direct contribution
- DAC 1: Gender-sensitive project - gender equality is a significant objective of the project
- DAC 2: Gender transformative project - gender equality is the main objective of the project



3 Agreement and implementing phase

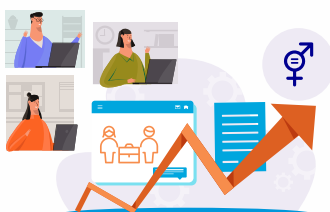
Once the GAP and related documentation are approved, AFD signs the financing agreement and kickstarts the project with its counterparts. Through financing and **technical assistance**, effective implementation on the ground is ensured

A periodic monitoring of the project operations (including environmental, social and gender aspects) is conducted during the construction and the operation phases.



4 Evaluation

Once the project is delivered, AFD conducts a detailed assessment to measure the project's development impacts on reducing gender inequality and promoting women's empowerment.



OUR GENDER PROJECTS IN SOUTH ASIA

In South Asia, AFD is financing gender DAC1 and DAC2 projects in various sectors, including transport, energy, financial institutions, water & sanitation, biodiversity & management of natural resources, health and urban development. AFD country agencies work with our network of local partners to identify adapted financing solutions and areas that require technical assistance to promote gender equality.

Developing a new surface water supply system in Dhaka, Bangladesh region to increase access to basic services, especially for women and vulnerable groups.



© AFD



Sovereign Concessional Loan
€47 M in 2013 + €130 M in 2021
Financing tools



Water supply
Sector

DAC 1 (2013) and DAC 2 (2021)

Republic of Bangladesh
Beneficiary

Asian Development Bank & European Investment Bank
Co-financier

AFD finances water and sanitation projects in all South Asia, increasing access to basic services for all segments of society, including the most vulnerable groups.

In Gandharbupur (Dhaka region), the project aims at meeting the needs of 3 million people. A specific project component is dedicated to gender mainstreaming, promoting the empowerment of women and vulnerable groups. Such objectives will be achieved by:

- Providing sustainable access to water & sanitation services – service cost to consider groups' vulnerability in order to ensure affordability
- Updating DWASA's (Dhaka Water and Sanitation Authority) gender equality policy to develop a gender-sensitive emergency preparedness plan within all DWASA operations, increasing female staff and delivering training on gender mainstreaming
- Strengthening women representation in community/municipal-based groups, including in leadership positions, to impact on decision making processes, reduce risks of gender based violence, promote legal awareness and empowerment especially in slum areas.
- Providing employment to local destitute women and ensuring equal pay with men for work of equal value.
- This specific component will benefit from technical assistance and will involve local NGOs.

Supporting the development of the BRT network in Peshawar, Pakistan implementing a safe transport system to women as well as creating working opportunities.



© AFD



Sovereign Concessional Loan
€130 M
Financing tools



Transport
Sector

DAC 1 (2017)

Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Beneficiary

Asian Development Bank
Co-financier

In Pakistan, AFD is financing gender sensitive collective transport systems, providing better security and access to collective transport as well as training and working opportunities for all genders.

In the Peshawar BRT project, AFD supports the promotion of gender equality and social inclusion by encouraging women entrepreneurship in BRT stations, providing periodic training on gender aspects and fostering women employment.

As of now, the following results have been measured:

- Female employment increased from 0 % to 10 %
- Female ridership increased from 2 % to 27 %
- Dedicated spaces were allocated for women in buses and stations
- Dedicated female wash rooms were constructed in stations
- Priority seats were allocated to transgender individuals
- A safe travel program for children, especially girls has been implemented
- Anti-harassment campaigns and awareness programs are conducted

OUR GENDER PROJECTS IN SOUTH ASIA

Supporting sustainable forest management practices and promoting alternative livelihood for local communities in Assam, India.



© AFD



Sovereign Concessional Loan
€54M in 2012 (Assam I) + €50 M in 2018 (Assam II)
Financing tools



Biodiversity & Natural resources management
Sector

DAC 1 (2012) and DAC 2 (2018)

Republic of India (Forest Department)
Beneficiary

Empowering feminist organizations to fight against gender-based violence in Sri Lanka



© AFD



Grant- Support Fund for Feminist Organization (FSOF) - €14 million for 9 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In Asia €2.4 million is dedicated to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
Financing tools



Feminism, fight against gender-based violence, Support to civil society
Sector

DAC 2 (2022)

IPPFAR in collaboration with Empow'Her, the International Federation for Human Rights, Médecins du Monde France and CREA who is implementing in Asia.
Beneficiary

AFD is financing forest and biodiversity conservation projects in Assam and in Rajasthan. Such projects aim at preserving forests and their associated ecosystems. Local communities are trained to be key active players in the conservation strategy. Dedicated components in the projects provide direct support to communities, facilitating the development of alternative and sustainable livelihoods.

The final evaluation of Assam I highlighted the following results:

- 216 communities benefitted directly from the projects (financial support to provide infrastructure and/or develop alternative skills)
- 6000 people were trained, including 73% of women
- 24 entrepreneurship orientation programs took place, involving almost 60% of women
- A "products of the forest" brand was created to market local community products
- Overall, livelihood-based training led to an increase in the mobility confidence levels and sense of community for women working in groups and production centres

A dedicated technical assistance is implemented as part of Assam II to build on the positive gender impacts from Assam I and secure long-term transformational impact within all financed communities. As part of this second phase, 34 additional skills training programs have been conducted and 23 women self-help groups have been trained so far. Promoting women leadership (with almost 30% of women in executive committees) and female careers within the Forest Department (through institutional strengthening) are also key actions supported by AFD.

AFD is funding projects targeting feminist CSOs in partner countries under the Support Fund for Feminist Organizations. The South Asia region has been identified to have both a high prevalence of gender inequality and potential for civil society to participate in its reduction.

In Sri Lanka, CREA is implementing capacity-building and sub-granting programs targeting local organizations, committed to promoting gender equality and implementing actions to prevent and/or fight gender-based violence. Efforts are carried out to encourage organizations working with vulnerable communities and to include small and unregistered organizations.

A total of more than 40 grants are to be awarded under 3 modalities to address civil organization's needs:

- "Boost" (€5,000-10,000 per organization) to enhance capacity to responses to emergency events
- "Programmatic & Organizational Development" (€10,000 to 40,000) to support organizations' growth
- "Synergies" to foster networking for stronger advocacy and enhanced visibility at various scales (€10,000 to 80,000)

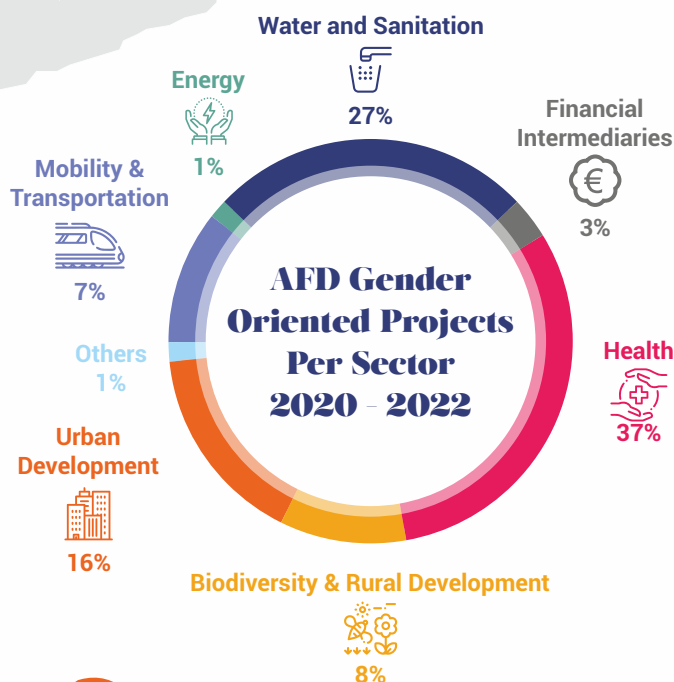
OUR KEY FIGURES IN South Asia



In 2022, 58% of our commitments included a gender co-benefit

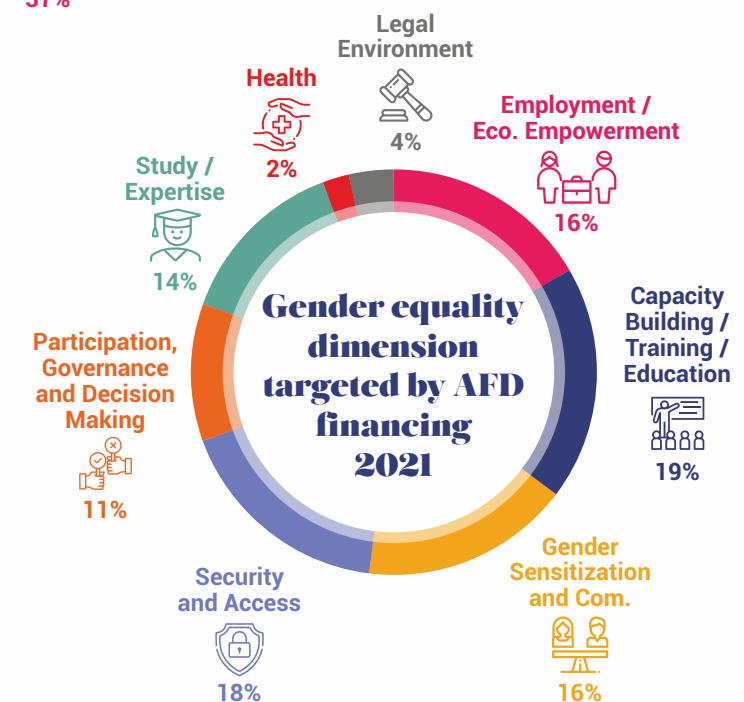
€1.5 billion

dedicated to DAC 1 & DAC 2*
from 2020 to 2022



€857 millions

via 10 projects are to contribute to environmental and climate resilience, including gender equality as a key driver for sustainability.



*DAC 1 project: gender equality is a significant and deliberate objective of the project.
DAC 2 project: gender equality is the main objective of the project.

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 3,250 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.



© AFD

South Asia Regional Office
Director: Yazid Bensaïd

19th Floor, East Tower,
World Trade Centre - Echelon Square
00100 COLOMBO
Tél: +94 11 234 00 91
afdcolombo@afd.fr

 <https://www.afd.fr/en>

 facebook.com/AFDOfficiel

 https://twitter.com/AFD_en

 [instagram/AFD_France](https://instagram.com/AFD_France)

#WorldInCommon