

Liberté Égalité Fraternité





HOW IS AFD SUPPORTING THE PROMINENCE OF ALEXANDRIA?

Alexandria, the second largest city in Egypt and the Mediterranean, faces major socio-economic, environmental, and urban challenges.

The French Development Agency (AFD) funds structural projects to help authorities address these challenges, improve the quality of life, and support the economic development of this flagship city: modernization of urban services, including mobility and sanitation, as well as energy, employment, and education. AFD also supports the cultural prominence of Alexandria, including promoting its leading role in favor of the Francophonie, notably through Senghor University.

Thus, AFD contributes to the transformation of Alexandria, combining urban rehabilitation, cultural promotion, and environmental awareness, so that this millennial city regains its status as a major hub in the Mediterranean region.

Key Projects



Mobility and Transport

Alexandria is modernizing its Raml tram, one of the first trams in Africa and a monument of urban heritage. This project aims to meet the growing demand for mobility due to the densification of neighborhoods as well as the development of commercial and tourist activities, ultimately targeting 500,000 travelers/day, tripling its capacity. As part of a broader strategy to support sustainable mobility in Egypt and revitalize urban transport, this project will improve the safety and speed of travel by streamlining the Raml tram route and will reduce emissions through an efficient public transport offering.



For sustainable mobility in Alexandria: the Raml tram



Project amount

236 million euros, including 100 million euros from AFD and an 8 million euros grant from the European Union (EU).



Partner

National Authority for Tunnels (NAT), in collaboration with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and European Union (EU).



Project Impact

Improved transport service for 500,000 travelers/day.



Water & Sanitation

The Egyptian government has implemented an ambitious water and sanitation strategy that AFD supports in Alexandria through the extension of the East Alexandria wastewater treatment plant. The technology introduced on the site (installation of biodigesters) has reduced nuisances for the local population and produced 50% of the electricity needed for its own operation. This project addresses AFD's priorities in water and sustainable development, benefiting a population of over 5 million inhabitants.

Ultimately, more than 1.5 million m³/day will be treated through AFD-funded projects in the sector, in Alexandria (new plant east of the city) and also in Cairo through the extension of the Gabal al Asfar and Helwan plants.



From waste to energy: Alexandria at the forefront of wastewater treatment



Project amount

50 million euros.



Egyptian government, The Construction Authority for Potable Water & Wastewater (CAPW).



Treatment capacity 800,000 m³/day.

Project Impact



- 30% reduction in sludge and valorization
- Production of clean energy covering 50% of the plant's electricity needs
- Reduction of nuisances for neighbors.



In 2015, Egypt launched a plan to modernize its seven Regional Control Centers (RCC), which efficiently manage the electrical grid. The modernization of Alexandria's RCC—upgrading software, renovating the building with an energy performance goal, adapting substations, and replacing the telecommunications network—aims to improve operational efficiency and ensure stable electricity supply for 9 million inhabitants.

This Global Gateway project is also part of AFD and the EU's regional strategies to strengthen the energy transition by promoting digitalization and the integration of renewable energies into the energy mix, and to work towards connectivity with Europe.



Alexandria Regional Control Center: Transformative energy



Project amount

50 million euros and 10 million euros in EU grants.



Partner

Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy (MoERE), Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company (EETC), European Union (EU).



Project Impact

- Improved quality of electricity service for 9 million inhabitants
- 10% reduction in technical losses
- better integration of renewable energies.



Entrepreneurship/ Private Sector

The Women-Owned Business Supporting Programme is funded by a 50 million euro credit line and a cooperation program implemented by the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA) throughout the country, including Alexandria and surrounding governorates. Promoting financial inclusion and women's entrepreneurship, the program aims to facilitate access to credit and a range of extra-financial services for women entrepreneurs and MSMEs owned by women, creating new job opportunities and encouraging the economic empowerment of Egyptian women.

The funding for technical assistance aims to strengthen the ecosystem and entrepreneurial opportunities for women. Given the program's success, AFD and MSMEDA are considering replicating it, particularly focusing on the most vulnerable groups.



MSMEDA: Spotlight on women's entrepreneurship



Project amount

50 million euros and 1 million euros in technical assistance.



Partner

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (MSMEDA).



Project Impact

Improved financial inclusion and entrepreneurship opportunities, job creation, and women's empowerment, transformation of the financial sector, and increased investment in SMEs. In three years:

- Over 15,000 women entrepreneurs and business leaders supported.
- Over 41,000 jobs (direct and indirect)



Higher Education

AFD's innovative partnership with Senghor University, an international university and operator of the Francophonie serving African development, is based on three pilot programs supported by the AFD Group Campus since 2021: the MAITENA program, the design of a program dedicated to «intrapreneurs» participating in the transformation of public project management, and the creation of a «Kre'afrika» course. In collaboration with the media TRACE, the latter aims to raise awareness and equip young talents in the Cultural and Creative Industries sector. New avenues are being explored to better mobilize the network of over 3,000 alumni and link Senghor's degree and certification programs with the AFD Group Campus offering.

These efforts are part of the broader context of maintaining Alexandria as a major Francophone capital, serving excellence and Egypt's African projection, which will be furthered by the inauguration of the new Senghor University Campus in 2024.



Senghor University: Alexandria, beacon of the Francophonie



Project amount

2.2 million euros since 2021.



Partner

Senghor University, AFD Group Campus.



Impact du partenariat

- 3,530 online courses completed through Kre'Afrika, reaching 14,000 learners.
- Around one hundred executives trained through the Maitena and Transform'Action Master's programs.
- 112 cultural operators from 30 countries gathered for Kre'Afrika seminars.
- Ongoing collaborations among alumni around cultural projects.
- Kre'Afrika, a cultural reference and key player in continuing education in Africa.
- 6 African public institutions impacted by transformation projects through Transform'Action.



For a world in common

AFD Group contributes to the implementation of France's policies for sustainable development and international solidarity. The Group includes Agence Française de Développement (AFD), which finances the public sector, NGOs, research and training; its subsidiary Proparco, which is dedicated to the private sector; and Expertise France, a technical cooperation agency.

The Group finances, supports and accelerates the transitions needed for a fairer, more resilient world. With our partners, we are building shared solutions with and for the people in more than 150 countries, as well as in 11 French Overseas Departments and Territories. As part of the commitment of France and the French people to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, our teams are at work on more than 4,800 projects in the field.

Our objective is to reconcile economic development with the preservation of common goods, from peace, the climate and biodiversity to health, education and gender equality. Towards a world in common.

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