

Sumatra: Young children play on the only piece that remains of their home after the tsunami (2004)



AGENCE FRANÇAISE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

DISASTER
RISK REDUCTION



#MondeEnCommun

Working to reduce disaster risk

Every year, disasters related to natural hazards have huge human and economic repercussions. This is particularly the case in countries where AFD operates. A key reason for this is that these countries often do not have the capacity to prevent or respond effectively to natural hazards. Without action to tackle this vulnerability, the number and impacts of these disasters will continue to increase, in particular as a result of two evolutions: climate change and urbanization, which is often uncontrolled in risk-prone areas.

AFD and disaster risk reduction

Disaster risks are not inevitable and can be reduced. This is the underlying principle behind disaster risk reduction (DRR), which is subject to international commitments set out in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

Between 2006 and 2016, AFD committed close to EUR 2bn for projects which contribute to DRR as part of its efforts to support climate change adaptation and reduce vulnerabilities. AFD plans to triple the volume of its financial commitment to climate change adaptation, reaching EUR 1.2bn a year by 2020, with a large share for DRR.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the main beneficiary of AFD's DRR financing (over half its portfolio), followed by the Caribbean, the Mediterranean region and Southeast Asia. Through its presence in the French Overseas Territories, AFD also seeks to promote the creation of regional mechanisms to more effectively manage disaster risks.

Women and girls are the first to be affected

As a result of their socio-economic conditions and discriminations against them, women and girls are particularly affected by disasters: 61% of the victims of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar (2008) were women¹.

¹ ODI, *The Future Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, A Guide for Decision-Makers*, June 2014.

THE THREE PILLARS OF AFD'S ACTION

**PREVENT
NATURAL
RISKS**

**STRENGTHEN
CRISIS
MANAGEMENT**

**DEVELOP
A CULTURE
OF DISASTER
RISK
REDUCTION**

AFD also intervenes to support post-disaster reconstruction processes. Since the early 2000s, it has allocated over EUR 500m for this purpose: for example, in the aftermath of the tsunami in Asia (2004), the earthquake in Haiti (2010) and, more recently, in Ecuador (2016). These interventions, in line with the "Build Back Better" approach, seek to make territories and communities more resilient than they were prior to the disaster.

Climate change adaptation

**Long-term adjustment
to the impacts
of climate change**

Rising sea levels, temperature increase, rainfall variability

**Reduction of risks
related to the impacts
of climate change**

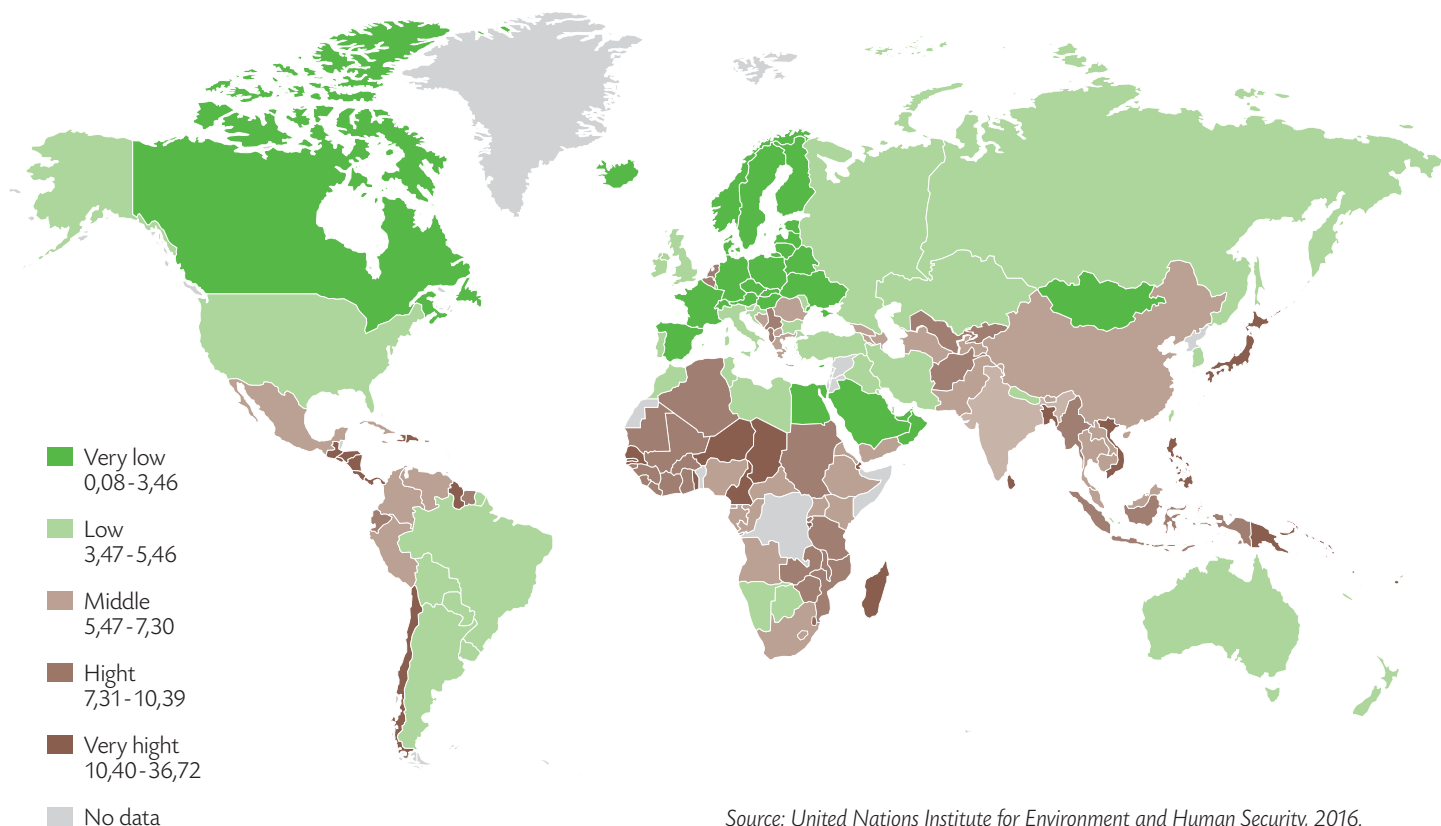
Storms, floods, coastal flooding, landslides, epidemics, insect infestation.

**Reduction of risks
related to geophysical
hazards**

Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, land movements.

Disaster risk reduction

Developing and emerging countries among the most vulnerable



Source: United Nations Institute for Environment and Human Security, 2016.

Preventing natural risks

AFD focuses the bulk of its DRR operations on prevention. The aim is to avoid the occurrence of a disaster and mitigate its impacts.

For example, AFD helps local authorities identify disaster risks and mainstream them into their territorial planning and urban development strategies. It also finances the construction of schools, hospitals and housing adapted to risks, as well as protection infrastructure, particularly against floods (such as for example stormwater drainage and retention basins).

Over the past 20 years, 90% of disasters have been caused by climate-related phenomena (floods, droughts...).

More recently, AFD has financed projects on rural reforestation and urban biodiversity conservation. Such interventions reduce disaster risks while contributing to the conservation and protection of ecosystems.

The Philippines: Towards integrated disaster risk management

The Philippines are exposed to major natural disasters. They are also one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change.

In 2012, AFD financed technical assistance to help three cities (Dagupan, General Santos and Santa Rosa) develop risk prevention and climate action plans and integrate them into local urban planning documents.

Following this pilot, a complemented technical assistance at the national level is financed by the European Union. The aim of this programme is to support the Department of the Interior and Local Government develop a certification system for local authorities, in order to encourage the implementation of local natural risk prevention and management policies through additional funding. Complementary technical assistance will help 50 cities obtain this certification.

Strengthening crisis management

Despite effective prevention measures, certain disaster risks will remain. This is why AFD also supports the preparation of crisis management.

Anticipating a crisis. AFD implements activities in the field of monitoring and early warning systems. For example, since 2008, it has been financing a health monitoring mechanism in the Indian Ocean. This has led to the creation of a network of public disease monitoring services among countries in the region (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Réunion) and the establishment of active health monitoring to detect epidemics early on and reduce their impacts on populations.

Responding to disasters. AFD is increasingly involved in building emergency disaster response capacities. It helps strengthen health systems, to ensure the continuity of care in the event of a disaster, as well as the setting up of food storage mechanisms to face droughts. We are also planning to develop our activities in the field of civil security.

Every year, over 26 million people fall into poverty due to disasters².

Absorbing shocks. AFD also has experience in developing financial protection mechanisms which contribute to making societies more resilient to disasters. For example, AFD has participated in the creation of CCRIF (Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance) for Caribbean Community States and has, more recently, contributed to financing ARC (African Risk Capacity) for African countries.

These mechanisms constitute sustainable tools to cover natural risks: when a state of disaster is declared, they guarantee the rapid payment of compensation to meet emergency needs. Finally, AFD actively participates in the development of agricultural insurance.

²GFDRR, *Unbreakable: breaking the resilience of the poor in the face of natural disasters*, November 2016.



Food distribution, Sudanese refugee camp in Chad (2011)

West Africa: Food reserves to address emergencies

Most West African households are extremely vulnerable and risk falling into poverty after a shock, even a minor one. With the European Union, AFD is assisting the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the implementation of its regional emergency response strategy for food crises. This project, which covers 15 ECOWAS Member States, as well as Chad and Mauritania, aims to call on regional solidarity in the event of a crisis. The support includes strengthening storage systems, both at the decentralized level (local stocks) and at the national level, and building networks among them (via RESOGEST). It also supports the creation of a stock at regional level, the West Africa Regional Food Security Reserve. In the event of a disaster, and depending on the severity of the crisis, these various reserves will be successively mobilized, thereby enabling countries in the region to take action prior to an international response.

This project will also extend and enhance the regional information system and build the capacities of the Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF), launched in Lomé in 2013.

Developing a culture of disaster risk reduction

Taking action on attitudes and behaviours is an essential element of DRR: these actions help ensure that prevention and preparation mechanisms are both effective and sustainable. Consequently, developing a culture of disaster risk reduction is an important aspect of DRR. The aim is to raise general awareness of the risk at all levels, especially at the community level.

AFD's interventions in this field focus primarily on raising awareness of good practices for DRR and disseminating them, and promoting

participatory approaches at community level. Some projects specifically target the most vulnerable groups, such as women and young people, who are key players in bringing about change.

*Between USD 250bn
and USD 300bn of annual losses
as a result of disasters.*



Port-au-Prince, after the earthquake (2010)

Mobilizing local communities with NGOs

AFD, through its NGO financing, contributes to strengthening the development of a culture of risk reduction, especially among the most vulnerable populations.

In Vietnam, AFD is financing the French Red Cross, in partnership with its Vietnamese counterpart, in order to strengthen the resilience to natural disasters of two provinces in the Northwest of the country (Lai Chau and Son La). This project, which is part of a national risk management programme, plans information and training actions on climate risk management, and establishes provincial and municipal emergency response teams. It also includes awareness-raising activities in schools so as

to improve the preparedness of teams and students for the occurrence of natural hazards.

In Haiti, AFD scaled up its support to French NGOs operating on the island following the earthquake in 2010, then Hurricane Matthew in 2016. One of the projects, implemented by Solidarité Laïque, helps young people return to school and raise awareness of climate risks among the populations of Grand'Anse, Nippes and the South. This project includes training activities for young Haitian volunteers and awareness-raising activities for teaching staff and students in the targeted schools on disaster risks. It also plans to launch an awareness raising campaign on risk reduction in each of the targeted municipalities.

Agence Française de Développement (AFD), a public financial institution that implements the policy defined by the French Government, works to combat poverty and promote sustainable development. AFD operates on four continents via a network of 75 offices and finances and supports projects that improve living conditions for populations, boost economic growth and protect the planet. In 2015, AFD earmarked EUR 8.3bn to finance projects in developing countries and for overseas France.



A boy standing in the rubble after the earthquake in San José de Chamanga (province of Esmeraldas)



Proparco – a subsidiary of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) devoted to private sector funding – has been supporting sustainable development for almost 40 years. It operates in 80 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East and helps finance and support financial institutions and corporate private-sector projects.

www.proparco.fr



**FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL**

The French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) is a financial instrument of French cooperation and development policy, dedicated to the protection of the global environment in developing countries and emerging markets. With funds of €90 million for 2015-2018, the FFEM supports innovative work in developing countries in the following areas: climate, biodiversity, international waters, soil degradation including deforestation, persistent organic pollutants and the ozone layer. At the end of 2015, the FFEM had received financial pledges of €331 million, with 285 projects in their portfolio, 67% of which are in Africa and the Mediterranean.

www.ffem.fr - ffem@afd.fr



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AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

5 rue Roland Barthes
75598 Paris Cedex 12 – France
Tel. +33 1 53 44 31 31 – Fax +33 1 44 87 99 39
www.afd.fr

