



# MINKA

PEACE AND RESILIENCE FUND

# MINKA SAHEL INITIATIVE

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**AFD**  
AGENCE FRANÇAISE  
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

The security, humanitarian, and sociopolitical situation in the Sahel has continued to deteriorate since the 2012 crisis in Mali, with a significant increase in conflict hotspots. More than one million people, according to OCHA reports, have been forcibly displaced in the G5 Sahel countries, due to escalating insecurity and armed violence. The vulnerability of Sahelian populations is further compounded by food insecurity, weak governments, and unequal access to basic services—especially in remote regions furthest from national capitals. The fear is that the situation could lead to increased inter-community tensions and erosion of social cohesion.

The Sahel is a key priority area for French development policy, and AFD has been active there for more than 40 years. The Minka Sahel Initiative was launched in 2017 as AFD's response to the violent conflicts that threaten these countries. The Initiative enables the financing of development projects targeting the most vulnerable of populations, with the specific objective of conflict prevention and recovery.





After one year of operation, the ACTIF project has enabled 700 youth from the Mopti region of Mali to receive training and another 258 to obtain guidance for their entrepreneurship projects. On completion, 3,000 young women and men are expected to have benefited from this program.

## The Minka Sahel Initiative at a glance

Countries concerned: **Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad**

### PURPOSE

Prevent and curtail violence in this context, by strengthening the social link between communities and trust between populations and their institutions.

### OBJECTIVES

- Ensure fair and inclusive access to natural resources and essential services
- Promote socioeconomic insertion of vulnerable groups
- Support fair, transparent and citizen-centered institutions

### POLICY GUIDELINES

- Gain a better understanding of the conflict dynamics at play so as to help address the root causes of the crises
- Prioritize an integrated and partnership-based approach, in connection with humanitarian and development actors and especially members of the Sahel Alliance
- Adopt a regional approach to address transborder risk factors
- Rebuild trust via projects with short-, medium-, and long-term impact
- Ensure conflict-sensitive project design as well as monitoring and evaluation
- Strengthen project flexibility to factor in volatile contexts

### BENEFICIARIES

- Populations living in zones affected by or at risk from violent conflict
- The most vulnerable groups (youth, women, internally displaced and host communities, marginalized groups)
- Actors for positive change within public institutions and civil society

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) set up a dedicated financing instrument for peacebuilding, called the Peace & Resilience Fund or 'Minka'. The Minka Fund is the main financing window for the French Government's 2018-2022 strategy for the "Prevention, Resilience and Sustainable Peace" and SDG 16 agenda. It finances regional, national or local peacebuilding programmes that help promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies, both before, during and after violent conflicts. Depending on the context, peacebuilding may involve restoring trust between social groups or repair relations between State and society, reducing tensions linked to unequal access to natural resources or ensuring equal access to security and justice to all.

Minka is the flagship of AFD's commitment to supporting conflict prevention as well as transitions from war to peace. The Minka Fund finances structural medium-term interventions, focusing on the drivers of peace and conflict. This approach ensures the causes as well as effects of crises are targeted with the dual aim of achieving rapid initial results, visible for local population from the first six months of implementation, and rebuilding trust over the longer term.

Minka is divided into four regional 'Initiatives', targeting critical conflict basins: the **Sahel**, Lake Chad, Central African Republic, Syria/Iraq.

AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT  
Grand Sahel Regional Office

01 BP 529 - Ouagadougou 01 - Burkina Faso  
T: + 226 54 40 00 00 / 01 | @: afdrsahel@afd.fr



AFD\_France | AFD\_en  
AFDOfficiel



GroupeAFD  
AFD\_France