



RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



HANDLED BY



Minka

Peace & Resilience Fund

ACTIVITY REPORT

2020

#WorldInCommon

In 2020, fragile countries received 460 million people living in extreme poverty, almost 80% of the world total.⁽¹⁾

As crises become longer and more complex, AFD Group has made a key commitment to sustainable peace, the climate and social cohesion. This commitment is part of France's "Prevention, Resilience and Sustainable Peace" strategy aimed at minimizing States' and societies' vulnerabilities. This comprehensive "3D development thinking"⁽²⁾ relies on the blend of Team France's resources in the areas of diplomacy, defense, development and the stabilization or humanitarian action.

France established the Minka Peace and Resilience Fund as a means to finance its efforts to tackle the root causes of crises and take swift action to benefit local communities. The Fund, implemented by AFD, is dedicated to medium and long-term financing operations in regions affected by crisis or violent conflict. The Minka Fund is part of France's peacebuilding efforts.

In 2020, with Covid-19 making the environment even more volatile, it was once again necessary to address many challenges: hard-to-access areas, the need to increase coordination among stakeholders and systematically prioritize initiatives that support the most vulnerable, such as marginalized groups, refugees, forcibly displaced persons and host populations. "Leaving no one behind" is a central concern for Minka financed projects. Using an approach that is tailored to unstable areas and aims at meeting the needs of local communities, Minka has anticipated these difficulties in the four priority crisis areas it covers for France's foreign policy: the Sahel, Lake Chad region, the Central African Republic and the Middle East.

Minka, one approach, four initiatives

Leading projects with the Minka Fund



Why?
Peacebuilding.



With whom?
The Minka Fund finances projects led by **governments, local stakeholders and civil society organizations.**



How?
By financing (often multi-sector) projects which respond to the needs of local populations and challenges on the ground, with the aim of fostering **social cohesion** and **restoring confidence** between those in government and the people they govern. These projects are conducted within a regional framework.



For whom?
The **most vulnerable populations**, by prioritizing inclusive initiatives, with a concern for **youth and gender equality.**



When?
Action taken **before, during and after a crisis:** addressing weaknesses likely to cause crises, building resilience among societies and institutions, and supporting post-crisis recovery.



Where?
➤ Minka Sahel Initiative
➤ Minka Lake Chad Initiative
➤ Minka CAR Initiative
➤ Minka Middle East Initiative

Minka: projects and an approach supported by the entire AFD Group

Since 2018, the group's subsidiary, Proparco, has been implementing ARIZ TPE Minka,⁽¹⁾ a program that supports the private sector in crisis situations. Expertise France, a public operator in charge of implementing projects, plays a major role in the implementation of Minka projects and is involved in all four initiatives.

⁽¹⁾ Source: OECD (2018), States of Fragility

⁽²⁾ "3D" refers to Defense, Diplomacy and Development: a coordinated approach jointly implemented by the Ministry for the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and its operator AFD.

⁽³⁾ A portfolio guarantee implemented by Proparco for financial institutions to enable them to finance MSMEs in crisis areas in Africa or the Middle East.

AFD Minka commitments

€653 M

committed over 4 years

○ BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS BY INITIATIVE:
2017-2020

**Minka Sahel
Initiative**

€318M

**Minka Middle East
Initiative**

€213M

€53M

**Minka Lake Chad
Initiative**

€66M

**Minka CAR
Initiative**

**Private sector
facility**

€3M

(launched in 2018)



78%

of projects promote gender equality⁽¹⁾
(e.g. inclusive projects and projects combating gender-based violence)



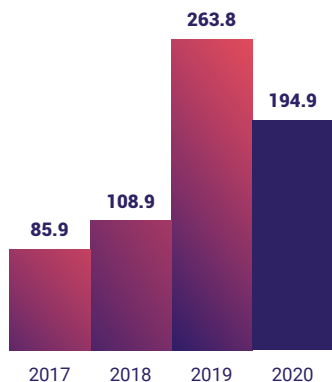
MINKA PROJECTS ARE PART OF FRANCE'S
"WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY" NATIONAL
ACTION PLAN.⁽²⁾

+6 million

beneficiaries of Minka projects
allocated in 2020.

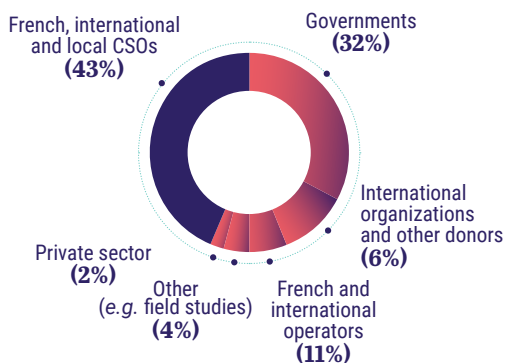


○ TREND IN COMMITMENTS: 2017-2020 (IN € M)



OVER FOUR YEARS, MINKA HAS INVESTED
€653 MILLION IN 85 PEACEBUILDING
PROJECTS.

○ BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS BY CONTRACTING AUTHORITY: 2017-2020



A DIVERSE RANGE OF CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES
TO RESPOND MORE EFFECTIVELY TO SPECIFIC
LOCAL NEEDS AND REALITIES.

⁽¹⁾ Percentage of projects rated DAC 1 or 2.

⁽²⁾ Plan based on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security".

Minka Sahel Initiative

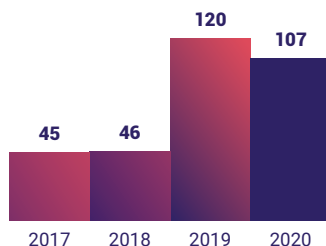
BURKINA FASO, CHAD, MALI, MAURITANIA AND NIGER

In 2020, violence towards civilian populations in the Sahel escalated further, causing a serious protection crisis. Since 2019, there has been a fourfold increase in the number of people displaced in their own country, from 490,000 to over 2 million. About 80% are women and children.⁽¹⁾ In this context, 8.9 million people have suffered from acute food insecurity and access to essential social services, with 3,891 schools and 150 health centers closed⁽²⁾ or not functional in the Liptako-Gourma region alone.⁽³⁾ To tackle these issues, in a region that is of great importance for French foreign policy, the Minka Sahel Initiative has allocated 13 new projects aiming to prevent or stem violent conflicts. At the international level, 2020 marked a turning point with the Pau Summit and launch of the Coalition for the Sahel.

○ TOTAL COMMITMENTS: 2017-2020



○ TREND IN COMMITMENTS: 2017-2020 (IN € M)



In 2020, three-quarters of financing focused on the Liptako-Gourma region.⁽³⁾

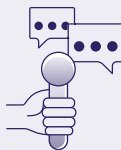


FEATURED PROJECT: INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH THE MEDIA



3,962

magazines/news bulletins broadcasted by 169 partner radio stations, in **10 national languages**, to inform and promote public debate.⁽⁴⁾



160

professionals nearly **30% women**, trained in the basics of journalism and the production of interactive content with/for young people.

MédiaSahel project in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, with Agence Française de Développement Médias (CFI) – launched in April 2019 – €9 million

➡ The objective: promote the inclusion of marginalized young people in the Sahel from Liptako-Gourma⁽³⁾ through the media.

⁽¹⁾ UNHCR (2021)

⁽²⁾ OCHA (2020)

⁽³⁾ The Liptako-Gourma region also includes the "three border" area between Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

⁽⁴⁾ 392 videos and programs have also been broadcast to combat the spread of Covid-19.

Minka Lake Chad Initiative

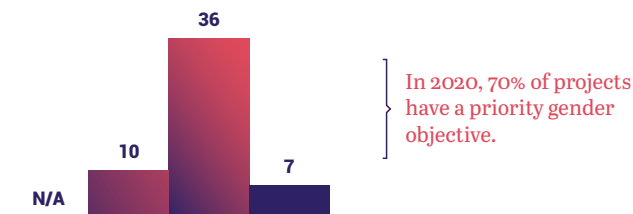
CAMEROON, CHAD, NIGER, AND NIGERIA

Growing insecurity in the Lake Chad basin in 2020 continued to increase the vulnerability of local communities and cause new forced displacements. There have been over 2.8 million displacements since the onset of the crisis. The number of people needing humanitarian assistance has reached 12.5 million.⁽¹⁾ These trends have confirmed the rationale for the operations of the Minka Lake Chad Initiative: contribute to stemming violence and strengthening social cohesion by mitigating the vulnerability caused by the Boko Haram crisis. In 2020, a new project was allocated and the projects that are already operational were able to continue to deploy activities towards this objective, despite the restrictions related to security and Covid-19.

○ TOTAL COMMITMENTS: 2017-2020



○ TREND IN COMMITMENTS: 2017-2020 (IN € M)



FEATURED PROJECT: CHILD PROTECTION



27,613

people sensitized to GBV⁽²⁾ and preventive measures against the pandemic. 79% are women and children.



7

kindergartens set up in schools and nearly 500 teachers, health workers and community volunteers trained.

ADELAC project in Chad, with International Rescue Committee (IRC-UK)⁽³⁾ – launched in August 2020 – €10 million

➔ The objective: create an enabling environment for the development of young children, from birth until the end of primary school.

⁽¹⁾ OCHA (2020)

⁽²⁾ GBV: Gender-based violence

⁽³⁾ IRC-UK is the leader of a consortium of NGOs with COOPI, I&D and PADIESE.

Minka CAR Initiative

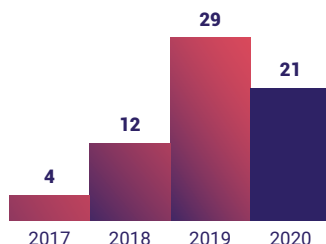
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The situation in the Central African Republic deteriorated at the end of 2020. The upsurge in political and security tensions related to the presidential elections has particularly affected civilian populations, which were already suffering from the economic consequences of the health crisis. Over half of the population (2.8 million people) needs humanitarian aid and 1.3 million people⁽¹⁾ in the Central African Republic have been forcibly displaced (half in the country and half in neighboring countries). Three new Minka projects were allocated in 2020 to accompany the crisis recovery and support peacebuilding. They focus on particularly vulnerable groups in the north-east and west of the country.

○ TOTAL COMMITMENTS: 2017-2020



○ TREND IN COMMITMENTS: 2017-2020 (IN € M)



In 2020, Minka accounted for over 50% of AFD's operations in CAR. It has stepped up its support in crisis areas in the country.



FEATURED PROJECT: CROSS-BORDER COHESION



32

farmer field schools

set up to provide training in sustainable agriculture techniques and support economic cohesion.



18,000

people sensitized

to health issues and GBV⁽²⁾ in order to strengthen social cohesion.

I Yeke Oko project in the Central African Republic and Cameroon, with the French Red Cross and a consortium of NGOs – launched in September 2019 – €12 million

➤ The objective: support the balanced and sustainable development of areas affected by population displacements caused by the conflict in Central Africa.

⁽¹⁾ OCHA (2020)

⁽²⁾ GBV: Gender-based violence

Minka Middle East Initiative

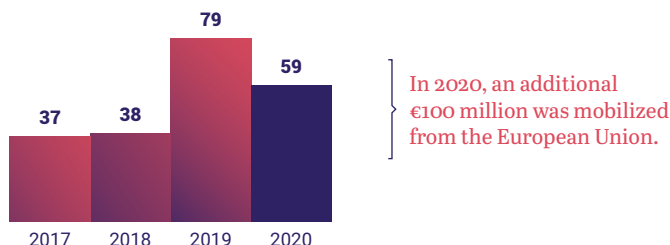
IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON AND TURKEY

In 2020, the Middle East was plunged into a spiral of crises. After 10 years of war, there are still 5.6 million Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq's Kurdistan region.⁽¹⁾ They are caught between an impossible return and a very difficult integration. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a major economic crisis, plunging millions of both refugee and host households below the poverty line. Lebanon, the main host country in proportion to its population, has fallen into a domestic crisis. This was highlighted by the blast in the Port of Beirut in August 2020. In this context, the Minka Middle East Initiative has mobilized an additional €13 million for the city's recovery and allocated five new projects to contribute to reducing the vulnerability caused by population displacement, and to increase the resilience of host countries.

○ TOTAL COMMITMENTS: 2017-2020



○ TREND IN COMMITMENTS: 2017-2020 (IN € M)



FEATURED PROJECT: REVIVING THE RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY



15,800

animals treated in mobile veterinary clinics.



2,000

farmers supported over the long term.

PERMA project in Iraq, with Mercy Corps, Triangle Génération Humanitaire and Public Aid Organization – launched in December 2018 – €10 million

➡ The objective: contribute to the revival of the rural and agricultural economy in the Ninawa Governorate.

⁽¹⁾ UNHCR (2020)

Prospects for 2021

How will the Minka Fund step up its actions during the crisis, amid a continuing deterioration of security and of the humanitarian, health and economic situation?

“The convergence of the Covid-19 pandemic with the pressures of conflict and climate change will put the goal of ending poverty by 2030 beyond reach without swift, significant and substantial policy action.”⁽¹⁾

The year 2020 was severely affected by the global Covid-19 pandemic and fragile countries have been hard hit. They are home to 23% of the world's population and to 43% of the people who risk falling into extreme poverty due to the health situation, *i.e.* 26 million people.⁽²⁾ In 2021, the Minka Fund will continue its action to **support healthcare and the economic inclusion** of young people. For example, in Lebanon, the PNSM project is setting up technical assistance for the national mental health program, a dedicated university degree, and is strengthening community mental health services. Implemented with the World Health Organization (WHO), Doctors of the World (MDM) and the ESA Business School, 1,888 people have now been given access to this care.

In 2021, Minka will also continue to **spearhead the implementation of the “Women, Peace and Security” agenda** (under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and the resolutions that followed). Protecting and taking into account the specific needs of women, as well as ensuring that they participate fully in the peacebuilding projects supported by Minka, are key issues. Working with the Pierre Fabre Foundation,⁽³⁾ the Nengo project in the Central African Republic has set up a center in Bangui that provides comprehensive care to victims of sexual and gender-based violence. In less than a year, 29 training sessions have been organized and some 500 survivors have already received care.

In 2021, **promoting human rights and access to both justice and public services** will be priorities. In Mali, the SOCLE (Operational Support for the Continuity and Legitimacy of the State) project aims to assist the return of public authorities and improve the provision of essential services in marginalized areas. Four decentralized units and mobile public services managed by local administrations will be deployed for this purpose. This approach combines pragmatism and innovation: the return of the State and a participatory method to identify local needs.

The Minka Fund is heading towards its fifth year of implementation. In 2021, an analysis will precede the renewal of its initiatives. It will therefore be a **key year for Minka**.



⁽¹⁾ World Bank (2020), biennial Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report

⁽²⁾ OECD (2020), States of Fragility

⁽³⁾ The consortium for the implementation of the project also includes the Panzi Foundation DRC, the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation and the Institut Francophone pour la Justice et la Démocratie.

Towards a world in common

AFD Group implements France's policy in the areas of development and international solidarity. The Group includes Agence Française de Développement (AFD), which finances the public sector and NGOs, as well as research and education in sustainable development; its subsidiary Proparco, which is dedicated to private sector financing; and soon, Expertise France, a technical cooperation agency. The Group finances, supports and accelerates transitions towards a fairer, more resilient world.

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 4,000 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.



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5, rue Roland-Barthes - 75598 Paris cedex 12 - France - tel.: +33 1 53 44 31 31