

# Minka

## Peace & Resilience Fund

**ACTIVITY REPORT**

**2021**

Fragile states are home to over 76% of those living in extreme poverty around the world.<sup>(1)</sup>

As crises become longer and more complex than ever, AFD Group has made sustainable peace a key priority, alongside the climate and social cohesion. This commitment is part of France's "Prevention, Resilience and Sustainable Peace" strategy aimed at addressing both state and societal fragility. This comprehensive "3D development thinking"<sup>(2)</sup> draws on the complementary resources of Team France in the areas of diplomacy, defense, development, stabilization, and humanitarian action.

France established the Minka Peace and Resilience Fund as a means of financing its efforts to tackle the root causes of crises and take swift action for the benefit of local populations. 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 pursues proactive conflict prevention, before and after crises, for lasting peace.

In 2021, with Covid-19 making the many local contexts even more volatile, it was once again necessary to address a number of challenges: difficult-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 which aims to meet 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



### For whom?

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



### With whom?

The Minka Fund finances projects led by **public authorities, civil society organizations, and private stakeholders**.



### 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.



### How?

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



### Where?

Minka projects are conducted within a regional framework for each of the **4 priority crisis areas**:

- Minka Sahel Initiative
- Minka Lake Chad Initiative
- Minka CAR Initiative
- Minka Middle East Initiative

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

Since 2018, the group's subsidiary, Proparco, has been implementing ARIZ TPE Minka, a program that supports the private sector in crisis situations. Expertise France, the subsidiary in charge of technical cooperation, a major Minka stakeholder, is involved in all four initiatives.

<sup>(1)</sup> OECD, 2020

<sup>(2)</sup> 3D (Defense, Diplomacy and Development): a coordinated approach jointly implemented by the Ministry for the Armed Forces, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and its operator AFD

# AFD Minka Commitments

## €863 M

committed over 5 years

○ BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS BY INITIATIVE:  
2017-2021

Minka Sahel  
Initiative

€422  
M

Minka Middle East  
Initiative

€272  
M

Minka Lake Chad  
Initiative

€84  
M

Minka CAR  
Initiative

€82  
M

Private sector  
facility

€3 M

(launched in 2018)



# 90%

of projects launched in 2021 promote gender equality.



MINKA PROJECTS ARE PART OF FRANCE'S "WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY" NATIONAL ACTION PLAN.<sup>(3)</sup>

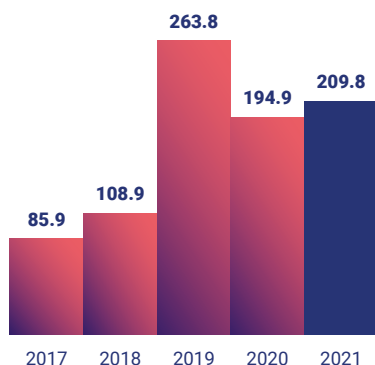
# +5 million

beneficiaries of Minka projects allocated in 2021.



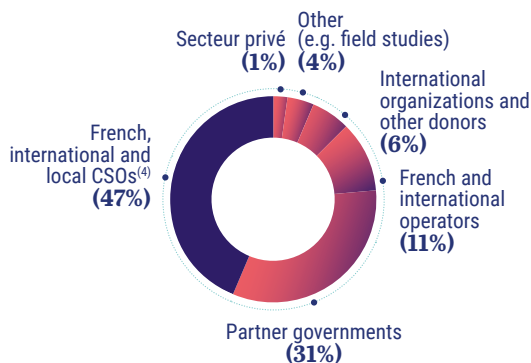
THIS FOLLOW-UP IS ENSHRINED IN THE DEVELOPMENT LAW ADOPTED IN 2021.

## ○ TREND IN COMMITMENTS IN 2017-2020 IN €M



OVER FIVE YEARS, MINKA HAS INVESTED €863 MILLION IN PEACE-BUILDING.

## ○ BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS BY CONTRACTING AUTHORITY: 2017-2021



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

<sup>(3)</sup> Plan based on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security".

<sup>(4)</sup> French civil society organizations, also called CSOs, account for nearly half of funding dedicated to CSOs.

# Minka Sahel Initiative

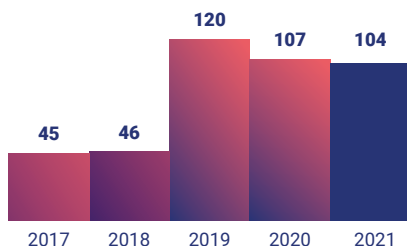
BURKINA FASO, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER AND CHAD

The Sahel crisis is spreading and getting worse. In 2021, as 33.2 million people faced the devastating effects of armed conflicts<sup>(5)</sup>, renewed attacks led to the displacement of over 500,000 people, raising the number of displaced persons to 3.8 million<sup>(6)</sup>. In keeping with the priorities established at the N'Djamena summit in February 2021, AFD is devoting greater resources to the countries most affected by the crisis, such as, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, where 5,574 schools and 110 health centers are currently closed or are not operational. In the midst of multiple crises, there is now the prospect of a serious food crisis, with 4.3 million people already suffering from food insecurity. In response to these urgent needs, AFD has dedicated €103.7 million to major projects as part of a comprehensive strategy of combining humanitarian and development efforts.

## ○ TOTAL COMMITMENTS: 2017-2021



## ○ TREND IN COMMITMENTS: 2017-2021 (IN €M)



In 2021, 80% of commitments had a significant or primary gender focus.

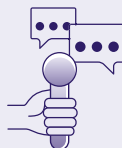


## FEATURED PROJECT: SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENED SOCIAL COHESION



**17,800**

**producers** in key sectors have improved their access to seeds and inputs since the start of the project.



**197**

**structures** contributing to conflict prevention and social cohesion received support: community radios, consultation frameworks.

**3F project in the three-border zone between Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, with a consortium of NGOs –launched in 2018 – €56 M, including €1.5 M funded in 2021**

➡ The objective: support economic recovery in agropastoral sectors by supporting dialogue between various communities aimed at easing tensions.

<sup>(5)</sup> WHO, 2022

<sup>(6)</sup> UNHCR, 2021

# Minka Lake Chad Initiative

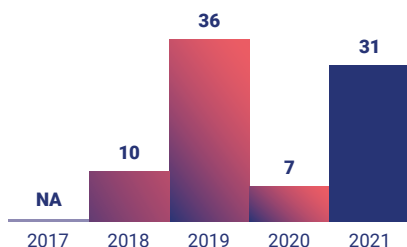
CAMEROON, NIGER, NIGERIA AND CHAD

The Lake Chad region has been mired in armed conflict for 13 years, resulting in one of the longest and most serious current humanitarian crises. It is home to over 3 million displaced persons and 11 million people in need<sup>(7)</sup>. In response to this crisis, AFD initiated three new projects in 2021 for €31 million, which contribute to protecting and empowering women, improving basic social services, and food system resilience for the communities affected by the conflict. The Minka Fund will support 2.5 million more people in the Lake Chad basin over the next four years.

## ○ TOTAL COMMITMENTS: 2017-2021



## ○ TREND IN COMMITMENTS: 2017-2021 (IN €M)



In 2021, 100% of projects involved local partners in the implementation process and had a special focus on capacity-building.



## FEATURED PROJECT: PROTECTING WOMEN AND ADOLESCENTS IN DIFFA

14,700

women have been supported through a holistic approach: literacy, education, support for entrepreneurship, access to healthcare and rights, prevention of violence, psychosocial and legal support, citizen and political inclusion.



2,250

out-of-school girls were reintegrated into bridging schools.



**Kamua Barka (“Promoting Women”) project in Niger, with Action Contre la Faim and a consortium made up of two local CSOs, Agir Plus and DIKO – launched in 2021 through a Call for Crisis and Post-Crisis Projects (APCC)<sup>(8)</sup> – €8 M**

➡ The objective: socioeconomic empowerment of women and adolescent girls in the Diffa region.

<sup>(7)</sup> OCHA, 2022

<sup>(8)</sup> The APCC funds projects led by CSOs or non-profit organizations aimed at restoring basic services in crisis, post-crisis or post-disaster situations.

# Minka CAR Initiative

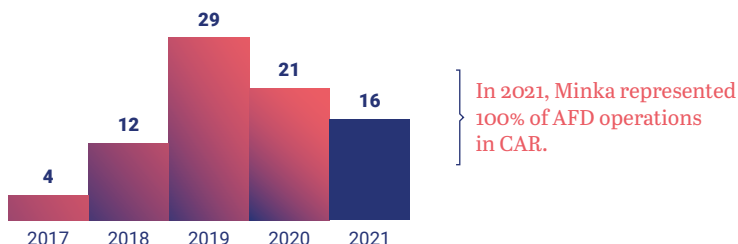
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

In the Central African Republic, a country plagued by recurring conflicts, 62% of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, the highest percentage in five years<sup>(9)</sup>. In 2021, the Minka CAR Initiative mobilized €16 million for two projects (€10 M for PARSEP and €6 M for NENGO) aimed at strengthening resilience among those most affected. This work in partnership with civil society organizations has ensured operational continuity despite the deteriorating security situation. The PARSEP project devoted to developing drinking water services will allow 200,000 people, 50% of whom are women, to gain better access to rural drinking water in small urban centers. The additional funding for the NENGO project, based on a South-South transfer of skills between Congolese and Central African stakeholders, which will enable the expansion of services in the provinces to reach a total of 7,875 beneficiaries.

○ **TOTAL COMMITMENTS: 2017-2021**



○ **TREND IN COMMITMENTS: 2017-2021 (IN €M)**



**FEATURED PROJECT: SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.**



**2,031**  
people, including 1,852 survivors  
provided with medical and psychosocial care.



**1,324**  
women will receive legal  
assistance.

**NENGO project in the Central African Republic, with Fondation Pierre Fabre and consortium including the Francophone Institute for Justice and Democracy, the Panzi DRC Foundation, and the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation – launched in 2019 – €10 M including €6 M funded in 2021**

➡ The objective: provide access to quality healthcare for victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

<sup>(9)</sup> OCHA, 2022

# Minka Middle East Initiative

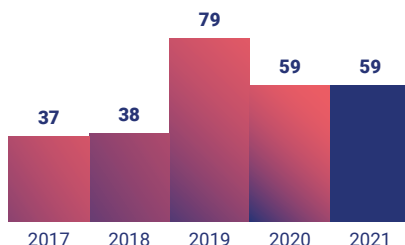
LEBANON, JORDAN, IRAQ AND TURKEY

The Middle East region is facing a major refugee crisis. In March 2022, the number of Syrian refugees in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey was estimated at 5.5 million<sup>(10)</sup>. The Lebanese humanitarian situation has deteriorated, pushing 82% of the population into extreme poverty<sup>(11)</sup>. At the same time, the Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated structural weaknesses in the Iraqi, Lebanese, and Jordanian economies, with a distressing rate of unemployment, as high as 40.7%, among young workers between 15 and 24 years in Jordan<sup>(12)</sup>. The Minka Middle East Initiative prioritized the agricultural sector and access to water and health services in 2021 in order to contribute to economic recovery in the midst of a pandemic and strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable groups.

## ○ TOTAL COMMITMENTS: 2017-2021



## ○ TREND IN COMMITMENTS: 2017-2021 (IN €M)



In 2021, Minka supported over 500,000 people affected by the crises.



## FEATURE PROJECT: HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

**105,000**

**vulnerable individuals** benefited from general health services, including 12,000 following the Beirut Port explosion in 2020.



**59**

**healthcare professionals** benefited from capacity-building programs (85% women).

**The SAQIRH project in Lebanon, with Première Urgence Internationale and a consortium including Médecins du Monde and Amel, a Lebanese NGO – launched in 2020 – €18 M including €12 M funded in 2021**

➡ The objective: ensure that vulnerable individuals can access quality primary health care through the existing national system.

<sup>(10)</sup> UNHCR, 2021

<sup>(11)</sup> ECSWA, 2021

<sup>(12)</sup> OIT, 2021

# Prospects for 2022

**2022 sees the renewal of Minka Fund Initiatives. After 5 years of implementation, the crisis area approach has proven effective and must be renewed and improved. In the midst of deteriorating security situations, food insecurity, the prolonged effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate emergency, the Minka Fund must adapt in response to multidimensional crises.**

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2021 is still marked by **the effects of COVID-19, which increased the percentage of people living in extreme poverty around the world**, putting an end to a downward trend that had continued for two decades<sup>(13)</sup>. In the midst of increased crises, women were more severely affected. In 2022, the primary objective of Minka funding remains the fight against vulnerabilities and efforts to strengthen the resilience of the most fragile groups. For example, there are plans to extend the Burkin Naong-Sa Ya project to support and improve nutrition and health conditions of disadvantaged households in four municipalities in Burkina Faso by prioritizing women and the specific issues they face.

In 2022, the Minka Fund will continue to pursue its proactive stance on promoting women in crisis and conflict areas. AFD and Minka have played a key role in implementing France's third National Action Plan 2021-2025, "Women, Peace and Security". **Minka has therefore prioritized the empowerment of women and the structural reduction of gender inequality.** The Detekanem project in Chad, for example, incorporates an approach in all of its actions that aims to understand women's needs and aspirations (training for authorities, sports events, radio shows, raising awareness).

In 2022, the Minka Fund will give prominence to **the response to food insecurity, which has reached unprecedented levels**: 45 million people are now threatened by hunger, as opposed to 27 million in 2019<sup>(14)</sup>. The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus project in Niger, therefore, aims to assist local authorities in providing structural food security solutions (services for farmers, agropastoral investment, conflict prevention). Moreover, while conflicts and climate change remain the major cause of food crises, soaring food prices linked to the Ukrainian crisis have worsened the situation<sup>(15)</sup>. The Basatine project in Lebanon provides emergency aid for vulnerable Lebanese farmers in a country that is particularly dependent on wheat imports. The objective is to reinforce their resilience to shocks by improving farmers' access to market information and ensuring secure employment for seasonal workers.

In 2022, in response to changing conflict situations, AFD will initiate **conflict prevention projects in the southern areas of the Sahel** (Cascades, Maradi), and in cross-border regions with certain coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea.

After 5 years of implementation, from 2017 and 2021, an independent consulting firm measured the progress AFD had achieved through its intervention in crisis areas. This assessment confirmed the relevance of the Minka approach and offered recommendations to be implemented in 2022 to enhance the fund's effectiveness in accomplishing its primary mission: **peacebuilding**.

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<sup>(13)</sup> World Bank, 2021

<sup>(14)</sup> UN, 2021

<sup>(15)</sup> UN, 2022



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## Towards a world in common

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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 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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