

Minka

Peace and Resilience Fund

ACTIVITY REPORT

2022

In 2022, fragile contexts are home to 24% of the world's population.⁽¹⁾

As crises have become longer and more complex, AFD Group has made sustainable peace a key priority, alongside climate and social cohesion. France's "Prevention, Resilience and Sustainable Peace" strategy, which aims at addressing state and societal fragility provides a framework to build a collective commitment towards achieving sustainable peace, using the complementary resources of Team France in the areas of diplomacy, defense, development, stabilization, and humanitarian action.

Launched in 2017, the Minka Peace and Resilience Fund supports projects addressing the root causes of crises and conflicts in response to the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Managed by AFD, the Fund aims at providing medium and long-term financial support to projects, in regions affected by crises or violent conflicts. Minka projects support conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts before, during and after crises with the aim of adopting a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach. In line with France's key foreign policy priorities, Minka covers four crises areas: the Sahel region, the Lake Chad region, the Central African Republic and the Middle East.

In 2022, AFD faced multiple challenges in the four above-mentioned areas: political instability, a deteriorating security situation (especially in the Sahel region) rising inflation, and climate change as a threat multiplier. These challenges highlight the need for increased cooperation and coordination among development partners to meet growing community needs. To help address the consequences of these crises, AFD has made the financing of projects providing long-term support to the most vulnerable populations (marginalized groups, women, youth, refugees, forcibly displaced persons and host populations) a priority for 2022, in partnership with actors that are well-established at the local level.

Minka, one approach, four initiatives

Leading projects with the Minka Fund



Why?

To support **peacebuilding**, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16 and with France's foreign policy priorities.



With whom?

The Minka Fund finances projects led by **governments, civil society organizations**, as well as **private actors**.



How?

By financing projects, which respond to the needs of local populations on the ground, with the aim of fostering social cohesion and restoring trust between governments and citizens. These projects are part of a multisectoral and regional approach.



For whom?

Helping the most **vulnerable populations**, by prioritizing initiatives promoting inclusion, with a focus on youth, gender equality, displaced people and marginalized groups.



When?

Taking action **before, during and after a crisis/conflict** to address the root causes that lead to violence and to support more resilient and more cohesive societies.



Where?

Minka projects are carried out within a regional framework, in line with France's **four priority crisis areas**:

- Minka Sahel Initiative
- Minka Lake Chad Initiative
- Minka Minka Central African Republic Initiative
- Minka Middle East Initiative

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

Since 2018, Proparco, a subsidiary of AFD has been implementing ARIZ TPE Minka, a program that supports the private sector in crises situations. Expertise France, a French international technical cooperation agency and one of the three members of the AFD Group with AFD and Proparco, is also a key Minka implementation partner.

⁽¹⁾ OECD, States of fragility, 2022

AFD Minka financial Commitments

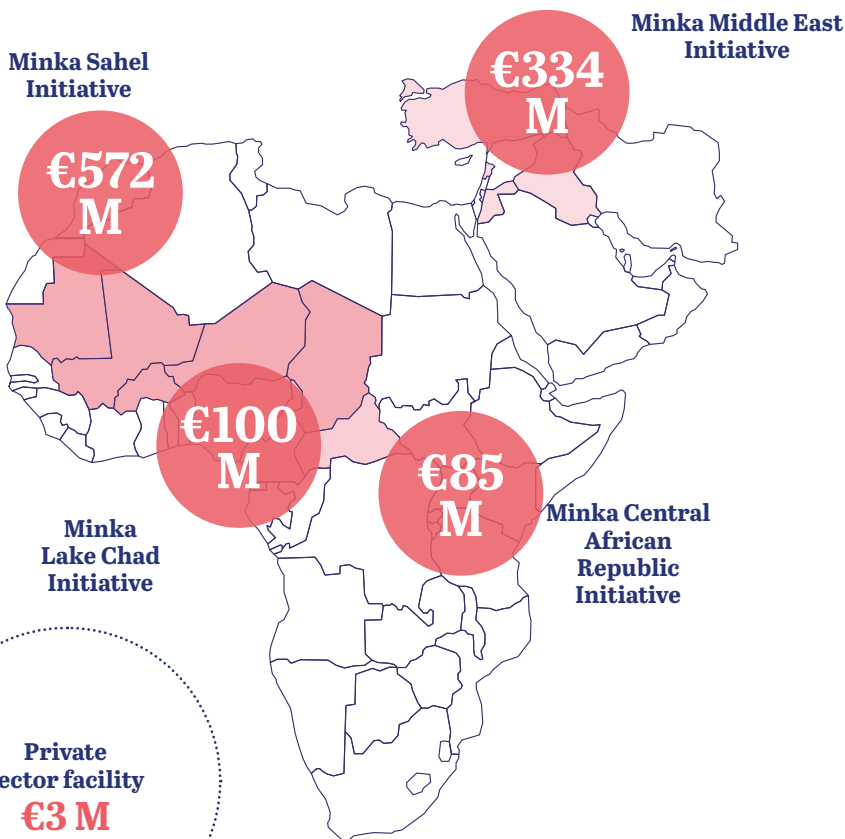


€1,094 M

committed over 6 years

supporting 160 operations in crises areas

○ BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS BY INITIATIVE
2017-2022



100%

of projects launched in 2022 are promoting gender equality (by tackling gender-based violence, supporting feminist organizations, fostering women's economic empowerment, engaging men and addressing hegemonic masculinities²)



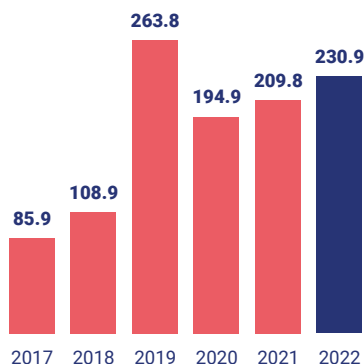
MINKA PROJECTS SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FRANCE'S "WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY" NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2021-2025³.

22 new projects

in support of vulnerable communities funded in 2022.

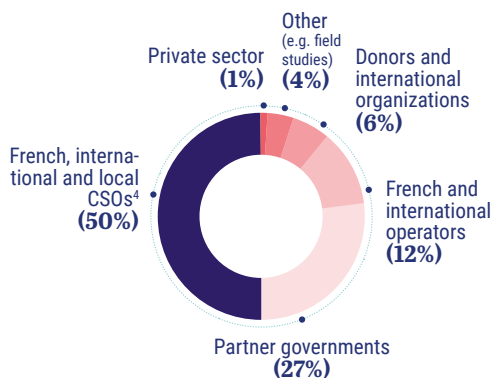


○ TREND IN COMMITMENTS IN 2017-2022 IN €M



OVER SIX YEARS, MINKA HAS INVESTED €1,094 MILLION IN PEACEBUILDING.

○ BREAKDOWN OF COMMITMENTS BY CONTRACTING AUTHORITY 2017-2022



A DIVERSE RANGE OF CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES TO RESPOND QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO LOCAL NEEDS.

⁽²⁾ Percentage of projects with the DAC gender equality policy marker evaluated at 1 or 2

⁽³⁾ Plan based on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security"

⁽⁴⁾ French civil society organizations (CSOs) account for nearly half of funding dedicated to CSOs

Minka Lake Chad Initiative

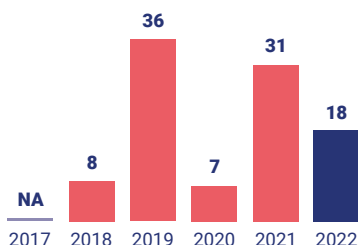
CAMEROON, NIGER, NIGERIA AND CHAD

The situation in the Lake Chad basin continues to worsen, but funding remains insufficient to cover the needs of local communities⁶. With over 11 million people in need of humanitarian assistance⁶, 5 million displaced people⁷ and 1,038 schools closed, the region is mired in a cross-border, multi-dimensional and prolonged armed conflict, responsible for one of the most serious and oldest crisis in the world. Since 2017, AFD has granted over €100 M to fund 13 projects that contribute to child protection, women empowerment, essential services, and food system resilience for conflict-affected communities. The Minka Lake Chad Initiative provides tangible support to nearly 1.5 million people in Chad, Niger, Cameroon and Nigeria (Diffa, Chétimaria, Bol, Bagasola, Banki, Mora, etc.), in line with the commitments made by France at the Conference on the Lake Chad Region, (Niamey, January 2023).

○ TOTAL COMMITMENTS: 2017-2022



○ TREND IN COMMITMENTS: 2017-2022 (IN €M)



In 2022, 100% of projects involved local partners in the implementation process, with a specific focus on capacity building activities.



FEATURED PROJECT: CROSS-BORDER PROJECT FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES ([RESILAC 2](#))

New phase, with a fresh investment of €38 M co-financed by the European Union and led by a consortium of NGOs in the Lake Chad Basin.

➡ Main goal: create an environment conducive to economic recovery, resilience and social cohesion in the areas most affected by the Lake Chad crisis and the adverse impact of climate change on local communities.

121,340
beneficiaries
including 61,139 women
in vulnerable situations



Capacity-building activities for
308
CSOS

⁽⁶⁾ Less than half of humanitarian aid needs (\$2.5 B per year) were covered in 2022

⁽⁶⁾ OCHA, 2022

⁽⁷⁾ OIM, 2022

Minka Middle East Initiative

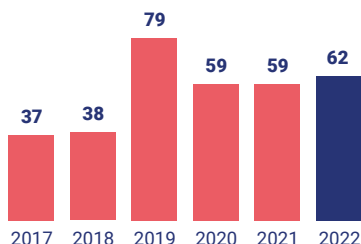
LEBANON, JORDAN, IRAQ AND TURKEY

Facing the cumulative effects of climate change, declining biodiversity and armed conflicts, the Middle East is experiencing a multi-faceted crisis that exacerbates the humanitarian needs of the population. In 2023, there were an estimated 6.7 million registered Syrian refugees in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, in urgent need of humanitarian aid.⁽⁸⁾ While Jordan and Iraq show some relative stability despite serious inequalities between and within displaced populations and host populations, Lebanon has been plunged into a multi-dimensional crisis with acute humanitarian impacts. Indeed, 30 years after the last reported case, Lebanon had to face a new cholera outbreak in 2022, with over 4.000 registered cases. As the socio-economic crisis worsens, AFD has granted €62 M from the Minka Fund⁽⁹⁾ to this area, with a focus on the healthcare, agricultural and education sectors.

○ TOTAL COMMITMENTS: 2017-2022



○ TREND IN COMMITMENTS: 2017-2022 (IN €M)



The projects funded by the Minka Middle East Initiative have already helped over 2.2 million vulnerable people.



FEATURED PROJECT: SUPPORT TO LEBANESE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, FOR A LOCAL RESPONSE TO CRISES

SHABAKE project (phase 2) in Lebanon, implemented by Expertise France – launched in 2019 – €10 M from AFD and €2.2 M from the Crisis and Support Center, granted in 2022.

➡ Main goal: foster social cohesion, peace and stability by accompanying local SCOs providing support to Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities in Lebanon.

250
employees in local organizations
will benefit from capacity-building
activities led by Expertise France



65
local organizations
will receive grants dedicated to implementing
vulnerability reduction projects and emergency
response interventions

⁽⁸⁾ OCHA, 3RP 2022

⁽⁹⁾ On top of this investment, there was also €12.6 M contributed from delegated funds – €4 M from DANIDA and €8.6 M allocated by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief), as part of the Franco-Saudi support for the Lebanese people, launched in April 2022

Minka CAR Initiative

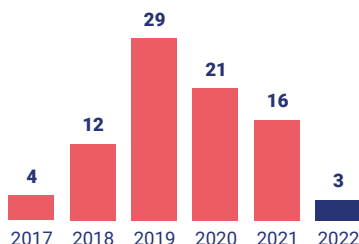
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The Central African Republic is plunged into an ever-deepening cycle of violence and insecurity, fueled by a protracted political crisis. With 1.2 million displaced people⁽¹⁰⁾, and 2.2 million people suffering from food insecurity⁽¹¹⁾, over half of the Central African population is in need of humanitarian assistance⁽¹²⁾. There is no clear path out of the crisis, with strong impacts on foreign investment and on the country's development perspectives. Indeed, in 2022, France decided to gradually withdraw its official development assistance from CAR amid deteriorating bilateral relations. AFD will continue to implement ongoing projects that directly benefit the Central African Republic population, but will not grant any additional funding. Between 2017 and 2022, AFD has invested €85 M in projects supporting over 1 million vulnerable people.

○ TOTAL COMMITMENTS: 2017-2022



○ TREND IN COMMITMENTS: 2017-2022 (IN €M)



In 2022, Minka was awarded several grants by the European Union, accounting for 100% of annual Minka CAR funding.



FEATURED PROJECT: SUPPORT FOR FEMINIST ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE "WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY" AGENDA

A "Women, Peace and Security" call for projects was launched in three priority crises areas for France in 2022⁽¹³⁾: €3 M were granted to a consortium of local CSOs in Central Africa (Central African Republic, Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo).

➡ Main goal: implement a program for funding, capacity building and networking dedicated to feminist organizations whose work focuses on the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda.

25,000

Women

living in crisis zones
will be supported during the project



75

feminist organizations

from local civil society will be funded
during the project

⁽¹⁰⁾ HCR, 2022

⁽¹¹⁾ WFP, 2022

⁽¹²⁾ OCHA, 2023

⁽¹³⁾ This amount is not included in the Minka CAR funding presented below, as it covers other regions and is therefore beyond the Initiative's scope

Minka Sahel Initiative

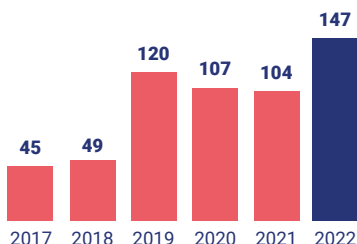
BURKINA FASO, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER AND CHAD

The security and political situation in Central Sahel has been deteriorating significantly, threatening to destabilize coastal countries (Senegal and the Gulf of Guinea). With over 3 million internally displaced people,¹⁴ 2.7 million people suffering from food insecurity¹⁵ and 8.000 schools closed,¹⁶ humanitarian needs continue to rise and yet international cooperation funding remains insufficient.¹⁷ Moreover, in 2022, the French armed forces in the Sahel region were re-structured and France suspended its official development assistance following the coup in Mali. Despite these challenges, the Minka Sahel Initiative pursues its commitment to provide long-term support to improve human security, with a record €148 M granted in 2022. Thanks to a solid, longstanding partnership network, and a comprehensive approach combining humanitarian and development efforts, AFD supports 35 partners (governments, local authorities, NGOs, civil society) that work to implement Minka Sahel funding that will benefit approximately 2 million people over the next four years.

○ TOTAL COMMITMENTS: 2017-2022



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



In 2022, 100% of commitments had a significant or primary gender focus.



FEATURED PROJECT: DEVELOPING INCLUSIVE WELCOME AREAS FOR REFUGEES IN EAST CHAD (DIZA / RESPECCT)

Phase 2 of the project (2023-2025) implemented by a consortium of international NGOs - €11 M AFD grant and €10 M European Union grant.

➡ Main goal: building community resilience and fostering social cohesion in border zones of Sudan (Sila, Ouaddaï, Wadi Fira) which are facing climate hazards and severe challenges in absorbing forced displacements (280,000 new refugees in June). Entering this new phase, humanitarian donors will be able to provide co-funding to help mitigate the impacts of the conflict in Sudan.

31,800

people have received short, medium and long-term support, in East Chad regions where Sudanese fleeing the current conflict are taking refuge



123

highly labor intensive community projects have already been completed in phase 1 of the project, in line with local development plans

⁽¹⁴⁾ HCR, 28/02/2023 (source: [Situation Sahel Crisis](#))

⁽¹⁵⁾ WFP, 23/02/2023 (source: [Sahel emergency](#))

⁽¹⁶⁾ By the end of 2022, there were 1,571 school closures recorded in Mali (source: [UNICEF](#)), 878 in Niger (source: [Cluster Education](#)) and 6,253 in Burkina Faso (source: [UNICEF](#))

⁽¹⁷⁾ \$895 M funded out of the \$2 B required (source: [Aperçu humanitaire Sahel central du 16 février 2023](#))

Prospects for 2023

2023 will be dedicated to the renewal of the Minka Peace and Resilience Fund to better understand conflict dynamics, to build effective crisis response strategies, and to adapt to new diplomatic contexts. In order to tackle the challenges of current and future crises, the Minka Fund must rethink its intervention logic, geographic scope and governance structure.

In 2022, six years after the Minka Fund was launched, an independent consulting firm conducted its evaluation. This assessment confirmed the relevance of an approach based on an in-depth analysis of the root causes of conflicts and the use of flexible procedures in crises areas⁽¹⁸⁾. The evaluation also outlined recommendations to help Minka achieve its main goal: fostering **peacebuilding**. In 2023, AFD teams will pursue their efforts to operationalize these recommendations, with a specific focus on adopting a conflict-sensitive approach in all Minka projects.

With over 339 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2023,⁽¹⁹⁾ the global objective of ending extreme poverty by 2030 seems increasingly difficult to reach.⁽²⁰⁾ In this context, the Minka Fund will renew its commitment to the fight against vulnerabilities and step up its efforts to strengthen the resilience of communities in need. For instance, the DIZA program, dedicated to improving the living conditions and resilience of local communities, refugees and returnees in three provinces in Southern Chad, will be renewed, with a specific focus on the challenges that women face.

In 2023, AFD will also pursue its efforts to promote women's rights and address gender inequalities in crises and conflict areas. Indeed, AFD stands out as a **key actor in the implementation of France's third "Women, Peace, Security" National Action Plan 2021-2025**. In line with this commitment, Minka places great emphasis on ensuring that the four pillars of this agenda are a priority in every project that the Fund supports: (i) prevention, protection and the fight against violence; (ii) promotion of women's participation in decisions regarding peace and security; (iii) support for gender equality by implementing concrete initiatives to benefit women; (iv) promotion of structural actions for the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda. For instance, a €10 M call for projects dedicated to supporting local feminist CSOs that are actively working towards the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda in the Sahel region, Central Africa and the Middle East was launched. Furthermore, 2022 was a turning point : 100% of the annual Minka funding was allocated to gender equality projects (DAC 1&2), demonstrating AFD's steadfast commitment to addressing gender issues in crises and conflict situations. Building on these achievements, in 2023, AFD will finalize a study on how to adopt an intersectional approach to gender and conflict in all future Minka projects. This study is carried out by an independent consultancy firm and highlights priority goals for the coming years: systematically structure Minka projects around intervention logics that combine gender and conflict issues, prioritize DAC 2 projects that support the implementation of the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda, engage with men and masculinities in conflict-affected settings, provide gender-sensitive trainings to AFD agents, and mainstream gender in project-cycle management as well as impact measurement.

In line with AFD's commitment to adopting a conflict prevention approach, the Minka Fund will seek to support projects in the northern regions of the Gulf of Guinea, as terrorists groups in the Sahel region increasingly threaten Gulf of Guinea states. Eastern Senegal will also be a key priority area, with a project focusing on social cohesion in the Kédougou region.

⁽¹⁸⁾ OCHA, 2022, [Global Humanitarian Overview](#)

⁽¹⁹⁾ [World Bank, 2021](#)

⁽²⁰⁾ The report can be found [here](#) (in French) and the public presentation of its main conclusions can be watched [here](#)

Towards 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 4,200 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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