



RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



AFD AND **Civil Protection**



€200 M

committed
over 4 years

1 three-way partnership

signed between AFD, Expertise France,
and the French Security
and Defense Cooperation Directorate (DCSD)

5 projects

implemented by Expertise
France with AFD financing
since 2019

AFD has been supporting the civil protection sector since 2019, with the goal of bolstering the resilience of both governments and populations affected by natural, climate-related and industrial hazards. AFD loans and grants help to strengthen the institutional, organizational, operational and human capacities of emergency relief services. This support benefits from our three-way partnership that includes the French Security and Defense Cooperation Directorate (DCSD) and Expertise France, thereby promoting French expertise in the field of civil protection.

#WorldInCommon

Civil protection, a pillar of risk resilience

1

Strengthening technical and operational capacities

Our support enables actors in civil protection to work closely with people on the ground. Such work ranges from the building or refurbishing of rescue centers to the financing of equipment (such as rescue and victim assistance vehicles, communication systems or extrication equipment).

AFD-financed projects also take a transversal approach to mainstreaming gender equality issues.

- **They meet the needs of female firefighters** (e.g., by ensuring they have their own toilet facilities and dormitories in new rescue centers as well as uniforms adapted to women's bodies);
- **They provide specific care** for women in childbirth or for victims of gender-based violence.

2

Improving civil protection governance

With the range of risks becoming broader, several actions are needed to make public emergency and relief services more efficient:

- Development of a national strategic intervention framework;
- Creation of a volunteer firefighter status;
- Reorganization of emergency services, including improving skills and job management and the securing of budgets dedicated to investment and operating expenses.

An additional aim is to increase the number of women in the workforce via a proactive human resources policy that promotes gender equality within the firefighting profession.

3

Promoting risk resilience among local populations

AFD uses awareness-raising actions and first-aid training to help improve people's ability to react in the event of disasters. In collaboration with civil society organizations like the Red Cross and their volunteer networks, these actions target the most vulnerable people, such as women and the elderly. **The goal** – especially in areas most affected by climate hazards – **is to strengthen the culture of risk**, i.e. the norms, attitudes and behavior related to the awareness, management and control of risks.

4

Supporting the civil protection sector via training centers

These centers help AFD to structure the civil protection sector and make it sustainable by offering specialized training to professional and volunteer firefighters. They also bolster the institutional framework for capitalizing on, upgrading, and disseminating operational and regulatory standards.

French expertise is mobilized to train civil protection personnel in responding to extraordinary events such as industrial accidents, terrorist attacks and high-altitude search and rescue missions.

The aim is to improve the emergency response provided to the public, based on the specific characteristics and risks on the ground. More broadly, support for the training system helps enlarge the ecosystem of stakeholders involved in emergency response, particularly in the private sector, to foster systemic protection from risks.