

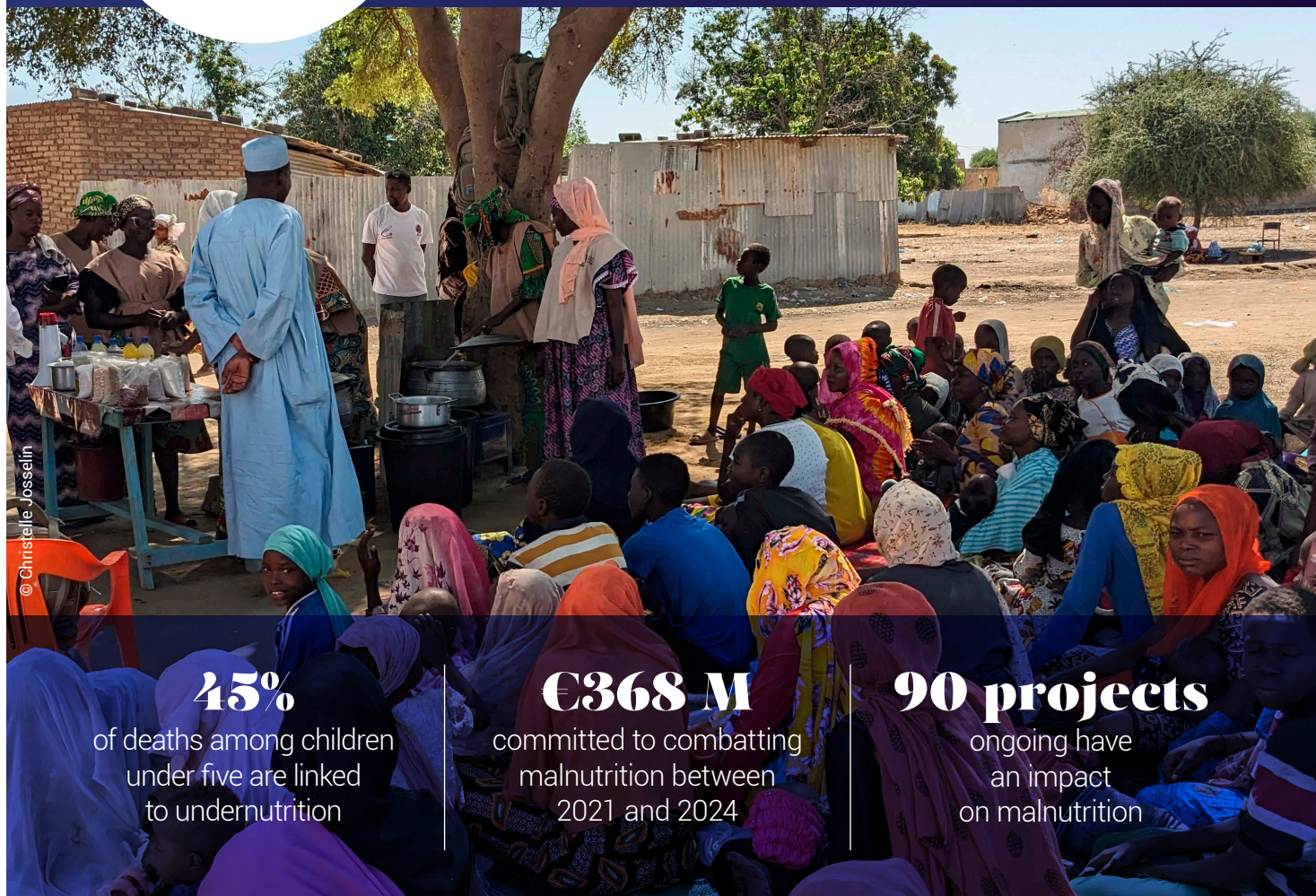


RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE

*Liberté
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AFD Group and Nutrition



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45%

of deaths among children
under five are linked
to undernutrition

€368 M

committed to combatting
malnutrition between
2021 and 2024

90 projects

ongoing have
an impact
on malnutrition

Nearly 30% of the world's population faces food insecurity, with almost 150 million children suffering from stunted growth primarily as a result of poor and undernutrition. But the impact of malnutrition—in all its forms—extends beyond health, with serious and lasting economic and social consequences for individuals and communities. Tackling malnutrition requires multi-sectoral interventions and a fundamental shift in production and consumption patterns to ensure lasting nutrition security.

#WorldInCommon

Our work to support **nutrition**

AFD Group has developed a comprehensive and strategic approach that mobilizes expertise in agriculture, health, social protection, water, sanitation, and education. This systemic approach integrates gender dynamics, recognizing the crucial role of women in combating malnutrition. Our action aims to promote equitable access to resources for women and ensure their active participation in decision-making—key conditions for sustainable nutrition security.



Public policy incentives

Promoting good nutrition



Supporting public policies on nutrition involves:

- Creating an enabling environment for nutrition security through governance, multi-sectoral coordination, advocacy, and a holistic approach to nutrition in sectoral policies.
- Introducing tax mechanisms for unhealthy products to minimize their consumption.
- Establishing and enforcing quality standards for food products.
- Raising awareness of good nutritional practices.
- Supporting entrepreneurship to promote healthy local produce, leveraging public-private partnerships to scale up impact.

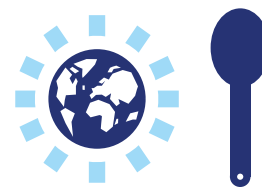
EU4SUN

Countries: 30 African, Latin American and Caribbean countries

Funder: European Union

Implementation: FIAPP (International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies) and Expertise France

Duration and financing: 2023-2027 / €6.4 million (of which €3.6 million managed by Expertise France)



Context:

Many low- and middle-income countries bear a triple nutritional burden: undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and a rise in overweight and obesity rates. These challenges have major health and economic consequences, necessitating an integrated approach to tackling all the determinants of malnutrition. However, the implementation of effective solutions, in particular through multi-sectoral policies, remains a significant challenge for countries.

Action:

EU4SUN is assisting some 30 African, Latin American and Caribbean countries with the implementation of the United Nations' Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) 3.0 Strategy. Aligned with national priorities, EU4SUN promotes multi-stakeholder consultation to strengthen national capabilities for improving normative and policy frameworks, and support advocacy for sustainable nutritional strategies. It mobilizes governments, civil society, young people, international partners, and the private sector to drive forward solutions for nutrition challenges.

Examples of action undertaken: a report on the cost of malnutrition in Senegal, strengthening a youth advocacy network in Côte d'Ivoire, evaluating Togo's national nutrition strategy, and developing an online resource on nutrition in Guinea.

NutriK

Country: Nigeria

Funder: Proparco

Implementation: NutriK (subsidiary of the French group Nutriset, a Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic Food producer)

Duration and financing: 2024-2029 / €2 million



Context:

Despite some improvement in recent years, Nigeria remains one of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa most affected by undernutrition, with 34% of children under five (12.1 million) suffering from stunted growth. Malnutrition also affects 1.5 million pregnant and breastfeeding women, jeopardizing their health and that of their children.

Action:

Proparco has granted a €2 million loan to enable NutriK to develop its therapeutic food production and R&D in Nigeria. NutriK also plans to strengthen its cooperation with local agricultural value chains, especially with peanut farmers. It will thereby support the local economy by promoting sustainable production that is also beneficial to farming communities. This initiative is part of the FARM (Food & Agriculture Resilience Mission) program, which aims to reduce dependence on food imports in Africa and promote local and regional production.



NutriK factory, Kano, Nigeria.
Peanuts are added in the processing of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food.



Strengthening malnutrition prevention and treatment services

Effectively tackling malnutrition requires health systems to provide both prevention and treatment services. They also need to promote practices such as exclusive newborn breastfeeding and weaning. Early intervention—especially during the first 1,000 days of life—is crucial for maximum impact. Schools should also play a key role by providing regular, balanced school meals, promoting better family nutrition practices, and monitoring for malnourished children.

AFD Group is involved in:

- The training and awareness-raising of health workers. It focuses on early, exclusive and prolonged breastfeeding, and appropriate weaning practices.
- Integrating training on malnutrition prevention and treatment in medical education and in-service training for health workers.
- Implementing protocols for monitoring, preventing and treating malnutrition, and ensuring that severe acute malnutrition is treated in health services.
- Supporting financial transfers for school feeding programs to improve nutrition and education.
- Helping school management committees and health services to more effectively raise awareness, identify and monitor malnourished children.

Medical and nutritional care for children under five through a community network

Country: Chad (9th district of N'Djamena)

Funder: AFD

Implementation: ALIMA and Alerte Santé

Duration and financing: 2022-2025 / €818,000, including €450,000 from AFD



Context:

Severe malnutrition is a public health emergency in Chad. In N'Djamena, 2.7% of children under five suffer from acute malnutrition, surpassing the critical threshold of 2%. Due to inadequate healthcare infrastructure, many affected children do not receive proper treatment. Additionally, diseases such as diarrhea, malaria, and respiratory infections exacerbate this crisis in the absence of timely and appropriate medical care.

Action:

If treatment is delivered in time, a child can recover from acute undernutrition without long-term consequences. The Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA) and its national partner Alerte Santé raise awareness among families and train them in early detection. This community-based strategy enables the rapid referral of children to health centers. In the ninth district of N'Djamena:

- 52,893 adults have been trained in how to use the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) bracelet and identify edema.
- 104,935 children have been screened by community health workers who have received prior training in the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI, WHO protocol).
- 20,407 children with malaria, diarrhea, or acute respiratory infections have also received appropriate treatment: preventing malnutrition also means treating the diseases that cause it.

A health worker teaches good health practices and how to detect malaria and malnutrition.



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Social protection systems



Integrating nutrition into social protection mechanisms

The causes of malnutrition are multiple. They include limited economic and physical access to food, scarcity due to conflict and climate change, and inadequate diets. Social protection tools are powerful instruments, not only for lifting families out of poverty, but also for promoting maternal and child nutrition and a varied and balanced diet.

- ➔ **Provide** individuals with the financial means to access nutritious food through cash transfer programs and food rations.
- ➔ **Encourage** changes in food production and consumption practices through social support measures for the most vulnerable.
- ➔ **Increase** the availability of healthy and diversified food products through allocation mechanisms for producers.

“Walang Gutom”



Country: Philippines

Funders: AFD, Asian Development Bank (AsDB), OPEC Fund, Government of the Philippines

Implementation: Philippines' Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

Duration and financing: 2025-2035 / €200 million (AFD loan) + €200,000 (AFD grant) + co-financing

Context:

The Philippines is faced with a significant and persisting nutrition crisis, affecting 75 million people, with almost a third of children under the age of five suffering from stunted growth. As the most disaster-prone country in 2024, the Philippines experiences an average of 20 typhoons per year, exacerbating food insecurity. The economic impact of child undernutrition accounts for 1.5% of the country's GDP.



Action:

The project is part of the national Walang Gutom (meaning “no hunger”) 2027 program and aims to:

- Provide assistance to 750,000 families in the form of digital food vouchers, enabling them to buy nutritious food from local producers and retailers.
- Assist the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) with an adaptive, national and inclusive approach that enhances climate resilience and considers gender issues.
- Strengthen the cross-sectoral integration of social assistance programs within the DSWD for better climate change adaptation.
- Improve the management, monitoring and evaluation of the food voucher program using performance indicators and impact evaluations.

A vendor lying on piles of vegetables at Divisoria Market in Manila.



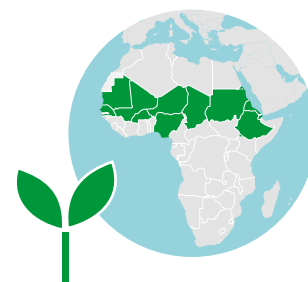
Working towards nutrition-sensitive agriculture

Agriculture clearly has a fundamental role in food security. AFD Group's approach aims to transform agricultural and food systems to strengthen nutritious value chains, particularly ones rich in protein, while promoting dietary diversity at the household level.

To achieve this, AFD has launched the Aliment'Action Facility, an initiative designed to reinforce operational commitments to food and nutrition security. This mechanism targets regions most vulnerable to hunger, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, "Zero Hunger". The initiative ensures that projects support inclusive and resilient food security and nutrition policies while considering gender equality and climate change challenges.

Beyond this, AFD Group promotes nutrition financing at international level, including through the Agricultural Public Development Bank coalition (Agri-PDB) and the Finance in Common (FiCS) initiative, coordinated by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Supporting plant-based protein value chains to improve food and nutrition security in the Great Green Wall countries



Countries: Chad, Mauritania, Senegal

Funder: AFD

Implementation: GRDR, CCFD, SWISSAID and IRC (4 projects)

Duration and financing: 2023-2026 / €3 million grant for each project, for a total of €12 million

Context:

Despite strong agropastoral dynamics, food insecurity in the Great Green Wall countries affects 10-15% of people, who have limited access to quality protein, in particular animal protein. This is especially the case for the most vulnerable. Legumes (such as cowpeas, soybeans and groundnuts) offer an important source of plant-based protein, for both households and livestock, and help increase agricultural revenues.



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Action:

As part of the joint initiative launched at the 6th EU-AU Summit (2022) between the European Union and African Union to develop plant-based proteins, four projects are being financed to strengthen resilience and food and nutrition security in selected Great Green Wall countries (Chad, Mauritania and Senegal).

To strengthen food security and improve the nutritional quality of local diets:

- The potential of plant-based protein from agro-sylvo-pastoral resources will be developed through concerted and sustainable management.
- More than 230,000 people will benefit from nutrition-sensitive activities, with a focus on improving the nutritional quality of food with plant-based protein.

Legumes like groundnuts are a source of protein. Their increased consumption helps improve the health of both people and soils.

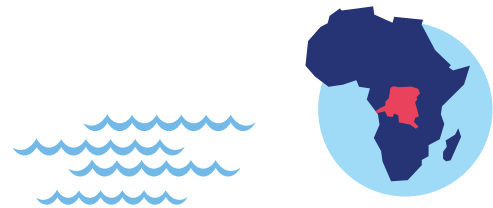
Water and Sanitation



Improving access to drinking water and sanitation and hygiene services

Tackling malnutrition demands comprehensive strategies that guarantee not only access to sufficient and nutritious food but also clean water, proper sanitation, and good hygiene. According to UNICEF (2019), 26% of child deaths are attributed to diseases related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), including diarrhea, malaria, and respiratory infections.

Impact evaluation of a program to improve the water supply service in Uvira, DRC



Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Partners: REGIDESO S.A., Uvira Health Zone, European Union, AFD, Veolia Foundation, LSHTM, Oxfam GB

Duration and financing: 2015-2023 / €14.9 million (total for all partners)

Context:

In Uvira (approximately 280,000 inhabitants, South Kivu, DRC), a region marked by continuing conflicts and population displacement, diseases such as diarrhea and cholera are prevalent. In 2015, the Veolia Foundation and Agence Française de Développement launched a program to improve access to water, which benefited from financial support from the European Union.

This program involved the construction of a new 2,000 m³ reservoir, improvement works on the wastewater treatment plant and pumping station, almost 2,400 new household connections to the water supply network, and 100 community standpipes.

Action:

The impact evaluation of the program confirms the crucial role that improving drinking water supply services plays in reducing cholera and diarrheal diseases, which seriously affect health and are among the causes of malnutrition.

A research team from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), in partnership with the Uvira Health Zone, worked on measuring the impact that improving access to water has on diarrheal diseases, cholera in particular:

- The epidemiological analyses show a strong correlation between cholera and diarrheal diseases and the availability of water (quantity and continuity).
- By combining household surveys and data from the Uvira Health Zone, the cost of diarrheal diseases (including loss of income) for a case of diarrheal disease is estimated at CDF 33,816, or \$17 (2021).
- The out-of-pocket expenses of patients averaged CDF 15,579 (\$7.8), or 9% of monthly household income, for a case of diarrheal disease.



© Martin Leménager

The drinking water treatment plant in Uvira, DRC.

AFD Group finances and drives the transition to a fairer, safer and more resilient world, working with its partners to support communities all over the world. Drawing on the complementary strengths of its entities – Agence Française de Développement for public financing, Proparco for responsible private investment, and Expertise France for technical expertise – the Group is ideally positioned to meet all sustainable development challenges.

Working in over 160 countries, including France's Overseas Territories and Departments, the Group adapts its operations to the realities on the ground, actively supporting local initiatives. With over 4,000 projects, whose objectives are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AFD Group works on behalf of the French people, together with all stakeholders committed to economic development and the preservation of common goods: climate, biodiversity, peace, gender equality and global health. Working by your side, toward a world in common.

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