RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
Liberté Égalité Fraternité

AFD GROUPE

STUDIES AND RESEARCH **SECTOR OVERVIEW 2025**

Providing insight on the ecological transition, economic diversification, and social inclusion

In 2025, our research continued its focus on the major challenges of sustainable development, with special attention paid to biodiversity, climate, natural resources, agriculture, and food security. Our research also expanded on the issues of fragility, crises, conflicts, and the dynamics behind inequalities.

2025 trends

- A conference on the integration of France's overseas territories into their respective regions, held ahead of the UN Ocean Conference.
- The extension of the European Union–AFD Facility on Inequalities: more operational and focused on investments and infrastructure (2026-2028.)
- A new research priority on development financing and geopolitics.

Key figures

62 **studies and research projects** were launched in 2025 **covering 26 partner countries and territories.**

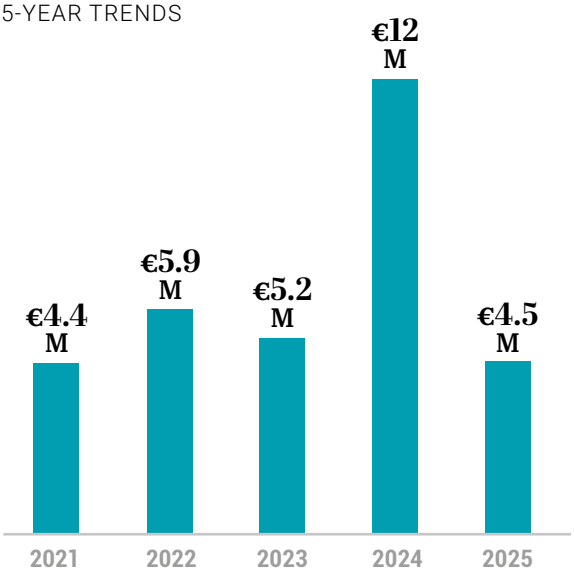
50 **are conducted through contracts with partners** such as research institutes, universities, think tanks, consulting firms, etc. **(€4.5 M)**

27 **involving at least one partner from the Global South**

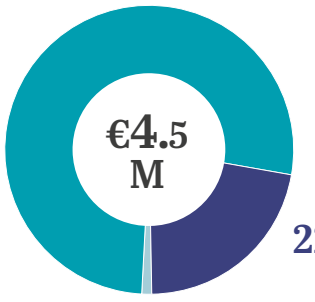
20 **involving French partners**

Trends in AFD Group commitments

5-YEAR TRENDS



SOURCE OF FUNDING



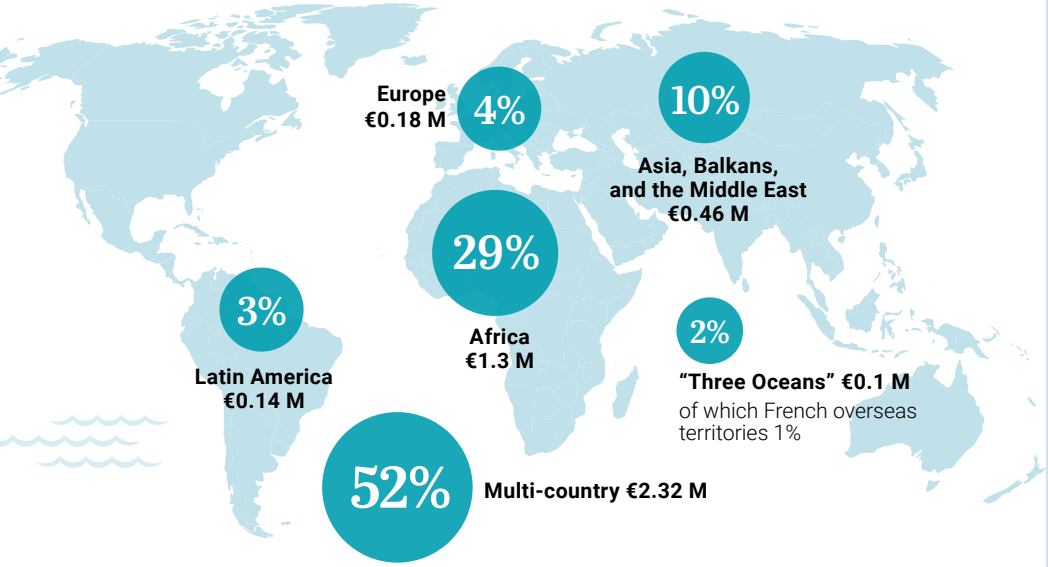
After a peak in activity in 2024 driven by two research projects on the French overseas territories with exceptionally high funding amounts, 2025 saw a return to normal trends. The funds for 2025 projects came mainly from the French government the AFD general budget, and – to a lesser extent – European Union delegated funds.

#WorldInCommon

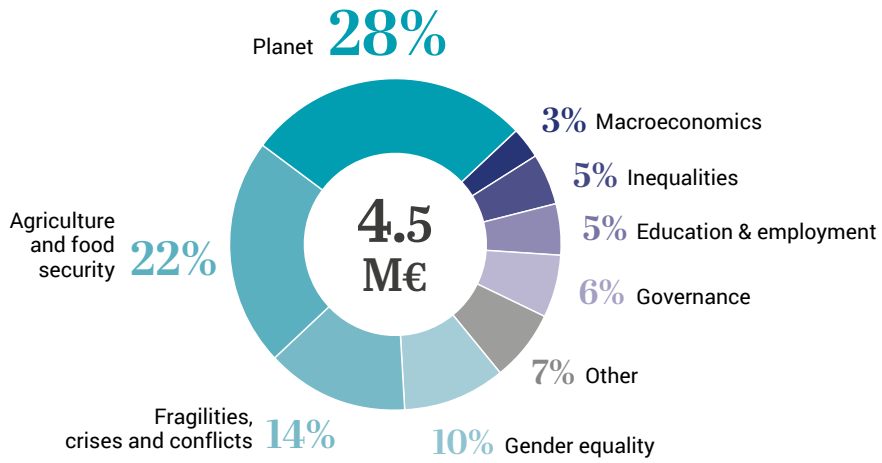
STUDIES AND RESEARCH SECTOR OVERVIEW 2025

On the ground

AMOUNTS ALLOCATED TO STUDIES AND RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDER CONTRACT, BY REGION



BREAKDOWN BY THEME



Fostering dialogue between researchers and experts to drive action

The partnerships forged by AFD between researchers, development practitioners, and public policymakers are designed to fulfil its ambition of putting research into action by producing rigorous and useful knowledge to help develop projects and public policies for sustainable development.

92 opinion pieces and publications in 2025, including:

"The African Economy 2025"

AI, climate change, armed conflicts... Exclusive analyses of the socioeconomic challenges facing Africa in 2025 (in French.)



Reducing Inequalities

Recommendations based on research conducted in South Africa, Colombia, Indonesia, and Mexico.



Three flagship projects

Middle East Reconstruction Observatory

This Ifri-led observatory analyzes the conditions for future reconstruction in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria, as well as the role of external actors.

The SIMCA Model

This model simulates the short- and medium-term effects of various scenarios for the development of New Caledonia's economy.

Track Adapt

This project, conducted with the University of Cape Town and IDDRI, analyzes the adaptation efforts in Cape Town and Nelson Mandela Bay to deal with drought and coastal erosion risks.

Did you know?

"Savoirs AFD" is AFD Group's news feed dedicated to sharing, promoting, and fostering discussion about development-related knowledge, in the form of studies, events, podcasts, and more.

Discover our latest news

Thierry Aubert – September 2026

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Learn more about our research activity at **afd.fr/en**