



MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES

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THE PROGRAMMING ACT ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND COMBATING GLOBAL INEQUALITIES

The Programming Act on inclusive development and combating global inequalities, presented to Parliament on behalf of the Government by Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, was definitively adopted by both houses in July 2021. A vast consultation process with all development stakeholders produced this Act, which replaces the 2014 Act on guidelines and programming regarding development policy and international solidarity (LOP-DSI).

The aim of this Act is to give France the means to invest in the future for global public goods (climate, biodiversity, global health, education), to fight against the root causes of crises, in the direct interest of our fellow citizens.

The COVID-19 crisis is an acute reminder of the need to implement a collective, coordinated response and a long-term effort to prevent the crises that threaten all societies and spare no continent: pandemics, the degradation of biodiversity, the rise in inequalities, poverty and food insecurity, and forced migration.

WHY A NEW AMBITION IS NEEDED FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT POLICY



► Irrigated market garden cultivated by Malian women.

The global crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the global challenges that all societies must face. It is in our interest to take action as early as possible in order to prevent these crises. In this collective effort, France should particularly focus on the most vulnerable countries, especially African countries. It is a solidarity imperative in their regard. France must also continue to support emerging countries in establishing more sustainable growth models. It is also directly in the interests of French citizens.

“In a world like ours, currently going through an ecological, social emergency, and now a pandemic, solidarity is an imperative for efficiency as well as a human and justice-based requirement. Rooted in our values, it is also dictated by our own interests.” (Speech by Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs before the National Assembly, 17 February 2021)

It is in this mindset that **France is giving new impetus to its development policy, which is a pillar of its foreign policy.**

This programming act gives France greater resources to invest in the preservation of global public goods and thoroughly renews the ways in which its development policy can operate, based on partnerships and shared responsibility with partner countries. It strengthens the management of development policy, at central administration level and on the ground. It establishes new evaluation mechanisms, to ensure this public policy’s effectiveness and real impact in the field.

This programming act establishes the French policy in the framework set by the international community in 2015 and to which France has actively contributed: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which set new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), shared by all countries on the planet, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.

It enhances France’s commitment supporting the preservation of global public goods, following the French Presidency of the G7, initiatives taken in 2020 as part of the response to the COVID-19 crisis and international events in 2021 on the climate, biodiversity **and in support of gender equality.**

KEY BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAMMING ACT



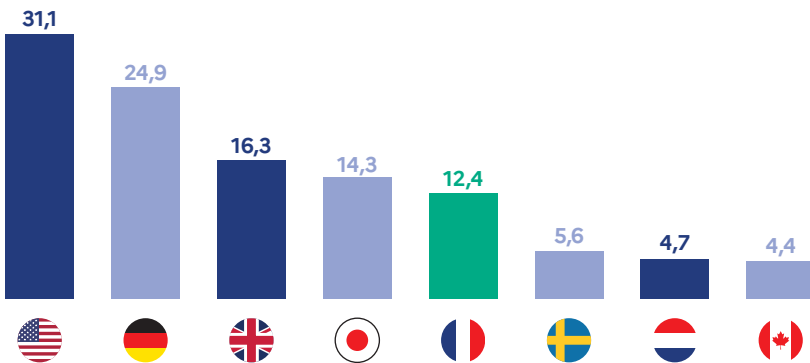
► MédiaSahel project, for greater inclusion by the media of young people in the Sahel.

1. Greater investment in the preservation of global public goods

The increase in our investment in the preservation of global public goods and crisis prevention requires foresight and a clear financial trajectory: for the first time, France will have a programming act for the development policy budget.

The Act implements the President of the Republic's commitment to reach 0.55% of gross national income (GNI) spent on official development assistance (ODA) in 2022, compared to 0.44% in 2019 (€10.9 billion) and 0.53% in 2020 (€10.9 billion). France will strive to dedicate 0.7% of GNI to ODA by 2025.

Key donors of official development assistance



In € billions (OECD 2020 data)

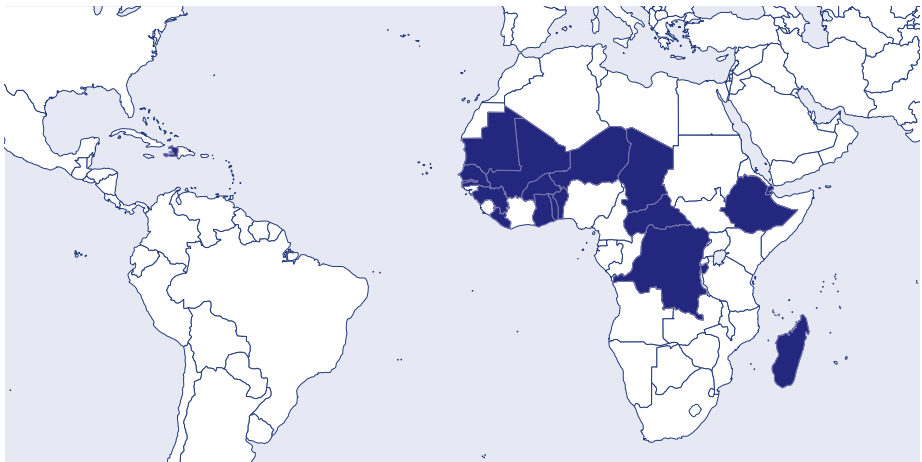
2. Resources focused on clearly defined priorities

The increase in resources should enable France to assist the most vulnerable countries, particularly in Africa, in the transition towards more resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth models. It should also facilitate investment in multilateral organizations and funds to take effective action in support of the climate, health, education and gender equality.

Grants will be focused on 19 priority countries for French ODA, which are in the least developed countries category (LDCs) and mainly located in sub-Saharan Africa.

France will also increase its investment in other developing countries and its cooperation with emerging countries, to support the protection of global public goods.

In 2020, **45% of France's bilateral official development assistance** was allocated to **Africa**.
French bilateral ODA received by Africa: **€3.6 billion**.



The 19 priority countries for French ODA

Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo.

3. Strengthened partnerships to ensure there is a real impact on the ground

The development policy allows France to showcase its values, priorities and interests, and those of Europe, on the international stage, by defending international principles and a model based on universal values: respect for human rights, the promotion of democratic governance, the pooling of knowledge and scientific research, and cultural dialogue.

Building on the speech given by the President of the Republic in Ouagadougou in 2017, **partnerships with African countries have been re-established** based on the **principles of shared responsibility and interest**.

All development stakeholders (local governments, civil society organizations, foundations, research institutions, the private sector) **are mobilized** to ensure the greatest impact on the ground. The Act provides for the doubling of funds channelled by civil society organizations and funds for external action of local governments between 2017 and 2022. It creates a “1% transport” scheme to allow local governments to finance development projects in this field.

4. Enhanced coordination in support of strategic focuses set by the State

The Act strengthens the management of development policy by the State, at central administration level and in partner countries. It attaches the Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency/AFD) to the 2010 Act on the State’s external action, and thereby consolidates the State’s supervision of the Agency. It incorporates Expertise France within the expanded AFD group.

In partner countries, **the ambassador will chair a local development council to harmonize** efforts by all stakeholders in “Team France abroad”, as part of a single strategy.

5. A modernized evaluation scheme for better monitoring of results

The **creation of an evaluation committee will ensure better measurement of results and the impact of projects carried out** in partner countries. Considering the increase in resources allocated to ODA, this accountability requirement corresponds to a democratic imperative.

6. Increased appeal of France to host international institutions

The Act facilitates the terms under which international organizations, as well as new forms of international institutions, such as foundations, can set up in France.

With growing international competition, the challenge is **to strengthen the capacity of France to attract international organizations**, many of which play a key role in the international development agenda and the promotion of global public goods.

7. The creation of a restitution mechanism for ill-gotten gains

The Act provides for the creation of a restitution mechanism the **proceeds of sales of ill-gotten gains**, which would finance cooperation and development actions, in close liaison with the populations concerned, and to return this financing to the dispossessed populations. Each year, Parliament will take stock of the implementation of the restitution mechanism in order to guarantee transparency and accountability.

FRANCE IS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE PRESERVATION OF GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS

The French Presidency of the G7 in 2019 made the fight against global inequalities a priority. By renewing the methods used, it helped achieve tangible progress in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ([see the Biarritz Progress Report on G7 Development and Development-related Commitments](#)).

France continues its international commitment in the priority areas of health, climate and biodiversity, education and gender equality:

- France increased its contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to €1.29 billion for 2020-2022, an increase of 20%. France remains the second-largest contributor to the Fund;
- it doubled its contribution to the Green Climate Fund (€1.55 billion between 2020 and 2023);
- France has increased its humanitarian assistance, which will be increased to €500 million in 2022, through the Humanitarian Emergency Fund, Programmed Food Aid and contributions to the United Nations humanitarian agencies;
- its contribution to the Global Partnership for Education was multiplied ten-fold (€200 million from 2018-2020) compared to the previous period;
- France was mobilized in the international response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was behind the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A), for which it announced a contribution in donations of more than €1 billion for 2020-2022, and the international initiative to respond to the impact of COVID-19 in Africa at the health, humanitarian, economic and scientific levels, launched by 18 African and European Heads of State and Government.

**Ministry for Europe
and Foreign Affairs**

37, quai d'Orsay
75007 Paris

diplomatie.gouv.fr/en