



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

2023 ACTIVITY REPORT

CRISIS AND
SUPPORT CENTRE



CONTENTS



© J. Sarago/MEAE

THE CRISIS AND SUPPORT CENTRE: RESPONDING TO GLOBAL SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

.....	4
Multifaceted action	4
Multidisciplinary team of approximately one hundred staff	5
Strengthening partnerships	7



© E. Bucker/MEAE

THE SAFETY OF FRENCH NATIONALS ABROAD

.....	8
Monitoring, risk analysis and alerts	8
Response to security crises	11
Monitoring of individual cases	15
The safety of French nationals abroad: Key events in 2023	16



© J. Litvine/MEAE

EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN AND STABILIZATION ACTION

.....	18
France's humanitarian action: Key events in 2023	20
France's humanitarian priorities	24
- Upholding the principles of humanitarian action and ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law	25
- Adapting the humanitarian response to the proliferation of overlapping crises	26
- Supporting humanitarian innovation and strengthening disaster response capacity	29
- Deploying agile and effective humanitarian aid through diversified and renewed partnerships	30

EDITORIAL

More than in the past, 2023 was marked by **almost uninterrupted series of serious humanitarian and security crises caused by natural disasters across the globe**. These events, some of which threatened the security of our nationals to the point that they needed to be evacuated from Sudan and Niger, and many had dramatic consequences for the populations concerned, have greatly occupied the Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

In Ukraine, the CDCS has provided steady support to nearly 30 NGOs working in a wide range of sectors including health, energy, humanitarian mine clearance and education. Emergency humanitarian relief was dispatched, including water purification stations and water storage units in the wake of the destruction of the Kakhovka dam in June 2023.

We have been making humanitarian and consular efforts to address the crisis in the Middle East. With our posts in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the CDCS teams have provided support to the families of the victims of the 7 October attacks and facilitated the return of 3,500 of our citizens to France from Israel. These same teams and those in Cairo worked around the clock to help our citizens, Ministry staff and their families to get out of Gaza.

Much of our work is dedicated to assisting the people in the Gaza Strip: At the International Humanitarian Conference held on 9 November, President Macron announced that France would provide an additional €100 million to Palestinians, which will be renewed in 2024.

The CDCS pledged a **total of €280 million to the humanitarian and stabilization response**, directly via 80 emergency operations and by supporting 248 projects of partner NGOs to help the populations affected by humanitarian crises and natural disasters.

In addition to the work by CDCS and other Ministry staff, France's humanitarian aid budget was greatly increased, making us one of the



© Chang Martin/Sipa Press

largest humanitarian donors in the world. When presenting **France's 2023-2027 humanitarian strategy** at the opening session of the French National Humanitarian Conference in December 2023, President Macron announced **France's target of €1 billion in humanitarian aid for 2025**.

Having taken the helm of an **exceptional team** in September, **unfailingly devoted to our nationals and the most vulnerable people**, I commend their professionalism and commitment, as we celebrate the CDCS's 15th anniversary.

These results are the fruit of the labour of the CDCS team and the entire Ministry staff and network abroad, and the collaboration of the NGOs, companies, foundations, local governments and other administrations with which the CDCS works on a daily basis, the Armed Forces, Health and Interior Ministries in particular. Their commitment in the field and the constant support they give us make it a privilege to work with them.

Philippe Lalliot
Director of the Crisis
and Support Centre

CRISIS AND SUPPORT CENTRE: RESPONDING TO GLOBAL SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

▶ OUR PRINCIPLES OF ACTION

- 24/7 monitoring
- Immediate response
- Interministerial and multi-actor coordination
- Support on the ground

▶ Multifaceted action

The Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) operates 24/7 to monitor international crises and ensure continuity of the Ministry's work at night and during weekends.

It has two main objectives:

- **Protecting French nationals abroad**, in conjunction with the French diplomatic and consular network;
- **Coordinating France's emergency humanitarian response** to countries affected by conflicts and natural disasters. The CDCS also implements **post-crisis stabilization programmes**.

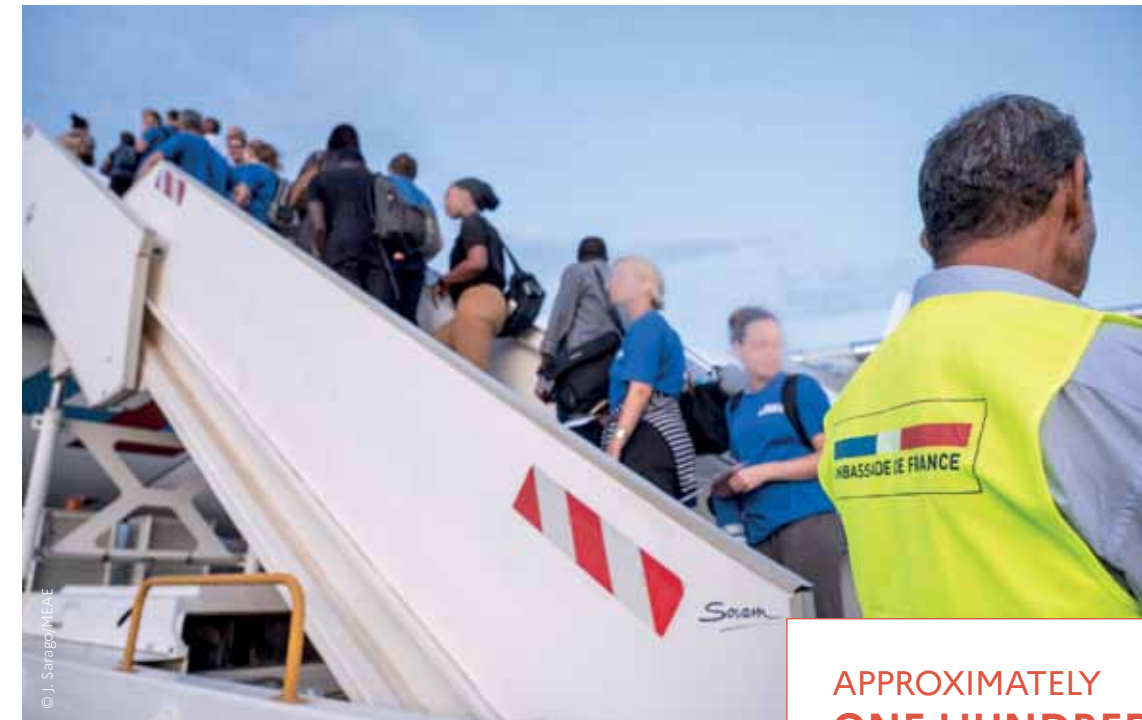
The CDCS plays a pivotal role within the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, working for the Minister's office and performing the following tasks:

- Analysis of national, regional and local contexts in conjunction with geographical directorates;



Meeting between Stéphane Séjourné, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Ukraine, in Kyiv on 13 January 2024

- Providing expertise on specific issues in conjunction with thematic directorates;
- Informing the public in conjunction with the Communication and Press Directorate.



France evacuates French and foreign nationals from Niger – August 2023

▶ Multidisciplinary team of approximately one hundred staff

The CDCS team is composed of permanent civil servants from all civil servant categories, as well as contractual staff.

Many staff members have field experience and specialized skills, particularly in humanitarian, consular, budgetary, logistical, legal and medical action.

APPROXIMATELY
ONE HUNDRED STAFF
REPRESENTING 85.8
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)
POSITIONS

53 civil servants, including:
24 category A (38% women)
20 category B (50% women)
9 category C (56% women)

43 contractual staff
(63% women) including 9 apprentices

8 staff members on
secondment from other ministries

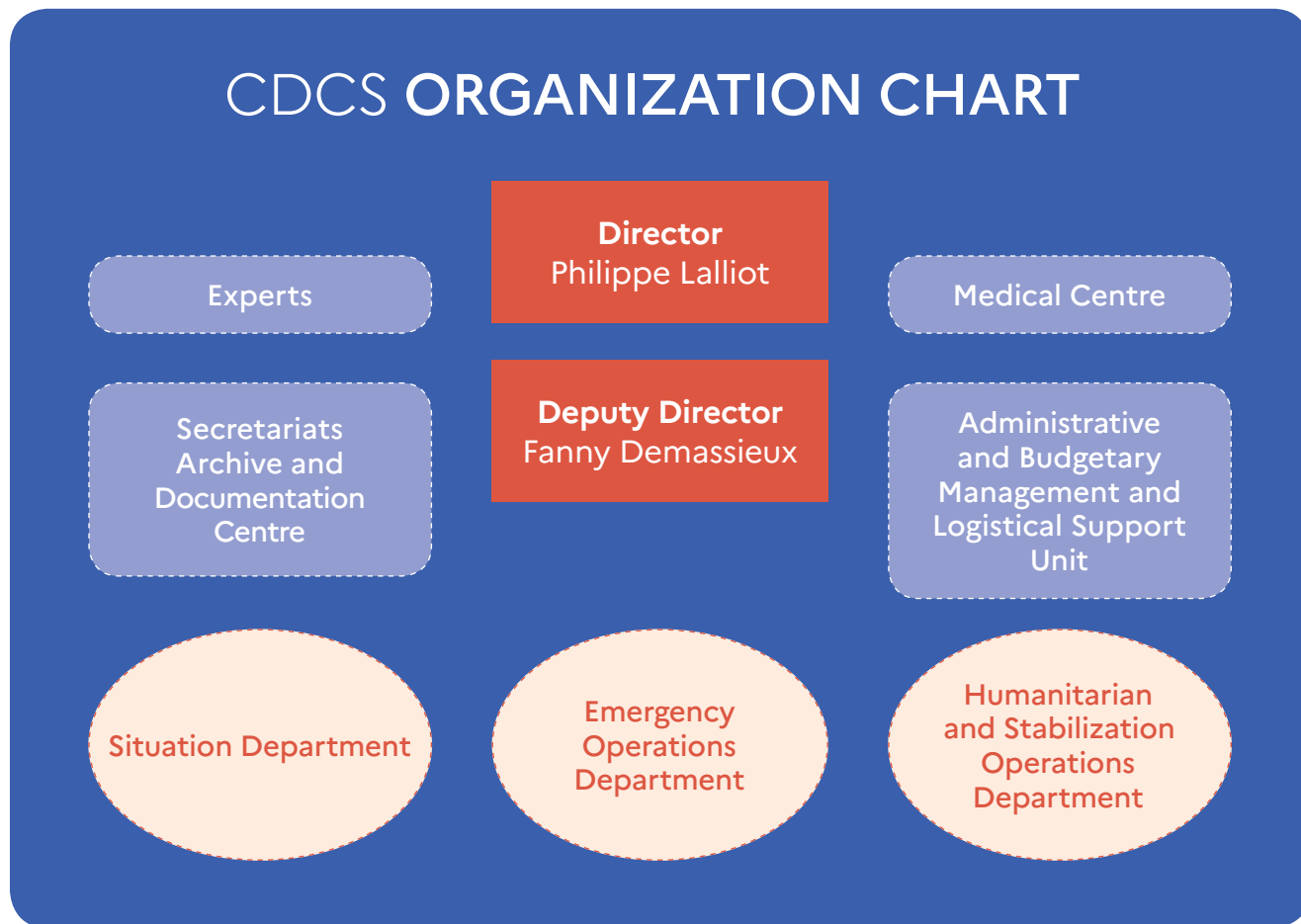
1 German exchange **diplomat**

A total of **50%** of the CDCS team are **women**.



CDCS crisis unit

CDCS ORGANIZATION CHART



Centres of expertise

Medical and psychological expertise

The Health Unit performs medical assessments and offers appropriate health support to embassies and consulates in the event of a crisis. The unit is supported by a psychologist who ensures specific follow-up of the most sensitive individual cases and supports the telephone response teams during crises.

Legal expertise

A liaison magistrate clarifies all the legal aspects of situations that arise in the context of CDCS activities. This person provides a key link with the Ministry of Justice, in particular the Interministerial Delegation for Victim Support (DIAV), and judicial authorities.

Mapping expertise

Cartographers map out risk areas for the "Travel Advice" (Conseils aux voyageurs) web pages and provide decision support tools during crises.

Expertise in compliance and accountability

A Compliance Unit ensures that internal procedures are followed before implementing any financing arrangements. The unit guides CDCS-supported NGOs in applying these procedures in compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures.

CDCS stand at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs during the European Heritage Days, 16 and 17 September 2023

Strengthening partnerships

Ongoing interministerial cooperation

The CDCS maintains close links with many other French ministries to respond to crises, in particular the Ministry for the Armed Forces, Ministry of Labour, Health and Solidarity, Ministry of the Interior and Overseas France, and the Ministry of Justice.

In 2023, a high level of interministerial cooperation was necessary to conduct various consular and humanitarian operations, including the evacuation of French nationals from Sudan, Niger, Israel and Gaza (pp. 16, 17); the deployment of civil security staff in Turkey (earthquakes) and Libya (storm Daniel); and the mobilization of the International Health Task Force to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza (pp. 21-23).

Interventions at European level

The CDCS maintains regular contact with our European partners to coordinate efforts during crises, such as caring for European nationals and pooling resources, and to share experiences. In conjunction with the European Commission and its Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), France can also benefit from the support of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) in responding to crises. The CDCS actively participates in the EU Council's Working Party on Consular affairs (COCON) and Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid



(COHAFA), and also contributes to the definition of the EU's humanitarian strategy through the European Humanitarian Forum.

Diversification of partnerships

The CDCS develops and maintains partnerships with French companies (in particular with their security departments) and government agencies operating abroad (Agence Française de Développement – AFD, Expertise France, etc.). It also communicates regularly with the tourism sector.

The CDCS engages in regular dialogue for close collaboration with humanitarian NGOs, in particular through the Humanitarian Consultation Group and the National Humanitarian Conference. In 2023, the CDCS partnered 92 NGOs. It fosters relationships with local humanitarian actors to launch new cooperation initiatives. It regularly mobilizes corporate foundations to support emergency humanitarian efforts. The CDCS also contributes to various training programmes aimed at a wide range of participants, covering topics from international security to humanitarian action and stabilization.

2023

KEY FIGURES

26.5 million visits to the "Travel Advice" web pages

327,046 individual and group trips registered on Fil d'Ariane

6,416 non-crisis calls to the Monitoring Unit

€282.6 million budget for humanitarian action and stabilization

248 humanitarian and stabilization projects funded in 44 countries

92 NGO partners

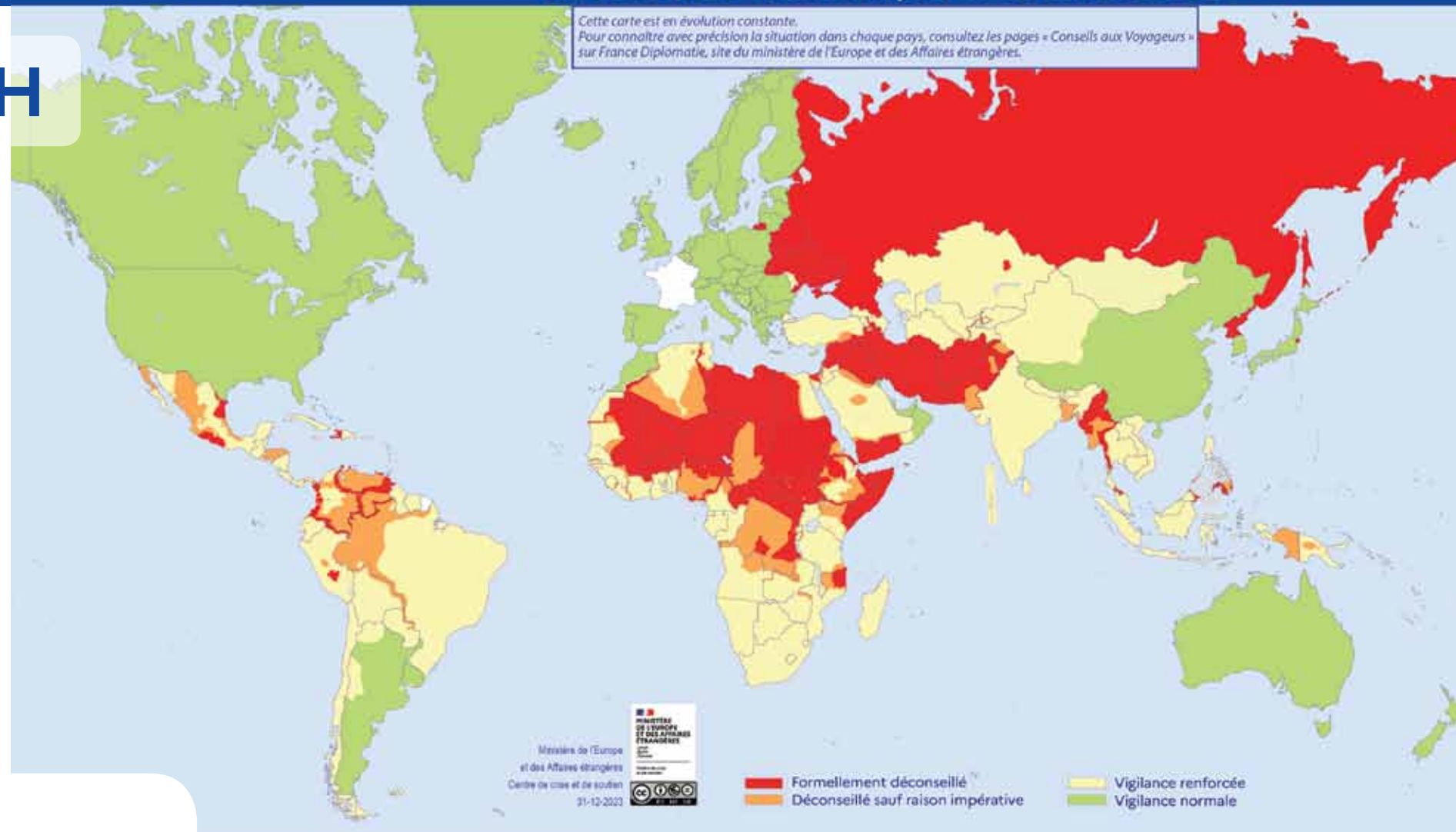
THE SAFETY OF FRENCH NATIONALS ABROAD

► Monitoring, risk analysis and alerts



Services for users: information, warning and advice

The CDCS develops and continuously updates safety recommendations for travellers, communicated via two main channels: the **"Travel Advice" (Conseils aux voyageurs)** web pages and the **Fil d'Ariane service**.



IN 2023

26.5 million visits

to the "Travel Advice" pages of the diplomatie.gouv.fr website

2,068 updates made*

*Updates to country files, map, etc.

► Travel Advice



The "Travel Advice" pages are designed to help plan and make tourism or business trips. They provide practical information and safety recommendations in **191 "country files"** with maps and a **dozen factsheets** on various topics (health, earthquakes, cyclones, hurricanes, etc.). **Highly consulted and appreciated by users, the "Travel Advice" pages are regularly updated** based on expert information from our diplomatic network and several Ministry directorates, as well as other CDCS partner organizations.

The "Travel Advice" pages are designed to help plan and make tourism or business trips. They provide practical information and safety recommendations in 191 "country files" with maps and a dozen factsheets on various topics (health, earthquakes, cyclones, hurricanes, etc.). Highly consulted and appreciated by users, the "Travel Advice" pages are regularly updated based on expert information from our diplomatic network and several Ministry directorates, as well as other CDCS partner organizations.

"LATEST NEWS"

In the event of an incident or alert that could affect the safety of French nationals abroad (demonstrations, attacks, epidemics, earthquakes, etc.), specific information and instructions are promptly published in the **"Latest News" (Dernières minutes) section of the "Travel Advice" web pages.**

1,164 "Latest News" items published in 2023

TOP 5 MOST CONSULTED DESTINATIONS IN 2023

1. Israel/Palestinian territories
2. United States
3. Morocco
4. Egypt
5. Thailand



The "Travel Advice" process has been ISO 9001 certified since 2011. In June 2023, AFNOR conducted an audit that led to the renewal of certification for an additional three years, confirming the robustness of the process for developing and updating the Travel Advice content. The process benefits from insights across the entire diplomatic and consular network, facilitated by detailed internal consultations, and includes input from various directorates within

the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. It also incorporates analysis and expertise from different ministries, including the Ministry for the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Solidarity.

The website's high traffic and 86% satisfaction rate in 2023, as reported through annual surveys of businesses and the general public, confirm the quality of this public service.

The website's high traffic and 86% satisfaction rate in 2023, as reported through annual surveys of businesses and the general public, confirm the quality of this public service.

► Fil d'Ariane service



By signing up for the Fil d'Ariane service via the diplomatie.gouv.fr website, travellers will receive text or email messages containing safety alerts and recommendations if warranted by the situation in the country they are visiting. These alerts may relate to natural, security, health or other risks.

IN 2023

327,046 individual and group trips registered

612 alerts issued

► Advice to French companies and State agencies

The CDCS engages in regular dialogue with a range of partners (companies, agencies, media, professional bodies and NGOs) on the global security situation, providing recommendations according to the specific nature of their activities and staff.

The CDCS also supports and alerts the tourism industry by engaging in ongoing discussions, both individually and collectively through industry representative bodies. This is particularly important during crises affecting tourist destinations, such as Peru and Morocco in 2023. The CDCS's recommendations are also a critical resource for travel agencies and tour operators when planning future trips.

170 companies and agencies advised during individual consultations or specific meetings.

45 interventions and awareness sessions on security issues delivered to companies/agencies, in particular to raise awareness among international volunteers of the potential security risks associated with assignments abroad.

1 training course exclusively for operators and institutional partners within the diplomatic network.

2 annual meetings on expatriation and safety organized by the CDCS for companies and agencies with around 400 participants.

Continuous diplomatic and consular monitoring

The CDCS is responsible for **monitoring, collecting and collating information on emergencies and crises throughout the world**. It provides alerts on events likely to have an impact on the safety of French nationals abroad or requiring emergency humanitarian action. At night, at weekends and on public holidays, it helps ensure a continuous public service by providing a 24-hour service for the entire Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.



Monitoring Unit at the Situation Centre

CDCS MONITORING UNIT: 24-HOUR SERVICE

A team of **17** operators, 13 of whom work nights, weekends and public holidays in rotation

Daily news summaries and security bulletins are circulated within the Ministry using various tools, including artificial intelligence.

6,416 calls handled via the 24/7 public hotline in 2023

► Response to security crises

The CDCS is responsible for **crisis response planning**, providing crisis management training for staff in central administration and in diplomatic and consular posts, and activating crisis units.

Depending on the scale of the crisis, the CDCS sends staff to reinforce diplomatic and consular teams on the ground. It also organizes **debriefings** after each crisis.



Evacuation operation in Niger – Reception of nationals at Niamey airport, August 2023

Planning

► Monitoring of safety plans

The CDCS works closely with French embassies and consulates general to develop and update safety plans for French communities abroad. By performing a risk analysis and determining the actions and resources needed, such as communication tools, assembly and evacuation points, and emergency supplies, these safety plans help protect French nationals. They provide a detailed and comprehensive guide to the tools and resources available at diplomatic posts to ensure the safety of the French community and enable effective crisis management.

224 safety plans for resident or transient French communities are monitored and regularly updated by the CDCS.

251 maps have been produced (travel advice, crisis situations, etc.)

37 countries experienced a significant crisis in 2023

► Development of security maps

The CDCS uses an internal mapping service to produce security maps for the "Travel Advice" web pages, as well as customized maps for various safety plans and crisis situations. This internal capability enables the CDCS, the Ministry and its diplomatic posts to quickly develop customized mapping solutions that meet the demands of safety monitoring and the protection of French communities abroad.



MISSION IN GOMA – DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

In 2023, the CDCS conducted several missions in the DRC to enhance safety plans and strengthen protective measures for our communities in Goma and Kinshasa. These efforts, led by the embassy and consulate, were prompted by armed conflicts in the east of the country and in anticipation of national elections in December. The field missions allowed us to adjust the preparation of assembly points, coordinate with European partners, and ensure the post's readiness to establish a crisis unit.



Emergency preparedness and crisis management



AUDIT AND SUPPORT MISSIONS

The CDCS conducts periodic audits and support missions for diplomatic posts upon request from the minister's office or the individual diplomatic posts. The aim of these missions is to assist posts in updating their crisis management systems, including crisis organization charts, crisis directories, and organizing and activating crisis units. Assessments are also made of the spatial and logistical organization of planned crisis units, and simulation exercises may be conducted to test the system (crisis drill). A simulation exercise can be performed to test the system (crisis drill).

Another objective of these audits and support missions is to ensure that posts are equipped to temporarily care for the French community in crisis situations. This involves visiting assembly points, evaluating food and water supplies, checking medication stocks (including first aid and medications for chronic illnesses), identifying health facilities in the country, engaging with key partners (European entities, businesses, NGOs, etc.), and updating the safety map (Travel Advice zones).

FRENCH RED CROSS

In 2023, the CDCS and the French Red Cross renewed their partnership agreement. The CDCS can request the deployment of French Red Cross volunteers to operate the telephone response team or assist in meeting nationals or victims returning from crisis zones.

VOLUNTEER POOL

Volunteers are staff from other MEAE directorates. During a crisis, they are mobilized to provide support to CDCS staff during emergency situations based on their skills and availability.

The Emergency Management Unit comprises eight staff members who provide assistance to diplomatic and consular posts during crises. It also provides training to Ministry staff both in Paris and at the diplomatic posts.

Emergency preparedness and crisis management

Crisis management training for the diplomatic network in 2023

Since 2021, all posts have been required to test their crisis management systems annually as part of an independent emergency drill. Some posts may request the CDCS to provide specific crisis management training. CDCS staff can travel to diplomatic or consular posts to deliver comprehensive on-site training or conduct a complete audit of the crisis management system.

The CDCS provides training to volunteers from the Ministry and the French Red Cross to reinforce the teams in Paris and support telephone response efforts during crisis unit activations.

Red Cross volunteer working in the telephone response team during crisis unit activation



IN 2023

5 audit and support missions for crisis response plans at diplomatic posts

5 training and crisis simulation missions tailored to the specific situations of the countries involved

300 volunteers trained in crisis management in Paris

Over 900 staff at diplomatic posts received crisis management training

Around 100 Red Cross volunteers trained in telephone response activities

Staff based in Paris and stationed at diplomatic posts, as well as French Red Cross volunteers, receive training tailored to the specific needs of crisis unit teams, including:

- **Protected Community Monitoring**
This team is responsible for locating nationals, including tracking victims and searching for missing persons if required, broadcasting messages to French nationals, assessing potential health needs and coordinating medical evacuations.
- **Crisis Communication and External Relations**
This team serves as the primary point of contact for the media, educational and cultural institutions, businesses, government agencies and foreign partners.
- **Telephone Response**
A crisis is likely to generate a significant number of calls from French nationals. Given the likelihood of a high volume of calls from French nationals during a crisis, this team is responsible for organizing the telephone response and identifying sensitive situations requiring specific monitoring, which are then handled by the "Protected Community Monitoring" team.
- **Logistics, human resources and telecommunications**
This team is responsible for ensuring the smooth operation of the crisis management system, including telecommunication tools and the deployment of staff to crisis units.
- **Editorial team**
This team oversees the circulation, centralization and synthesis of information. This team is responsible for circulating, centralizing and summarizing information, drafting situation reports, and updating the crisis unit's logbook.



CDCS crisis unit

Crisis management

In a crisis situation, the CDCS is responsible for:

- **Coordinating** the crisis unit in Paris to support the crisis unit opened in the affected diplomatic posts
- **Supervising** the teams of volunteers mobilized to operate the telephone response
- **Ensuring** that reinforcements are sent to the area to support the affected posts.



European cooperation

On 19 July 2023, in Brussels, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs signed a declaration of enhanced cooperation with the European External Action Service (EEAS) for the evacuation of EU diplomatic staff and their dependents in case of emergency.

This declaration of intent updates the previous one from 2015 and includes an additional 14 countries, bringing to 69 the number of countries covered by the agreement.

The CDCS also regularly participates in the following European forums:

- the Working Party on Consular affairs (COCON) of the EU Council (jointly with the Directorate for French Nationals Abroad and Consular Administration – DFAE);
- the Security Committee of the EEAS Crisis Response Centre (jointly

with the Diplomatic Security Directorate – DSD).

In the event of a crisis, the CDCS serves as France's contact point for European coordination through the Consular Online platform (CoOL), facilitating:

- information sharing among EU Member States;
- enhanced European coordination of crisis response (protection of French and European nationals in third countries during evacuations).



Dispatch of specialized medical teams in crisis situations

The CDCS coordinates the dispatch of specialized emergency medical teams to assist French nationals and affected local communities, in close cooperation with stakeholders from the Ministry of Labour, Health and Solidarity, including Santé Publique France and Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris (APHP), and the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas France.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH TASK FORCE (IHTF)



In early 2023, the CDCS established and coordinated an international health task force in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Health and Solidarity and Santé Publique France to address security and humanitarian health emergencies.

This task force will eventually consist of 200 healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, midwives, nursery nurses, paediatricians, surgeons and physiotherapists, all of whom will be identified and trained by Santé Publique France and the CDCS. As of 2023, approximately one hundred healthcare professionals have already been identified and trained.

CDCS briefing to members of the international health task force before their deployment on the PHA DIXMUDE – December 2023

CDCS PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

The CDCS provides medical and psychological support for French nationals affected by sudden events (disappearances of concern, violent deaths and kidnappings) and crises abroad. Depending on the circumstances, a range of support mechanisms can be implemented. This support can be provided:

- Through the CDCS psychologist (individual cases, earthquakes in Turkey and Morocco in 2023, coup d'état in Gabon, etc.);
- By deploying mental health practitioners specialized in psycho-trauma identified by the CDCS (May 2023: attack in Djerba, Tunisia);
- By activating, upon request from the CDCS, a helpline providing medical and psychological support run by the Ministry of Labour, Health and Solidarity (October and November 2023: Israel/Palestinian Territories).



ARGONAUT CRISIS EXERCISE IN CYPRUS 15-19 MAY 2023

The Cypriot authorities organized the annual multinational crisis management exercise ARGONAUT from 15 to 19 May in Larnaca. The exercise provides a platform for exchange and networking, with the aim of improving preparedness for consular management and coordination in the event of a major crisis in Lebanon.

Eighteen nations actively participated in the exercise: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

► Monitoring of individual cases

The Individual Cases Unit deals with violent and suspicious deaths, disappearances of concern, and abductions of French nationals abroad. The unit works very closely with the diplomatic and consular network to support, guide and accompany families in completing administrative procedures, and to ensure that all relevant government services respond effectively to these sensitive individual situations. The unit can put victims and their relatives in touch with a victim support association for assistance.

The CDCS works in coordination with the departments of the Ministry of Justice (Legal Access and Victim Assistance Service, Interministerial Delegation for Victim Support). **Supported by the association network** (in particular France Victimes) and compensation bodies, these departments manage the judicial processing of reported cases, and provide assistance to victims in collaboration with the CDCS.

Evacuation of French nationals from Niger



2023 FIGURES

507 deaths reported including **330** violent or suspicious deaths, of which **31** were homicides

395 disappearances of potential concern were reported

367 persons were found, while active searches are continuing for **24** disappearances reported in 2023 in conjunction with diplomatic and consular posts

7 criminal or terrorist abductions of French nationals abroad



KEY EVENTS IN 2023

- Release of journalist Olivier Dubois, held hostage in Mali since April 2021
- Release of three of the seven French nationals arbitrarily detained in Iran
- Release of journalist Mortaza Behboudi, detained in Afghanistan since January 2023
- Monitoring the situation of our compatriots in Israel and the Palestinian Territories (French residents and staff of the Institut français, along with their family members)

THE SAFETY OF FRENCH NATIONALS ABROAD: KEY EVENTS IN 2023

To ensure the protection of French nationals abroad, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs may carry out **evacuations of nationals (RESEVAC)** using either civilian or military resources. These operations are initiated upon a decision of the President of the French Republic.

In 2023, the CDCS mobilized **three crisis units** to evacuate French nationals from areas of instability.

SUDAN

On 15 April 2023, fighting broke out in central Khartoum between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

In response to the rapidly deteriorating security situation, France evacuated a significant number of French, European and third-country nationals as part of Operation Sagittarius. The operation was organized by the CDCS of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the Operations Steering Planning Centre (CPCO) of the Ministry for the Armed Forces (MINARM), in coordination with our embassies in Sudan, Djibouti and Chad.

Most of the evacuees were transported out of Sudan using military air and sea resources, with the assistance of special forces and GIGN teams. They were initially relocated to Djibouti or Chad, from where they were able to continue their journey to other destinations, primarily Paris.

► CRISIS UNIT OPENED FROM 17/04 TO 02/05

Nearly **1,000 people** evacuated, including around **700 foreign nationals** from over **70 other countries**.

- **101 CDCS and Ministry staff** mobilized within the crisis unit
- **35 Ministry staff and Red Cross volunteers** assigned to the telephone response team
- **7 CDCS staff members** deployed as reinforcements to Khartoum and Djibouti
- **9 military flights**
- **1 maritime operation** and **1 air operation** enabled the French army to evacuate United Nations and NGO staff from Darfur



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY

The Member States of the European Union bear the primary responsibility for providing direct consular protection to their citizens and unrepresented citizens of other Member States.

Through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM), Member States can offer places on flights organized to evacuate their nationals. This is what France did for Sudan, Niger and Israel.

The European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) facilitates this sharing of resources by centralizing requests and offers of assistance from Member States in close collaboration with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Union delegations. The ERCC can also provide financial support by covering part of the transport costs incurred by Member States.

NIGER

Following the coup d'état on 26 July 2023, and amidst violence targeting the French embassy in Niamey and the closure of Niger's airspace, an evacuation operation was conducted for French nationals wishing to leave the country.

Implemented by the CDCS and the Operations Steering Planning Centre (CPCO) of the Ministry for the Armed Forces in coordination with our embassy in Niamey, this evacuation operation also facilitated the repatriation of European and other nationals.

The evacuations were carried out with the assistance of the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas France and the Ministry of Health, which took charge of medical cases upon arrival.



Reception of French nationals evacuated from Niger at Roissy-CDG airport – August 2023

► CRISIS UNIT OPENED FROM 30/07 TO 06/08

Nearly **1,200 people** evacuated, including around **500 foreign nationals** from over **50 different countries**.

- **80 CDCS and Ministry staff** mobilized within the crisis unit
- **30 Ministry staff and Red Cross volunteers** assigned to the telephone response team
- **4 CDCS staff members** deployed as reinforcements to the embassy in Niamey
- **3 civil protection medical staff** mobilized
- **5 military flights**

CONFLICT IN ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Following the terrorist attacks by Hamas on 7 October 2023, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs organized several special flights from Tel Aviv. French residents in Israel and visitors to the country were able to contact our two Consulates General in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, or the Ministry's crisis unit in Paris to request to return to France.

Gaza

In 2023, the Crisis and Support Centre evacuated 167 people from the Gaza Strip. The CDCS remains active and continues to monitor the situation closely, coordinating with the consulate in Jerusalem and the embassy in Cairo to facilitate ongoing evacuations.

► CRISIS UNIT OPENED FROM 08/10 TO 20/10

Approximately **3,500 people** evacuated from Israel, including around **3,400 French nationals** and their dependants.

- **207 CDCS and Ministry staff** mobilized within the crisis unit
- **192 Ministry staff and Red Cross volunteers** assigned to the telephone response team
- **7 CDCS staff members** deployed as reinforcements to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem
- **16 reservists** from the International Health Task Force of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Solidarity mobilized
- **15 special flights** chartered by the CDCS, in coordination with the Ministry for the Armed Forces, Air France and other private airlines



For each evacuation, an **extensive airport reception system is implemented** to ensure the smooth arrival of our nationals in France. This system is generally organized under the coordination of the prefecture responsible for airport safety and security in Paris, in collaboration with the Red Cross, the Emergency Medical Assistance Department (SAMU) and its medical and psychological emergency unit, as well as France Horizon.



EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN AND STABILIZATION ACTION

The CDCS's Humanitarian and Stabilization Operations Department has two complementary missions: **emergency humanitarian response** and **support for stabilization actions**. The aim of the emergency humanitarian response is to meet the essential needs of populations facing major crises. Stabilization actions support the post-crisis phase, addressing the needs of local communities and supporting the recovery of fragile States.

248 humanitarian projects funded across **44** countries in 2023

92 humanitarian NGO partners (38 French, 30 international and 24 local organizations)

80 bilateral emergency operations (humanitarian freight, deployment of civil security teams, etc.)

WAR IN UKRAINE
€68.3 million

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
€107.8 million

AMERICAS
€4.6 million

AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN
€80.4 million

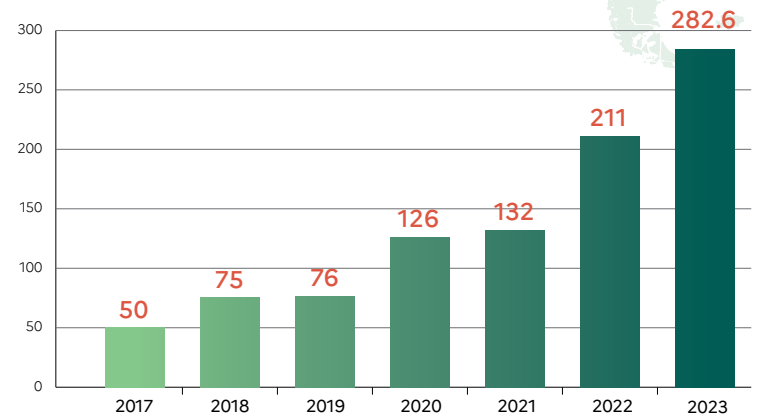
ASIA AND OCEANIA
€16.2 million

IN 2023

€282.6 million was allocated from the Humanitarian and Stabilization Emergency Fund (including €188 million in initial funding), up **34%** compared to 2022, comprising:

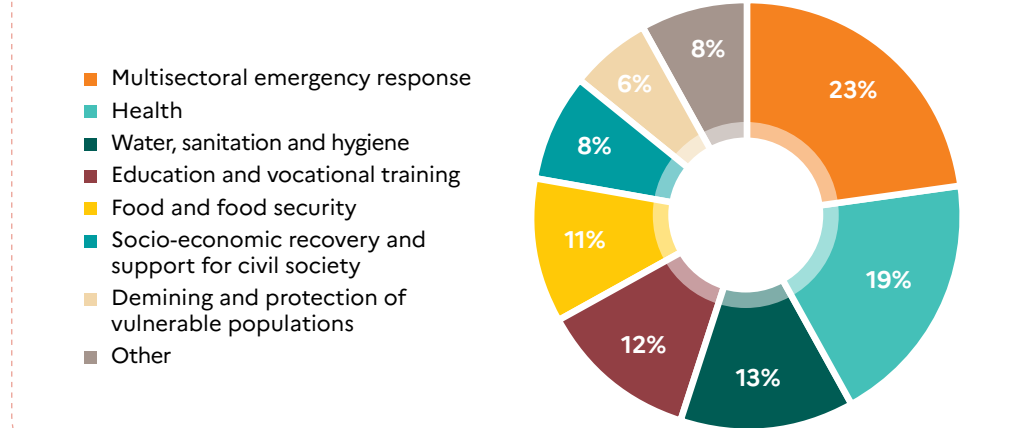
- **€269.4 million** in subsidies for NGO projects
- **€8.6 million** for delivery of humanitarian goods and services (transport, etc.)
- **€4.6 million** for the deployment of teams to crisis zones, medical evacuations, and other activities facilitated by interministerial partnerships.

INCREASE IN HUMANITARIAN AND STABILIZATION EMERGENCY FUND ALLOCATIONS PER YEAR
(IN EUR MILLIONS)



Source: MEAE/CDCS

SECTORS OF INTERVENTION OF PROJECTS FINANCED IN 2023



Source: MEAE/CDCS

FRANCE'S HUMANITARIAN ACTION: KEY EVENTS IN 2023

▶ UKRAINE

In 2023, France continued its commitment to addressing the impacts of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Since 24 February 2022, the CDCS teams have coordinated over **50 emergency operations, transporting several thousand tons of humanitarian supplies and equipment to Ukraine** and its neighbouring countries. This highlights France's exceptional support for the Ukrainian people.



The donations covered a range of sectors, including medical aid, food assistance, agricultural support, search and rescue operations, electrical safety in hospitals, emergency shelters and essential goods for displaced persons and refugees, population mobility (mobile bridges), demining, and support for Ukrainian journalists.

Support for French and international organizations

In 2023, the CDCS allocated over **€58.8 million** to support humanitarian efforts, funding **19 projects across 17 NGOs and one agency, France Médias Monde**, in Ukraine and neighbouring countries (Moldova, Romania, Poland and Hungary).

Emergency response to the destruction of the Kakhovka dam

Following the destruction of the Kakhovka dam in June 2023, France dispatched targeted emergency aid to provide immediate assistance to local residents affected by the resulting flooding. The consignment included approximately **40 boats, five water purification stations, six generators, 210 motor pumps, and 40 water storage units.**

Evacuation operations for injured Ukrainian soldiers

In 2023, in collaboration with Santé Publique France, Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris and the French Military Health Service, the CDCS continued its medical evacuations of injured Ukrainian soldiers under the European Union's Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM). **Eleven operations** enabled the transfer of **46 patients** for treatment in civilian and military healthcare facilities in France.

▶ AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Education in emergencies

Support for the NGO Libraries Without Borders to provide reception centres for displaced persons and refugees, and the NGO Acted for the reconstruction and renovation of schools and bomb shelters to allow classroom teaching to resume.

Support for the health system and access to essential services

Support for specialized NGOs to improve access to primary healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support, sexual and reproductive health services, care for the war-wounded, and capacity building for hospitals.

Humanitarian demining

Support for specialized NGOs to implement mine risk education activities, including mapping of mined areas, providing technical support through training for civilian and humanitarian personnel, supplying equipment, and delivering training to the Ukrainian civil mine clearance teams of the State Emergency Services of Ukraine (SESU).

Energy

Supplying hybrid and renewable energy to collective centres in Ukraine to enhance their operation and capacity to deliver essential services, in particular by sending electric generators.

▶ TURKEY AND SYRIA

The CDCS actively participated in the emergency response to the earthquakes that hit Turkey and Syria in February 2023. It responded to the major humanitarian crisis triggered by the earthquakes on 6 and 7 February 2023 with a two-step approach.

Immediately following the disaster, **two search and rescue units from the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas France were dispatched to Turkey** aboard aircraft provided by the Ministry for the Armed Forces to support search, rescue and assistance operations alongside the Turkish authorities.

Also, **40 tons of food and emergency supplies** were sent to the affected regions in Turkey and Syria.

Subsequently, the CDCS committed **€12 million to 11 emergency humanitarian projects** to assist Syrian communities affected by the earthquakes.



Earthquakes in Turkey – Response by CDCS and civil security teams, February 2023

Spanning three to 12 months, these emergency projects targeted all priority sectors, including health, access to water and essential goods, access to food and food parcels, and providing shelter and emergency rehabilitation. Particular attention was given to the specific needs of pregnant women and newborns.

▶ SUDAN

In response to the conflict that broke out in Sudan in April 2023, the CDCS allocated **€17 million** to address the crisis. Due to limited humanitarian access in Sudan during the initial weeks of the conflict, **€9 million was allocated to NGOs operating in neighbouring countries** (Chad and South Sudan). This funding supported a multisectoral response, including shelter, water, food and health, to meet the essential needs of the refugee populations.

Subsequently, from the summer onwards, an **additional €8 million was allocated to international NGOs** to address the essential needs of internally displaced persons and host communities in the states of Gedaref, Al Jazirah and West Darfur, in anticipation of potentially improved access to Khartoum. Additional stabilization efforts enabled mediation between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Darfur to facilitate local ceasefires.

EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN FORUM

The second European Humanitarian Forum, co-organized by the European Commission and Sweden in its role as President of the Council of the EU, took place on 20 and 21 March 2023 in Brussels. The forum brought together representatives from all 27 EU Member States, various European institutions, and leading humanitarian organizations.

France participated in two round-table discussions at the forum: one on the efficiency and effectiveness of the humanitarian supply chain, and another marking the first anniversary of the **Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations and the Humanitarian Aid Donors' Declaration on Climate and the Environment**. The Declaration was adopted under the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union at the inaugural edition of the Forum in March 2022, co-organized by France and the Commission. France's participation in these discussions in 2023 enabled the CDCS to highlight its emergency response operations, improved logistical capabilities, and the integration of climate considerations into its humanitarian efforts.

▶ LIBYA

In response to the devastating floods triggered by storm Daniel, and at the request of the Libyan authorities, the CDCS collaborated with the Ministry for the Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas France to provide assistance to the disaster victims.



Libya – Aerial view of the civil security field hospital deployed by France, September 2023

Deployment of a field hospital

From 17 September to 11 October, France established a civil security field hospital (ESCRIM: Élément de Sécurité civile rapide d'intervention médicale) in Derna. The facility was operated by an **80-member medical team**, including surgeons, doctors, anaesthetists, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, health assistants and logistics staff.

The field hospital collaborated with local emergency services to provide medical and surgical care to the injured. **Equipped with an operating theatre and 14 hospital beds, the facility admitted and treated approximately 1,700 people.**

This operation received support and contributions from over **200 local and regional authorities** through the Territorial Communities External Action Fund (FACECO).

Alongside the deployment of the field hospital, France, through the CDCS, **supported several NGOs** (ACTED, Première Urgence Internationale and Supernovae) in delivering emergency assistance to flood-affected communities, including psycho-social support, primary healthcare, and the treatment of waterborne diseases and chronic illnesses.

▶ NAGORNO-KARABAKH



Delivery of medical equipment to the Radiation and Burns Hospital in Yerevan, October 2023

In the aftermath of Azerbaijan's military offensive on Nagorno-Karabakh on 19-20 September 2023, the CDCS tripled its emergency response budget to assist the displaced Armenian population from Nagorno-Karabakh who fled to Armenia to €2 million. The NGOs ACTED, Action Against Hunger and Médecins du Monde established projects to receive and support refugees, offering financial aid, mental health and psychosocial support and legal assistance, and rehabilitating collective shelters and accommodation sites, in close coordination with local authorities.

CNH CONFÉRENCE NATIONALE HUMANITAIRE 2023



The sixth National Humanitarian Conference took place on 19 December 2023.

Attendees included national and international humanitarian actors, members of parliament, journalists, academics, political decision-makers and business leaders.

During the event, the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs presented France's commitments under its Humanitarian Strategy for 2023-2027 (SHRF).

For more information: see p. 32.



Delivery of emergency humanitarian freight to Egypt for onward transport to Gaza, November 2023

▶ GAZA

Since October 2023, France has been actively engaged in providing assistance to the people of the Gaza Strip affected by bombings and shortages.

Emergency freight transport

In 2023, **France transported over 1,000 tons of emergency humanitarian freight in 20 operations to provide assistance to the civilian population of Gaza:**

- Medical supplies, including emergency kits, medicines, and three mobile medical units (see p. 26);
- Electric generators and solar lamps;
- Over **700 tons of nutrient-dense food** purchased by the World Food Programme (WFP) from Nutriset were transported to Egypt through a partner.

With the assistance of the Ministry for the Armed Forces, the European Union and corporate foundations, the goods were delivered to the Egyptian Red Crescent, the Palestinian Red Crescent, NGOs already operating in Gaza, and the World Food Programme, which were responsible for distributing aid to the affected populations.

Financial support

Following the International Humanitarian Conference for the Civilian Population in Gaza organized on 9 November 2023 at the initiative of the President of the French Republic, France announced that it would increase its humanitarian aid contribution for 2023 to **€100 million:**

- **€77 million** to support UN agencies;
- **€6 million** for the ICRC;

- **€17 million** for French and international NGOs.

Health support

France provides health support to the people of Gaza in close partnership with the Egyptian authorities:

- **Deployment of the amphibious helicopter carrier (PHA) Dixmude** off the coast of Arish in Egypt to treat patients requiring hospitalisation and surgery.

Medical teams from the French Military Health Service were reinforced by **120 medical personnel** from the health reserve and civil security. Medical staff from the United Kingdom, Belgium, Denmark, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan also joined the teams on the ground.

As a result of this unprecedented interministerial mobilization, nearly 1,200 consultations and 180 surgical procedures were performed aboard the Dixmude in 2023.

- In 2023, **France received injured Palestinian children**, treating them in paediatric hospital services.

France also provides support in close coordination with the Jordanian authorities

- Emergency supplies, including shelters and nutritional supplements, were transported on two cargo flights on 21 and 26 December 2023 and delivered to the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization to help the people of Gaza;
- **10 ambulances** were delivered to the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization to support two Jordanian field hospitals operating in Gaza;
- Medicines and medical supplies were provided to the Jordanian hospital in Gaza.

FRANCE'S HUMANITARIAN PRIORITIES

STRATÉGIE HUMANITAIRE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

2023 - 2027

The sixth National Humanitarian Conference was held in December 2023, co-organized by the Crisis and Support Centre and various humanitarian NGOs. During the event, the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs presented France's commitments as part of its **Humanitarian Strategy for 2023-2027 (SHRF)**. This updated strategy provides an opportunity to adapt France's humanitarian response to effectively meet emerging challenges.

Humanitarian space, described as a "common heritage" by the President of the French Republic, is under threat from violent conflicts that spare no one, not even those assisting affected communities on the ground. Barriers to humanitarian access, often part of deliberate

strategies, compound the challenges posed by violence against civilians, insufficient funding, and the tightening of administrative controls which impede the delivery of aid.

Against this backdrop, the President of the French Republic has committed to increasing humanitarian funding to €1 billion a year by 2025.

This increase is an ambitious decision, coming at a time when the gap between humanitarian funding and actual needs has never been greater. The action of the Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) and its Humanitarian and Stabilization Operations Department aligns with this dynamic to implement France's humanitarian priorities.



Delivery of medical supplies to Gaza, November 2023

► Upholding the principles of humanitarian action and ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law

Respecting and implementing international humanitarian law (IHL), upholding humanitarian principles, and preserving humanitarian space are priorities that France actively promotes and defends. This has been a longstanding commitment for the CDCS, leading to tangible results through several funded projects in 2023.



Speech by Philippe Lalliot, Director of the CDCS, at the National Humanitarian Conference on 19 December 2023.

► Protecting civilians and ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL)

In the Palestinian Territories, the CDCS provided **€1.75 million in support to the Norwegian Refugee Council in the West Bank** to prevent the forced displacement of civilian populations and violations of their fundamental rights. This project supports 27,650 people in the West Bank and East Jerusalem through multisectoral assistance, including access to social services, and legal aid to protect land rights. Additionally, the project enabled the implementation of an advocacy campaign to promote respect for international law and document violations of these rights. Since 7 October 2023, this project has also been providing assistance in the West Bank and East Jerusalem to prevent the forced displacement of Palestinians, including livelihood support, deployment of emergency shelters, and advocacy services.

As part of its "Humanitarian Innovation" call for projects, the CDCS allocated €750,000 to the NGO **Legal Action Worldwide (LAW)** to implement a legal assistance project for humanitarian workers victimized by attacks in Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan. This initiative supports 25 NGOs and

their staff, reinforcing France's efforts to combat impunity for attackers, and strengthen respect for and application of the principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

In Burkina Faso and Niger, the deteriorating political and security situation resulted in the suspension of cooperation initiatives with local authorities.

However, France continued its humanitarian aid for civilian populations. In Burkina Faso, the CDCS allocated €1 million in funding to the French Red Cross to provide emergency assistance to over 15,000 displaced people. This project addresses the humanitarian emergency in northern Burkina Faso by providing shelter and access to water.

In Syria, numerous crimes continue to be committed by all parties to the conflict. Violations of housing, land and property rights are among the most common, exacerbated by years of bombings targeting civilian homes. The CDCS supports the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) in its efforts to analyse and document human rights violations in Syria.

► Preserving humanitarian space

• Sanctions and humanitarian exemptions

The CDCS is actively engaged in evaluating the impact of United Nations and European Union sanction regimes on humanitarian aid. It contributes to improving the measures taken, by advocating for the introduction of humanitarian exemptions to ensure that the implementation of sanctions does not hinder the delivery of aid to the most vulnerable populations.

The CDCS advocated for **United Nations Security Council Resolution 2664**, which includes a humanitarian exemption within UN sanctions regimes to allow for the release of funds and provision of goods and services necessary for the delivery of humanitarian aid. This exemption limits the adverse effects of sanctions on humanitarian

space, particularly in Burma, Sudan, Niger, Gaza and Syria. The CDCS also supported the incorporation of this resolution into the European Union's autonomous sanctions regimes.

• Facilitating banking access for NGOs

The CDCS leads all dialogue between the government, banks and NGOs to facilitate access to banking services for humanitarian partners operating in crisis zones. In April 2021, a dedicated working group was set up, including relevant government departments (such as the Directorate-General for the Treasury and the banking supervisory authority, ACPR), NGOs and banking institutions. Its primary objective was to develop a guide of best banking practices for NGOs and banks, which was completed in December 2023.

► Adapting the humanitarian response to the proliferation of overlapping crises

In the space of a few years, the number of crises have multiplied and overlapped, with some evolving into chronic situations.

► Health issues

Conflicts, crises and disasters often hinder people and communities from accessing quality healthcare and essential services, including vaccination. The CDCS remains committed to facilitating access to healthcare in crisis situations.

- **In Ukraine**, the CDCS allocated €12 million to support a major healthcare project led by Expertise France. Conducted in coordination with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, this project combines emergency response actions, such as procuring medical supplies and equipment and rehabilitating critical infrastructure, with longer-term initiatives, including capacity-building and hospital cooperation. It aligns with the mAIDan platform, also supported by the French operator, which aims to mobilize French technical cooperation to assist Ukraine.



Crates of medicines and medical equipment for a mobile medical unit



MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT (MMU)

The CDCS can rapidly deploy Mobile Medical Units (MMU) with more than five tons of equipment (including resuscitation medications, antibiotics, dressings and medical equipment) typically used in hospital emergency rooms or by mobile emergency medical teams (SAMU) in the event of a disaster. Each MMU is designed to handle 500 serious casualties. **In 2023, a total of five MMUs were dispatched to crisis areas worldwide (Syria, Armenia and Gaza), treating a total of 2,500 seriously injured people.**

► Climate-related issues

Climate change, loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation are key factors contributing to or exacerbating crises and humanitarian needs.

It is one of the cross-cutting commitments of France's new Humanitarian Strategy, which aims to proactively address the humanitarian impacts of global warming and associated disasters while also assisting emergency organizations in reducing their carbon footprint. In 2023, over 30% of CDCS projects included climate-related considerations.

- **In Iraq**, the CDCS has provided €600,000 in support to **Agronomists and Veterinarians Without Borders** for a project aimed at strengthening the socio-economic, environmental and climate resilience of local communities in the marshlands region of the southern part of the country. This pilot project seeks to improve access for livestock farmers and fishermen to animal and human health services, while also helping to protect the biodiversity of this unique ecosystem. The project is also helping to sustainably improve the living conditions of 400 families.
- **In the Horn of Africa**, the CDCS has allocated €3 million to the **International Rescue Committee** to support populations affected by drought in southern Somalia and northern Kenya. The project addresses the essential needs of nearly 100,000 people by providing access to clean water, health and nutrition services. It aims to strengthen the resilience of the Somali population, including those who fled to Kenya to escape conflicts and extreme drought.
- **In Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands**, the CDCS has provided €750,000 to the **NGO ADRA Australia** (Adventist Development Relief Agency) to implement initiatives aimed at reducing disaster risks in the South Pacific. These initiatives focus on strengthening the resilience of people with disabilities and disaster management infrastructure. The project supports local stakeholders by establishing and strengthening inclusive management committees, directly led by local communities, and ensures access to safe shelter for vulnerable populations. The NGO organizes training sessions to improve disaster preparedness and evacuation centre management, while ensuring inclusive mobilization to strengthen community protection efforts.

► Gender issues



Afghanistan - Educational broadcast by Radio Begum

Gender inequality and sexual violence are exacerbated by crises and conflicts, with women, adolescents and girls being the primary victims. In 2019, France adopted its feminist foreign policy, prioritizing women's and girls' rights, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health and rights in its international actions. A total of 89% of CDCS funding supports initiatives that promote gender equality or have gender-related issues as their primary objective. In addition, the CDCS now pays particular attention to this issue across all of its projects.

- **In Afghanistan**, the CDCS has allocated €850,000 in funding to the **NGO Begum Organization for Women** to provide educational and recreational programmes to approximately 50,000 women and girls. The radio station, which broadcasts six days a week with six hours of educational programmes daily in Pashto and Dari, has expanded its geographical reach to include six provinces in Afghanistan. The project, which will run for two years, also aims to develop a distance learning platform.
- **In Nigeria**, the CDCS has provided €1 million for a project led by the **NGO Libraries Without Borders** in collaboration with the **NGO We Are NOT Weapons of War (WWoW)** to combat sexual violence by establishing an innovative system for accessing information and documenting cases. Working with civil society and local communities, the NGOs are developing technologies and content to prevent and combat sexual violence in Borno state, benefiting 15,000 individuals and involving 20 civil society organizations.

- **In Ukraine**, the CDCS is partnering with the NGO ACTED on a project to facilitate the return to in-person education in the Chernihiv region by renovating and rehabilitating school infrastructure, including bomb shelters to ensure the safety of students. The project also includes the supply of school furniture, IT equipment, materials, and buses to transport the children to school. With a budget of €12 million, this project is expected to support almost 37,500 direct and indirect beneficiaries, including 9,000 students, 1,350 school staff members, 120 organizations and 27,000 residents.



- **In Cameroon**, the CDCS has allocated €355,000 in funding to the NGO Tockem to facilitate access to education, focusing in particular on local economic opportunities for children and adolescents. The project includes educational support for 600 children and adolescents attending local francophone and anglophone schools.

▶ Education in emergencies

According to UNESCO, more than half the world's out-of-school population, totalling 127 million children and adolescents, live in a country affected by crisis or conflict. In this context, the CDCS funds projects aimed at improving access to education for the most affected children and adolescents.

▶ Localization of aid

In the first half of 2023, the CDCS engaged in consultations with 61 local humanitarian organizations to incorporate their recommendations into the development of France's Humanitarian Strategy for 2023-2027.

In Syria, for example, trust-based relationships have been built with local players over several years. The development of these partnerships is closely monitored, and funding is increased following successful pilot phases. Currently, 30% of the partners supported in Syria are local organizations. In 2023, the CDCS reinforced its partnership with the White Helmets, key players in the humanitarian response in north-western Syria. Support for this organization included an emergency response and post-earthquake clearance in February 2023, as well as addressing the needs of displaced persons in camps in winter, reaching over 100,000 people.



RISK MANAGEMENT

Given that CDCS humanitarian aid is provided in crisis and conflict areas, it is necessarily subject to a robust risk management policy that aligns with the French government's commitments, particularly in terms of anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT).

The CDCS's management policy is based on three pillars: risk identification, control through management monitoring, and awareness-raising and support initiatives.

- In 2023, 18 new NGO partners underwent risk mapping to assess their resilience and assist them in improving their internal procedures.
- Various actions are carried out during project implementation or after completion of projects led by

partners. A total of 43 audits were conducted to assess the administrative and financial governance of projects, as well as their security and operational effectiveness on the ground.

- A strategic evaluation was conducted of several projects funded from 2019 to early 2022 in Lebanon. The aim was to analyse the CDCS's capacity to respond to rapidly changing circumstances, such as the port explosion, socio-economic crisis, and the country's evolving needs.
- In 2023, the CDCS initiated two rapid assessments, scheduled for completion in early 2024. The first focused on the health sector as part of the emergency response in Ukraine, while the second examined the evolving humanitarian response in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover, focusing specifically on the impact on women's access to humanitarian aid and the services provided by the CDCS's NGO partners.

▶ Supporting humanitarian innovation and strengthening disaster response capacity

As part of its new Humanitarian Strategy adopted in 2023, France confirmed its commitment to achieving a target of one billion euros per year by 2025, aligning with the updated guidelines of the Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) on 18 July 2023. In particular, this involves supporting innovation and strengthening the capacity to respond to natural disasters.

▶ Support for innovation

In 2023, the CDCS launched the third Humanitarian Innovation call for projects, with a total budget of €3 million. The priority focus areas were the protection of humanitarian action, and the mainstreaming of environmental, climate and gender considerations into the design of emergency humanitarian action. The selection process for the 2023 call for projects paid particular attention to the inclusive nature of the projects and the collaborative approach taken, involving NGOs and local stakeholders.

Since 2023, the NGO Aviation Sans Frontières has been running a pilot project in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo to improve support for victims of gender-based violence. This initiative involves developing a zero-emission drone supply chain to deliver emergency kits. Ten humanitarian organizations specializing in health, severe malnutrition and rapid response operations will benefit from this project.

Vanuatu – Reconnaissance flight by Armed Forces in New Caledonia following cyclones Kevin and Judy, March 2023

▶ Strengthening disaster response capacity

France's emergency response to disasters involves carrying out emergency operations. Deliveries of aid-in-kind and the mobilization of a range of expert skills are facilitated by advance preparation, which includes the strategic pre-positioning of regional stocks and the strengthening of partnerships, such as that with the French Red Cross for natural disaster response. This is a commitment of France's humanitarian strategy.



In March 2023, France delivered nearly 30 tons of emergency supplies from New Caledonia to Vanuatu. In addition, following the impact of tropical cyclones Kevin and Judy, three reconnaissance flights were conducted to assess the damage, with the support of the Ministry for the Armed Forces (Armed Forces in New Caledonia).

▶ Deploying agile and effective humanitarian aid through diversified and renewed partnerships

▶ Common European humanitarian policy



European Union Humanitarian Air Bridge – Delivery of emergency supplies to the DRC, March 2023

At the first European Humanitarian Forum in 2022, initiated under the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the President of the French Republic called for the development of a “common humanitarian policy”. The CDCS aligns with this initiative by coordinating its actions more closely with the EU and its mechanisms.

In 2023, over 25 emergency operations were conducted in collaboration with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM), enabling the transport of over 1,300 tons of humanitarian goods and the deployment of specialized teams and practitioners in areas including health, demining, rescue, and forest firefighting.

The CDCS also actively participated in the European Union’s humanitarian air bridge to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Between March and April 2023, the CDCS contributed €400,000 to fund two of the seven flights operated by the European Union and France’s humanitarian air bridge, aimed at supporting vulnerable populations in Goma and the surrounding areas. These flights enabled the delivery of 260 tons of medical supplies, shelter materials, hygiene kits and

nutritional supplements to the CDCS’s international NGO partners in cooperation with the Humanitarian Logistics Cooperative (Hulo).

▶ Local authority support for humanitarian aid

Local and regional authorities can play a role in international emergency response efforts. They can contribute to the Territorial Communities External Action Fund (FACECO) to participate in emergency aid efforts coordinated by the government. FACECO is a support fund managed by the Crisis and Support Centre. Established in 2013, this fund enables local authorities to provide financial support to projects identified by the CDCS that provide emergency assistance to victims of humanitarian crises worldwide.

In 2023, 726 French local authorities contributed €6.1 million to humanitarian response efforts in four crises (Türkiye/Syria, Ukraine, Morocco, and Libya).

- In the aftermath of the earthquake that struck Morocco on the night of 8 to 9 September 2023, the CDCS provided an exceptional financial aid package of €5 million. Local and regional authorities and businesses also contributed to the emergency response through the FACECO and the corporate support fund. These funds supported the emergency response efforts of French and international non-governmental organizations (Care, Humanity & Inclusion, Islamic Relief France and Electricians Without Borders), as well as Moroccan civil society organizations in sectors such as water, health and psycho-social support, and through the distribution of emergency kits. This aid provided support to 29,100 direct beneficiaries and 80,600 indirect beneficiaries.

▶ Interministerial cooperation

On several occasions, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs has served as emergency response coordinator, working in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas France, the Ministry for the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Solidarity, among others.

Interministerial cooperation was further strengthened in 2023, particularly with the Ministry of the Interior and Overseas France and the Ministry for the Armed Forces, resulting in 31 joint emergency operations.

▶ Partnership with the private sector

The Crisis and Support Centre’s extensive network of private partners, including the CMA CGM Foundation, Airbus Foundation, Veolia Foundation, S Foundation (Sanofi), along with Electricians Without Borders, the Tulipe association, and corporations such as Enedis, EDF, Nutriset, and Lactalis, has contributed to 26 emergency operations across the transport, energy, health, nutrition, and water sectors. This collaboration has enabled the CDCS to deliver a comprehensive, high-quality humanitarian response that addresses the specific needs of affected communities.

The last operation of 2023 involved the delivery of 50 tons of therapeutic food to Jordan on 26 December, using an Airbus A330. The contribution by Nutriset in partnership with the Airbus Foundation was to support the people of Gaza.



THE FRANZ PARTNERSHIP



The annual meeting of the FRANZ partners (France, Australia and New Zealand) on coordinating emergency responses for South Pacific States affected by natural disasters was held in Noumea on 5 May 2023, marking the 30th anniversary of the declaration of intent signed in December 1992. Organized under French leadership (before handing over to Australia for a two-year term on 1 July 2023), this meeting provided an opportunity for France to confirm its commitment to the region and to advocate for strengthened cooperation and operational efficiency within FRANZ.



Mobile water treatment units sent to Ukraine by the Veolia Foundation

The private sector can also offer assistance through a dedicated corporate support fund managed by the CDCS.

► France's Humanitarian Strategy 2023-2027

The new Humanitarian Strategy for 2023-2027 reaffirms France's position as one of the leading international donors and adjusts its humanitarian response approaches to meet emerging challenges.



- View **France's Humanitarian Strategy 2023-2027**:

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/emergency-humanitarian-action/national-humanitarian-conference/#:~:text=at%20previous%20Conferences-,2023%3A%20the%20sixth%20Conference,-The%20sixth%20National>



► The 2023 National Humanitarian Conference



The sixth National Humanitarian Conference took place on 19 December 2023. During this event, the new French Humanitarian Strategy for 2023-2027 was unveiled.

Over 300 national and international attendees, including members of parliament, journalists, academics, political decision-makers and business leaders attended the event. **Three round table discussions** were organized to facilitate exchanges on the implementation strategies of France's Humanitarian Strategy for 2023-2027 and the key challenges facing humanitarian action.



- Watch or replay the debates from the **sixth National Humanitarian Conference**:

https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/action-humanitaire-d-urgence/actualites-et-evenements/article/conference-nationale-humanitaire-cnh#sommaire_2



MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

VOUS VOYAGEZ À L'ÉTRANGER ? AYEZ LES BONS RÉFLEXES SUR

diplomatie.gouv.fr

1. CONSULTEZ LES

Conseils
aux voyageurs

Toutes les recommandations pour préparer votre voyage, par pays et destination.

Retrouvez-nous sur Twitter
[@ConseilsVoyages](#)
et sur l'application.

2. INSCRIVEZ-VOUS SUR

fil d'Ariane
vos alertes voyage

Si la situation le justifie, vous recevrez des messages d'alerte et des consignes de sécurité durant votre voyage.

AU SERVICE DE MILLIONS DE VOYAGEURS CHAQUE ANNÉE

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
Crisis and Support Centre

37 Quai d'Orsay, 75007 Paris, France
[@francediplo](#) / [@CdCMAE](#) / [@ConseilsVoyages](#)

© MEAE 2024

Cover photograph: Delivery of medical supplies for the people of Gaza – El Arish airport, November 2023

© E. Bucker/MEAE

Layout design: Iskouhi Mouradian