



AFD and Governance

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20 projects

devoted exclusively to
governance since 2016

EUR 1bn

committed for projects with a
governance component
in 2017

29 countries

of operation

Towards a social and political climate conducive to development

By helping governments to more effectively fulfill their sovereign functions and civil society to be involved in collective decision-making, AFD is taking up the challenge of inclusive development, initiated by the relevant populations. It intervenes at the request of its partners to implement projects tailored to local needs and contexts.

#WorldInCommon

OUR ACTION IN THE FIELD OF GOVERNANCE

1 Democracy and justice

In 2017, some 36% of the world's population was living in a country considered as undemocratic¹. Yet it is essential for citizens to be able to choose their representatives and express their needs in order to take part in development. This goes hand in hand with a rule of law which guarantees the security of people and freedom of expression.

AFD promotes better access to rights and seeks to improve citizen participation. It supports electoral processes by promoting transparency and digital tools accessible to all.

Support for the media is also essential in their role of informing and acting as a relay for civil society actors. This involves developing independent media, organizing regulation and financing edutainment campaigns.

AFD also strengthens the justice sector as a whole. It supports public policies in this field, from training legal professionals to the construction of judicial infrastructures, and including sharing French legal expertise and improving living conditions for detainees.

¹ Source : Freedom in the world 2017, Report by the NGO Freedom House, 2017.

2 Public finance management and public sector organization

To fulfill its sovereign functions and be in a position to provide citizens with basic services essential to development and poverty reduction, the State must obtain and manage its financial resources, but also be organized in order to allocate them in an efficient, transparent and equitable manner.

The management of policies and public finances, transparency, administrative modernization, decentralization and the protection of populations are therefore a major focus.

In addition to direct financial support for the implementation or reform of public policies, AFD seeks to make its action sustainable by building the capacities of administrations through training, experience sharing or technical expertise. This may concern both the very content of reforms and the way in which the relevant bodies are organized.

3 Migration policies and enhancing diasporas' contributions

While migrations may pose challenges, they also represent real opportunities for development. Diasporas are major investors in their countries, whether via cash remittances or through the creation of economic activities. In 2017, according to the World Bank, diasporas transferred some USD 450bn, i.e. three times the amount of Official Development Assistance.

To capitalize on this resource, AFD supports diaspora initiatives by financing, for example, business creation, innovative activities, and platforms to facilitate payments abroad. It also works with local authorities in France and Europe to promote the contributions made by these communities.

At the same time, programs to support public policies for migration in territories of origin or transit make it possible to target the causes of forced migrations, in particular by improving living and travel conditions.

4 Governance to support all projects

A large proportion of AFD projects concern specific sectors – health, education, water, transport, energy..., but also include a “governance” component. It mainly involves helping to structure these sectors, in particular via the implementation of public policies. All the areas in which AFD operates may be concerned: this is what is called sectoral governance.

For example, a health-related project will not simply train hospital staff, but will also build the competencies of the administration in order to ensure a sustainable and efficient management of human resources. This guarantees the effectiveness and sustainability of projects by having a broader and more long-term impact.