French Development Cooperation

Development policies

The main objective of the French development cooperation policy is to support the global efforts to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development in accordance with the UN Millennium Development Goals. In view of its commitment to human development, French Public Development Aid (PDA) concentrates on poverty reduction and basic human needs, economic and social development and the promotion of democracy. Other priorities of French cooperation are urban development and the support of decentralization, development on the regional level and natural resources management.

Priority countries

French development cooperation is focused on developing countries included in the Priority Solidarity Zone.

Priority areas

The priority sectors of French development cooperation are as follows:

- Poverty reduction
- Education
- Water and sanitation
- Basic health and fighting AIDS
- Agriculture and food security
- Protection of the environment
- Transport and infrastructures
- Development of the productive sector

The following cross-cutting themes are supported by the French development cooperation: governance, sustainable development and gender equality.

Coordination and implementation

Sector based strategic orientations for French Public Development Aid and its geographic priorities are defined by the Interministerial Committee of International Cooperation and Development (CICID). Deployment of the PDA is carried out by three main partners: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE), the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industry (MINEFI) and the French Development Agency (AFD), the central operator for French cooperation in the Priority Solidarity Zone (ZSP). The ZSP incorporates developing countries which may benefit the financial instruments deployed by the MAE, the MINEFI and the AFD. The AFD is responsible for deploying initiatives in the sectors of education, health care, agriculture and food security, infrastructures, water and water treatment, the productive sector, the environment and biodiversity.