

## KEY QUESTION

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## What are France's strategic priorities for development?

### Focus on climate change, peace and stability, and sub-Saharan Africa

In 2016, France's Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) – the body in charge of setting the strategic direction of France's development cooperation – committed to aligning France's development policy to the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The committee reiterated the overarching priorities of French ODA policy: fighting poverty and inequality; the promotion of human rights, education, and health; accelerating transitions in energy, ecological sustainability, demographics, and governance; crisis response and prevention; and migration management. Under this framework, the CICID committed to strengthening its efforts in six specific areas: 1) education, 2) health, 3) the fight against malnutrition and the improvement of access to water and sanitation, 4) gender equality, 5) digital technology and development, and 6) culture as a medium for the SDGs.

Currently, tackling climate change is the key priority of French development policy and will remain so. In 2015, France hosted the Conference of Parties (COP21),<sup>2</sup> and has made the implementation of the agreement reached in Paris in 2015 a top priority of its development policy. In the run up to the conference, France announced that half of the €4-billion annual increase in ODA loans by 2020 would be allocated to climate change-related programs. This brings up France's total annual contribution to the fight against climate change in developing countries from €3 billion to €5 billion per year; €2 billion of this funding over the 2016 to 2020 period will be dedicated specifically to renewable energies in Africa.

Within its overall foreign policy, France focuses heavily on fighting terrorism. This impacts development spend-

### France's key development priorities:

- **Climate change:** Increase in annual funding to combat climate change in developing countries from €3 billion to €5 billion by 2020; €1-billion pledge to the Green Climate Fund for 2015 to 2018; €2 billion for renewable energies in Africa between 2016 and 2020.
- **Peace and stability:** Increasing focus on development programs that promote peace and stability to fight terrorism; focus is on the Sahel region.
- **Health:** Strong support to multilateral organizations, particularly the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and UNITAID.

ing as France increasingly uses development cooperation as a way to promote peace and stability in partner countries to address terrorism-related threats. It does so particularly in the Sahel region of Africa, for example in Mali, where financial support to health and to water and sanitation projects accompanies France's military and political interventions. From 2017 onwards, France will allocate €100 million per year to a facility for alleviating vulnerability and responding to crises, managed by the French Development Agency (AFD). The facility will focus on countries in crisis, post-crisis, or otherwise vulnerable situations.

France is a pioneer in using innovative financing mechanisms to fund development programs. France currently allocates half of the revenues from its financial transaction tax (FTT) to development and climate programs (reaching almost €800 million in 2017). In addition, it

<sup>2</sup> The Paris Climate Conference, or COP 21, was the 21st Conference to take place within the framework of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCCC) in September 2015 in Paris. The 196 participating members came to an agreement to fight climate change and limit global warming to well below 2° above preindustrial levels. Developed countries have committed to mobilize US\$ 100 billion each year (until 2020) to support climate action in developing countries.

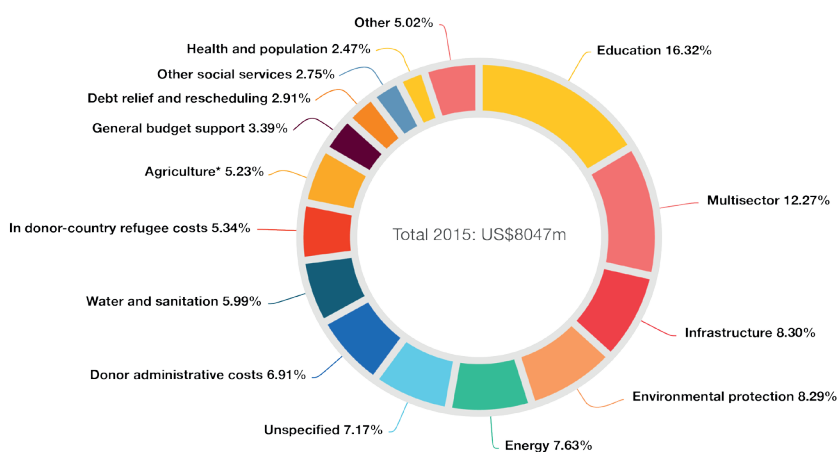
uses proceeds from an airline ticket tax to fund UNICEF, a global health initiative, and is the second-largest contributor to the International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm) (see 'Deep Dive: global health' for more details).

**Most of France's ODA is bilateral assistance, and one third of that goes to infrastructure and education**

France delivers 62% of its ODA bilaterally. The largest share goes to education: in 2015, education constituted 16% of French bilateral ODA (US\$1.3 billion). However, 58% of this comprises costs for students from developing countries studying in France, which can be reported as ODA. Thus, the vast share of France's education ODA does not go to actual projects in developing countries.

The second-largest sector of French bilateral ODA is allocated to multi-sector projects (12%, US\$987 million). The majority of these projects falls under the scope of urban development and management in developing countries (81% of the spending). Infrastructure comes third, at 8% of ODA (US\$668 million). This is comprised mostly of French Development Agency (AFD) loans for infrastructure projects in middle-income countries. Environmental protection and energy are other focus areas, each accounting for 8% of France's bilateral ODA (respectively US\$667 million and US\$614 million). Both areas will gain further importance in the next four years: on the one hand, the government has pledged to step up its funding to support the fight against climate change by €2 billion by 2020; on the other hand, France has committed to support renewable energies in Africa alone by €2 billion between 2016 and 2020.

FRANCE'S BILATERAL ODA BY SECTOR



Source: OECD CRS. \*Includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and rural development.