

KEY QUESTIONS

the big six

2 ●×
××

What are France's priorities for global development?

Education, climate change, and global health are key focus areas; security concerns shape priority-setting

In February 2018, France's Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID) – the body in charge of setting the strategic direction of France's development cooperation – reaffirmed its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the protection of global public goods. The committee also reiterated the overarching goal of French development policy: fighting poverty and inequality; human rights, education, and health; accelerating transitions in energy, ecological sustainability, demographics, and governance; crisis response and prevention; and migration management.

In line with this, the CICID committed to strengthening France's efforts in five areas: 1) international stability, 2) climate change, 3) education, 4) gender equality, and 5) global health.

President Emmanuel Macron has elevated global education as a priority of his government's development policy. In February 2018, France co-hosted the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Financing Conference in Dakar, Senegal, which raised a total of US\$2.3 billion in donor contributions for 2018 to 2020. France committed €200 million (US\$260 million using GPE's official conversion) over three years to the GPE Fund, which will be accompanied by €100 million in bilateral funding for basic education channeled through the French Development Agency (AFD). This is more than double the US\$146 million cumulative contribution of France since 2002. As of December 2018, France was the 10th-largest contributor in GPE's history.

Tackling climate change is another priority and will remain so under Macron, who has made it a flagship theme of his presidency. In 2015, France hosted the Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nation's climate convention and has made the implementation of the agreement a top priority of his government's foreign and development policy. France plans to increase financing for climate-related programs by €2 billion (US\$2.3 billion) per year between 2015 and 2020. Additionally, funding for climate-adaptation programs is set to reach €1.5 billion (US\$1.7 billion) per year by then. In total, €3 billion (US\$3.4 billion) of this funding over the 2016-2020 period will be dedicated specifically to renewable energies in Africa.

2018 CICID conclusions outlined five key development priorities:

- **Education:** Co-chair of the GPE Funding Conference in February 2018; total pledge of €300 million for education, both through the fund and bilaterally.
- **Climate change:** Increase in annual funding in partner countries; €1-billion pledge to the Green Climate Fund for 2015 to 2018; €3 billion for renewable energies in Africa between 2016 and 2020.
- **Health:** Key in France's multilateral engagement; host of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria sixth replenishment in October 2019
- **Peace and stability:** Increasing focus on development programs that promote peace and stability to fight terrorism; focus is on the Sahel region.
- **Innovative financing:** France is a pioneer in innovative financing for development. It draws resource for development for its financial transaction tax (FTT) and its airline tax.

Global health remains a key focus, particularly on the multilateral level. France will host the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) sixth replenishment on October 10, 2019 in Lyon. It is also a strong contributor to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), and UNITAID.

Within its overall foreign policy, France focuses on fighting terrorism. This impacts development spending, as France increasingly uses development cooperation to promote peace and stability in partner countries. This drives a strong focus on the Sahel region of Africa, where development projects accompany France's military and political interventions. In July 2017, Macron launched the Sahel Alliance (Alliance avec le Sahel), a joint initiative of France, Germany, and the EU, along with the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the UN Development Program (UNDP), to better coordinate support for development and security in the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger).

Related to this and increased attention to conflict-affected and fragile states, France increasingly focuses on the intersection of humanitarian aid and development. It will dedicate €500 million (US\$564 million) per year by 2022 to urgent humanitarian action and post-crisis stabilization. In March 2017, it created a facility for alleviating

vulnerability and responding to crises, managed by the AFD: the Minka Fund. The facility focuses on countries in crisis, post-crisis, or otherwise vulnerable situations, and was allocated €100 million (US\$113 million) in 2017. Funding for this facility will double to reach €200 million (US\$225 million) a year by 2019.