



*Fund for Innovation
in Development*

Activity Report

2021-2024



Established in December 2020 and chaired by Esther Duflo, the Fund for Innovation in Development (FID) is a pioneering initiative that provides funding for social, technological, or organizational innovations aimed at tackling poverty and inequality.

FID is an independent structure hosted by Agence Française de Développement (AFD). It is supported by the French Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty and the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

At the heart of its approach: synergies between innovation and research teams to pilot, test, and evaluate the impact of projects using rigorous scientific methods. FID's long-term ambition is to help improve public policy by supporting the scale-up of innovations that have demonstrated their effectiveness.

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“A Collective Investment in Innovative Solutions”

Esther Duflot

Chair of the FID Board of Directors, Nobel Laureate in Economics (2019)

The past thirty years have seen remarkable progress in the fight against poverty. Yet major challenges still lie ahead: more than fifty countries are either in a debt crisis or at serious risk of entering one, and the climate crisis is hitting the most vulnerable the hardest. Addressing these challenges requires a more effective form of international cooperation—one built on risk-sharing mechanisms, the strengthening of global public goods, and a collective investment in innovative solutions.

In this context, international cooperation and partnership policies have a crucial role to play by enabling the emergence of new approaches; and, when a breakthrough solution demonstrates proven impact, by encouraging its adoption and rollout in other settings to maximize its reach and effectiveness.

This is precisely the approach taken by the Fund for Innovation in Development (FID). Created following the recommendations of the report on “Modernizing France’s Development Partnership Policy” led by Member of Parliament Hervé Berville, FID launched its first call for proposals in 2021. With a call for proposals

open throughout the year, it has already supported nearly one hundred projects aimed at improving the lives of the most vulnerable populations in low- and middle-income countries. The use of rigorous impact evaluation methodologies has made it possible to identify the most promising projects for broader implementation—ensuring public funding is used effectively

to support these initiatives.

The path charted by FID is one that deserves to grow—and to inspire us all! 🌱

FID has already supported nearly a hundred projects aimed at improving the lives of the most vulnerable populations in low- and middle-income countries.



*“FID Helps Bring the **Most Effective Solutions to Light**”*

Bertrand Dumont
Director General
of the French Treasury

Anne Grillo
Director General for Global Affairs and Cultural and Economic
Diplomacy, French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

France’s policy for international partnerships is rooted in a commitment to continuous improvement—and the Fund for Innovation in Development (FID) is a prime example of that ambition.

FID was established in 2020, with the goal of promoting innovation, encouraging rigorous evaluation, and strengthening the impact of its actions in close collaboration with partner countries. Since it was created, FID has received over 3,500 applications from across the globe. Of these, 98 of the most compelling proposals—chosen through a rigorous selection process—have been supported to highlight the role of innovation as a driver in the fight against poverty, gender inequality, and the protection of global public goods. One project in Côte d’Ivoire helped develop reliable, low-cost home-based lead testing kits; another in Senegal demonstrated the positive impact of a digital tool designed to streamline property tax management in Dakar. These examples offer just a glimpse into the rich diversity of

innovation made possible through FID—and we warmly encourage you to explore the full breadth of these efforts in this report.

By combining a high bar for selection with phases of experimentation, scale-up opportunities, risk-taking, and hands-on support, FID’s approach helps surface new and highly effective solutions tailored to the needs of our partners. It paves the way for more impactful, sustainable public policies—particularly in least developed countries and across Africa—and ensures that public funds earmarked for France’s policy for international partnerships and sustainable investment are used wisely and effectively.

Let us continue—driven by rigor and resolve—to champion innovation in meeting the pressing challenges of our world! 🌍

**France’s policy
for international
partnerships is rooted
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example.**

The Fund for Innovation in Development (FID) supports new solutions aimed at improving the lives of the most vulnerable populations. Open to all types of actors and innovations, the fund prioritizes effectiveness by seeking evidence of impact and adopts a tiered approach to supporting projects.

“An Ongoing Dialogue Between Innovation and Research”

Nearly one-third of health centers in Madagascar are unreachable by road for part of the year. NGO Population Services International is piloting the use of drones to deliver essential medicines to these remote areas.



Juliette Seban
FID Executive Director

How does FID define innovation?

We take an open and inclusive view of innovation: it can be technological, social, organizational, or financial. The only requirement is that it have the potential to improve the status quo. We also firmly believe that innovation can emerge in any context.

That's why we run an open call for proposals—welcoming a wide range of actors, from academia and public institutions to civil society and private enterprises, with no sectoral restrictions. We specifically target solutions implemented in low- and middle-income countries. All ideas are welcome!

What is FID's funding approach?

Our funding model is tiered.

Projects receive grants tailored to their level of maturity—whether to prototype or pilot an early idea, to rigorously evaluate its impact, to initiate a first scale-up

©Population Services International

or to support its deployment through public entities.

Half of the 3,500 applications we have received from 101 countries since our launch focus on early-stage innovation—where funding is often hardest to secure. **This highlights the importance of continuing to support experimentation, by giving promising ideas the means to prove themselves and attract larger-scale financing.** Through this step-by-step approach, we help nurture an ecosystem of high-potential innovations to fight poverty and inequality.

How are impact and learning central to your mission?

Our goal is to identify effective solutions to reduce poverty and inequality. **Each stage of project development is accompanied by research activities and a tailored learning agenda, built on ongoing dialogue between innovation and research.** At the Preparation and Pilot stages, teams test ideas in real-world conditions and learn—through rigorous monitoring and evaluation—how to move from concept to implementation. At the Impact Evaluation stage, research teams scientifically assess the causal impact of the solutions being deployed. At the Scaling Up stage, organizations experiment with scaling strategies and work on transferring capacity to the right partners. By maintaining this strong link between innovation and research, we ensure robust approaches while generating actionable knowledge for the wider community. 🌱

Our Three Selection Criteria



EVIDENCE OF IMPACT

The innovation must significantly improve the lives of vulnerable populations.



COST-EFFECTIVENESS

The innovation must deliver better outcomes at a lower or comparable cost.



POTENTIAL FOR SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The innovation must be replicable and scalable, with the capacity to improve the lives of millions of people.

We Fund Innovations at Different Stages of Development



Fostering the Development of New Ideas

STAGE 0 (up to €50K)

PREPARATION to lay the groundwork for a pilot or an impact evaluation, depending on the project's level of maturity.



Developing and Evaluating Promising Ideas

STAGE 1 (up to €200K)

PILOTE to test an innovation in real-world conditions.



Supporting Scale-Up

STAGE 2 (up to €1.5M)

IMPACT EVALUATION to rigorously assess the impact of innovations that have already undergone a real-world pilot.



Promoting a Culture of Evidence Within Public Institutions

STAGE 3 (jusqu'à 4 M€)

SCALING UP to support the large-scale rollout of innovations with proven impact.

TRANSFORMING PUBLIC POLICY (up to €500K)

INNOVATION AND PUBLIC POLICY to help adapt a proven innovation for large-scale deployment by a public entity (formerly TPP Type 1).

EVIDENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY to strengthen evidence-based decision-making within public entities (formerly TPP Type 2).

SNAPSHOT OF THE PORTFOLIO

FID at a Glance

Through its grants for supporting innovations, FID contributes to advancing the global fight against poverty and inequality across all low- and middle-income countries.

LATIN AMERICA

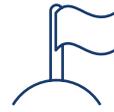
1 project



98
projects
funded



€50.1 M
committed



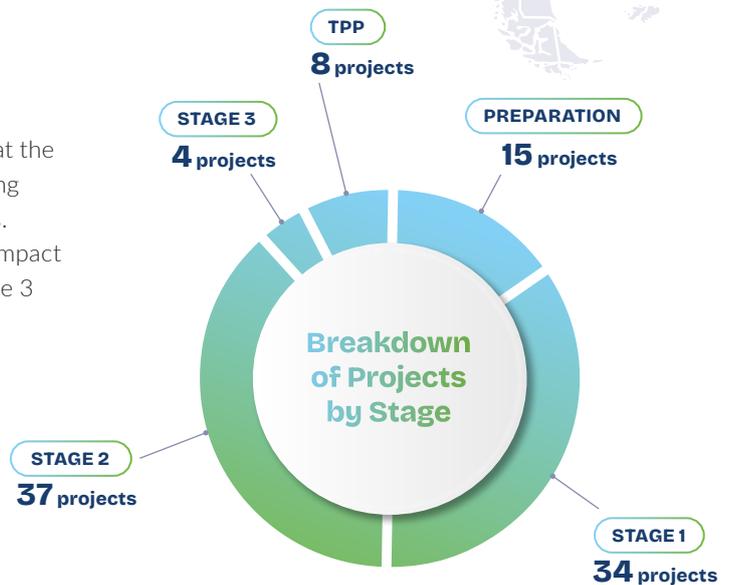
30
countries
represented



61%
of projects located
in low-income
countries

50% of Funded Projects Are in the Early Stages

Half of FID's portfolio supports innovations at the very beginning of their development, receiving Preparation (Stage 0) or Pilot (Stage 1) grants. The remaining half is focused on evaluating impact (Stage 2) or supporting scale-up efforts (Stage 3 and Transforming Public Policy – TPP).



90% of Funding Allocated to Projects in Africa

Geographic distribution of our investments by country and sub-region



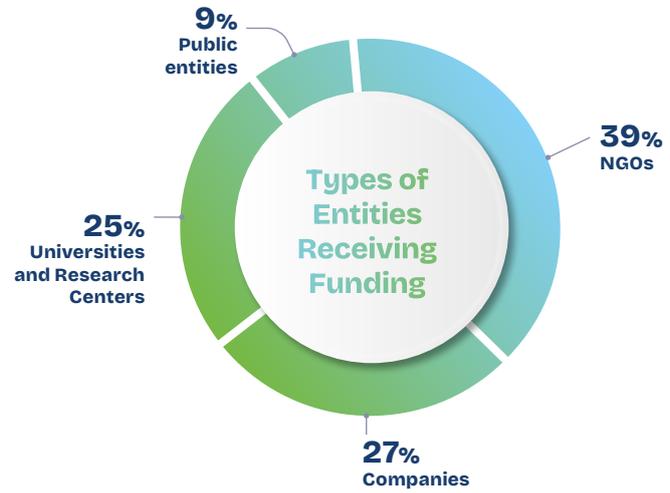
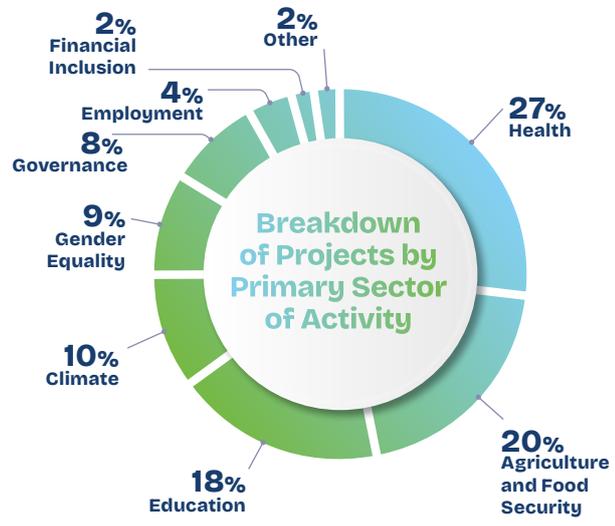
Grants for projects in Niger and Burkina Faso have been suspended since August 2023, following the suspension of French development aid in these countries.

Innovations Across All Sectors

The solutions supported by FID address the challenges of poverty and inequality across a wide range of sectors. 100% of projects contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

178 Organizations funded

FID supports all types of actors engaged in innovation: NGOs, companies, startups, universities, and public entities.



PANORAMA OF PROJECTS

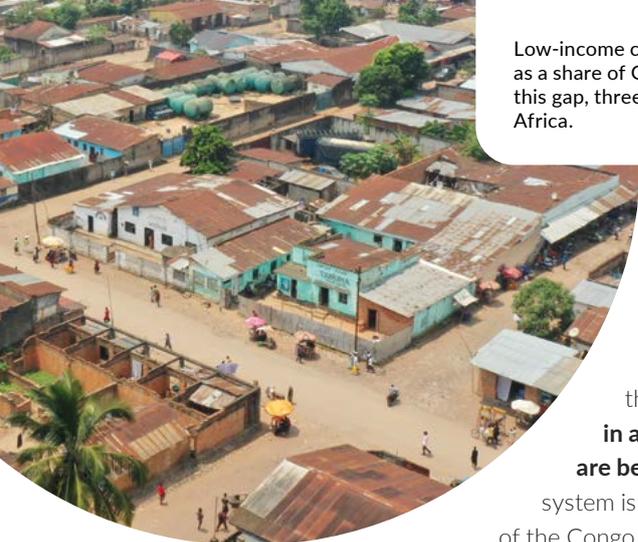
Technological, social, organizational, or financial innovations –FID supports all types of solutions aimed at development challenges that have not yet been adequately addressed by public policy, or for which adequate solutions are still lacking. These solutions have the potential to be more readily deployable and more cost-effective than existing alternatives.

Testing Innovative Solutions to Development Challenges



Learn more about the projects: <https://fundinnovation.dev/en/projects>

Low-income countries collect four times less tax revenue as a share of GDP than high-income countries¹. To address this gap, three innovative approaches are being tested in Africa.



©ODEKA

Boosting Tax Revenues Through Digital Technologies

Tax revenues are essential for financing public services and social policies. Yet in low-income countries, property tax remains largely underutilized—mainly due to difficulties in valuing properties and the lack of automated digital systems. **To improve tax collection in a more efficient and equitable way, several innovative solutions are being tested.** In The Gambia, a geospatial coordinate-based address system is helping identify and register properties. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a progressive tax adjusts property owners' contributions based on the value of their property. In Senegal, a digital application combined with satellite data enables more accurate property assessments. FID is supporting strategic impact evaluations of these three projects, conducted in close collaboration between national tax authorities and research teams.

Technical Innovations to Reduce Agricultural Losses

In Africa, 37% of crops are lost, largely due to a lack of accessible storage solutions². **FID supports several initiatives aimed at reducing post-harvest losses.** In Kenya, where fruit farmers experience up to 50% spoilage, the company Shambani Pro has set up micro-factories run by women to transform unsold or second-grade fruit into high-quality products for export. In Cameroon, where cassava is widely cultivated, the company CassVita has developed a biotechnology that extends cassava's shelf life from 2 days to 18 months. These initiatives help increase the incomes of smallholder farmers, who are among the hardest hit by post-harvest losses.



©Derrick Milimo/Shambani Pro

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), nearly one-third of global food production is wasted². Several projects are working to tackle these losses across Africa.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), only 27% of patients' blood needs are met in Nigeria³. HemoClear is developing an innovative transfusion system to help fill this critical gap.

Addressing Blood Shortages Through Autologous Transfusion

Every year, 80,000 women die during childbirth in Nigeria due to a lack of safe, quality-assured blood. **The company HemoClear has developed a technology that enables patients to reuse their own blood through a microfiltration process that isolates blood cells—this is known as autologous transfusion.** Already tested in the UK, this system simplifies and accelerates blood collection and purification, leading to better patient recovery and reduced transfusion-related costs. FID is supporting a pilot project to test this technology in Nigerian hospitals, in partnership with the country's National Blood Service Agency.



©HemoClear

PREPARATION AND PILOT STAGES

Access to funding for the design, prototyping, and initial testing of innovations is often scarce for new or emerging actors. FID offers two dedicated funding windows to support experimentation from the earliest stages of conception and implementation. Projects at the Preparation and Pilot stages represent half of FID's portfolio.

An estimated 1.2 million deaths could be prevented each year in Nigeria with improved emergency medical care. The company Emergency Response Africa has piloted a promising community-based first response system.

Supporting the Journey from Idea to Experimentation



15

Preparation grants
(Stage 0) currently in
the portfolio



34

Pilot grants
(Stage 1) currently
in the portfolio

Innovators must overcome many hurdles before becoming eligible for large-scale funding. To support them from the outset, FID offers Preparation grants (Stage 0), primarily targeting first-time recipients of institutional funding and actors from the Global South. Pilot grants (Stage 1), in turn, enable teams to conduct initial real-world tests of their innovations.

Testing the Viability of Promising Solutions for Vulnerable Populations

Pregnant women and young children are especially vulnerable to the toxic effects of lead, which can cause long-term cognitive impairment and severe behavioral disorders.

In Côte d'Ivoire, a consortium of Ivorian, American, and French research centers, led by the Institut de Recherche pour le



©Emergency Response Africa

Développement (IRD), tested simple self-assessment kits designed to detect lead in homes. The results revealed a worrying prevalence of lead: one in three households tested exceeded the recommended safety levels. **Moreover, the self-test proved reliable in 94% of cases and was well-suited for autonomous use. Combined with awareness-raising campaigns, this approach offers a promising response to a serious public health risk.** At the end of the project, women living in affected homes were able to identify at least one preventive measure to help protect their children from lead poisoning.

Supporting the Growth of Innovations

To give the most promising innovations every chance of success, FID provides progressive funding that allows projects to move through different stages of development within its portfolio. Following a successful Preparation grant, four projects advanced to the Pilot stage. One such example is *TontineRe*, a reinsurance product developed by the Cameroonian NGO Social Broker for informal insurance associations known as *tontines*. **The synergy between these two FID funding stages enabled the team to refine their innovative insurance product and then test it over the course of a year with 80 tontines.**

Two projects that demonstrated their viability at the pilot stage were subsequently awarded an Impact Evaluation grant. For example, with initial support through a Pilot grant, the NGO Wezesha tested a mobile app in Tanzania that collects real-time patient feedback on health-care services. **The success of this first pilot led FID to fund a large-scale impact evaluation to measure how the app affects the quality of healthcare delivery for the most vulnerable populations.**

Building Innovators' Capacity For Impact Evaluation

FID also supports the capacity-building of innovators in the field of impact evaluation. The Summer School on Development Methodologies, co-organized with Agence Française de Développement, the Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), and—for the 2023 and 2024 editions—the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Rabat, aims to promote the integration of rigorous impact evaluation methods in the development of innovations and the design of public policies.

Our contribution notably includes the Incubator track, which brought together 50 participants over the last two editions. This one-week module offers FID grantees training sessions, hands-on workshops, and networking opportunities with potential partners. It complements our funding by fostering the creation of strong, sustainable research-innovation partnerships, firmly rooted in the countries where the projects are implemented.

Facilitating Strategic Partnerships

FID funding also helps project teams build partnerships with public, private, and academic stakeholders. A Pilot grant awarded to Emergency Response Africa (ERA) played a key role in establishing a partnership with the Edo State government in Nigeria. In this country, 1.2 million deaths could be prevented each year with better emergency medical care. **Following the training of 200 community first responders, ERA was able to test a digital app and a free emergency call number in real-life settings, aiming to reduce mortality during the critical minutes following a health emergency.** Building on the National Emergency Medical Services System, launched by the Ministry of Health in 2022, ERA was able to present a pilot case study at the state level. FID's support allowed ERA to test its innovation while securing the right public-sector partnership—laying the groundwork for a potential national scale-up. 🌱

FOCUS

Innovation Led by Organizations in the Global South

To help bridge the funding gap for innovation in low- and middle-income countries, FID is committed to supporting solutions driven by local universities and research institutions based in these countries.

Improving livestock productivity in rural eastern Ethiopia by introducing more climate-resilient pasture species (Haramaya University). Reducing ethnic conflict in Ethiopia through a student exchange program bringing together young people from different regions (University of Gondar). Assessing whether bamboo charcoal fits local cooking practices in Uganda, and whether it can help mitigate climate change by conserving trees (Uganda Christian University). Many of the innovations we support originate in countries with limited domestic research funding and insufficient access to international sources of funding. In this context, FID seeks to directly fund innovation agendas led by universities and research centers from the Global South.

Our commitment to scientific institutions in the Global South is tangible: 71% of our Preparation and Pilot stage projects involving a research component include active participation from partners in the South. **In doing so, we promote the emergence of locally defined solutions, tailored to the concrete challenges faced by communities.**



"The prevailing research funding schemes tend to privilege institutions and researchers based in Western countries, due to their capacity to produce highly developed proposals. FID mitigates this disparity by providing funding to institutions and researchers in developing countries for the purpose of preparing innovative proposals with the potential for pilot or full-scale impact evaluation."

Dr. Solomon Zena Walelign,
Assistant Professor at the University of Gondar, Ethiopia



"As a researcher and social entrepreneur, FID's support has been deeply transformative. It enabled us to develop YAZINI, a sustainable bamboo charcoal alternative, from proof-of-concept to pilot phase. Their staged funding and technical guidance helped us innovate while avoiding landmines, paving the way for scaling and impact for vulnerable and energy-insecure populations."

Dr. William Kisaalita,
Professor of Engineering and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development,
Uganda Christian University

IMPACT EVALUATION STAGE

Impact refers to the tangible change brought about by an intervention in people's lives. Measuring it requires rigorous impact evaluation methods. FID provides a dedicated grant (Stage 2) to assess the effectiveness of a given innovation.

FID: A Learning Partner on Impact



38%

of FID-supported projects receive an Impact Evaluation grant (Stage 2)—a total of 37 projects

“**D**id the innovation work?” “Why did it work?” The impact evaluations funded by FID enable organizations to answer these fundamental questions about the effectiveness of their programs. The method involves comparing the outcomes of individuals who benefited from an intervention with those of a similar group that did not. To ensure these groups are truly comparable and that any observed differences can be attributed to the intervention itself, participants may be selected through random assignment. This is the principle behind randomized impact evaluations. These evaluations allow stakeholders to compare different solutions based on both impact and cost effectiveness, thereby informing smarter investment decisions. Through this approach, FID positions itself as a learning partner, committed to producing actionable research for development actors.

Improving Learning Outcomes Through Menstrual Hygiene Education in Madagascar

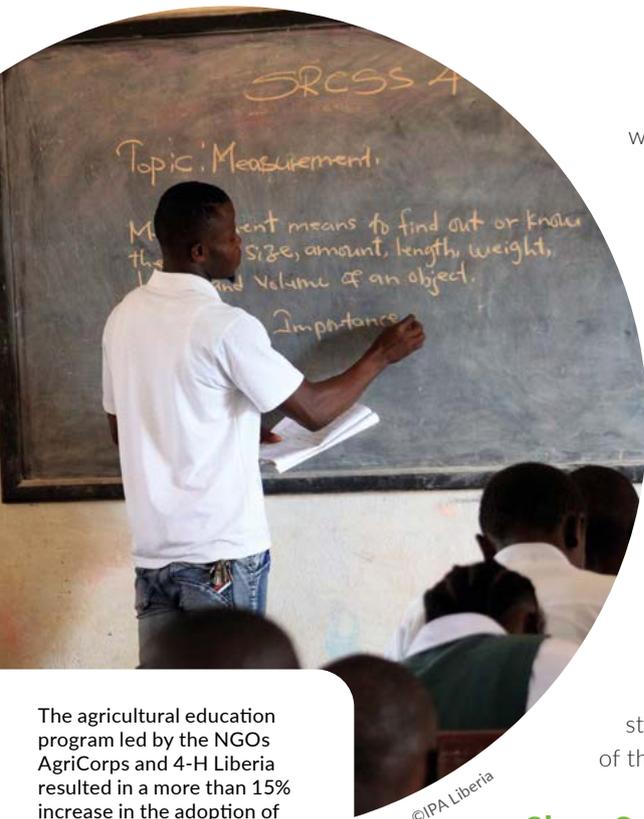
Social stigma and lack of knowledge around menstruation negatively impact adolescent girls' school attendance and academic performance. In

Madagascar, the NGO CARE developed a comprehensive program that combines a health education component (including teacher training, the distribution of sanitary pads, and the construction of sanitation facilities) with anti-menstrual stigma efforts. The “Young Girl Leaders” initiative trains adolescent girls to discuss menstrual health with their peers, aiming to shift social norms around menstruation.

Evaluated across 140 schools in Madagascar in partnership with the Paris School of Economics, the program showed highly promising results—a **17% increase in the probability of girls advancing to the next grade, as well as a 0.11 standard deviation improvement in academic performance**⁴. While the program did not directly target learning outcomes, these results are comparable to the most effective education interventions in low- and middle-income countries. The study found that the health education component was primarily responsible for these academic gains,



Girls in Madagascar who participated in NGO CARE's menstrual health education program are 17% more likely to advance to the next grade level⁴.



©IPA Liberia

The agricultural education program led by the NGOs AgriCorps and 4-H Liberia resulted in a more than 15% increase in the adoption of new farming practices among parents.

while the “Young Girl Leaders” component helped reduce menstruation-related bullying and reinforced the program’s effectiveness. This evaluation, which highlights the potential of integrated health and education strategies, has sparked interest from both the Ministry of Education and the World Bank for a possible national scale-up. “A program that can move the needle on learning like this... is priceless!”, stated the Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Education.

Clean Cooking and Biodiversity Protection in the DRC

The international community is increasingly aware of the social, health, and environmental issues surrounding clean and efficient cooking methods—yet data to inform public policy remain scarce. In Goma, capital of North Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a significant portion of cooking charcoal is illegally produced by armed groups operating in Virunga National Park, the oldest national park in Africa and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Could the adoption of electric cookers by households reduce charcoal consumption, estimated at 95% prior to the study? That is the central question behind this

FID-funded project. The evaluation, conducted by researchers from the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE) and the University of Antwerp, found that **when Virunga Energies, a local hydroelectric provider, covered the upfront cost of electric cookers, 85% of households adopted them permanently, leading to a 35% reduction in charcoal use.**

A School-Based Agricultural Education Program in Liberia

Agriculture sustains 75% of Liberia’s population, yet only 3% of households have access to agricultural training. The NGOs AgriCorps and 4-H Liberia launched a school-based agricultural education program in 200 schools, spanning primary and lower-secondary levels. The initiative combines classroom instruction, hands-on learning at demonstration farms, home-based entrepreneurship projects, and parent outreach.

An impact evaluation conducted by Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) and a team from Northwestern University revealed that the program had positive effects on both agricultural practices and educational outcomes—but only when parents and communities were actively engaged. Engagement strategies included video screenings to showcase the program’s benefits and farm visits for local farmers. **Where these components were in place, the program raised children’s awareness of new agricultural practices, and led to a more than 15% increase in their adoption by parents. A 24% rise in school attendance was also observed⁶.**

This evaluation demonstrated the effectiveness of schools as channels for disseminating agricultural knowledge, while underlining the critical role of community involvement. “This is one of the most effective programs I’ve seen in 40 years to encourage adult farmers to try new agricultural technologies,” stated Christopher Udry, project researcher. 🌱



©Sébastien Desbureaux (INRAE)

In Goma, DRC, the adoption of electric cookers in households led to a 35% reduction in charcoal consumption⁵.

FOCUS

Our Learning Agenda on **Gender Equality** – Three Case Studies

Recent health, climate, and economic crises have deepened gender inequalities, leading to heightened vulnerability of women, reduced access to essential services, increased unpaid domestic workload, and rising levels of violence. 28% of FID's funding supports projects where gender equality is a core objective. These projects rely on rigorous evaluations to identify the most effective solutions.



BANGLADESH

How Can **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** Be Reduced at Scale?

THE CHALLENGE

1 in 2 women in Bangladesh has experienced intimate partner violence⁷. Key drivers include harmful social norms and struggle with handling emotions among male partners⁸.

THE SOLUTION

Two awareness-raising television soap operas were broadcast in 440 villages. One challenges social norms that justify violence. The other teaches emotion managing techniques to men.

THE RESEARCH

The study examines the distinct effects of both approaches on the frequency of violence, social attitudes, and relationship dynamics. The findings will help identify the most effective levers for reducing domestic violence.



INDIA

How to strengthen **WOMEN'S FINANCIAL AUTONOMY?**

THE CHALLENGE

Few women are employed, despite dedicated public policies⁹. They still face major barriers: limited control over their income and difficulties in opening a bank account.

THE SOLUTION

Financial training programs for women: one intensive and already proven to be effective, implemented by the NGO Pradhan; the other shorter and more cost-effective, delivered by the public administration. Both programs are being tested and compared.

THE RESEARCH

An evaluation involving 14,000 households assesses the cost-effectiveness of both trainings, as well as their impact on women's access to and management of bank accounts, and their labor force participation.



KENYA

How to increase the **ADOPTION OF AGRICULTURAL INNOVATIONS** by women?

THE CHALLENGE

Female farmers have less access to innovations than their male counterparts. New agricultural technologies are often disseminated by men, which limits their adoption by women.

THE SOLUTION

A peer-to-peer training model, in which locally elected women train other women in climate-resilient farming techniques.

THE RESEARCH

A study conducted in 500 villages compares this approach to traditional training models. It measures the impact of both approaches on the adoption of agricultural technologies, productivity gains, and women's empowerment in rural communities.

SCALING UP STAGE

Scalability is a key criterion in project selection. FID supports this dynamic through two types of grants:

Stage 3, to initiate the scale-up of a proven solution, and the “Innovation and Public Policy” stage, to adapt a solution for deployment by a public entity.

Driving the Scale-Up of Innovations

From the impact evaluation stage (Stage 2), FID grants play a key role in driving the scale-up of innovations. **Our grants generate a leverage effect that helps build strategic partnerships with government entities and other donors. Innovations we support are thus set on scaling pathways that go well beyond our initial partnerships.**

Mobilizing New Funding Based on Impact Evidence

This is the case in Senegal, where close collaboration between the General Directorate of Taxes and Property (DGID) and a research team from the Paris School of Economics led to the testing of a property tax reform. **Its effectiveness in broadening the tax base was demonstrated with FID’s support. Projections also show a substantial increase in tax revenue if the reform is expanded across Dakar.** These results supported the political decision to scale up the reform in 2025. On this basis, the DGID secured funding from the African Development Bank and the World Bank to support the reform rollout.

Testing Implementation Models at Scale

In Kenya and India, two mental health innovations for school-aged youth supported by FID are on their scaling

In Kenya, the Shamiri Institute aims to scale its mental health program to reach nearly one million young people by 2027.



3.5 M

people were reached by innovations with demonstrated impact between 2021 and 2024, thanks to FID support



€1.11

additional amount raised by project teams for every euro invested by FID in Scaling Up grants (Stage 3)

Three Models of Scaling Up

trajectory. In Kenya, the NGO Shamiri Institute tested two implementation models for its mental health training-based program: a centralized model led by Shamiri, and a decentralized model delivered via community partners, which expected to be more cost-effective. **The evaluation showed both models had equivalent impacts on student well-being. Since 2021, the program has reached over 137,000 youth** and aims to reach one million beneficiaries by 2027, in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

In India, the NGO Labhya co-developed with the government of Tripura State the “Saharsh” program, which allocates 30 minutes of the school day to mindfulness sessions. **An impact evaluation supported by FID showed reduced anxiety and improved academic performance.** In parallel, Labhya signed a partnership with another state government, expanding the program to reach 9.4 million children.

Supporting The Transformation of a National Reform

In Mexico, two-thirds of dismissed workers do not receive severance pay, and only 10% seek justice through the courts—a situation that disproportionately affects the most vulnerable workers. One of the main bottlenecks is court backlogs, largely caused by hearing cancellations due to failed notifications by court bureaucrats. To address this, a team from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), in partnership with the Mexico City Arbitration Council, developed and evaluated the SIGNO application, designed to simplify and track notifications in real time. **Preliminary findings showed that 68% of hearings were canceled or postponed due to failed notifications, but the use of SIGNO significantly improved the situation, increasing the likelihood of successful notifications by 25% compared to the status quo.** Following this success, SIGNO has been adopted by 22 state labor conciliation centers and all 32 satellite offices of the federal labor conciliation authority, with strong potential for replication in other judicial institutions. 🌱



LIVELY MINDS: Transitioning From an NGO to a Public Sector Implementation

©Lively Minds

THE CHALLENGE

1 in 3 children in Ghana shows signs of developmental delay¹¹.

THE SOLUTION

A community-based early childhood education program to prepare children for primary school.

KEY FIGURES

3,447 playschemes implemented across 64 districts

141,086 individuals trained in the Lively Minds approach

425,892 children reached since October 2021

The NGO Lively Minds developed a community-based preschool program to better prepare 4–6-year-olds for entry into primary school. A 2018 impact evaluation demonstrated substantial learning gains¹², prompting the Ghana Education Service (GES) to take ownership of the initiative and institutionalize the program. With a Scaling Up grant from FID, Lively Minds is supporting the GES in rolling out the program to 64 districts in northern Ghana. The NGO trains GES staff and teachers to deliver play-based learning sessions, who in turn train volunteer mothers to run the daily sessions in kindergarten classrooms. GES has appointed a national coordinator to ensure program integration and quality assurance, and discussions are ongoing for a potential national rollout.



TaRL: Replicating a Proven Solution in a New Context

©TaRL Africa

Developed by the Indian NGO Pratham, the Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) approach has since been adapted across many African countries, showing significant learning gains in numerous evaluations¹⁴. The concept is simple: for 90 minutes a day, students are grouped according to their learning level—identified through a diagnostic tool—rather than by age or grade. They progress to the next level group as they improve. The program has already been successfully implemented in southern Côte d'Ivoire. To adapt to the specific context of the northern region, which is poorer and more linguistically diverse, the initiative is supported by a FID Scaling Up grant. Following the results of this grant, the Ministry of National Education and Literacy has committed to integrating TaRL into the national education system through the National Program to Improve Early Learning Outcomes. The goal is to scale the approach to all 16,000 primary schools in the country by 2029.

THE CHALLENGE

More than half of the students completing primary school in Côte d'Ivoire face severe learning delays¹³.

THE SOLUTION

Grouping students by learning level rather than by age in primary schools.

KEY FIGURES

267 primary schools reached in northern Côte d'Ivoire

1,297 education professionals trained in the TaRL approach

41,357 student beneficiaries since September 2023



STARS: Scaling an Innovation Incubated Within a Public Entity

©STARS

THE CHALLENGE

Fewer than 40% of third-grade students meet expected levels in English, and fewer than 60% in mathematics¹⁵.

THE SOLUTION

Integrating teacher effort and student learning progress into the calculation of teachers' performance-based bonuses—the Imihigo contracts.

KEY FIGURES

345 schools implemented the program across 10 districts

7,190 teachers signed a new Imihigo contract

343,906 students are taught by a teacher under an Imihigo contract

The Supporting Teacher Achievement in Rwandan Schools (STARS) project aims to optimize the Imihigo system, Rwanda's model for performance-based teacher compensation. Previously, these contracts did not accurately reflect actual teacher performance. STARS revised the annual bonus calculation methodology to include both teacher effort and student learning progress. A randomized trial had already shown that students in schools benefiting from STARS gained the equivalent of an extra school year annually, compared to those in schools with fixed-salary contracts¹⁶. Based on these results, FID funded the program's scale-up in 10 of Rwanda's 30 districts. Five new performance-based contract models were tested in partnership with Georgetown University and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) to evaluate large-scale impact. The results showed a significant improvement in teaching quality and a positive impact on student learning for three of the models tested. The Ministry of Education has committed to institutionalizing the program, with a phased national rollout across the remaining 20 districts.

Collaboration between public institutions and researchers enables the design of more effective public policies. FID offers the “Evidence and Public Policy” grant to activate this lever.

Promoting Data Use for More Effective Policies

Governments are increasingly seeking to leverage data more effectively to reduce poverty and inequality. FID grants support these efforts by fostering a culture of impact and data use to inform public policy. They can fund the strengthening of administrative data systems, capacity-building in impact evaluation, the use of existing evidence, or the development of public policy research agendas.



Thomas Melonio
Chief Economist of AFD
Member of the FID Board of Directors

Why are “evidence and public policy” grants relevant?

Improving the quality and efficiency of public policies faces two major challenges: in many cases, there is no evaluation at all, or the impact evaluations are poorly designed or simply ignored—which ultimately has the same consequences. FID addresses this issue in an original way, by offering governments support in designing and launching their own evaluation policies in the public sector or leading actions of their choice. These transformation partnerships aim to help governments generate data on public services in order to measure and improve their effectiveness.

Are there synergies between FID and AFD?

For AFD, it is essential that the financial support provided to fight poverty or protect the planet be as effective as possible. The best—and arguably only—credible approach is for partner-country organizations themselves to lead the design, implementation, and evaluation of the projects and policies they carry out. This is precisely what FID’s grant mechanism offers, by equipping governments to improve the services states deliver to their citizens. 🌱

Improving Public Policy Through Data Science in Togo

Advances in data science offer powerful opportunities to enhance public policy. Yet in many countries, their use remains limited due to insufficient infrastructure and a lack of reliable data. Since the Covid-19 pandemic and the implementation of the Novissi program, the Togolese government has committed to strengthening its capacity to deliver high-impact public programs. To support this momentum, FID is funding three projects in Togo.

The first project, conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Grassroots Development (MDBIFJEJ) and IDinsight, aims to build the ministry’s monitoring and evaluation capacity by providing tools, methodologies, and training to harmonize indicators and improve data visualization. Two projects led by the Ministry of Digital Economy and Transformation also receive FID support. The National Identification Agency of Togo, with the help of Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), has developed a research agenda to prioritize key improvements needed for more effective social protection policies. In parallel, a Data Lab is using a satellite imagery tool developed by the Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), based on artificial intelligence, to enhance agricultural data and monitor public action in rural areas.

FOCUS

Using Data to Inform Education Policy

The learning crisis affects millions of children worldwide, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where many students complete school without mastering basic skills.

To help address this challenge, two projects supported by FID aim to strengthen the quality of data on learning outcomes to improve education policy.

Improving the Reliability of Data Collected Through the CAMIS Platform in Rwanda

The Comprehensive Management Information System (CAMIS) collects systematic student assessment results and informs education policy based on learning outcome data. The platform was developed under the STARS project in Rwanda by the National Examination and School Inspection Authority (NESA), with support from a research team.

The use of CAMIS data to evaluate teacher performance and calculate their annual bonuses was piloted in 10 districts. **With FID's support, data entry on the CAMIS platform, and its reliability have been improved, making it an essential tool for ensuring that performance-based teacher contracts are fair and motivating.**

Enhancing Preschool Learning Outcomes Data in Morocco

The Moroccan Foundation for the Promotion of Preschool Education (FMPS) has institutionalized a monitoring and evaluation system that has significantly transformed its practices. **With support from FID, the Foundation developed its own indicators, improved the quality of data on preschool student outcomes, and trained teachers in data collection and use.** As a result, it is evolving from a simple service provider to a learning organization capable of adapting its programs to the needs of students. 🌱

Two FID-funded projects strengthen learning assessment data systems to better equip decision-makers of education policy.

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"FID specifically supports the systemic strengthening of monitoring and evaluation. This funding equips us for results-based management and continuous improvement. It fosters an internal culture of data, which is essential for sustaining our actions and ensuring the continuity and long-term impact of our M&E system."

Houda Bigout,

Head of Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Moroccan Foundation for the Promotion of Preschool Education



Summer School on Development Methodologies, Rabat 2024

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