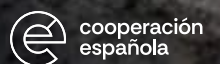


AECID REPORT

2023



MINISTERIO
DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA
Y COOPERACIÓN





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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Antón Leis García, *AECID Director*

2023 has certainly been a pivotal year for Spanish Co-operation and its main instrument, AECID. It was a year that saw long-awaited reforms come to fruition, and in which we laid the foundations for the next, more ambitious and strategic period, capable of responding effectively to current and future challenges.

One of the major milestones of this year was the enactment of Act 1/2023 on Global Solidarity and Sustainable Development Cooperation in February. The result of a broad political and social consensus and a highly participatory process, this new norm updates the legal framework which has been in force since 1998 and redefines the principles, goals and tools for public policy on cooperation, at a time when cooperation and international solidarity are more important than ever. It places the fight against poverty and inequality, the gender gap, human rights and protecting

our planet at the heart of Spain's foreign action.

AECID played an active role in both developing and implementing this law, from preparing the future AECID Statute, which will modernise its internal operations, to continuously adapting its programmes and instruments to reflect the new strategic principles and priorities. All while continuing to fulfil its key mandates of cooperation for development, humanitarian action, education for global citizenship and cultural action.



“ We will continue to grow, building a more strategic, effective and transformative cooperation. A cooperation which aligns with the values of the Spanish people and continues to work towards a fairer, more sustainable and peaceful world.

Working with a new, higher budget – almost double that of 2021 – in 2023 we continued working in coordination with our partners in over 30 countries from our Spanish Cooperation Offices and our Cultural and Training Centres, and we strengthened the multilateral and European element of our work. We also strived to incorporate environmental sustainability, social inclusion and digital innovation further in our interventions.

Furthermore, AECID led high-profile initiatives on the international stage, such as the Cartagena Global Health Conference, where the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation announced Spain's commitment to head up an initiative for eradicating cervical cancer, together with our multilateral partners. We participated actively in the Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union, strengthening partnerships with Latin America, Africa and

Asia, while expanding our humanitarian response in the face of crises in places like Ukraine, Palestine, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. In February 2023, we deployed our cooperation flagship, the AECID START hospital, in southern Türkiye to care for victims of the devastating earthquake there.

It was also a year of substantial investment in young talent and training, with higher levels of recruitment both for head office staff and field staff, as well as strengthening our training programmes, scholarships and language assistantships. Because we know that a modern cooperation needs to refresh its skills, attract new talent and offer opportunities to people who want to contribute to a fairer, more sustainable and peaceful world through public service.

The achievements of 2023 have all been possible thanks to the hard work of the entire team, both in

the office and in the field, as well as collaboration with our international and Spanish partners, namely governments, multilateral organizations, civil society, schools and social agents. The transformation that we have set in motion is a collective task which will continue into 2024 with the enactment of a new AECID Statute and implementation of the 2024-2027 Master Plan.

This report shows how far we have come. It reflects how we have worked together, what we have learnt and the determination we have going into the next phase of Spanish Cooperation.



MAJOR MILESTONE

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A close-up photograph of hands being washed under a stream of water. The water is splashing, creating droplets and bubbles. The hands are dark-skinned. The background is blurred, showing other people's legs and feet.

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INTRODUCTION

2023

In 2023, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) made significant progress in various geographic and thematic areas, consolidating its commitment to sustainable development and global solidarity.

Act 1/2023 on Global Solidarity and Sustainable Development Cooperation recommended **sub-Saharan Africa** as a strategic priority on account of the major challenges faced there in terms of poverty and inequality. Within sub-Saharan Africa, AECID focused on regional programmes run by the likes of ECOWAS and AUDA-NEPAD, as well as bilateral programmes in Mali, Niger, Senegal, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Equatorial Guinea, with a particular focus on those most affected by the global food crisis. In Ethiopia, support for the Food Systems Resilience Programme Common Fund continued, and a new bilateral project to strengthen the policies of the Ministry of Agriculture was approved, which aimed to improve agricultural productivity and fish farming.

AECID also joined the national dialogue in Ethiopia through a UNDP programme.

A key goal across several countries was promoting universal access to healthcare systems. In Mozambique, collaboration with both the Manhica Foundation, a leading biomedical researcher, and the Health Sector Common Fund (PROSAUDE) remained active, while in Mali, support continued to be provided to the Ministry of Health in Kayes and the fourth phase of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme was implemented. The Specialised Medicine Programme continued to run projects in Niger, Mali, Mozambique and Ethiopia. In Equatorial Guinea, AECID continued to provide support for the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare towards infectious disease control and improving hospital management. Gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls and adolescent girls were cross-cutting priority subjects, for example in the collaboration between AECID and AUDA-NEPAD and the support for Women's empowerment and economic independence in Cabo Verde.

In **Asia and the Arab world**, a significant milestone was the creation of the Spanish Cooperation Office in Tunisia on 9 May 2023, through Royal Decree 343/2023, with the aim of strengthening the existing cooperation programme in the country. Commitment to Palestine was ramped up, with official humanitarian and development cooperation aid reaching three times the amount allocated in 2022. The combined aid for Palestine from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (MAE-UEC) and AECID hit **50 million in 2023**, representing the greatest increase in bilateral support for a partner country in the last decade. Discussions about the future of the MASAR regional programme continued, with a view to launching an update in 2024, and a seminar led by international experts was held on Development Cooperation in the Mediterranean. Strategic partnerships with key Mediterranean organizations such as Casa Árabe, Casa Mediterráneo, the Union for the Mediterranean and the Anna Lindh Foundation were strengthened.

“ The START humanitarian team set up a hospital in Türkiye, which treated 7,387 people in 45 days, and a water and sanitation unit in Morocco in response to the earthquake.

In the **Andean region and Southern Cone**, commitments to major strategic areas like gender equality, health, democratic governance, rights of indigenous people and people of African descent, and vocational training for socioeconomic inclusion of vulnerable young people, stood firm.

In 2023, the first workshop schools project was established and funded in Costa Rica. In Ecuador, there was a focus on the fight against gender violence, while LGBTIQ+ rights also received support with host com-

munities in Quito and Cuenca. The “Access to Justice for All and System Reform” project forged ahead in Bolivia, working towards equal access to justice. The project has been in development since 2021 and will run until 2025, bringing together several Bolivian organizations. Furthermore, a Community-based fire management project was implemented in Chiquitania, Chaco and the Bolivian Pantanal, which focused on risk reduction, climate resilience and biodiversity conservation. In Colombia, an AECID-led delegated cooperation project was launched to strengthen gender-based violence prevention and care for women, children and LGBTIQ+ people. Support for peacebuilding continued with a Search Unit for Missing Persons project. In Venezuela, projects were approved with the Food and Agriculture Organization for developing resilient local agrifood systems and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for promoting the rights of indigenous people.

In follow-up to the International Decade for People of African Descent, support was provided for a regional project in **Latin America and the Caribbean** to boost the impact of Afro-descendant civil society organizations. In Bolivia, AECID kick-started the first delegated cooperation programme with the EU in the context of the Indigenous Programme, namely the “Etseasa Medi” project, which aims to pro-

mote the implementation of the right of indigenous people to organise themselves and define their own life plans. In Peru, two grants were awarded in support of Venezuelan migrants, one for promoting a migration-based approach in the local governments of Lima and Callao, the other for integration within civil society. In Paraguay, in the area of human rights and democratic memory, a grant was approved for a Human Rights Coordinator of Paraguay (CODEHUPY) project focused on democratic memory, archives and areas of resistance. Another notable project in Paraguay focused on preventing human trafficking and improving care for child and adolescent victims. In Chile, AECID supported a grant to boost women’s leadership in public policy for a life free from gender-based violence.

It was an intense year for the **Humanitarian Action** Office, marked by the deployment of the Spanish Technical Aid Response Team (START). Following earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria in February 2023, the START EMT-2 field hospital was deployed in Arsuz, Türkiye, with 195 team members treating 7,387 people in 45 days. In response to the earthquake in Morocco in September, START set up a water, sanitation and hygiene unit, installing water purification plants, some of which were solar powered.

Palestine has been a historic priority for Spanish humanitarian action,





GAZA, AN UNPRECEDENTED HUMANITARIAN DISASTER

with interventions focusing on food security and protection, particularly for people at risk of displacement in the West Bank and victims of gender-based violence in Gaza and East Jerusalem.

In 2023, the Office for Humanitarian Action (OAH) channelled all of its special efforts to Palestine, in response to the unprecedented humanitarian disaster unfolding in Gaza as a result of Israel's military offensive following the 7 October attacks. These efforts resulted first and foremost in a significant increase in

funding, with the initially proposed €4 million bumped up to €10.63 million. €2 million of this was allocated to UNRWA, who received a total of €8.75 million from AECID. Including funds from the General State Administration, contributions to this agency amounted to €19.5 million.

Meanwhile, Spain took the opportunity to make the crisis in Gaza a European priority during its presidency of the COHAFU Working Party of the Council of the EU in the second half of 2023. Common messages about

the humanitarian situation in the Gaza strip, approved on 20 October, were shared in coordination with the European Commission and other institutions. The Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) mechanism was also activated with the aim of continuously monitoring the emergency situation in Palestine.



“ Official humanitarian and development cooperation aid for Palestine has tripled.

The **NGDO department** continued to manage funding for Non-Governmental Development Organizations, which play a key role in complementarity. In February 2023,

the resolution on planning annual competitive funding calls was published, following enactment of the new 2022 Order on the Legal Basis.

The **Multilateral and European Union Cooperation** Department gave €136 million to 18 organizations, increasing contributions to global health, education, agriculture and food security initiatives. The Spanish presidency of the Council of the EU promoted a European

presence in Latin America and the Caribbean, and consolidated the Global Gateway strategy, to which AECID is a contributor. Six AECID programmes in Bolivia, Senegal, Paraguay, Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Brazil were included in the list of 138 flagship projects approved in November 2023 for 2024.

AECID's **Sectoral Cooperation Department** continued to provide spe-

cialised technical support to various areas of the Agency throughout 2023, while also strengthening foundations for a greater focus on strategic partnerships. In particular, it boosted Public-Private Partnerships for Development (APPD), made up of various stakeholders in International Development Cooperation.

Both the call for innovation-based proposals and the APPDs were aimed at supporting AECID partners in their response to the effects of the pandemic and in adapting their public policies.

In 2023, the annual funding call, aimed at the business, academic, research and social sectors, set out to co-finance innovation-based actions, in line with the goals of the 2030 Agenda. It also included awareness-raising and research initiatives aimed at building capacity both at AECID and within other Spanish Cooperation instruments.

It should be noted that the funding call for development cooperation work in the field of innovation had a budget of €9 million in 2023.

The **Cultural and Scientific Action Directorate** focused its efforts on updating the Culture and Development Strategy, bringing it in line with Act 1/2023 and UNESCO's MONDIACULT Declaration. The Spanish embassy network intensified its cultural and scientific programme, particularly during the Spanish presidency of the EU, organising more than 150 cultural activities with €1.1 million of investment. AECID was also active in the field of science diplomacy, co-organising the first European Conference and taking part in the Union for the Mediterranean Conference, with a total of 3,500 activities taking place across the embassy network. The Spanish Cooperation Network of Cultural Centres was extended with two new Spanish Cooperation Offices in Guatemala and Panama. These centres held over 5,300 cultural activities with a budget of €6.6 million, bringing together over 1.3 million people and working on cross-cutting issues

like inclusion and the environment. AECID approved funding calls for training, artistic creation and promoting Spanish language for €11.2 million, an increase of 9.6% on the previous year. Fourteen new language assistantships were activated and twelve agreements for new placements were signed.

More than 5,300 cultural events were held over the course of the year, bringing together almost 1.3 million people.

Finally, 2023 was a turning point for the **Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation (FCAS)** as it received a further €10 million in new donations, on top of the 800 million initially received, for four pro-

grammes in Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico and Honduras, with a rural and environmental focus. FCAS actively participated in key events such as the UN Water Conference and the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors and Authorities (CODIA), promoting the Water Agenda and looking more closely at the implementation of the human right to water and sanitation and its cross-cutting approaches.

“ The Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation received a further €10 million in 2023 towards new rural programmes in Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico and Honduras.



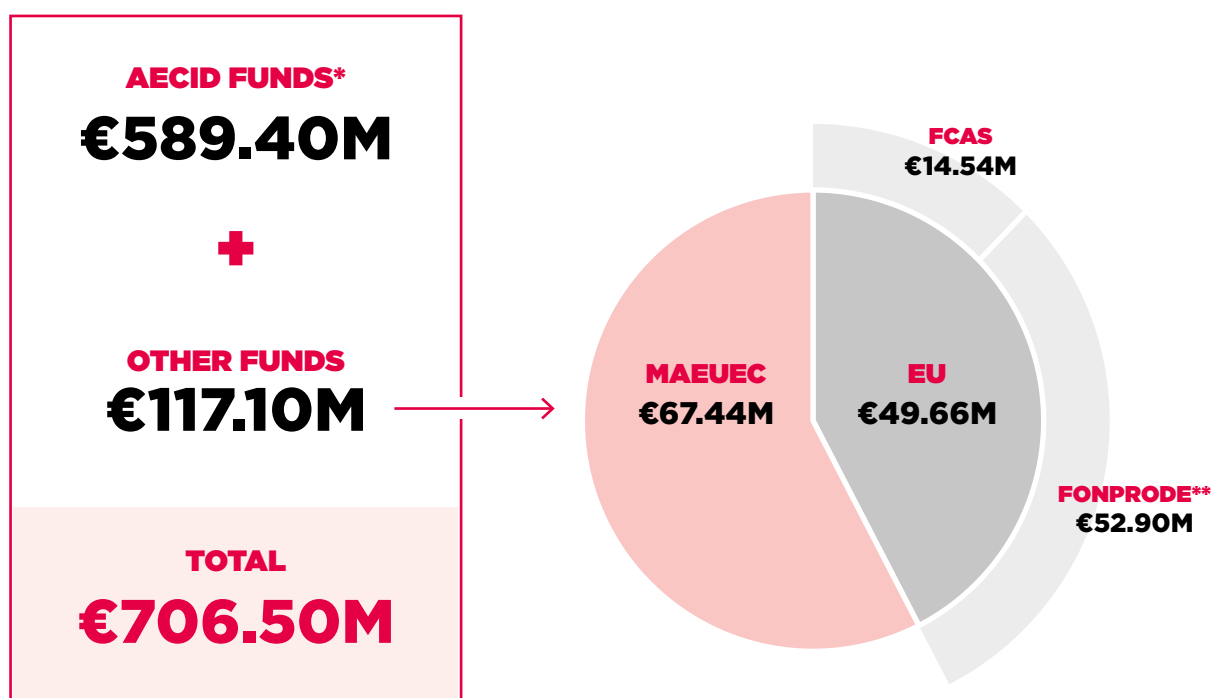
Valle de Comayagua, Honduras

THE DATA AT A GLANCE

The key data relating to the work of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation are presented below.

The figures compiled in this document are provisional, in the absence of the public audit of AECID's 2023 accounts.

SOURCE OF FUNDING



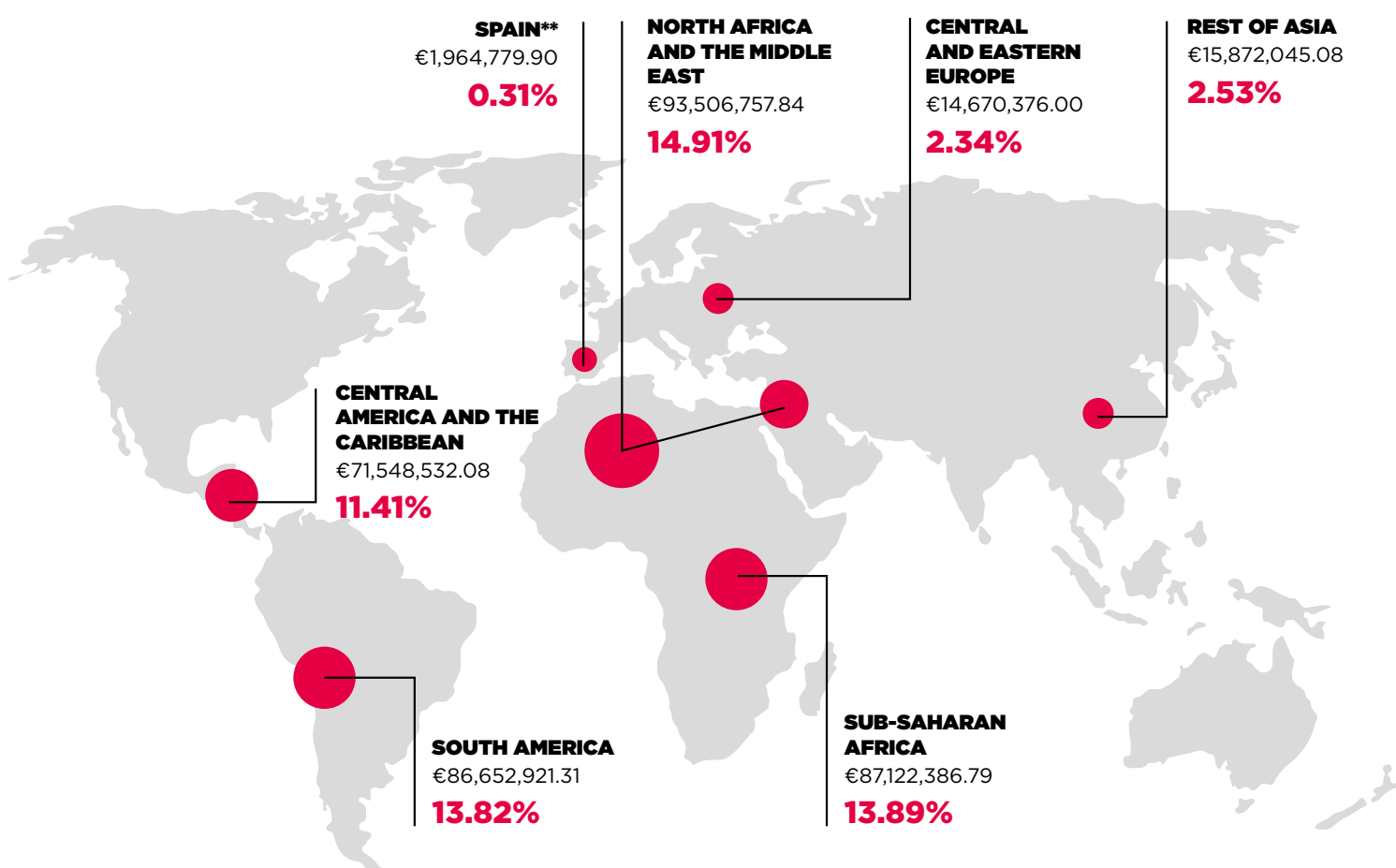
* Includes funds of €2.06 million from the autonomous communities for humanitarian action, which have been included in the AECID budget.

** FONPRODE: Grant Equivalent ODA disbursed

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

Grant Equivalent Official Development Assistance (ODA) implemented by AECID in 2023 (including delegated funds*)

€627.11 million



OTHER (NOT BROKEN DOWN BY COUNTRY)

Africa	America	Unspecified developing countries
€5,211,616.00	€25,972,452.46	€150,545,291.69
0.83%	4.14%	24.01%

OPERATING COSTS***

€73,955,486.84
11.79%

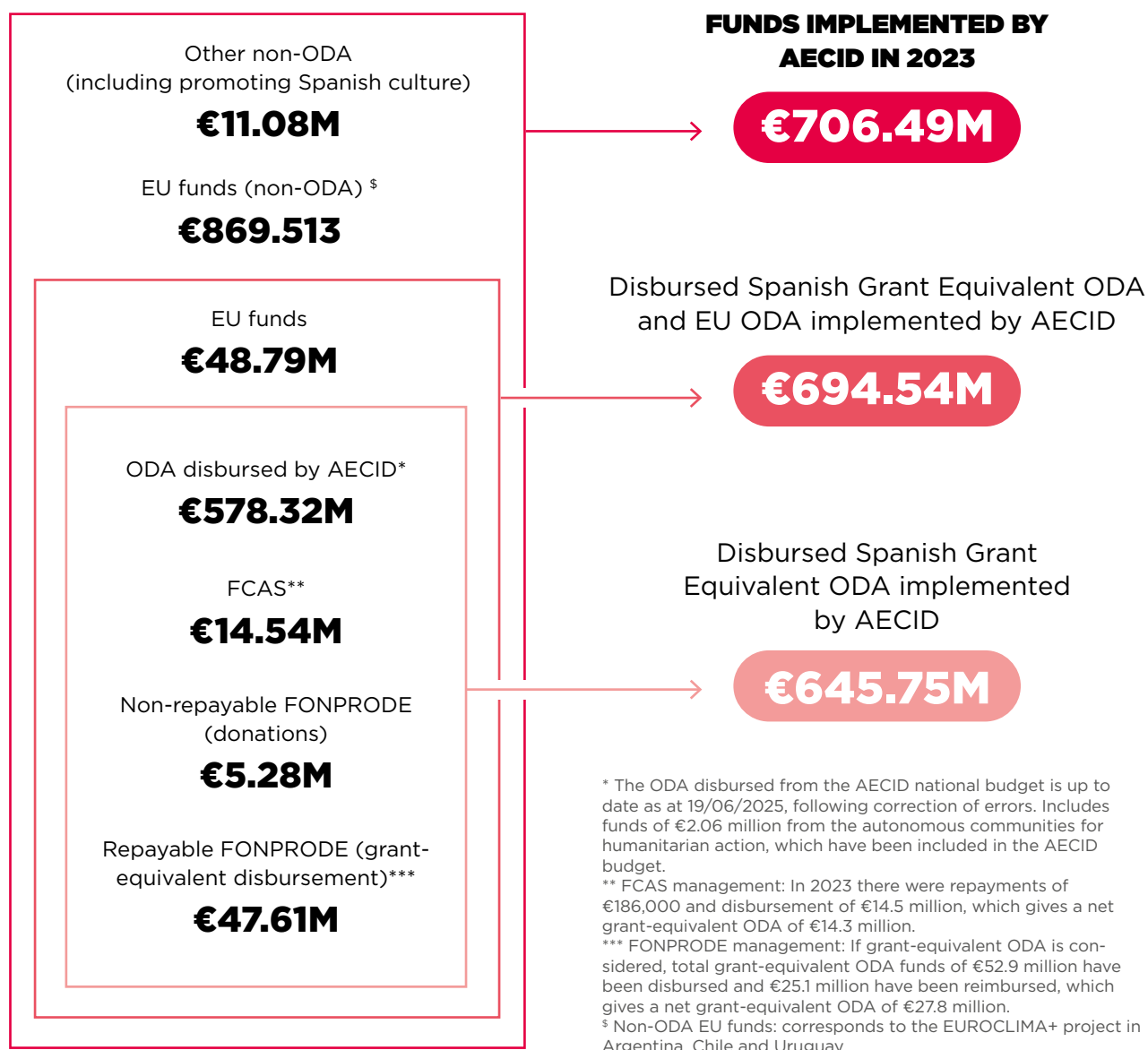
* FONPRODE data are not included because they do not appear in the AECID information system.

** In Spain, awareness-raising work is included

*** This table includes a separate breakdown of operating costs

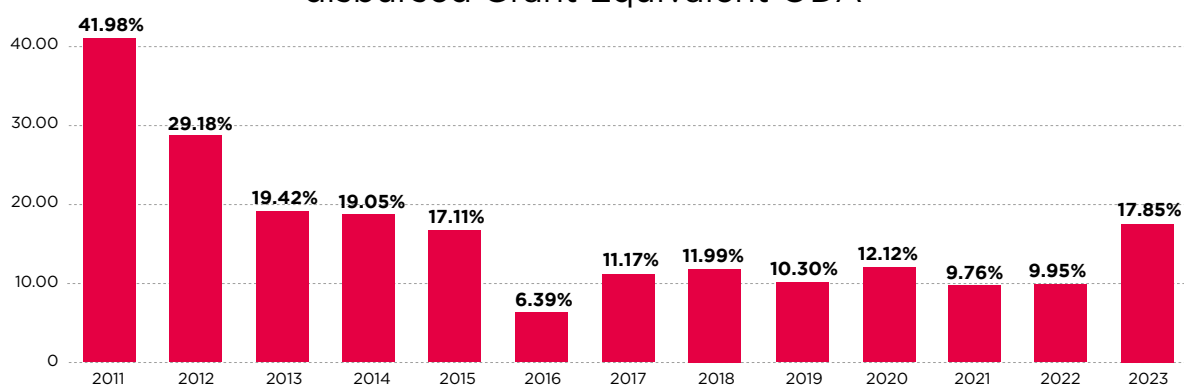
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING

Distribution of funds implemented by AECID in 2023



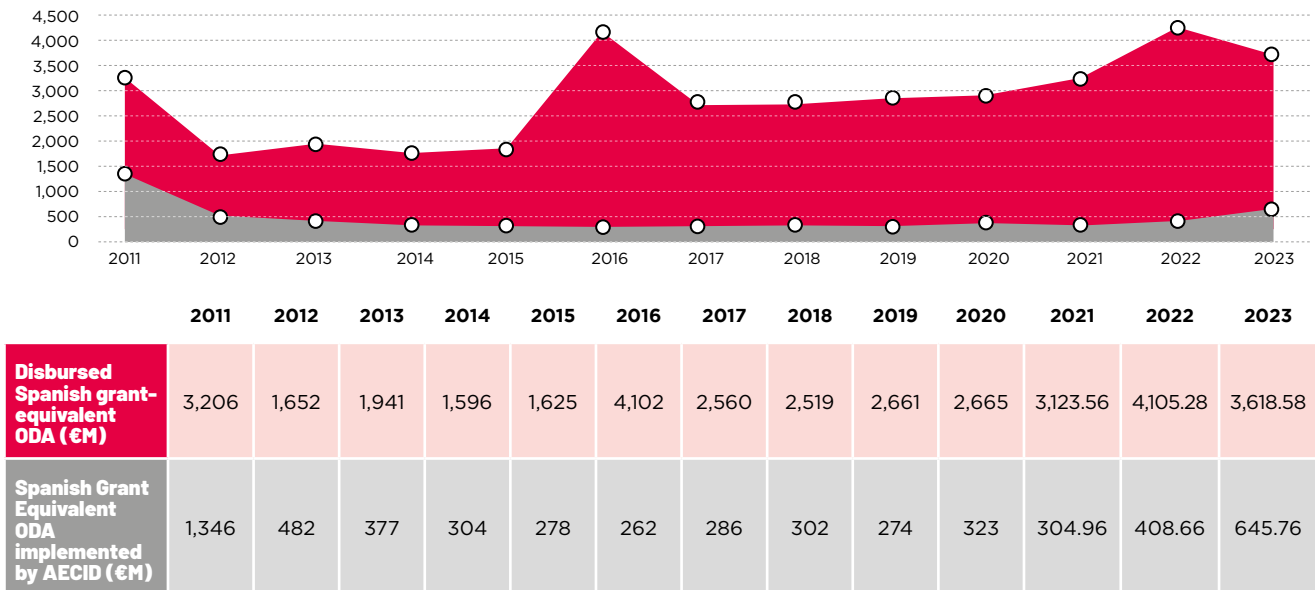
PERCENTAGE

Percentage Grant Equivalent ODA implemented by AECID / Spanish disbursed Grant Equivalent ODA



PROGRESS

Comparison of the progress of EC ODA and Spanish ODA implemented by AECID (€M)

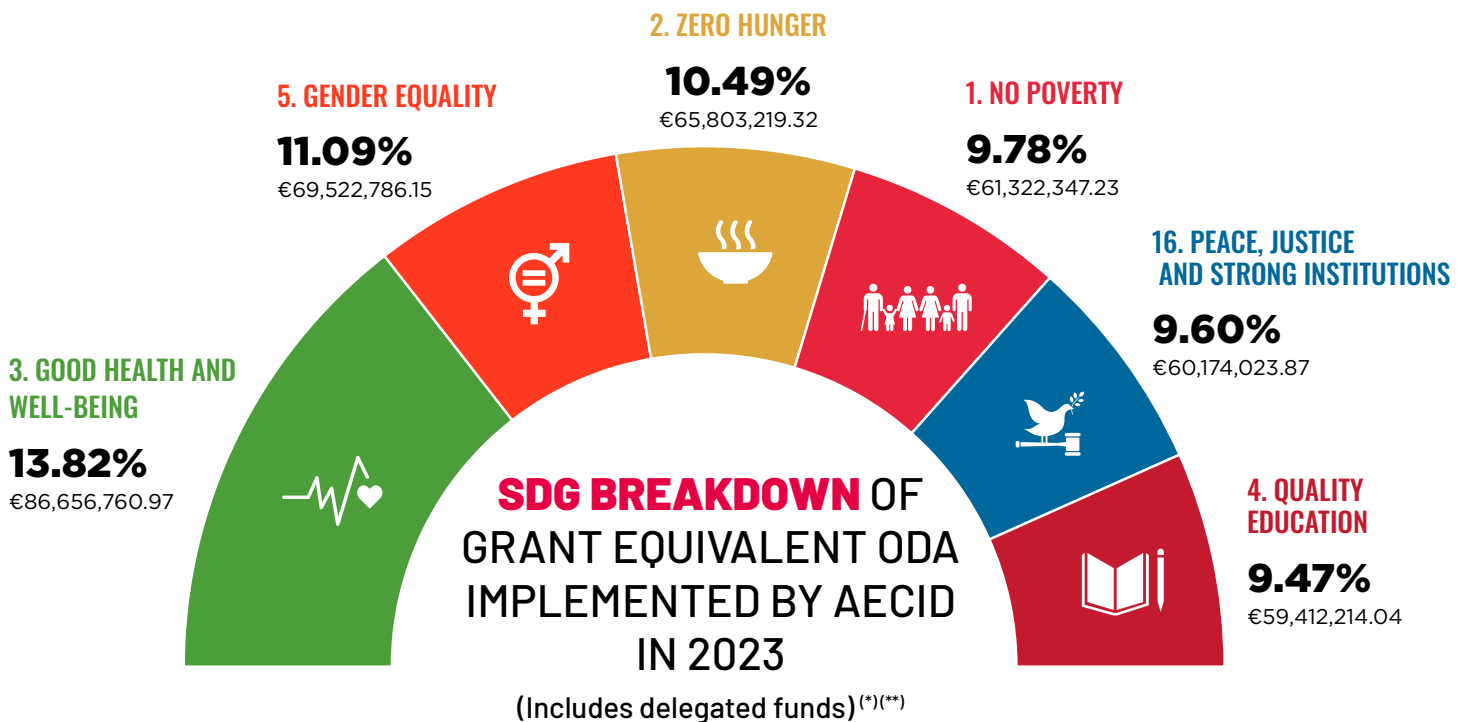


Source: AECID, based on data from Spanish ODA progress reports 2007-2023 and AECID information systems.

Note: the data on disbursed ODA from the AECID national budget are up to date as at 19/06/2025.

* 2016: Cuba debt operations: €1.910 million

** Since 2018, the way the ODA is calculated has changed. Data shown has been calculated on a grant equivalent basis.



OTHER SDGs	€86,656,760.97 13.82%	UNSPECIFIED SDG	€21,409,719.74 3.41%	OPERATING COSTS	€73,955,486.84 11.79%
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* FONPRODE data are not included because they do not appear in the AECID information system.

** This table includes a separate breakdown of operating costs



OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)

Grant Equivalent Official Development Assistance (ODA) allocated to Humanitarian Action in 2023 ^(*) ^(**)

**HA ODA implemented by AECID
(AECID funds) [§]**

€124,515,487.75

**HA ODA implemented by AECID
(including Delegated Funds)**

€125,460,307.46

* FONPRODE data are not included because they do not appear in the AECID information system.

** The ODA disbursed from the AECID national budget is up to date as at 19/06/2025, following correction of errors.

[§] Includes €2.06 million of funding allocated to Humanitarian Action from the autonomous communities, which is included in the AECID budget.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF AID

Geographic distribution of Grant Equivalent Official Development Assistance (ODA)
implemented by AECID for Humanitarian Action in 2023 (including Delegated Funds) ^(*) ^(**) (\$)

Sub-Saharan Africa	€26,736,570.71	21.31%
Central America and the Caribbean	€9,433,883.15	7.52%
South America	€20,952,236.00	16.70%
Americas (other)	€710,428.99	0.57%
Central and Eastern Europe	€8,286,852.20	6.61%
North Africa and the Middle East	€40,748,324.59	32.48%
Unspecified developing countries	€11,642,342.52	9.28%
Rest of Asia	€6,949,669.30	5.54%
Overall total	125,460,307.46	100.00%

* FONPRODE data are not included because they do not appear in the AECID information system.

* The ODA disbursed from the AECID national budget is up to date as at 19/06/2025, following correction of errors.

§ Includes €2.06 million of funding allocated to Humanitarian Action from the autonomous communities, which is included in the AECID budget.

ODA FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Comparison of Spanish Cooperation and AECID 2023

		% ODA allocated to Humanitarian Action out of total ODA disbursed
Total Spanish Cooperation grant-equivalent ODA (net)	€3,591,839,116.09	
Total Spanish Cooperation ODA allocated for HUMANITARIAN ACTION	€214,240,013.24	5.96%
Total disbursed ODA from the AECID national budget ^(*) (\$)	€578,318,091.69	
Total ODA disbursed by AECID allocated for HUMANITARIAN ACTION ^(*) (\$)	€124,515,487.75	21.53%
% Spanish Cooperation ODA allocated for HUMANITARIAN ACTION contributed by AECID		58.12%

Note: For AECID, FONPRODE data are not included because they do not appear in the AECID information system

* The ODA disbursed from the AECID national budget is up to date as at 19/06/2025, following correction of errors.

§ Includes €2.06 million of funding allocated to Humanitarian Action from the autonomous communities, which is included in the AECID budget.

AREAS OF ACTION





SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Spanish Cooperation intensified its work in Africa in 2023, prioritising health, gender equality and food security in countries like Ethiopia, Mali and Senegal.



ASIA AND THE ARAB WORLD

Support was bolstered in this area, with a particular focus on employment, equality and sustainability. Aid for Palestine reached €50 million, a threefold increase compared with 2022.



ANDEAN REGION AND SOUTHERN CONE

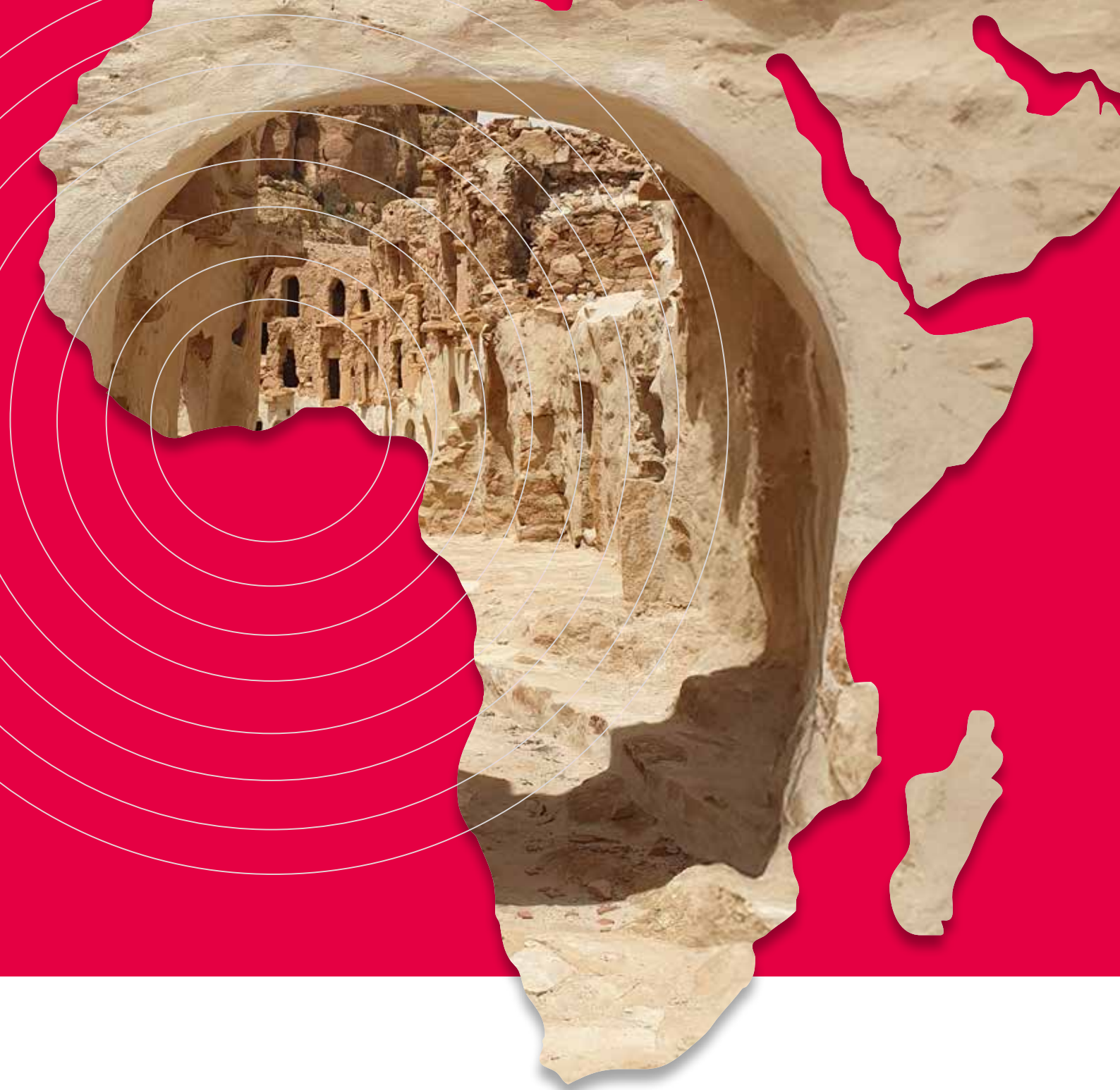
Gender equality, access to justice and the rights of indigenous communities, people of African descent and members of the LGBTIQ+ community were all developed in 2023.



CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO AND THE CARIBBEAN

Projects in this area focused on reducing inequality based on gender and ethnic origin, and improving access to basic services, while the topics of climate action and the rights of vulnerable groups also received support.





SUB-SAHARAN **AFRICA**

MAIN LINES OF ACTION

In 2023, crises continued in regions like the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, where Spanish Cooperation has been providing special assistance.

On top of the Action Plan for food security launched by the Spanish Prime Minister in January 2023, AECID continued its work in the Sahel with the help of supranational organizations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Spain is also a member of the primary platform for donors in the region, the Sahel Alliance, and chaired its General Assembly from June 2020 to July 2023.

In 2023, the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, José Manuel Albares, renewed Spain's commitment to the African Union (AU) and its development agency (AUDA-NEPAD), pledging €20 million in contributions over the coming years. In line with this promise, AECID made a contribution of €5 million in 2023 to kick off a renewed programme of cooperation with AUDA-NEPAD, backed by experience gained during the NEPAD Spanish Fund (2007-2023). This collaboration aligns with the 2063 Agenda and the AU's "Energize Africa" programme, as well as the priorities set out in Act 1/2023 on Global Solidarity and Sustainable Development Cooperation. The programme targets women and young people as a matter of priority, and includes skills development programmes for women and young people, funding for business hubs and socio-economic inclusion initiatives through calls for projects aimed at civil society organizations.

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Universal access to national health-care systems was the key aim of several lines of work. In Niger, AECID supported the Common Health

Fund and set up a Specialised Medical Training programme.

In Mali, the Agency continued to support the Ministry of Health in Kayes and implemented the fourth phase of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme. In Mozambique, it continued its work with the Manhica Foundation, a leading biomedical researcher, and with the Health Sector Common Fund (PROSAUDE). In Ethiopia, the Agency continued to support the Ministry of Health, and signed a delegated cooperation agreement to drive Specialised Medical Training. AECID also renewed its agreement of collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Equatorial Guinea, the FCSAI and the Carlos III Health Institute, with a new grant for the FCSAI to continue working towards infectious disease control and improving hospital management. As part of this project, the Baney Laboratory received assistance to become the leading national centre in the fight against infectious diseases. Finally, AECID helped to extend the life of the Castroverde Laboratory in Malabo, by updating some of its equipment and introducing new diagnostic techniques.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

In the context of a global food crisis and shortages, Spanish Cooperation stepped up its work in Mali, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Niger. It contributed to the Food Systems Resilience Programme Common Fund in Ethiopia, and promoted the Empowering women for socio-ecological resilience in the coffee value chain project, providing €1,118,000. It continued to support the policies of the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture, approving a new bilateral project for skills-funding to improve agricultural productivity, including fish farming.

AECID continued to support the YELLITAARE 2 project in Senegal in 2023 (through the National Nutrition Development Council) to tackle food emergencies. It also continued to implement a project to improve access to drinking water in Matam with the Office of Rural Drilling (launched in 2018 and implemented in two phases at a total cost of €3.5 million) and a project for setting up small, family-run agro-ecological farms in the Casamance region with the National Agency for Agricultural Investment and Development.



In Mali, the Agency continued to support the expansion of irrigation in the Kayes region. Finally, in Mozambique, it continued to support the fight against chronic malnutrition in the province of Cabo Delgado, where the situation is particularly severe.

GENDER EQUALITY

The Agency promoted several initiatives in support of women's and girls' rights during the course of 2023. It approved a new bilateral project to this end in Ethiopia, working together with the National Alliance to ramp up the fight against female genital mutilation and child marriage. Similarly, it approved a new, long-term contribution plan to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide reproductive healthcare services to victims of gender-based violence, totalling €275,000 until 2025. On top of AECID's delegated cooperation project for empowering women and socio-ecological resilience of the coffee value chain, in 2023 it also helped to implement the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority's Gender Equality Strategy.

In Mali, the Agency launched a project with the Hironde Foundation (Radio Tamani) to produce radio shows and debates with women's organizations to raise awareness about issues relating to the environment and climate change. In Cabo Verde, the Women's economic empowerment and independence project continued with the support of the Cabo Verde Institute for Gender Equality and Equity (ICIEG).

AECID ramped up its commitment to gender equality in 2023, including actions as part of the fight against female genital mutilation.

In Senegal, technical and economic support for the National Observatory of Parity (ONP) continued,

while an initiative for promoting rural women's rights was set up.

With the aim of promoting economic self-sufficiency for women, AECID collaborated on a regional level with ECOWAS and the AU, focusing its support on AUDA-NEPAD as a strategic partner within the AU ecosystem, and with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS

AECID promoted several programmes aimed at strengthening public administrations and democracy in the region. In Senegal, it continued to support the Civil Registration System Reform, aiming for higher registration of births through UNICEF and launched €419,236 of support for the Senegalese National Agency for Civil

Registration. Furthermore, in August 2023, it completed the Governance, Migration and Development (GMD) project, funded by the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and implemented jointly with the General Directorate of Support to Senegalese Abroad, following more than five years of work, with a budget of €9.5 million. This work helped to reinforce inclusive governance of migration in Senegal, thus improving the synergy between migration and development.

In Cabo Verde, AECID continued to provide budgetary backing for the blue economy sector through the Budget Support Group (Ministry of Finance); it was also involved in the project for strengthening national capacities in the field of innovation and research to promote the blue economy with the Ministry of the Sea.





Alongside the UNDP, AECID joined the support programme for national dialogue in Ethiopia.

Additionally, the Agency joined the UNFPA in pledging support for the Second Demographic and Health Survey of Equatorial Guinea.

In Mozambique, it continued to support judicial institutions and civil society to enable them to fight against corruption.

ENVIRONMENT

In the context of the environment, it is important to highlight the Agency's contribution to the third phase of the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa in Dakar and Pikine (Senegal), Metropolitan Maputo (Mozambique), Praia and

Ribeira Grande de Santiago (Cabo Verde), and Nouakchott (Mauritania). The aim of this initiative was to facilitate access to sustainable energy and to combat climate change, by means of twelve pilot projects.

In Ethiopia, the Agency activated the Gender and Climate Change Plan in the coffee sector (DeSIRA project) which combined sustainability with a gender approach in this area. Finally, in October, it organised a regional event in Dakar during the Climate Chance campaign week, focused on adapting to environmental changes.

CREATING EMPLOYMENT

In 2023, AECID continued to provide assistance to the National Youth Employment Agency (AN-PEJ) in Senegal through a project

supporting self employment for young people in the Saint-Louis region (Podor department).

In Cabo Verde, it provided support to a project aimed at strengthening the entrepreneurship eco-system in the Santiago tourism sector in Cabo Verde, through the University of Cabo Verde and as part of the EMPREATUR programme and the Sal and Boa Vista Tourism Sector Sustainability project, with the assistance of the Ministry of Tourism and Transport.

66

In 2023, AECID stepped up its commitment to sustainability in sub-Saharan Africa through pilot projects in clean energy, agriculture through a gender lens, and urban mobility, as part of the Covenant of Mayors and the Climate Chance campaign.



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CABO VERDE: PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The *Promoting economic empowerment of women and young people* project, an initiative by the **Cabo Verde Institute for Gender Equality and Equity (ICIEG)** with financial backing from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), has been crucial in building a fairer and more inclusive society in Cabo Verde. The project has established itself as a driving force for promoting inclusion and empowerment of women and young people, not only financially, but also emotionally, giving them strength in the face of all forms of violence. Important milestones were achieved amid major challenges. These accomplishments bolster the commitment to developing skills, strengthening the care system and training and formalising workers, particularly in the domestic sector.

The project helps to improve access to **decent work** and **social protection** for women and young people in Cabo Verde, with a particular emphasis on **formalising domestic labour** and ensuring **these groups are included in the social security system**, with the aim of reducing economic vulnerability and helping to reduce extreme poverty

in the country. To this end, the project has forged partnerships with the Institute of Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP) and the National Institute of Social Security (INPS). These partnerships have enabled training programmes to be set up across municipalities, and facilitated access to the mandatory social protection system for informal workers, particularly domestic workers.

Training and social inclusion: the project has already delivered training on essential subjects including baking and confectionery, cosmetics, sewing, health and basic care for domestic workers, to women and young people in nine municipalities across the country. On top of this, almost a hundred business start-up or development kits were distributed in order to encourage entrepreneurial spirit and financial independence among these women.

Not only have these training courses developed participants' skills, but they have also directly helped them to enter the formal labour market. Some courses saw an impressive **100% of students securing employment**, for example in the

case of Sal. In some areas, students from the Health and Care for Dependent People course were hired by care centres created by the local councils. These success stories show how effective the project has been in promoting decent work, reducing extreme poverty, and responding to the real needs of communities.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC POLICY

The project has been critical for adopting public policy that supports gender **equality** in Cabo Verde. Collaboration with the National Qualification System led to the **creation of a technical committee to develop the domestic worker profile**, now ready for publication and inclusion in the National Catalogue of Qualifications. This initiative is an important achievement in ensuring that these workers are formally recognised and valued. The project also works to build capacity in local associations and support the creation of cooperatives, which helps to **improve opportunities for economic empowerment and financial independence for women and young people across the country**. Trans-



CABO VERDE 



BUDGET

€365,500



OBJECTIVE

To promote economic independence for vulnerable women and young people in Cabo Verde, through training, decent employment and access to social protection.

More than 300 vulnerable women and young people have been able to access training, formal employment and business start-up support, helping to improve gender equality in Cabo Verde.

“

port and childcare support is provided for everyone participating in training, which includes access to subsidised childminders or nursery care. This means that not only do people have access to training, but they also have what they need to enable them to attend and complete the course. The project's commitment to continuity and follow-up, whether through business start-up and development kits, or through initiatives to create cooperatives and associations, ensures that the knowledge acquired is put into practice and leads to income-generating work and financial independence.

AWARENESS-RAISING AND MOBILISATION

Raising the public's awareness of the rights and duties of domestic workers is a key element of the project. Through the use of extensive **promotional campaigns**, including adverts and educational messaging broadcast on television, **the project has succeeded in mobilising employers and workers to enrol in the social security system**, which reinforces social protection and promotes economic inclusion. It is also crucial to educate the

public about why social protection and business formalisation is important, and to promote the social assistance system.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

The project's key accomplishments include **signing strategic agreements** with other organizations, developing and approving the domestic worker profile and training hundreds of women in various parts of the country. To date, **285 women and 15 men in vulnerable situations have received training** and around a hundred business start-up or development kits have been given out. The impact of this work can be seen directly in the **improvement in the beneficiaries' standard of living, and in the promotion of public policy which is geared towards a fairer and more inclusive future** for everyone. It is important to remember that most of the beneficiaries, particularly women, are heads of single-parent households and as such, this project has helped to improve the standard of living for more than 500 indirect beneficiaries. Furthermore, the successful inclusion in the labour market of many students, with some courses even achieving an **employment**

rate of 100%, demonstrates how successful the project has been in promoting economic and social development.

CONCLUSION

The accomplishments of this project mark an important step forward in the fight for **gender equality, in particular with regard to economic empowerment and eradicating violence in Cabo Verde**. We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that women and young people have access to fair and decent opportunities, promoting a society where everybody can thrive.

KEY PROJECTS



GOVERNANCE, MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN SENEGAL

● SENEGAL



BUDGET

€9.5 MILLION



OBJECTIVE

To reinforce inclusive migration governance in Senegal, improving synergy between migration and development.

The **Governance, Migration and Development (GMD) project** received **9.5 million** from the European Union Trust Fund for Africa and was run jointly by the General Directorate of Support to Senegalese Abroad and AECID for five and a half years, coming to an end in August 2023. The main goal of this project was to **support inclusive migration governance in Senegal**, improving synergy with local development.

The most striking accomplishment which has had a major impact was the expansion and establishment of **Reception, Orientation, and Follow-up Offices (BAOS)** in

14 regions and the airport, as well as focal points in 35 departments. This network, which assisted **over 6,000 people in its first year**, supports the reintegration of returning migrants, shares information about the dangers of illegal migration and promotes responsible migration. Instruments like regional reference scenarios and an online platform (E-BAOS) were developed to enable the network to operate.

The project had a direct impact on the target population, supporting **925 income-generating projects** (25% individual projects led by women), and helping **16,200 people** with Cash Transfer operations

in response to COVID-19. 20 civil society organizations received funding for their work.

The model was considered a success, and the Senegalese government has prioritised keeping the mechanism in action.

Conscious of the fact that youth unemployment is one of the root causes of migration, AECID will continue to work on **training and preparing young people for the workplace**.



KEY PROJECTS

SUPPORTING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN MOZAMBIQUE



BUDGET

€9 MILLION



OBJECTIVE

To strengthen justice system institutions and support civil society in promoting initiatives to fight corruption.

In 2023, AECID has continued to back the **Support to fight corruption in Mozambique** project, which aims to equip judicial institutions and civil society to fight corruption in Mozambique, where corruption is a major issue. With a budget of 9 million, co-financed by AECID, the project is focused on making the **justice system more efficient and effective when it comes to preventing**, fighting and monitoring corruption, while also bringing in a **gender perspective**.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

There are **two key strategic elements** to the project:

- Strengthening justice institutions to prevent corruption.
- Supporting civil society in promoting initiatives to fight against corruption.

2023 ACHIEVEMENTS

Significant progress was made towards both goals in 2023:

Strengthening the national justice system

- A diagnosis of the risks of corruption in key justice system institutions was carried out using a variety of methods, including interviews and questionnaires.
- There were training activities on subjects including preventing and fighting corruption as well as seminars on governance and rule of law.
- Work was done to improve institutional transparency and automate processes such as civil servants' declaration of assets.
- Codes of conduct for judicial organizations and an ethics agreement for judges were written, distributed and promoted across the country.

Supporting civil society

- The project supported the participation of civil society in the fight against corruption and the media in identifying, disclosing and reporting cases of corruption.
- Awareness-raising events were held for lawyers and law students with regard to professional ethics in justice.

Combined with the cross-cutting elements of **communication and promoting gender equality and social inclusion**, these actions form part of a **comprehensive approach to fighting corruption**.

This project marks a significant step towards building a more robust justice system and a more active society in Mozambique, both of which are crucial for fighting corruption and fostering fairer, sustainable social and economic development.

ASIA AND THE **ARAB** WORLD



MAIN LINES OF ACTION

In 2023, AECID upheld and built on its commitment to Asia and the Arab World, addressing the region's challenges using a triple-transition approach: social, economic and green.

Among the year's major achievements was the creation of the Spanish Cooperation Office in Tunisia to back up the work being done in this country. Meanwhile, **humanitarian and cooperation development aid for Palestine hit 50 million, a threefold increase on 2022**, marking the most substantial rise in bilateral support to a partner country in the last decade. On a regional level, further discussions were held about the future of the Masar programme in order to update objectives and launch a new programme in 2024, with seminars and participation from key Euro-Mediterranean actors like IEMed, Casa Árabe, Casa Mediterráneo, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), building on key strategic partnerships.

The **key lines of action** were the following:

CREATING EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Spanish Cooperation focused its efforts on **decent work, entrepre-**

neurship, the social economy and promoting economic activity, with particular emphasis on women and young people. In Palestine, it signed an agreement with the EU for Economic Growth and Resilience through Farming in Gaza. In Lebanon, it supported SMEs and cooperatives by means of an accelerator programme. Egypt bolstered the green economy in partnership with the likes of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and UNPD. Morocco promoted digital and green tourism, the social and solidarity economy and women entrepreneurs. Mauritania worked on creating jobs for young people and improving conditions for artisanal fishermen and women processing fish, through the EU-funded Promopêche project.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

In 2023, AECID worked actively on **promoting equality, fighting male violence, supporting women's inclusion in politics and protecting economic and labour rights.** In Palestine, it worked on the SAWASYA II programme with UN Women, in order to improve access to justice and safety for women. Jordan received support for its National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and towards strengthening services against gender-based violence alongside the EU and UN-

FPA. In Egypt, measures against gender-based violence were driven through the provision of Safe Clinics and support for civil society, while women's economic rights were also promoted. Morocco made women's economic independence a priority, particularly in rural settings and through green entrepreneurship. Mauritania incorporated the gender perspective into healthcare services to fight gender-based violence. In Tunisia, a long-established area of work, support was provided for women's movements to influence public policy and strengthen leadership. In the Philippines, the gender perspective was promoted in peace processes, and work was done on protecting the rights of indigenous women.

GREEN TRANSITION, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

Solutions to climate change were sought and **sustainable access to water** was improved in a vulnerable, water-scarce region. In Lebanon, the water supply was improved and solar panels were provided to schools. In Jordan, improvements were made in terms of wellfield management and environmental conditions at Palestinian refugee camps. Egypt collaborated on **waste water treatment and reuse**, and promoted innovative agriculture. Morocco developed projects related to innovative agriculture, sustainable tourism and renewable energy. Tunisia fostered climate resilience in vulnerable urban areas alongside UN-Habitat. In the Philippines, a **sustainable electricity project using renewable sources** was launched. A stand-out project in Egypt promoted **innovative farming in desert areas**, combining techniques to increase productivity, reduce environmental impact and improve water sustainability, benefiting over 2,500 farmers.



RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

AECID supported the **fight against child malnutrition**, for example in Mauritania (in the area close to the Mbera refugee camp). Backing was also given to the work of Spanish NGOs to develop innovative solutions for improving agricultural productivity. Egypt vigorously promoted innovative agriculture in the desert, which is also a priority line of action in Morocco for sustainable rural development. Crop farming was encouraged in Palestine through the Gaza farming programme.

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

There was a focus on promoting the rule of law, **access to justice and strengthening of institutions**. Together with the EU, AECID ran the NAZAHA programme to help improve governance and administrative integrity in Jordan. In Morocco, it empowered young people to improve local public services in partnership with the OECD. Mauritania worked on an **inclusive justice system for children and with a gender approach**. In Palestine, AECID provided legal support and raised awareness in the face of property destruction and forced displacement, protecting rights of residency and family unification, while continuing to provide budgetary support to the Ministry of Finance through the PEGASE mechanism. In the Philippines, it strengthened the rule of law and access to justice through projects like SUBATRA (EU/AECID) and GO JUST II (EU/AECID), for a multifaceted justice system that respects human rights and supports civil society. One key project in Tunisia, in cooperation with Jamaiety, improved civil society resilience to protect civic space and human rights. Another notable initiative set out to **modernise the prison service** (DGAPR) in Morocco, through technical cooperation and an exchange of expertise with Spanish institutions (SGIP, ETPFE), improving inmate classification, rehabilitation and the prison work system.

HEALTH

Health was a priority sector in Mauritania, Jordan and Morocco. In Mauritania, efforts were focused on **staff training, universal healthcare, strengthening the ambulance service and specialised medical training** in cooperation with the CSAI Foundation. Morocco collaborated with the Barcelona Institute for Global Health in the fields of public health, epidemiology and migrant health. In Jordan, work forged ahead in the areas of health system reform, better hosting of Syrian refugees, **preventing noncommunicable diseases, and the COVID-19 response**. In Egypt, action in this area kicked off with a project for improving its transplant programme, in cooperation with the CSAI Foundation.

MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The new Cooperation Act prioritises a comprehensive approach to migration, focused on people, rights, underlying causes and reg-

ular migration channels. North Africa is a key focus for this approach. Egypt worked with the IOM in the fight against people trafficking and continued to support migration management with EU funding. Morocco improved migrant literacy and integration in cooperation with the National Agency for the Fight Against Illiteracy and the IOM.

YOUTH

With almost half of the Arab population under the age of 25, support for youth is a crucial cross-cutting concept in **terms of creating jobs, opportunities and social, economic, political and cultural inclusion**. In Morocco, a new "House of Youth" model was developed, with an emphasis on inclusion of young people in projects for economic opportunity, mobilisation of young people for improving public services, and finding sustainable work for young people in agriculture. The Promopêche project in Mauritania was involved in **creating work for young people in the fishing industry**.



MASAR REGIONAL PROGRAMME

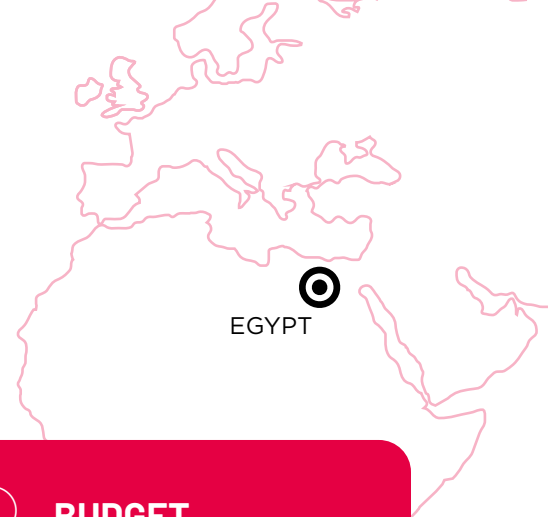
In 2023, AECID provided support for Euro-Mediterranean entities including FEMISE, IEMed and UPM. A grant awarded to the FEMISE network funded research on promoting entrepreneurship among women and young people in the Southern Neighbourhood. IEMed received financing for its think tank and

a seminar for reconsidering the Masar programme. Assistance was provided to the UPM grant programmes for inclusive digital business and its regional gender programmes. This support was given in the context of a dialogue process regarding the launch of a new Masar programme in 2024.



KEY PROJECTS

INNOVATIVE DESERT FARMING FOR RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS IN EGYPT



BUDGET

€500,000



OBJECTIVE

To promote farming in desert regions, combining organic and conventional farming techniques with innovative practices.



This AECID-funded intervention promotes farming in desert regions, by combining organic and conventional farming techniques with innovative practices. Efficient water management, climate-smart crops and optimal arable land use can all be used to help mitigate the effects of recurrent droughts, salinity and unsuitable farmland, thereby increasing agricultural productivity while reducing environmental impact and improving

water sustainability, energy efficiency and food security. Over 2,500 farmers from the governorates of Aswan, Sohag, Qena, Beheira and New Valley have directly benefited from the project.



STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY RESILIENCE IN TUNISIA TO PROTECT CIVIC SPACE



The key aim of this project is to help protect human rights and civic space in Tunisia. The work will strengthen the cooperation between local associations, while building their organisational and technical capacity to help ensure they can have an effective social and political impact. The project is rolled out across six geographic regions of Tunisia and builds on a previous project phase which worked with coalitions, networks and platforms for promoting human rights.

It aims to achieve the following results: help associations, networks and other human rights collectives to work better together, enabling effective collective action and advocacy; improve and strengthen the operational, technical, governance, communication and advocacy capacity of Tunisian civil society in order to achieve more efficient and effective action; and establish a framework of dialogue, consultation, proposal, analysis and planning, for all civil society issues and to promote its use.



BUDGET

€300,000



OBJECTIVE

To help protect human rights and civic space in Tunisia.



KEY PROJECTS



MOROCCO



BUDGET

€300,000



OBJECTIVE

To strengthen a public sector entity in Morocco, through exchange of expertise with the General Secretariat of Penitentiary Institutions, part of the Ministry of the Interior of Spain.



MOROCCO PRISON SERVICE MODERNISATION PROGRAMME

The core aim of this project is to strengthen a public sector entity in Morocco, with technical cooperation playing a major part, through an exchange of expertise with the Spanish Ministry of the Interior's General Secretariat of Penitentiary Institutions.

The project has had an impact on capacity-building across various areas of the DGAPR, including inmate classification, processing, rehabilitation and the work system.

Two technical cooperation activities took place in 2023 with the General Secretariat of Penitentiary Institutions (SGIP) and with the State Entity for Penitentiary Work and Training for Employment (ET-PFE), assigned to the Ministry of the Interior of Spain through the General Secretariat of Penitentiary Institutions. The aim of this work was to look at the Spanish prison work model, and consider how it could be replicated and adapted for the Moroccan system. To this end, two Spanish experts from the General Secretariat of Penitentiary Institutions and the State Entity for Penitentiary Work and Training for Employment visited the Ain Sebaa Local Prison in Casablanca and Kenitra Central Prison.

Following familiarisation with Morocco's prison work system during the visit, the Spanish experts produced two manuals. The first, a legal analysis of the prison work system and recommendations for its implementation in Moroccan prisons, and the second focused on drawing up a model for improving the Moroccan prison production system.

Finally, in April 2023 a DGAPR delegation visited Spain to see the Spanish prison production system. The delegation visited the Madrid III Penitentiary Centre in Valdemoro and the Madrid V Penitentiary Centre in Soto del Real.



ANDEAN

REGION AND SOUTHERN CONE



MAIN LINES OF ACTION

In 2023, Spanish Cooperation was unwavering in its commitment to gender equality, democratic governance, the rights of indigenous people and people of African descent, and professional training for socioeconomic inclusion of vulnerable young people.

In the area of professional training and inclusion of young people, it funded the first **workshop schools project in the Los Chiles/Upala region of Costa Rica**. This project, in collaboration with the National Learning Institute (INA) and the University of Costa Rica Foundation, combines the learn-by-doing approach with the INA's own training system in a region that faces specific employment and migration challenges.

The fight against **gender-based violence** was a key priority. In **Ecuador**, the Judiciary Council received support via a grant of €300,000 to reduce femicide and violent deaths among women, focusing on research, knowledge management and an interinstitutional model to guarantee access to justice in Sucumbios and Orellana. In **Chile**, a grant of €300,000 sought to strengthen women's leadership in public policy for a life free from gender-based violence. In **Colombia**, a project focused on **prevention, protection and assistance in terms of gender-based violence affecting women, girls and LGBTIQ+ people** was launched.

Another relevant topic was support for **LGBTIQ+ rights**. In **Ecuador**, a grant of €300,000 was awarded to the Diálogo Diverso Foundation for the "My home away from home" project, which provides comprehensive assistance to members of

AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN LATIN AMERICA



ciation of Afro-Colombian Women (AMUAFROC), in partnership with the Latin American Articulation for the Decade for People of African Descent.

Argentina, Guatemala, Ecuador and Haiti) through national consultations, and generate proposals to improve the situation for these communities in the region.

The aim of the project is to strengthen the impact that Afro-descendant civil society organizations have in monitoring and evaluating the agenda of the International Decade for People of African Descent. It also aims to share its achievements, encourage active participation across six countries (Chile, Colombia,



the LGBTIQ+ community who are on the move, as well as to host communities in Quito and Cuenca.

“Protecting the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community on the move is a major focus.”

As regards the **rights of indigenous people**, in **Bolivia**, AECID kicked off the EU delegated cooperation programme Etseasa Medi (EU €350,000, AECID €140,000) with the aim of promoting rights in the lowlands region, supporting implementation of the right to organise themselves and to define their own life plans. In **Venezuela**, it approved a project with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous people.

In support of communities of African descent, Spanish Cooperation provided financial backing of €115,000 (2023-2025) for a project looking to **Strengthen the impact of civil society organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean in the discussion, monitoring and evaluation of the agenda of the International Decade for People of African Descent**. The project is a regional initiative led by the Asso-

In 2023, special attention was given to the topic of **access to justice and democratic governance**. In **Bolivia**, the “Access to justice for all and system reform” project (€3,497,000) received support through AECID and UNODC. The aim of this project is to help to provide equal access to justice and ensure that institutions are effective and transparent, benefiting multiple judicial and ministerial entities. A €140,000 grant was awarded to CODEHUPY in Paraguay, to support the “Democratic memory, human rights, archives and sites of resistance” project, which

aims to promote democratic culture, strengthen civil society organizations and raise public awareness on memory of the dictatorship.

In the context of the **environment**, the Community-based fire management for risk reduction and climate resilience project (€340,000) was developed in the Bolivian regions of Chiquitania, Chaco and the Pantanal. It helped to reinforce sustainable territorial governance, promoting good farming practices and integrated fire management.

Support for peacebuilding in Colombia held firm, specifically through a Search Unit for Missing Persons project, which included updating and implementing regional search plans, and exchanging expertise with specialised Spanish entities.

In **Peru**, **help for migrant communities** was a key area of work, with a particular focus on migrants from **Venezuela**. Two grants were awarded in this area. The first was a €500,000 grant to support the National Superintendence of Migration in bringing a migration-based approach into local government in Lima and Callao, in order to facilitate integration. The second was a grant of €300,000 for Peruvian NGO CEDRO, towards their work on civil society integration to pro-

mote a rights-based migration approach in host communities.

Finally, in **Paraguay** a project (€400,000) on “Prevention and improvement of care for girls, boys and adolescents who are victims of abuse” was launched, with the aim of improving psychological care and extending its reach in the western region of the Paraguayan Chaco.



KEY PROJECTS

FIFTH CONFERENCE OF THE WORKSHOP SCHOOLS NETWORK IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (RETALEC)



BUDGET

€42,000



OBJECTIVE

To strengthen cooperation between workshop schools in Latin America and the Caribbean and promote training in professions related to heritage.

From 17 to 20 May 2023, the city of Cajamarca in Peru was host to the fifth conference of the "Escuelas Taller" workshop schools network in Latin America and the Caribbean (RETALEC). The event marked a key moment in restoring connections between these institutions following the break imposed by the pandemic.

Representatives from 27 workshop schools across 11 countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay) took part in the event, which served as a platform for coming together and collaborating. The opening event was held at the Miguel Espinach Municipal Cultural Centre, home of the San Antonio workshop school in Cajamarca, and was attended by local authorities, Spanish Cooperation, UNESCO and other Peruvian institutions.

At the event, the host school showcased work from their woodwork, welding, gardening, cooking and archaeology classes. There were visits to the likes of Cerro Santa Apolonia, a hilltop archaeological site in Cajamarca, and the

house of Toribio Casanova, which is currently undergoing renovation to be turned into a cultural centre. An important moment at the conference was the naming of the Guatemala workshop school as the new Technical Secretary of the Network of 52 schools. The school will head up the network for the next two years, with the support of Cajamarca and other schools in Chile, Uruguay and Bolivia. A draft action plan for 2023-2025 was also presented, while the next conference,

to be hosted in Guatemala City, was announced for 2026.

The conference ended with the symbolic piecing together of a collective mural, with sections completed by each of the participating schools. The organisation and hospitality shown by the San Antonio workshop school in Cajamarca was widely praised, and cemented the school's position as a model example for the RETALEC network.





CENTRAL **AMERICA** **MEXICO AND THE** **CARIBBEAN**



MAIN LINES OF **ACTION**

The region of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, made up of one less advanced partner country (Haiti), six middle-income countries (Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic), and three advanced cooperation countries (Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama), is an AECID priority action area, due to the extensive social and economic challenges faced there.

Projects run by the Department for Cooperation with Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean have made significant contributions to sustainable development in the area, with interventions focused on key themes like peacebuilding and social justice through the De-

mocracy Programme; ending poverty; food security; mitigating and adapting to climate change and conservation of biodiversity with the ARAUCLIMA and EUROCLIMA programmes; and promoting social cohesion and reducing inequality across various sectors: gender (political participation of women, the fight against all forms of violence against women, sexual and reproductive rights, etc.); ethnic, through programmes for indigenous people and people of African descent; people in migration, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTIQ+ community as well as inequality in terms of access to basic public services like water, sanitation, health-care and education.

Given the scale of these challenges and the need for a coordinated approach to addressing them, AECID has pledged its resolute support and commitment to integration in the region, through the Spain-SICA fund in Central America and through the Spain-CARICOM fund in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

66 Efforts were focused on peacebuilding, social justice, ending poverty and reducing inequalities.



KEY PROJECTS

SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RIGHTS IN NGÄBE BUGLÉ

The Comarca Ngäbe Buglé region in Panama is facing **severe socio-economic challenges**, with over 93% of the population living in poverty and over 91% living in extreme poverty, high rates of early school leaving and 44.5% of households headed by women. In view of this, Spanish Cooperation (AECID) has been implementing a **comprehensive local development strategy** in the area for almost a decade.

The "Supporting local governance and partnerships for human development and rights" project has been working to **build local capacities and networks for the purpose of promoting sustainable human development and human rights** since the end of 2021. Working with a €250,000 budget, the project places a strong emphasis on a **multi-cultural and gender-equality-based approach**, organising its efforts in conjunction with local and traditional authorities.

The project's key actions include **local government** (town planning) training, supporting **access to justice** for local and traditional authorities, and making **minor investments to improve basic services** like **health centres** and drinking water in schools. The **project also supports communities of craftswomen**, while

also promoting transparency in local governance, enabling women leaders to participate in political forums.

Through this project, AECID is reinforcing its commitment to sustainable human development and the protection of human rights in Comarca Ngäbe Buglé, working hand-in-hand with local communities and authorities.



BUDGET

€250,000



OBJECTIVE

To help build local capacities and networks to drive sustainable human development in Comarca Ngäbe Buglé and influence national strategies.



KEY PROJECTS



BUDGET

€115,000



OBJECTIVE

To work towards achieving the objectives of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024).

CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN TAKE PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT – AFRO PROGRAMME

As part of its Programme of Cooperation with people of African descent, AECID has been developing an ambitious regional project in Latin America and the Caribbean since 2023, aimed at boosting the participation of Afro-descendant organizations in monitoring, evaluating and steering the agenda of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024).

The initiative aims to strengthen the impact of people of African descent at a national and regional level. To achieve this, it holds national consultations and dialogues with organizations and activists across multiple countries, in order to shape and strengthen the objectives of the Decade in each setting.

Meanwhile, it promotes a regional approach through collaborative networks, making it possible to build a solid and representative movement.

The project also supports key processes like monitoring the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, promoting the Declaration on the human rights of people of African descent, providing support for Chapter I of the Montevideo Consensus on Afro-Descendants, and adopting national action plans in these countries.

This activity is a result of collaborative work between AECID and organizations representing people of African descent, with the purpose

of wrapping up the first International Decade for People of African Descent with tangible progress: an updated knowledge base, a network of regional stakeholders and clear solutions to persistent challenges.

In this way, AECID is supporting the Afro-descendant movement at a key moment, fostering their participation in decision-making settings and contributing to a common agenda of rights, justice and recognition in Latin America and the Caribbean.

KEY PROJECTS

PROMOTING WORKPLACE INTEGRATION WITH A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE FOR REFUGEE WOMEN AND LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE IN MEXICO



With Mexico hitting record numbers of asylum seekers and reaching the third highest rate of asylum applications in the world in 2022, AECID has launched a project to support refugee women and LGBTIQ+ people who have been victims of gender-based violence or violence based on their sexual identity in collaboration with Ayu-

da en Acción Mexico, with the aim of achieving effective social and workplace integration in Mexico. The project also had the support of the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) and the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID).

AECID has provided €1 million of bilateral funding for this initiative through three grants, the latest of which will be provided in 2024. The initiative follows a "triple nexus" approach, combining humanitarian, development and peace actions, and has secured crucial

agreements with Spanish businesses in Mexico to provide decent work for target groups. Combined with social and emotional support and temporary housing, this provides them with stability in their new country and supports personal development in line with human rights. This work is carried out in areas where Spanish businesses have the capacity and will to hire, such as in San Luis Potosí, Querétaro and Mexico City, as well as in places where migration-related tensions are at their highest, for example at the country's borders to the north and south.



BUDGET

€400,000



OBJECTIVE

To support refugee women and members of the LGBTIQ+ community who have been victims of gender-based violence or violence based on their sexual identity.

KEY PROJECTS



BUDGET

€400,000



OBJECTIVE

To improve waste management by providing training to participants in the recycling process, creating a focus on sales and building partnerships with public institutions.



EL SALVADOR

DRIVING INCLUSIVE RECYCLING IN EL SALVADOR: A COOPERATION MODEL FOR SUSTAINABILITY

El Salvador produces over **four thousand tonnes of waste** each day, and **only 5% of this is recycled**. The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) provides funding for the **inclusive recycling model for waste management in strengthening the value chain in El Salvador**, a project which aims to address this problem while utilising opportunities within the recycling sector to also work on **social, economic and environmental development**. With a budget of €400,000, the Business Foundation for Social Action (FUNDEMAS) has been running the project since August 2022.

The project aims **to improve competition and sustainability** in the

recycling market, helping to stimulate the economy and reduce waste pollution. It is centred around three key elements: **improving skills** among waste collectors, waste centres and companies; **promoting market access** for recyclable materials; and **strengthening partnerships** with local and central governments.

One of the project's success stories has been the provision of training and equipment for 1,150 waste collectors and equipment for 563 waste collectors. Operations handbooks and business plans were provided to waste centres, opening up nine new market access routes. The project has fostered **partnerships with public and private bodies** and

provided training on the Waste Management and Recycling Promotion Act (LEGIR) to 450 stakeholders, as well as environmental training to 375 stakeholders.

The impact of the project has been considerable, with **18,573.63 tonnes of recyclable materials collected**, which has **prevented 53,492.05 tonnes of CO² from being released into the atmosphere**. It has generated sales of over US\$6.6 million and an estimated saving of US\$1.8 million for local councils, as well as **creating an estimated 4,889 jobs**.

The model has proven to be an effective tool for driving sustainability and inclusion in El Salvador.

SPECIFIC SECTORS





HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The Office for Humanitarian Action (OAH) focuses on protecting and saving lives, as well as preventing and reducing human suffering.



NGDOS

The total amount granted to interventions by non governmental development organizations (NGDOs) through the two main lines of finance reached €90 million in 2023.



SECTORAL COOPERATION

In 2023, AECID promoted the gender agenda with the Ellas+ programme, which was selected by the European Union as an example of good practice in equal leadership.



CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC ACTION

The Network of Cultural Centres was expanded with the opening of new offices in Guatemala and Panama, and the network hosted over 5,300 cultural activities.



MAIN LINES OF ACTION

In 2023, the Spanish Cooperation Office for Humanitarian Action (OAH) channelled its efforts and resources into responding to the world's most pressing crises. It concentrated **71% of its available budget on seven priority regions**, backing up this work by driving key thematic priorities and building emergency response capacity.

Within these **priority regions**, significant funding of €15.75 million was allocated to the **Sahel**, with work focusing on the response to the hunger and malnutrition crisis, as well as supporting education in emergencies and protecting affected communities in countries like Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. The "forgotten crisis" of the **Sahrawi refugee camps** remained a priority

area, where Spain established itself as the leading donor, contributing a total of €11.6 million (€9.32 million OHA funding). Funding was aimed at essential interventions in food security, health, education in emergencies and protection.

The **Syrian crisis** response (€7.9 million OAH funding) focused primarily on providing aid for forcibly displaced people, both within Syria and in neighbouring countries, predominantly in Lebanon. The OAH allocated €5.5 million to **Afghanistan**, paying special attention to the **rights of women and girls** with actions related to health (including sexual and reproductive rights), gender equality and education in emergencies.

66 Spain, largest contributor to Sahrawi refugee camps: €11.6 million in 2023.

More than €7.8 million in humanitarian action was disbursed by the OAH in response to the war in **Ukraine**, with a focus on supporting education in emergencies, protecting vulnerable people, preparing for winter and gender equality. This was part of a total package of over €80 million from Spain. Following the **Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus**, AECID also took steps towards recovery, assisting with humanitarian demining and energy infrastructure in schools.



HUMANITARIAN ACTION



AECID's work was furthest-reaching in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was one of the greatest recipients of humanitarian aid, with an allocation of nearly €27.7 million. This support included a considerable contribution towards the crisis unfolding in **Venezuela** and associated host countries (more than €9.4 million), the armed conflict in **Colombia** (€5.6 million) and the crisis in Central America and the Caribbean (€7.8 million), including Haiti. Financial support was also allocated to places like Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Mozambique and Somalia.

The OAH worked extensively on both sectoral and cross-cutting **thematic priorities**. In terms of sectoral priorities, core sectors included **food security**, which received €24.3 million in the context of a worsening global crisis; **protection of forcibly displaced people** which received almost €25.9 million, surpassing the original pledge to allocate at least 10% of the budget to this group; and **education in emergencies**, where Spain is leading in the Safe Schools programme, with contributions exceeding €11.6 million. In addition to these sectors, support was provided for **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene** (almost €3.2 million) and **Health** (more than €7.08 million), primarily in Africa.

Cross-cutting priorities played a key role in AECID humanitarian action. The theme of **gender equality** was present across around €30 million worth of interventions, as part of specific projects and through the call for humanitarian action for NGOs, where 25% of the funding amount was reserved for this topic. **Environmental protection and the fight against climate change** were other focus areas, with an emphasis on disaster resilience, predominantly in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Another priority was **improving the quality of aid**, with an increase in flexible funding (over €16 million) and the use of money transfers (cash and vouchers), which reached over €14.28 million. This makes up 16.72% of the OAH budget, nearing

the 18% strategic goal set for 2026. Finally, the **Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus** was applied across the board in locations that are unstable or in recovery.

The OAH disbursed a total of €8.7 million towards **emergency response**. This included €4.2 million channelled through IFRC emergency appeals, **seven direct humanitarian aid shipments** (worth over €1.9 million) to several countries including Ukraine, Türkiye and Gaza/Egypt – always as an additional measure and prioritising quality and effectiveness – and implementation of **16 agreements with Spanish NGOs** (over €2.6 million).

Furthermore, the OAH worked on building the capacity of the **START team**, initiating the process of acquiring WHO **Emergency Medical Team** status (EMT-1), as well as classification as a **water purification unit** under the ECPP. These accreditations will increase AECID's emergency response capacity.

2023 saw Spanish Cooperation consolidate its strategic humanitarian approach, with assistance directed towards the most vulnerable areas and crucial themes, combining a direct response backed by key partners with capacity-building for an improved quality and scope of assistance.

“ In 2023, AECID developed the START team, launching its accreditation as an Emergency Medical Team (EMT-1) and a water purification unit under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.”



KEY PROJECTS

UNRWA IN PALESTINE



BUDGET

€19,5 MILLION



OBJECTIVE

To provide humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees and protect human rights in the context of increasing vulnerability and a prolonged crisis.

In 2023, Spain reaffirmed and **significantly scaled up its commitment to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)**, tripling its contribution compared to 2022, in a context of crisis and fewer contributions coming from other donors. Spain donated a total of **19.5** million, delivered through AECID (€8.75 million) and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Global Affairs (€10.75 million), responding to needs in Palestine, Jordan and Syria.

This cooperation is built on a long history of Spanish support for UNRWA, dating back to 1958. Palestine remains one of the main recipients of Spanish ODA, with total aid (humanitarian and development) surpassing €50 million in 2023 for essential sectors like education, healthcare and other services.

Spain **stepped up humanitarian diplomacy** during its presidency of the Council of the EU, activating coordinated response mechanisms and enhancing actions related to protection, **food security, water,**

sanitation and women's rights. Spain led the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid to prioritise the crisis in Gaza and send common messages.

UNRWA was established in 1949 to provide aid to Palestinian refugees and supports approximately six million people in the region, managing schools and health centres. Although 94% of UNRWA's funding comes from voluntary donations, **in 2023 it faced a serious financial crisis** with a deficit of 51%. Spain's contribution of €19.5 million was essential to improve service provision in the face of this situation.

Attention is also focused on the **situation in the West Bank**, where there has been a **75% increase in in-**

cidents of destruction of property, and a rise in **settler violence**. Spain **prioritised aid worker protection** and focused on **diplomatic efforts** when faced with visa problems for Spanish NGOs.

Spain's commitment to the **creation of a sovereign Palestinian State that respects human rights** continues to be one of the priorities of Spain's foreign policy. Bilateral cooperation is guided by the **bilateral partnership framework 2020-2024** which sets out a pledge of €100 million for key areas like economic development, creation of employment and gender equality.

KEY PROJECTS



HIAS IN THE DARIÉN GAP



The main goal of HIAS's Cross-border Assistance and Protection for Populations in Transit through the Darién Gap project in 2023 was to improve living conditions and safety for migrant and refugee populations travelling between **Colombia, Panama and Costa Rica**. The initiative set out to mitigate the risks of gender-based violence (GBV), monitor protection and offer humanitarian assistance, creating **safe spaces** along these dangerous routes.

The project was structured in phases, with work for both Phase 1 (July 2022 – June 2023) and Phase 2 (August 2023 – July 2024) taking place in 2023. Interventions were carried out at key locations like Necoclí in Colombia, Bajo Chiquito, Canaán Membrillo and temporary reception centres in Panama, and various border locations in Costa Rica, expanding to include San José in Costa Rica and areas in Honduras in Phase 2.

AECID provided €400,000 of support for Phase 1 of this project, and



BUDGET

Phase 1 (2022-2023)

€400,000

Phase 2 (2023-2024)

€500,000



OBJECTIVE

To improve living conditions for migrants and refugees travelling through Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica and Honduras, by mitigating the risks of gender-based violence, offering humanitarian and legal assistance, providing psychosocial support and carrying out cross-border protection monitoring.



€500,000 for Phase 2, which was crucial for continued effective action.

Strategic areas of intervention included **protection against gender-based violence** (case management, safe spaces, emergency kits), **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)** (individual and group interventions), **legal protection** (providing information, legal assistance, emergency funding), and **cross-border protection monitoring**. The project aligns with key SDGs and with Spanish Cooperation strategies, protecting vulnerable people and fighting against GBV as a matter of priority.

The results of the project were substantial, with 3,175 people supported directly and 5,135 supported indirectly during Phase 1 of the project, surpassing initial beneficiary targets by 65%, assisting 13,764 people as a result of increased migration. Under Phase 2 of the project, 5,912 people were directly supported and 9,017 indirectly supported. Goals relating to GBV, MHPSS and legal information sessions were surpassed in Phase 1, with high results in Phase 2 and 100% distribution of emergency and dignity kits.

AFGHANISTAN: SPANISH COOPERATION BRINGS HOPE IN THE MIDST OF A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS



BUDGET

€750,000



OBJECTIVE

To ensure essential reproductive healthcare services and support are available to survivors of violence, focused on vulnerable women and girls

Afghanistan is in the middle of a **humanitarian crisis of unprecedented proportions**, brought about by a combination of conflict, persistent poverty, natural disasters and the sudden suspension of development assistance in August 2021. This has left the health system on the brink of collapse and put living conditions at risk. Half of the **population is believed to be in need of humanitarian assistance**.

The situation is particularly critical for women and girls. The country is recording an alarming **51,000 preventable maternal deaths per year**, which is a rate of 638 deaths per 100,000 live births. They also face a **high risk of gender-based violence and harmful practices** like child marriage. There have also been setbacks in terms of education, with an **official ban on girls attending secondary school**. Two thirds of the population, particularly adolescents and young people, are experiencing increasing marginalization.





BUDGET

€750,000



OBJECTIVE

To boost education opportunities for adolescents, in particular girls, through alternative models like community education and accelerated learning centres, with a comprehensive and inclusive approach.

In the light of this situation, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) has escalated its humanitarian support. It sent €750,000 per phase for two key projects in 2023, delivered through agencies of the United Nations, with the purpose of mitigating the effects of the crisis and promoting a decent future. These projects align with both the Spanish Cooperation Humanitarian Action Strategy 2019-2026 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

One of the projects, run by the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, focused its efforts on providing **vital reproductive healthcare services and preventing gender-based violence** in the north-east and south-east of the country. They were able to offer comprehensive services and psychosocial support through Mobile Health Teams (MHT), Family Health Houses (FHH) and Women Friendly Health Spaces (WFHS). The results were extremely positive, reaching **a total of over a million direct and indirect beneficiaries** over the course of the two phases in 2023.

This work helps to reduce maternal mortality rates and tackle gender-based violence.

At the same time, the Investing in the Children of Afghanistan: Keep Girls Learning project with **UNICEF** aims to **expand educational opportunities for adolescents**, particularly girls, in the face of severe restrictions. In response to the closure of secondary schools for girls, alternative models like **Accelerated Learning Centres (ALC)** and **Community Based Education (CBE)** have been set up in private spaces.

AECID's contribution enabled 150 Accelerated Learning Centres for girls to be set up and become operational, providing educational materials, psychosocial support and teacher training. The aim of this approach is to provide learning continuity and develop skills, benefiting thousands of children (with 87% girls supported in 2023-2024) and teachers.

These two 2023 AECID projects demonstrate **Spain's commitment to the most vulnerable Afghan**

people, prioritising sexual and reproductive health, protection against gender-based violence and access to education, in particular for women and girls, in an extremely complex humanitarian setting.

“ In the face of the serious humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, Spanish Cooperation has invested 1.5 million in health and education for more than a million vulnerable women and girls through projects with UNFPA and UNICEF. ”



MAIN

LINES OF ACTION

In 2023, grants totalling **45 million** were awarded for development cooperation interventions by NGDOs. These grants supported single-country development projects, Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) projects, and projects targeting Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf.

In 2023, grants totalling 45 million were awarded to NGDOs for development cooperation projects.

On top of this, the second annual payout of €45 million continued to be developed and funded for the **multi-year development cooperation agreements** strategic line. The €180 million call for proposals for these projects took place in 2022, for performance over the 2022-2025 period. The budget for this funding call was €20 million higher than the previous call in 2018. 142 proposals were presented, for a total amount of €416.1 million, of which 31 Spanish NGDOs were selected, carrying out **63 development agreements**. This NGDO development instrument covers long-term interventions over a four-year period and with an average budget of €3 million per agreement, making it the most potentially impactful line of development, working across multiple countries and sectors, including Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship as well as emergency and humanitarian action agreements.

The **annual call for projects** was one of Spanish Cooperation's instruments for working towards equitable and sustainable development, as well as the fight against inequalities and poverty. In 2023, 67 non-governmental development organizations (NGDOs) carried out projects in Spain and 28 partner countries. 179 NGDOs responded to the call for proposals, with a total of 317 applications for an amount of €150 million. 86 proposals were ultimately approved for

a value of €45 million, €13 million more than the 2022 call which had a budget of around €32 million for 88 projects. The projects approved in 2023 covered 28 countries: 21 in Central America, 15 in Asia and the Arab World, 19 in sub-Saharan Africa and 14 in South America.

“ In 2023, AECID approved 86 projects for a value of €45 million, marking an increase of over 71% compared with 2022.

In 2023, **changes were made to the call for projects process**, including extending the scope to cover 28 countries, bringing Lebanon and Guinea-Bissau on board as partner countries; bolstering the Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship line by increasing the credit reserved for the topic from 4% to 6% of the total call value, enabling the approval of 12 projects for €2.67 million; introducing a general lower limit of €200,000 for applications and increasing the maximum grant amount from €600,000 to €1 million. The aim of the call for development cooperation projects was to focus initiatives in a single country and with a specific objective, for a maximum performance period of two years. With these changes, AECID sought to boost the impact of interventions through projects with higher budgets, and extend their reach to new cooperation countries.

More than 20 information sessions, work group meetings and two AECID assessment committee sessions were held for the purpose of managing these grants.

In order to **monitor NGDO interventions** funded under previous funding calls, **43 online committee meetings were held to monitor the 65 agreements in place**. AECID also reviewed over 200 midway and closing reports relating to interventions in progress which were

approved under various funding calls.

In 2023, in coordination with AECID's Office for Humanitarian Action, the NGDO department managed 17 activations relating to **5 emergency agreements** for the 2022-2025 funding call in Peru, Myanmar, Haiti, Ecuador, Palestine, Armenia, Syria, Türkiye, Ethiopia, Chad and Morocco, for a total of €3 million.

In 2023, the NGDO department **assessed 45 registered NGDOs** to check if they have fulfilled the requirements to retain their NGDO status, ensuring that their accreditation is valid in line with current regulations.

There were 997 organizations on the **NGDO register** on 31 December 2023 and the register processed

527 registration applications, requests, decisions and various types of reports on the matter.

The department handled over 1,395 communications relating to assisting organizations with their **registration and accreditation**, amounting to around seven enquiries every day.

In relation to **aid workers**, the NGDO department is also responsible for **managing group health and life insurance** to cover workers from 110 registered organizations. This requires considerable attention in terms of workers being regularly added and removed from the AECID policies. In 2023, 170 workers were added to or removed from the health insurance policy, and 176 added to or removed from the life insurance policy, from more than 81



NGDOs, with over 1,700 emails and communications received through the corporate mailbox. Over 1,300 communications relating to insurance management were processed through the corporate mailbox and 17 work requests from aid workers were authorised, demonstrating just how active the international development cooperation sector is.

66 The department managed over 1,700 enquiries relating to aid worker insurance and

processed over 1,300 communications.

Another of the NGDO department's responsibilities is to review supporting documentation relating to organizations' fulfilment of criteria, and to prepare reports of public interest upon the request of the National Registry of Associations under the Ministry of the Interior, amounting to 12 reports per year on average.

In relation to the **revision of supporting documents for grants** managed by the department under its

calls for projects or agreements, on 31 December 2023, there were over 1,200 projects in the evidence phase, representing a total grant amount of €354 million. These projects were continuously reviewed based on availability, and also had the support of an auditor's signature to verify fulfilment of the applicable regulations. The corporate mailbox processed over 378 communications related to this subject in 2023.

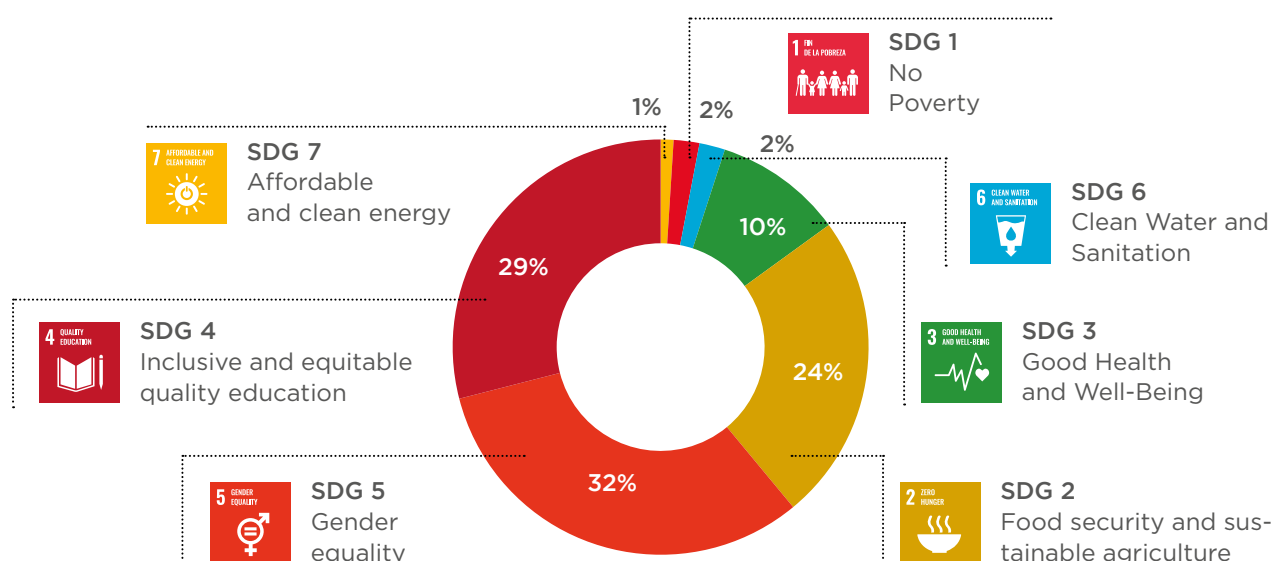
Finally, in relation to the review of supporting evidence for NGDO grants, four files were sent to the National Audit Office and three enquiries were presented to AECID'S legal advisor.



WHICH SDGS ARE WE HAVING AN IMPACT ON?

The sectors where most grants were awarded in the 2023 NGDO call for development cooperation projects were the following: 26 projects and €14.4 million on gender equality and empowerment of women (32.12%), 24 initiatives and €10.7 million on food security and ending hunger (23.74%),

and 22 projects and €13.1 million on inclusive and equitable quality education (29.12%).



KEY PROJECTS



BUDGET

€432,755



OBJECTIVE

To help improve food security, rural income, empowerment of women and environmental sustainability.

AGRI-EMPLOYMENT: AGROECOLOGY AND PROMOTING LIVELIHOODS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN MATUTUÍNE WITH A GENDER AND ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACH

The "Agri-employment: agroecology and promoting livelihoods of rural communities in Matutuíne with a gender and environmental approach" project (2022/PRYC/0583) was carried out by NGO Cesal in collaboration with UAAMAT, the SDAE and the MULEIDE organization. The project took place over the course of 24 months in Matutuíne District, Mozambique, with a budget of €432,755, largely funded by AECID.

The primary objective of the project was to improve **food security, rural income, women's empowerment** and **environmental sustainability** through a comprehensive agroecological approach. The work was organised into four areas: institutional and organizational capacity building, diversification and sustainability in agricultural production, promoting gender equality and economic empowerment of women and raising community awareness about the environment and natural resource management.

The project's key achievements include technical skill-building for public officials and leaders, creating **demonstration plots** using agroecology techniques, installing low-cost **solar irrigation** systems and encouraging participatory decision-making processes. The project promoted the use of **climate-resilient catch crops** to ensure a more stable agricultural supply. Progress was also made in the planning of **local gender and environment programmes**, following collective assessment.

From a gender perspective, the project successfully brought **women farmers** into organizational and decision-making spaces, with MULEIDE playing a central role in training and advice. Programmes were provided for **developing literacy** and **improving production capacity** for vulnerable women. Key concepts included the **participation-focused methodology**, based around active involvement from the beneficiaries, and high levels of motivation among the target population.

In conclusion, the project has proven to be successful and repeatable, combining sustainable agricultural development with gender equality and environmental management. It strengthened local capacities, stimulated learning and made a tangible contribution to improving the standard of living in Matutuíne. Its local, participatory and multi-sectoral approach established the project as a model example.





SECTORAL COOPERATION

MAIN LINES OF ACTION

The Sectoral Cooperation Department (DCS) of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) plays a crucial role in forming Spanish development policy, concentrating on key thematic areas to work towards the 2030 Agenda.

In 2023, the DCS continued to strengthen and expand its main lines of work, **forming strategic partnerships** and upholding an absolute commitment to human rights, gender equality, cultural diversity and environmental sustainability. This work ultimately aims to **increase productivity, boost social cohesion and ensure environmental sustainability** in partner countries.

In 2023, the Sectoral Cooperation Department's main lines of work included:

PARTNERSHIPS

The DCS actively promoted collaboration with various stakeholders including in **the business, academic, research and social sectors**. In 2023, it published an annual funding call with a budget of €9 million, aimed at co-funding **innovation-based development cooperation projects** that address the challenges of the 2030 Agenda. The goal was to foster innovative solutions which have undergone successful trial runs, and then apply them on a larger scale. It also co-funded work on **innovative knowledge**, including research, applied studies, training and seminars, aimed at capacity-building



within AECID and other Spanish Cooperation instruments.

GENDER

The DCS gender unit supported several AECID departments in the performance of their gender-related interventions. It represented AECID at key forums like the Development Cooperation Council's Gender and Development Working Group, and the High Level Advisory Group on Feminist Foreign Policy which, in 2023, worked on developing the **Action Plan for a Feminist Foreign Policy 2023-2024**. This policy was approved in October. Notable work included systematising information and providing technical support relating to gender and violence against women, as well as producing the Gender Impact Report for the General State Budget Draft Bill. The unit also participated in the **56th session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development** which took place in New York in April. One of the unit's stand-out achievements was the **Ellas+ programme** which, in 2023, was selected by the European Union as an example of **good practice in equal leadership and participation** under the Gender Action Plan III. In 2023, this programme pro-

moted care policies as a matter of priority.

EDUCATION

The DCS continued to provide **technical support for the e-Duc @ thematic programme in its monitoring phase**, as well as other projects in the education sector. It participated actively in specialised forums, such as the European Commission Education Working Group (INTPA Education Team), evaluating community achievements in education cooperation in 2023, and the Inclusive Education Working Group of the Global Action on Disability network (GLAD).

HEALTH

The Sectoral Cooperation Department supported the development of the **Spanish Global Health Strategy** and the **AECID Health Sector Action Plan** with working documents and Zero Drafts. In 2023, AECID strengthened the **Joint European Initiative on Specialised Medical Training in Ethiopia** in collaboration with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and the European Union, to boost medical specialisation in the country. It also ran the **Salud+ programme** with a budget

of €5 million in 2023. This year also saw Spain host international events on global health with participation from AECID, including the **Second Global Forum on Childhood Pneumonia** in Madrid in March and the **Gavi Mid-Term Evaluation** in June – a key event on the subject of vaccinations.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

In June 2023, the **Second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition** took place in Valparaíso, Chile. Through its Sectoral Cooperation Department, AECID participated in the event's organization alongside key partners like the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**, the **National Congress of Chile** and the **Government of Chile**, with support from the **European Commission**, the **Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID)** and the **Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean**.

More than **200 members of parliament from 64 countries** took part in the conference, pledging to strengthen political engagement

and promote firm initiatives to improve global food security.

At the inauguration ceremony, AECID director Antón Leis declared that "coordination, cooperation and collaboration are crucial. We cannot do it alone. The solution lies not only in international cooperation, but also in alliance. We must work together in parliamentary alliance, like the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, which has set an example for the rest of the world".

The summit emphasised the **urgency to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition** as a prerequisite for achieving the sustainable development goals, and underlined the crucial role of members of parliament in ensuring food security and nutrition.

Participants shared examples of good practice, in particular for developing innovative legislation, and **identified the major priority areas** in need of greater parliamentary action in the matter of food security and nutrition.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Spain's commitment to **increasing climate funding** generated a significant increase in AECID's 2023 ODA. This ODA exceeded €67 million, marking an almost threefold increase on 2019 (almost €24 million) and a considerable increase on 2022 (almost €44 million). The **Green Transition Programme's** budget was also bumped up to €10 million in 2023.

At **COP28 in Dubai**, Spanish Cooperation played an active role in key debates about the climate crisis, with particular emphasis on the **new loss and damage fund, the fair green transition and the humanitarian impact of climate change**. As leader of the **International Drought Resilience Alliance**, and in cooperation with the UN, it supported the fight against drought with a contribution of more than €8 million. AECID also organized an event about **inclusive climate funding**, and par-

ticipated in the launch of the **Global Green Bond Initiative**, signing the fundamental declaration and pledging €100 million. Other key actions included a collaboration with the Red Cross (€1.5 million) and contributions to initiatives like EUROCLIMA and the Santiago Network (€5 million). Spain announced €20 million for the new loss and damage fund and €2 million for the Amazonia Bonds, aimed at protecting ecosystems in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

GOVERNANCE

The DCS provided support for MAE-UEC towards the **Inclusive Democracies Cohort** at the second Summit for Democracy in 2023. Launched in 2021, this thematic group strives to strengthen democracies through the **effective participation of vulnerable groups** like people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ people, indigenous people and people of African descent. The DCS also represented AECID at the annual meeting of the **Global Action on Disability network (GLAD)** in Brussels in 2023, with the aim of improving the inclusion of people with disabilities, in line with the International Convention on Human Rights.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION (GCED)

Forming partnerships is an absolute priority in this sector. 2023 saw the **first face-to-face meeting of the Network of GCED experts from the**

autonomous communities and local institutions. This network was set up in 2022 and has extensive involvement from institutions. AECID promoted GCED work by providing **funding for NGOs** as well as for the National Teachers for Development programme, which held the thirteenth edition of the Vicente Ferrer National Awards for Development Education alongside the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports (MEFPD) and the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO). It also continued to strengthen national agendas on Global Citizenship for Sustainable Development in countries participating in this Ibero-American initiative (SEGIB).

In collaboration with NGOs Jóvenes y Desarrollo and Bosco Global, AECID supported the "En-REDate por la interculturalidad" (Get involved in interculturality) project, which aims primarily to **strengthen global citizenship and prevent hate speech, racism and xenophobia** among young people, encouraging critical thinking and respect for cultural diversity.

A key moment was the launch of the **Generación G project on 18 December**, which included a **documentary of the same name** put together by more than 25 young people from various regions of Spain, who spoke about their personal experience with interculturality.



In summary, the Sectoral Cooperation Department of AECID maintained intense activity focused on strengthening partnerships, promoting innovation and knowledge, and implementing cross-cutting policies like gender equality and environmental sustainability, thus reaffirming its commitment to comprehensive and coordinated development in the face of global challenges.

KEY PROJECTS

E-DUC@ PROGRAMME: CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN EDUCATION



Launched in 2021 as part of Spanish Cooperation's Joint Response Strategy to the COVID-19 crisis, the **e-Duc@ programme** aims to **close the digital divide in partner countries with fragile education systems** or where there is little technology in the classroom. To achieve this, it **funds initiatives to strengthen the capacities of public authorities**, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable groups and people at risk of exclusion.

Over the course of 2023, it has continued to monitor projects in progress across the Philippines, Cabo Verde, Mozambique, Bolivia, Peru, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. One project that particularly stands out is **Digital Skills Training: closing the digital divide in Nampula province** in Mozambique.

Located in the north of the country, Nampula faces high levels of poverty and vulnerability, particularly in rural areas, where the digital divide is particularly pronounced. **Over 2,800 people, 1,000 of them women, have directly benefited**

from the project across several educational centres in Nacuxa, Netia, Lumbo and Nacala. The focus was on **providing IT equipment and internet access to educational centres, and organising training activities for students, teachers and technical staff**, such as workshops about information technology and maintaining digital infrastructures.



**TOTAL BUDGET
2021-2022**

€4 MILLION



OBJECTIVE

Reduce the digital divide in vulnerable education settings through provision of technological resources and training in digital skills.

KEY PROJECTS

ELLAS+ PROGRAMME



2023 saw the call for applications and subsequent selection of 14 new projects in Egypt, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, ECOWAS, Senegal, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Palestine, Morocco, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Honduras and Peru, under the Ellas+ programme, with a total funding of €5 million.

These follow on from the 15 selected in 2021 (with a budget of €1.45 million) and 14 approved in 2022 (for a total of €3.65 million). As set out in the competition rules, the projects run for a 24-month period, with the potential to extend for another 12 months.



BUDGET

€5 MILLION



OBJECTIVE

To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by supporting projects that reinforce their rights and participation in all areas of society.

GREEN TRANSITION PROGRAMME (PROTEC)



BUDGET

€10 MILLION



OBJECTIVE

To promote sustainable solutions for restoring ecosystems and supporting the circular economy, contributing to environmental and social resilience.



In 2023, PROTEC increased its budget to €10 million, enabling **21 environmental sustainability projects to be approved**. These initiatives fall under two complementary areas of work: firstly, **nature-based solutions** that work towards restoring ecosystems and providing socially and economically beneficial envi-

ronmental services; and secondly, the **circular economy**, with the aim of extending product life cycles and reducing waste production.

The year also saw AECID make the **fight against desertification and drought** a priority line of action. This programme therefore became

a key instrument in its support for the **International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA)**, an initiative organised by Spain and Senegal as part of COP27. PROTEC alone sent over €4 million to IDRA during the course of 2023.

KEY PROJECTS



BUDGET

€5 MILLION



OBJECTIVE

To strengthen public health systems in partner countries, improving equitable access to quality health services.



SALUD+ PROGRAMME: STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS IN POST-COVID TIMES

In 2023, the **Salud+ programme** had a €5 million budget to strengthen health systems in AECID partner countries. Launched in 2022, this programme funds initiatives that contribute to **Universal Health Coverage** and to **strengthening national public health systems**.

The goal is to improve the capacity of countries to offer quality, accessible and equitable health services, prioritising access to essential services and effective implementation of national health plans through its public institutions.

In 2023, the programme **funded nine projects** identified by the Technical Cooperation Offices in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Cuba, Jordan, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, as well as the Antigua Training Centre in Guatemala.





CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC ACTION

MAIN LINES OF ACTION

AECID's Directorate-General for Cultural and Scientific Relations (DRCC) is responsible for cultural and scientific cooperation and promoting Spanish art and culture abroad, operating around the concept of Culture as a Global Public Good.

In 2023, the DRCC focused on four main lines of work: beginning the process of revising the Culture and Development Strategy; strengthening the Network of Cultural Centres; stepping up cultural and scientific activities across the foreign embassy network; and establishing a new wave of scholarships and language assistantships, for both Spanish and foreign citizens. These actions are considered to be **key tools for cultural and science diplomacy** within Spanish foreign action.

The work of AECID Cultural Cooperation is based around the concept of culture as a pivotal factor in development, since it is not only

a goal and a right in itself, but also an essential tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Following 15 years in effect, and at a time of major shifts in the global order, the Culture and Development Strategy was in need of revision and updates to take on board fresh perspectives, from the principles embodied in the MONDIA/CULT Declaration, which recognises Culture as a Global Public Good, to pursuing a new social contract, strengthening democracies, protecting health and care, and taking on an environmental approach as a matter of urgency.

In 2023, the **Spanish Cooperation Network of Cultural Centres** improved the quality and impact of its projects, which are consistently aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The centres firmly established themselves as **places for citizens and for civil society participation, and as spaces of freedom and democracy**, encouraging respect for cultural diversity and working to spread Spanish Cooperation's cross-cut-

ting ideas like inclusion, gender diversity, environment, peace and innovation. In 2023, the Cultural Centres ran **over 5,300 cultural activities** with a budget of €6.6 million, bringing together almost 1.3 million people. It also set up two new Spanish Cooperation Offices in Guatemala and Panama, and laid the foundations for the future of the Network of Cultural Centres in Colombia, signing an agreement for the renovation of the Church of La Candelaria in Bogotá.

The Culture and Development Strategy implementation projects were channelled predominantly through the **Heritage for Development Programme (P>D)**, which launched 18 projects with a budget of €3 million in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the **Acerca Training Programme**, which led 170 training activities across 41 countries with a €1.1-million budget.

Work on **promoting Spanish Art and Culture** abroad was led by the Network of Embassies and the



ON

Network of Cultural Centres. This included supporting the promotion of the Cinema, with the projection of over 800 films from the AECID Filmoteca film library and a programme of seven theme cycles, promoting performing arts and music through agreements with institutions and festivals, organising nearly 240 activities on literature and the humanities, and leading the Spanish Pavilion at the 18th Venice Biennale International Architecture Exhibition. In total, there were **over 3,500 cultural activities** reaching over 4 million people for a budget of around €6 million. On top of this, a special programme of over 150 cultural activities was organised on the occasion of the **Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union**, with a budget of €1.1 million.

In the **Training and International Mobility** sector, AECID approved funding calls for a value of €11.2 million in 2023, marking an increase of 7.6% compared with 2022. Despite challenges arising from Russia's invasion of Ukraine

which affected programmes there, AECID launched 14 new language assistantships, a second wave of 22 ASALE programme scholarships, and a specific programme of scholarships for artists from the European Union at the Spanish Academy in Rome. A further 12 new agreements were signed with foreign universities to create language assistantship places.

In coordination with the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, foreign action in the strategic line of **Science Diplomacy** was two-stranded: diplomacy for science and scientists, and science which advances diplomatic and cooperation objectives. AECID worked in close collaboration with the network of 22 **associations of Spanish researchers and scientists abroad**. The programme of science, technology and innovation diplomacy (DCTI) events, which aligns with both national priorities and the priorities of the Spanish presidency of the EU, held **more than 200 activities** at 80 embassies.

These activities covered a variety of subjects, including energy transition, climate, space diplomacy, health, promotion of Spanish language in science, open science, women and science, blue diplomacy and ocean sustainability, digitisation and art-science, with all activities geared towards achieving the SDGs. Furthermore, AECID jointly organised the **First European Science Diplomacy Conference** and took part in the First Union for the Mediterranean Science Diplomacy Conference.

Finally, the **AECID library** continued to build its collections on history and cooperation.

In summary, 2023 saw a flurry of activity focused on strategic revision, strengthening the network abroad, and organising programmes and projects relevant to cultural cooperation, promotion, training, mobility and science diplomacy.

GENEROS.AS: CULTURE, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN EL SALVADOR



**2023
BUDGET**

€11,300

**TOTAL
BUDGET (2018-2023)**

€26,500



OBJECTIVE

To promote gender equality and diversity in El Salvador, helping to build a fairer, more equitable future for every woman and man.

The Cultural Centre of Spain in El Salvador (CCESV) supports GENEROS.AS, an essential programme for **promoting gender equality and diversity** in the country since 2018. Through this programme, it helps to build a fairer and more equitable future. With a budget of €11,300 in 2023, the programme is set up as a key Spanish Cooperation tool with a **feminist approach**.

It aims to **reduce inequality, fight violence** and discrimination, and **foster the empowerment of women, girls, adolescent girls and the LGBTIQ+ community**. It is a long-term, cross-cutting programme, which provides **safe spaces** for expression, reflection and debate throughout the year.

In 2023, it held almost **50 activities** with over **1,300 participants**. One of the stand-out activities was Escuela Géneros.as, a learning space which explored the theme of **Afro-feminism** as part of its fifth edition. 2023 also saw the **first Géneros.as "women making music" festival**, showcasing female talent in El Salvador.

The aim of the programme is to **raise awareness, empower, and protect rights**, questioning the patriarchal system and condemning harassment. GENEROS.AS aligns with the 2030 Agenda's SDG 5 on Gender Equality, and with line 7 of the Culture and Development Strategy on the respect of women's rights in culture.



KEY PROJECTS

CONVOCATORIA E.CO 2023



**TOTAL BUDGET
2021-2022**

€100,000



OBJECTIVE

To present a variety of perspectives, building stories from the point of view of communities who live on and protect their land, memories and identities.

The **CONVOCATORIA E.CO 2023 project** was organised by the AE-CID Network of Cultural Centres alongside the VIST Foundation, and was conceived as a forum for discussion, creation and exchange. With the title "[E CO 23] ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND COMMUNITIES. New narratives built from diversity and shared creation", and a budget of €100,000, the project's core aim was to boost research and awareness-raising actions to **encourage alternative ways of looking at and reflecting on the complexity of the modern world**, offering perspectives that tell the stories of communities who live on and protect their land and memories.

The event included **organised talks and panels**, featuring over 30 prominent visual narrators, scientists and researchers from across Ibero-America, including experts from National Geographic Society Latin America. **Eight collectives**, which

discussed territorial representation, the planet's biodiversity and the future of the Amazon, were selected in the call for proposals.

The main event **was held at the Cultural Centre of Spain in La Paz, Bolivia**, taking place at the same time as a National Geographic Society conference. Meanwhile, an **exhibition** was set up to display the

results of the work of the selected collectives. This exhibition was reproduced at other Cultural Centres across the network, such as at the Cultural Centre of Spain in Mexico. Furthermore, an **artistic residency in Rurrenabaque, Bolivia**, allowed participants to exchange experiences and discuss new narratives, with particular attention on indigenous communities and planet Earth.



UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAMME FOR THE MEDINA OF TÉTOUAN



BUDGET

€204,000



OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this project is to make the Medina of Tétouan accessible for all of its residents, particularly the most vulnerable groups.

With the support of the Heritage for Development programme, this project aims to establish criteria and guidelines for inclusion in the Historical and Artistic Heritage of the Medina of Tétouan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, from a **universal accessibility** perspective.

The project's end goal is to make the Medina accessible for all of its residents, particularly the most vulnerable groups. The Medina of Tétouan is characterised by a complex, high-density urban environment of narrow streets, which calls for sustainable management from a social and human rights perspective, while respecting its heritage values.

The project is based around **participation from civil society** and **training local experts**. In 2023, a delegation from the council of Tétouan paid a visit to Spain as part of this project, where they were able to exchange expertise and look at accessibility integration success stories in cities like Madrid, Ávila and Toledo.



KEY PROJECTS



BUDGET

€200,000



OBJECTIVE

To help promote employment in cultural and creative industries in Portuguese-speaking African countries (Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe) and Timor-Leste.



PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT IN CULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND TIMOR-LESTE

The PROCULTURA project was born from the AECID-Camões Institute agreement signed in 2019 as part of the Multiannual Indicative Programme EU/PALOP-TL, which was extended to 2024 as a result of the pandemic. The aim of the project is to train leaders in the cultural sector in Portuguese-speaking African countries and Timor-Leste, promoting employment and income generation in this area.

Through the ACERCA programme, AECID was able to contribute its experience in training, and led training activities through embassies and Spanish Cooperation Offices. **Students are trained on identifying funding instruments, recognising good practices and about business innovation within the creative economy.**

In 2023, the second phase was rolled out across the five Portuguese-speaking African countries

and Timor-Leste. In Angola, the training programmes generated considerable interest, with 45 participants registering, mostly in cultural entrepreneurship projects. In Timor-Leste, the training sessions served as a meeting point and contributed to the creation of the Association of Cultural Managers. In São Tomé and Príncipe, existing pro-

jects and networks were strengthened, enabling exchanges of expertise for the creation of a cultural management association. Cabo Verde implemented a decentralised model for the first time, laying the foundations for a cultural management structure, while Guinea-Bissau achieved a high rate of students completing the full training course.



SPANISH CULTURE ON THE WORLD STAGE:

SPECIAL PROGRAMME OF CULTURAL EVENTS TO MARK THE SPANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE EU



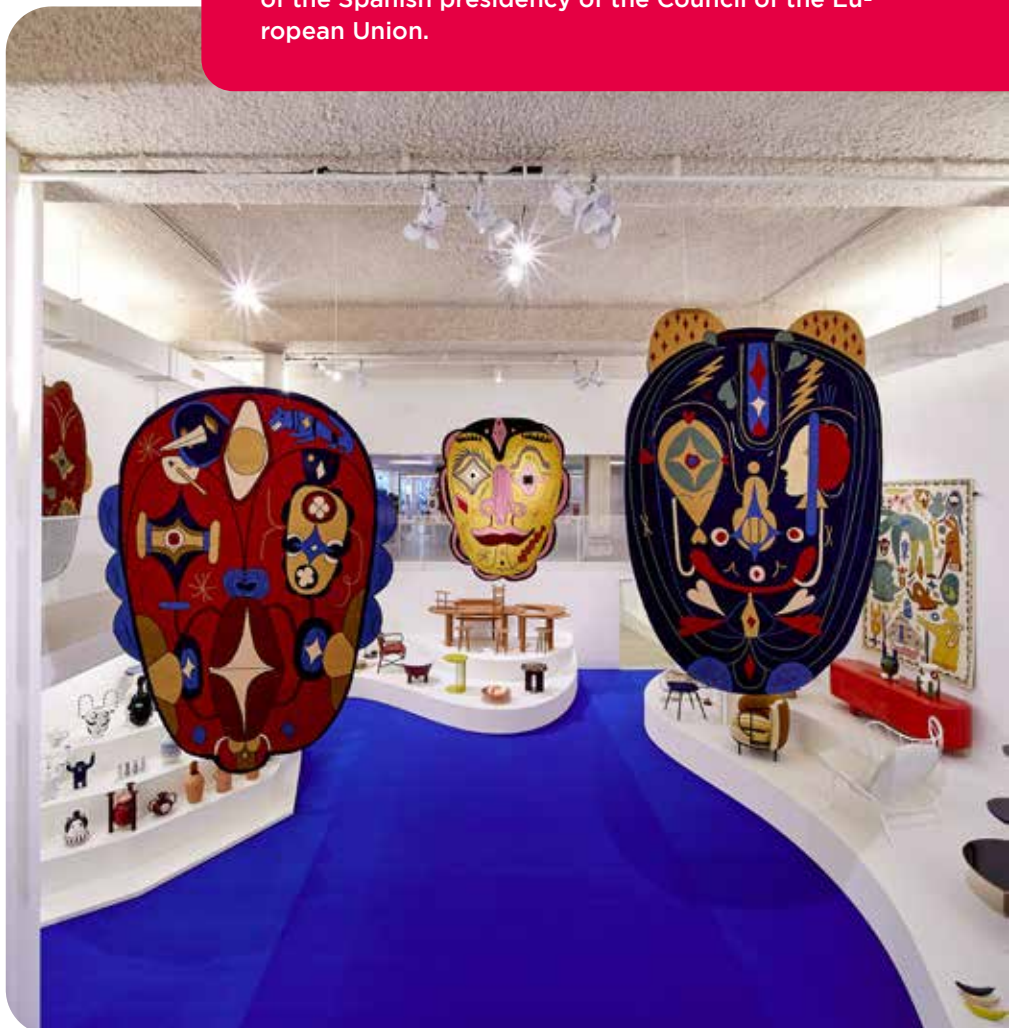
OBJECTIVE

A special programme of cultural events held by Spanish embassies and consulates on the occasion of the Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The second half of 2023 saw Spain take presidency of the Council of the European Union, marking a crucial period which gave Spain a platform from which to promote several international initiatives. In this context, an ambitious **programme of special cultural events** was launched by Spain's representation abroad, with the aim of helping to build mutually beneficial international relationships in the sphere of culture and science, in recognition of the fact that these constitute essential tools for nurturing an ecosystem where Spanish interests can thrive.

This cultural events programme was planned and run by Spanish representation abroad: embassies and consulates, Cultural Centres of Spain and other Spanish Cooperation Offices (OCEs), Spain's primary tools for such activities.

Between 1 July and 31 December 2023, **Spain's 118 embassies and consulates** held **over 150 cultural events**, highlighting the prominence, relevance and strength of Spanish culture at a global level.





The programme's design aligned closely with the priorities and values defined under *Europa+Cerca*, based on two key elements. Firstly, *Europe for the people* focused on the well-being of citizens, with projects relating to equality, gender, diversity, inclusion, democratic values, basic rights, integration and creating a more social Europe. Secondly, *transformative Europe* strove to lay the foundations for the future we want, including projects that respond to challenges associated with the green transition, digital Europe, rethinking the urban model, and the New European Bauhaus.

The programme was officially launched at the inauguration on **4 July at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium in Brussels**, with a show put together especially for the occasion by dancer **María Pagés**, called *Europa, mi amor*. In addition to the display of dancing, it was important to showcase **Spanish gastronomy** with a menu of tapas created by trainee chefs from the *Basque Culinary Centre*

(Martina Puigvert, Carlos Salinas, Santiago Salinas) alongside renowned chefs Marco Morán and Adrián Mancheño.

After the inauguration, Europe hosted a variety of events including **exhibitions, urban art interventions, concerts, street theatre, debate forums and literary gatherings**. Highlights included **retrospectives of the work of Eduardo Chillida and Antoni Tàpies** to mark 100 years since their birth, which were shown at the Kunsthalle Krems museum in Austria and the BOZAR in Belgium, respectively, as well as the staging of *La Vida es Sueño* (Life Is a Dream) at the University of Kyiv, directed by former director of the Almagro Theatre Festival, Ignacio Martín. On top of this, a workshop called "*La Cultura*" was hosted at AECID head office, taught by duo Los Torreznos and aimed at young *performers* from various parts of Europe, who then performed the piece in their home country as part of the Presidency celebrations. Embassies and consulates from other

continents also joined the celebrations, bringing their own cultural offerings.

The programme of cultural events put together to mark the Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union was successful not only in exhibiting Spain's rich and diverse culture on the world stage, but also as a wide-reaching diplomatic tool, aligned with European priorities, strengthening bilateral and multilateral relationships through art, science and thought.

INSTRUMENTS AND CHANNELS





COOPERATION FUND FOR WATER AND SANITATION (FCAS)

2023 marked a turning point for FCAS thanks to additional funding from new donations. These new projects focused on rural areas and protecting the environment.



FINANCIAL COOPERATION

The process of transition towards the Spanish Sustainable Development Fund (FED-ES) began.



DELEGATED COOPERATION

Spain retained its position as the third largest implementing partner of EU delegated funds.



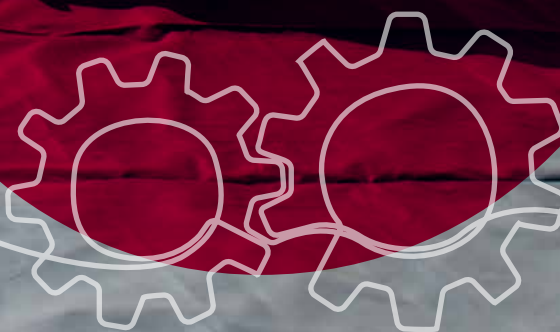
COMMUNICATION

AECID's communication department reaffirmed its position on the world stage when it hosted the OECD DevCom network in 2023.



GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Four new Spanish Cooperation Offices (OCES) were created, including a Technical Cooperation Office in Tunisia and three Cultural Centres.





COOPERATION FUND WATER AND SANITATION

MAIN LINES OF ACTION

A key instrument for Spanish Cooperation and AECID, the primary purpose of the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation (FCAS) is to support partner countries and all parties involved in the work to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) and ensure effective implementation of the human right to water and sanitation (HRWS).

Over the course of 2023, FCAS not only continued to work rigorously on its key lines of work, but also made important advances to improve the impact those lines of work have.

Effective implementation of the human right to water and sanitation (HRWS): this is central to the Fund's work. It means working to make sure water is available, safe, accessible and affordable for everybody, with an emphasis on the most vulnerable regions and countries. Spanish Cooperation played an important role in recog-

nising and defining this fundamental right. FCAS promotes tools to help implement this human right, for example a self-assessment tool aimed at rural areas, and checklists that technicians can follow to ensure that projects fulfil the human rights criteria.

Gender equality: this is a hallmark of Spanish Cooperation's work, and is applied across the board by FCAS, with three main aims: to serve the specific needs of women and girls, to promote their participation in decision-making and management relating to water, and to provide them with technical and administrative training. All FCAS programmes include indicators on the participation of women. FCAS aims to empower women by promoting the presence and effective participation of women in the decision-making bodies of water management organizations. **Nearly 800 women now hold positions of responsibility on drinking water committees as a result of FCAS programmes, and over 3,000 work in community organizations** which were created or developed by FCAS.

Cultural diversity: based on recognising the right of indigenous people to lead their own development, FCAS promotes dialogue, local ownership and sustainability, ensuring participation through free and informed advance consultation. It also endeavours to strengthen indigenous organizations and provide training for leaders and young people. For example, a programme implemented in Mérida, Yucatán has adopted this vision by creating water committees and community participation sessions.

Closing the gap between rural and urban areas: FCAS prioritises rural, isolated and peri-urban areas, where needs are greatest. Improvements in these areas have a direct impact on the health of the local population (reducing diarrhoeal disease) and drive economic and social development. **A major achievement in 2023 was an initiative carried out in Suchitoto, El Salvador, which successfully supplied water and sanitation to 3,500 people in a rural area, combining infrastructure with environmental protection (2,000 trees planted, infiltration wells, etc.) and community training.**

D FOR NITATION (FCAS)

Strengthening institutions and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) policies: essential for sustainability. This means improving governance, planning and operator training. Strong institutions make it possible to tackle complex challenges. With this in mind, FCAS has been supporting the **Integral System of Sustainability and Institutional Strengthening (SISRI)**, which saw successful pilot trials in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in 2023. With the support of CEDEX and with organisational support from AECID, it also published guides on selecting land and waste water treatment technologies.

Adapting to climate change: water is at the heart of the climate crisis. FCAS favours **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)**, in particular with regard to sanitation, and promotes **innovation and digitisation** in water management to adopt better strategies and early alert systems.

FCAS applies a **multi-level strategy** to implement these lines of work, operating at the local, national and regional levels. Tools like **INTERCOONECTA** facilitate training while partnerships and twinning projects help to boost local capacities.

One example of success across FCAS's various lines of work was an additional project phase imple-

mented in **Valle de Comayagua**, Honduras, which improved basic infrastructure, provided training for local operator Aguas de la Sierra de Montecillos (ASM) and promoted an awareness-raising campaign. These actions helped to reduce diarrhoeal disease in children.

In conclusion, 2023 marked a period of consolidation and expansion for FCAS. Its persistent work on human rights, equality, diversity, sustainability and strengthening

institutions, was backed up by the arrival of new funds and the accomplishment of tangible achievements in key projects, for example in Honduras and El Salvador. Successful pilot trials for tools like the SISRI, as well as FCAS's active presence at international water forums, demonstrate the unwavering commitment of FCAS to improving living conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to making strides towards achieving SDG 6.



Valle de Comayagua, Honduras

PISASH PROGRAMME: AN EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION TO TRANSFORM WATER AND SANITATION IN NICARAGUA



BUDGET

Total budget
€320,896,719

EU contribution
€50,750,000



OBJECTIVE

To overcome structural issues and shortages in drinking water and sanitation (sewage and waste water treatment) coverage for the general population.

The **Integrated Sectoral Programme for Water and Human Sanitation (PISASH)** in Nicaragua is an international cooperation effort which forges partnerships in order to combat critical shortages in the sector. With an **overall budget of 320,896,719**, the programme was born from a need identified in the course of initiatives which found areas for improvement in the structure and coverage of drinking water, sewerage and waste water treatment for the community.

The Water Fund implemented three major programmes worth €65 million, which were the foundations of the PISASH programme. The initiative gained momentum in 2012 following a **donation of 50,750,000 from the European Union** through the LAIF instrument (now known as LACIF). This was combined with contributions from the Spain-Nicaragua debt swap programme, the Nicaraguan government, other minor funders, the CABEL, the EIB and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), to make up the total budget.

This joint commitment from governments and financial institutions has helped **over 500,000 people across 19 cities**. The work includes constructing, expanding and restoring

key infrastructure like water storage and distribution, waste water treatment and pump stations as well as laying hundreds of kilometres of pipework. It also enabled **vulnerable homes to be connected** to the water supply, and ran awareness campaigns about hygiene and water conservation.

A key element of PISASH is its long-term vision. All new facilities built are designed to withstand population growth over the next forty years, promoting sustainability and showing a commitment to the future.

Strengthening institutions is crucial for providing uninterrupted access to water. The programme provides consultancy and technical assistance to the Nicaraguan Aqueduct and Sewer Company (ENACAL), which includes providing training, improving the sales and customer service departments and creating electro-mechanics workshops and a water quality laboratory. **ENACAL was able to improve its operational and man-**

agement capacity as a result of this support and by means of an Institutional Development Plan.

The PISASH programme demonstrates how partnerships and collective investment can bring about substantial change in terms of access to basic services, thereby improving health and quality of life, and laying strong foundations for the future in Nicaragua.



KEY PROJECTS



BUDGET

FCAS donation
€13,683,634

Total budget
€63,628,899



OBJECTIVE

To improve drinking water and sanitation services, improving uninterrupted access in rural and indigenous regions as well as cleaning up the metropolitan area of San José.

DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION IN COSTA RICA: DRIVING SUSTAINABLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

The **Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme** in Costa Rica is an example of the commitment of the Spanish Cooperation Water Fund, which has been working alongside vulnerable communities in the country for over 40 years. The programme is managed in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and has a total budget of over **318 million**, which includes contributions from FCAS, IDB, JICA and local donors.

The programme aims to improve water and sanitation services, focusing on **rural and indigenous areas in the north of the country**, where providing uninterrupted access to water close by has been a challenge. It also aims to **clean up rivers and aquifers** in the metropolitan area of San José, by improving sanitation.

The programme's primary actions include building supply networks

and infrastructure, with five rural systems and sanitation solutions built in key areas. This has given more than **26,500 people uninterrupted access to water**, improving their health by reducing dependency on uncontrolled water sources.

On top of the positive impact on health, building systems in rural and peri-urban areas also generates **opportunities for social and economic development**, benefiting sectors like agriculture and tourism. The pro-

gramme also promotes service sustainability through technical cooperation and environmental education.

A key element of the programme involves **strengthening institutions**. In 2024, the programme will feature a new technical cooperation with the IDB to strengthen ASADAS associations and the Costa Rican Institute of Aqueducts and Sewers (AyA), ensuring long-term service sustainability.





FINANCIAL COOPERATION

MAIN LINES OF ACTION

The Development Promotion Fund (FONPRODE) was created in 2011 as a result of reforming the Development Aid Fund (FAD) and absorbing the Microcredit Fund (FCM). FONPRODE's central objective is to contribute actively to ending poverty, reducing inequalities and promoting human and sustainable development in impoverished countries.

During the 2023 tax year, FONPRODE managed an active portfolio worth €544.9 million, spread between projects spanning **67 countries**. This funding is channelled through a range of financing arrangements, including concessional loans to states, microfinance operations, impact investing and technical assistance donations.

In line with the new Act on Global Solidarity and Sustainable Development Cooperation, the **Spanish Sustainable Development Fund (FEDES)** was established in **2023**, and will replace FONPRODE upon completion of the implementation procedure. The aim is to make Spanish Cooperation more efficient, consistent and flexible, by giving the new fund more autonomy, new instruments and more flexible operations aligned with international standards.

While work on implementing the new FEDES fund was under way, FONPRODE's main lines of work in 2023 continued to reflect this comprehensive approach to development, encompassing work with the private sector, public sector and technical assistance:

PRIVATE SECTOR

Knowing the crucial role of the private sector in development work, FONPRODE approved three financial intermediation operations to improve access to financial services for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in disadvantaged areas: a loan of €100 million to the BTG Pactual bank in Brazil, €10 million to Financoop in Ecuador and \$3 million to CONSERVA in Mexico.

It also acquired shares in two impact investment funds: an investment of \$20 million in the Catalyst Mena Climate Fund 2 and another \$30 million in the Mediterranean Capital IV Mid-Cap Spanish Fund.

The Council of Ministers approved an investment of €50 million in the Kualí Fund Special Vehicle, a pioneering Spanish fund aimed at climate mitigation and adaptation. Aiming to raise a total fund of €300 million, this fund operates in Latin America, the Caribbean and India, and finances innovative businesses and small financial service providers to drive more sustainable and inclusive business models, particularly for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and smallholder farmers.

The idea is for FONPRODE's investment to act as a catalyst to attract further capital, including €25 million from the Green Climate Fund and €12 million from the European Commission, thereby reducing the risk for private investors. A technical assistance facility of €12.25 million in non-reimbursable funds was also created to maximise the transformative impact of the initiative.

PUBLIC SECTOR

Sovereign-guaranteed credit operations continued to play a major role. In 2023, **five credit operations were approved in support of Senegal, Tanzania, Türkiye and the Dominican Republic**, for a total value of €149.57 million.

In **Senegal**, FONPRODE approved a loan to co-finance, alongside IFAD, the second phase of the Support to Agricultural Development and Rural Entrepreneurship project (PADAER II), focused on reducing poverty and improving food security and income for smallholder farmers by integrating them into climate-resilient value chains.

In **Tanzania**, it will co-finance a loan of €27.15 million with the World Bank (WB) for the Msimbazi Basin Development Project in Dar es Salaam, which works to strengthen flood resilience and integrate urban development in the area.

In **Türkiye**, FONPRODE approved a loan of €50 million for a World Bank post-earthquake project to assist SMEs in their recovery, which unfortunately was rejected by the Turkish authorities.

Loans approved for the Dominican Republic included:

- > A loan of €45.25 million to co-finance, with the IDB, the Universal Sanitation Programme in Coastal and Tourist Cities which aims to improve environmental and health conditions, increasing safe sanitation coverage, optimising drinking water management and building institutional capacity at INAPA.
- > A loan of €18.10 million to co-finance, with the IDB, the Integral and Sustainable Solid Waste Management Programme in Greater Santo Domingo, which aims to improve waste management, particularly in the light of the closure of the Duquesa landfill site.

On top of this, over the course of 2023, it signed **two sovereign credit agreements in Ecuador and Rwanda** for USD 40 million and USD 28 million, respectively.

DONATIONS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

While FONPRODE is primarily a financial instrument, it also mobilises donations for technical assistance (TA). In 2023, **four TA operations were authorised, for a total of 9.5 million.**

- > €4 million for an operation of combined credit and donation with FONPRODE resources, in Ceará, Brazil, to finance, with IDAF, the second phase of the Paulo Freire project, the ultimate goal of which is to help end hunger in the state of Ceará, as well as mitigate the effects of poverty and extreme poverty through adopting sustainable farming practices, strengthening water security and building capacities for family farmers and their organizations.
- > \$1 million for the EWA Latam Fund II, aimed at promoting economic growth and sustainable development in Latin America.
- > €1 million for the E3 Low Carbon Economy Fund, which aims to invest in the low-carbon transition in sub-Saharan Africa, attracting investment in areas like digital transformation, sustainable mobility and sustainable agriculture.
- > €3.5 million for the Global Social Impact Fund, focused on generating a positive social and environmental impact for vulnerable people, while at the same time seeking profitability (5%-8% net).

In conclusion, **2023 was a dynamic year and a year of change for FONPRODE**, with the approval and agreement of a range of operations reflecting its commitment to the sustainable development goals and the transition to FEDES as a driver for promoting fairer and more sustainable global development.



SUSTAINABILITY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Through the Development Promotion Fund (FONPRODE), Spanish Cooperation is providing support for two strategic programmes in the **Dominican Republic** aimed at improving environmental sustainability and the quality of life of the community.

The first of these projects is the **Universal Sanitation Programme in Coastal and Tourist Cities**, which aims to ensure access to safe and sustainable sanitation services in the country's coastal communities. Led by the National Institute of Safe Drinking Water and Sewerage (INAPA), the project will run for five years and directly benefit 56,000 homes. As well as expanding sanitation coverage, it will strengthen the management of drinking water services and the technical and institutional capacities of INAPA and local operators.

With a total investment of \$190 million, the programme is co-funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Korea Infrastructure Co-financing Facility (KIF) in South Korea, and **FONPRODE, which is providing €50 million of credit and an additional €2 million in TA.**

The second project is the **Integral and Sustainable Solid Waste Management Programme** in Greater Santo Domingo, which aims to improve urban solid waste management, particularly in the light of the closure of the Duquesa landfill site, a major focus in terms of environmental impact in the region. The programme will promote appropriate final disposal of waste, social inclusion of informal recycling workers and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The project, which will run for five years under the Ministry of the En-



FONPRODE AMOUNT

Credit
€63M

Donation
€3M



OBJECTIVE

To improve environmental and health conditions in coastal areas and improve management of solid waste in Greater Santo Domingo.

vironment and Natural Resources (MIMARENA), is expected to benefit some 3.7 million people, predominantly residents in the metropolitan area of Santo Domingo. The total budget of \$110 million is funded by the IDB, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and **FONPRODE, which is contributing €20 million of credit and €1 million in TA.**

These initiatives demonstrate Spanish Cooperation's commitment to equitable and sustainable development in Latin America, supporting essential services that directly impact public health, the environment and social inclusion.

FONPRODE INVESTS IN THE KUALI FUND FOR CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY IN LATIN AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN AND INDIA



FONPRODE AMOUNT

Credit
€50M

Donation
€2M



OBJECTIVE

To adapt business models towards greener, more sustainable and climate-resilient practices in Latin America, the Caribbean and India.

FONPRODE is taking strategic action by **purchasing debt securities** through a special vehicle called **KUALI SV S.à r.l.**. This investment of up to €50 million from FONPRODE supports the Kuali Fund, a pioneering Spanish investment fund focused on climate mitigation and adaptation, with a target fund size of €300 million.

The primary goal of the Kuali Fund is to **transform business models** for innovative companies, small financial service providers, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and smallholder farmers in Latin America, the Caribbean and India, with the aim of making them more **environmentally-friendly**,

ly, sustainable and inclusive. The fund promotes the adoption of best climate practices in order to move towards low-carbon economies and improve climate resilience, by helping financial institutions to offer **green, climate-resilient products**.

The investment from FONPRODE acts as an essential catalyst to mobilise other investors to help achieve the fund's target size. FONPRODE's investment contributes to a partial *de-risking* for private investment.

The fund also includes a **Technical Assistance Facility (TAF)**, with non-reimbursable funds. FONPRODE is providing €2 million to-

wards this facility. The TAF seeks to maximise the transformative impact of the investments by dismantling barriers so that MSMEs and smallholder farmers can adopt sustainable climate practices.

The Kuali Fund will operate in various countries across the region, including in the Dominican Republic, where it will promote innovative climate solutions.



MULTILATERAL

COOPERATION

MAIN LINES OF ACTION

In an interconnected world marked by complex global challenges – from health and humanitarian crises, to the fight against climate change and inequality – multilateral cooperation and collaborative work with the European Union are the cornerstones of Spanish foreign policy and the work of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

The Department of Multilateral Cooperation and European Union (DCMUE) is the driver behind this work, channelling efforts and resources through key partners in order to maximise impact and tackle the most pressing challenges of our time. 2023 was a particularly active year, with a significant financial commitment and consolidation of joint strategies.

Over the course of 2023, the DCMUE made contributions to a total of 18 international organizations, allocating 136 million to multilateral cooperation.

This work was channelled through **42 multilateral action lines**, working with both Multilateral Development Organizations and specialised Global Funds. These initiatives aim to respond to global challenges and reflect AECID's support for the agendas of these organizations, focusing on work that most aligns with the Spanish Cooperation Master Plan.

KEY PARTNERS IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A considerable amount of AECID's multilateral work is channelled through the **United Nations System**, upholding strong lines of work with ten of its organizations.

Working in collaboration with **UN Women**, AECID continues to back key initiatives like the Safe Cities programme and support the economic independence of women in Latin America, as well as supporting new projects to tackle technology-facilitated violence against women and girls.

Work with **UNFPA** focused on strategic action for ending female genital mutilation and child marriage, protecting sexual and reproductive rights for young people and women with disabilities through the "We Decide" project, and promoting universal access to comprehensive sexuality education.

UN-Habitat was given support for accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement, through building climate resilience in vulnerable urban areas across Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

Collaboration with **WHO** aimed at strengthening universal health coverage, controlling infectious diseases in affected countries and eradicating malaria and polio.

UNICEF continued its work with the Frontier Data Network (FDN) initiative, a technological innovation network for social development and humanitarian response.

UNDP received Spanish Cooperation backing for its programme supporting electoral processes in priority countries, as well as for progress in implementing Nationally Determined Contributions as part of the Climate Promise programme.

ECLAC continued to support programmes working on gender equality, women's independence and the care society, as well as promoting

fiscal policies towards sustainable development.

With the **FAO**, support continued for crucial initiatives like the Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger Initiative (IALCSH), the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Water and Food Security Initiative for Africa (IESA).

Regional collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (**PAHO**) included strengthening health information systems, with an emphasis on equality and improving human resources for healthcare following the COVID-19 pandemic. On a national level, there was sustained support for providing medication for Venezuelans, focusing on emergency obstetric and newborn care. This collaboration was also established with the goal of driving political engagement with the fight against cervical cancer in the Americas.

Finally, the International Labour Organization (**ILO**) received support to strengthen its work on the transition from the informal to the formal economy and towards the Strategic Plan for the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour.

BOOSTING WORLD HEALTH THROUGH SPECIALISED FUNDS

Specialised Global Funds and Initiatives, were a key focus of multilateral cooperation in 2023, receiving most of the budgetary outlay, in particular in the health sector.

The **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria** received a contribution of €45 million, which was part of Spain's total pledge of €130 million announced for 2023-2025.

Spain contributed €10 million to the **Pandemic Fund**, which was set up in 2022. Spain is one of the founding members of this fund, and has pledged a total of €20 million for the 2023-2025 period. AECID also participates on the Fund's Governing Board.

The **Vaccine Alliance** (Gavi) received €14,475,000. This contribution is part of Spain's broader pledge to provide €100 million between now and 2035. AECID is represented on the Gavi Board.

The **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations** (CEPI) received €5 million, part of a pledge to provide €75 million by 2035. AECID is also part of the governing board.

Unitaid received a €1 million contribution, with AECID also taking part in its governing board.

Beyond the health sector, Spanish Cooperation also bolstered its work in other key global areas through funds:

- > Climate adaptation, with a contribution to the **Climate Change Adaptation Fund**.
- > Protecting education systems in developing countries, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups, especially girls, through a contribution to the **Global Partnership for Education** (GPE)
- > Support for agriculture and food security, through a contribution to the **Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme** (GAFSP).

KEY PROJECTS

SUPPORTING THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WITHOUT HUNGER INITIATIVE



BUDGET

€1 MILLION



OBJECTIVE

To drive the transition towards sustainable agri-food systems and ensure access to enough food for everyone.

As part of the project for Supporting the Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger Initiative, for which AECID provided €700,000 of funding to the FAO, and following the Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition held in Madrid in 2018, the Second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition took place in Valparaíso, Chile in June 2023, to which AECID contributed a further €300,000. More than 200 parliamentarians from 65 countries attended the event, where together they signed the Global Parliamentary Pact against Hunger and Malnutrition, declaring:

“ We commit ourselves to promote agrifood systems that are fair and sustainable and which ensure the right to adequate food of all people.

This Pact is a non-binding political declaration that encourages collaboration, awareness-raising, and the promotion of parliamentary actions which aim to ensure access to ade-

quate food for all women and men, fostering international cooperation, promoting gender equality and the participation of women in decision-making spaces, and implementing evidence-based strategies to combat hunger and malnutrition globally. Although the Pact is not binding, it provides a framework of action to enable parliamentarians to work together in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, promoting international cooperation, accountability and coordinated action on a local, national and regional level.

Furthermore, progress was made towards the creation of an Ibero-American Alliance against Hunger and Malnutrition, through which parliamentarians from Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal will coordinate their efforts.

Finally, attendees discussed the Third Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, to be held in Africa by no later than 2026, in order to continue coordinating actions towards food security for every man and woman globally.



GLOBAL VACCINE ALLIANCE



BUDGET

€14,475,000



OBJECTIVE

To improve access to vaccines in developing countries and strengthen immunisation programmes, with the aim of ensuring more children receive necessary vaccines and bringing vaccine rates back up following COVID-19.

In June 2023, **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance** conducted its mid-term evaluation, which enabled a review of the results from the first half of its current strategy (2021-2025) as well as preparation for the next period.

Under the slogan "Raising Generation ImmUnity", the Global Vaccine Impact Conference brought together more than 20 heads of state and ministers, as well as representatives from the private sector, civil society and the pharmaceutical industry.

The conference was opened by Minister Albares, who stressed Spain's commitment to GAVI and global health matters, speaking not

only on behalf of the government but also on behalf of the Spanish people, highlighting the participation of the Spanish business world through the **Business Alliance for Vaccination** led by La Caixa Foundation, as well as support for the malaria vaccine. One fact that stood out from the information presented at the conference, was the fact that routine vaccination rates dropped in many countries as a result of COVID-19. The number of children in those countries receiving no vaccinations at all increased from 10 million to 12.5 million, although this figure has now started to recover.





MAIN LINES OF ACTION

In 2023, Spain remained the third largest implementing partner of European Union delegated funds - following closely behind Germany and France - which highlights the EU's confidence in Spain's ability to manage and effectively implement aid projects.

It was a significant year for AE-CID delegated cooperation, with **seven new agreements** signed for a total value of €20.2 million. The total amount of delegated funding (from the EU as well as from other Member States) implemented since 2010 reached €585 million. These agreements were allocated strategically:

- > In **Latin America**, **four delegation agreements** were concluded for €13.7 million. The key themes were: indigenous people, gender, the environment and the circular economy.
- > In **Africa and Asia**, **three agreements** were signed to mobilise €6.5 million for health, gender and youth.

Meanwhile, 2023 saw **"Team Europe"** consolidate its vision, aiming to optimise resources and achieve a sustainable impact. **168 Team Europe Initiatives (TEI)** were established (132 national, 32 regional and 4 global). AECID mobilised €1.94 million for 58 TEIs (41 national, 15 regional and 2 global), with an unwavering commitment to the **Green Deal, human development and economic and employment growth**.

In 2023, AECID confirmed its position as a major player in international cooperation, not only owing to the amount of funding implemented, but also to the strategic and thematic structure of its work.

KEY PROJECTS



BUDGET

€4.5 MILLION



OBJECTIVE

To support the capacities of Member States in the SICA region to respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic, through use of the COMISCA® Joint Negotiation mechanism for the procurement, purchase and distribution of medicines and medical supplies.

17

PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



LATIN AMERICA: COMISCA PROJECT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORT TO THE COVID CONTINGENCY PLAN OF THE SICA REGION

The implementation of this project successfully mitigated the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the SICA region, providing regional support for national capacities in order to respond effectively to the pandemic, through use of the COMISCA® Joint Negotiation mechanism for the procurement, purchase and distribution of medicines and medical supplies. The programme resulted in a saving of €1,022,924.61, or 29%, for SICA Member States through efficient negotiation of purchase prices.



KEY PROJECTS



PHILIPPINES "JUSTICE AND SOCIETY"

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



BUDGET

€6 MILLION



OBJECTIVE

The aim of this programme is to establish a context of democratic governance which favours a peaceful transition in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). The project will help to ensure a smooth and timely transition by improving the capacity

of the Bangsamoro government's three powers to promote an environment that is conducive to good governance, and to implement the policies established by the transition plan.

To support a peaceful transition in Bangsamoro, strengthening democratic governance and building the regional government's institutional capacity.





SUPPORTING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN MOZAMBIQUE



This delegated cooperation project is aimed at supporting the work of the government of Mozambique in fighting corruption in the justice sector, with a strategy focused on reinforcing the main justice system institutions, professional associations, civil society organizations and the media. This comprehensive approach involves working directly with 14 partner institutions, with the shared objective of reinforcing national mechanisms to systematically and effectively prevent, combat and monitor corruption.



BUDGET

€9 MILLION



OBJECTIVE

To strengthen Mozambique's national mechanisms for preventing, combating and controlling corruption in the justice sector by strengthening institutions and working collaboratively with key stakeholders.



WHICH SDGS ARE WE HAVING AN IMPACT ON?

SDG 17

The **Practitioners' Network** was founded in 2007 as a network of implementing agencies of European Union Delegated Cooperation, where expertise and good practices can be shared. The primary objective of the network is to achieve a more coordinated and harmonised approach between its members.

Within this network, **alongside the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), AECID leads the Team Europe Task Force**, which aims to facilitate dialogue between members of the working group and the EU about adopting a Team Europe approach and sustainably implementing the Global Gateway.



MAIN LINES OF ACTION

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) recognises that fresh and effective cooperation work calls for communication that highlights its impact, drives its initiatives and guarantees transparency.

In response to this and to make improvements where needs have been identified, in 2023 AECID published its **2023/2024 Communication Plan**, setting out the core work required to bring its communication strategies in line with the current media landscape.

In the context of relationships with international partners, the communication department **actively participated in conferences held by five key networks**. In particular, it **presided over DevCom, OECD's network of development communicators**, with the network's annual conference held in Madrid for the first time in October. AECID also increased its academic reach, setting up visits with more than ten universities.

A notable event was the **40th edition of the King of Spain International Journalism Awards**, organised in collaboration with Agencia EFE since 1983. These awards recognise journalistic excellence in Spanish and Portuguese within the Ibero-American Community. The President of EFE and AECID's Director of Communication alternated leadership of the judging panel. In 2023, awards were presented to six news pieces from Colombia, Mexico and Spain, from among the 133 nominees from 17 countries. AECID's presence at cultural events also included the **71st San Sebastian Film Festival (SSIFF)**, where AECID's Director of Communication led the judging panel for the ninth Spanish Cooperation Award, which was awarded to the film "La Estrella Azul" (The Blue Star) following a unanimous vote.

Well aware of the importance of image, the communication department worked on **strengthening its visual identity**. It continued to entrust the Boa Mistura collective with creating images that represent the women that AECID works with, including designing a seventh

Afro-Caribbean woman at the request of the regional offices, to better communicate the projects of the Afro-descendants programme. These images are crucial for awareness-raising campaigns.

On the digital side, the department continued to work **on updating the Agency's web pages**. Following an initial phase in 2022 which covered the Agency's central web page, design work for the new web pages of the Spanish Cooperation Offices began in 2023, kicking off with the Colombian Office. A full rollout of new integrated web pages is planned, using the Liferay system. Meanwhile, the department also worked on **improving the structure of the website** to make information more agile and easy to find. The social media handbook underwent updates, while the groundwork was laid for a **new Social Media Strategy** designed around target audiences, promoting the use of short videos and infographics.

A great deal of **information was shared about AECID's work** in humanitarian action, sustainable development, education for development and culture, including numerous messages posted on the central website, photo coverage of official events, audiovisual ma-



terials as well as communication and documentation operations at the Spanish Academy in Rome, the Dominican Republic and Honduras. AECID's Director of Communication boosted this publicity further by taking part in international summits and forums. The department composed and distributed over 40 informative fortnightly newsletters to subscribers, the press and

in-house recipients, sharing the Agency's main updates. In addition to this, it launched a project with the AECID library to name the best photographs by country, sector and SDG, making them available to the public through a search engine.

Radio continued to be a relevant communication channel. As well as shows broadcast by the Cultur-

al Centres, the **"We Are Cooperation" programme on Radio Exterior-RNE** broadcast 32 half-hour programmes and many short clips over the course of 2023.

In-house staff training was provided in order to **establish a culture of communication** within the Agency. Online sessions were offered to Spanish Cooperation Office managers, Cultural and Training Centre directors and communication managers abroad. An open meeting was also held in-house to introduce the new communication plan and answer any questions.

Finally, the **Citizen's Information Service** processed a total of **5,683 requests for information** in 2023, with the highest volume of requests arriving in May. The most common topics covered were **scholarships, language assistantships and grants** (34%), general questions about the Agency (29%) and about programmes and projects (12%). Email (68%) and telephone (28%) were the main communication channels. It is important to note that in 2023, in-person services were resumed, having been suspended since March 2020.





GENERAL SECRETARIAT

MAIN LINES OF ACTION

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) relies on the General Secretariat as the backbone of its internal operations and resource management, and for keeping up with a constantly changing world.

In 2023, the department worked on various strategic lines of work to optimise the Agency's operations and improve its capacity to respond to the challenges of sustainable development.

A priority area was **Human Resources** management. As at 31 December 2023, AECID had **800 employees**, including staff at its head office and deployed abroad. Over the course of the year, improvements were made to working conditions and training was promoted. Vacancies were advertised for civil servants and contracted workers including senior management positions in key departments like the Department of Emergency and Post-Conflict and the Office for Humanitarian Action. There were also selection and mobility processes for positions in the Spanish Cooperation Offices. An important achievement in this area was the **creation of four new Spanish Cooperation Offices**: one Technical Cooperation Office in Tunisia and three Cultural Centres in Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama, thereby enhancing the Agency's presence and operational capacity in the area.

Staff **training** and **social action** programmes were another key area of work. The 2023 Training Plan, approved by the General Secretariat, had two main goals: to boost staff skills and qualifications and

to encourage professional development. The plan also responded to the need to train staff on key international initiatives like the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. With a budget of €450,000, the training plan benefited **690 internal and 500 field staff members**. With a budget of €357,620, the Social Action programme was planned by the Joint Committee and focused on improving the social well-being of staff, based on the principles of equality, inclusivity and universality. The voluntary continuous **remote working** programme enabled **223 staff members** to work remotely up to 12 days per month.

The General Secretariat worked diligently on **economic, financial and budgetary management**, monitoring and reimbursing grants, and reviewing **590 files**. In 2023, recruitment work reached nearly €5 million for in-house staff and nearly €33 million for field staff. The 2022 tax year accounts were approved by the governing board in December 2023 and published with the corresponding audit report on the Agency website: <https://www.aecid.es/la-aecid/en-cifras>. There were 1,245 payment orders

for a value of €53.6 million across all of AECID, of which 586 (almost €25 million) were issued within the General Secretariat. Furthermore, external checks were stepped up, with 98 additional cash counts and 98 bank circulations.

The **Information Technology and Systems department** played a crucial role in equipping AECID for the current digital landscape. In recognition of the fact that new technologies are critical tools for sustainable development and that the Agency must act as an example **for digitisation, AECID updated its Technological Transformation Plan 2022-2025**. This plan is based on five strategic goals to make the Agency more agile and effective:

- > Make AECID a **digital cooperation hub**.
- > Promote **data-based management** to improve efficiency and transparency.
- > Improve **efficiency** by using shared services provided by other State organizations.
- > Improve the **security** of systems, infrastructures and data.
- > Promote a **collaborative organization** that encourages network-

ing and breaks down barriers, fostering collaboration between various Agency teams.

In 2023, work was carried out in various areas related to these objectives:

- > Developing a document management system.
- > Updating the Agency web portal and the corporate intranet.
- > Adopting common services provided by the SGAD.
- > Implementing Sorolla2 as the new financial-budgetary management system at AECID head office.
- > Providing laptop computers for employees.

To summarise, the General Secretariat's lines of work in 2023 covered areas from strategic staff management and staff well-being to financial health and technological modernisation. This work is crucial in ensuring that AECID operates efficiently and transparently, thereby optimising Spanish Cooperation's impact on development.





17

PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



16

PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



15

LIFE ON LAND



14

LIFE BELOW
WATER



13

CLIMATE
ACTION



12

RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



11

SUSTAINABLE
CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES



10

REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



9

INDU
INNOVA
INFRAST



What are we an imp

Which
SDGs
are having
the most impact on?



1 NO POVERTY



SDG 1 aims to end extreme poverty, which is currently defined as living on less than \$2.15 per person per day. Despite a considerable drop in poverty rates in recent decades, the COVID-19 pandemic was a major setback, with the number of people living in extreme poverty going up for the first time in a generation.

According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which looks beyond monetary measurements and takes into account other factors such as health, education and standard of living, the rate of poverty has increased by 12.9%, reaching 11.1% in 2023 (42.8 million people).

Current projections indicate that if trends persist, hundreds of millions of people will be living in extreme poverty by 2030, with especially high levels in sub-Saharan Africa.

The **Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)** addresses SDG 1 with a cross-cutting and multisectoral approach, recognising that the fight against poverty is at the core of sustainable development cooperation. Its work extends from urgent humanitarian response to the promotion of long-term development, and has an impact on multiple sectors while working with various stakeholders.

AECID's approach to fighting poverty includes:

- **Emergency Response and Humanitarian Action:** providing direct assistance to vulnerable people affected by crises or natural disasters, covering basic needs such as food, healthcare, water, sanitation and protection. This is crucial for mitigating the immediate effects of poverty and avoiding more people being forced into situations of extreme vulnerability.
- **Food Security:** prioritising interventions to fight hunger and malnutrition, particularly in critical regions like the Sahel and the Sahrawi refugee camps, through partners like the World Food Programme.
- **Access to Basic Services:** improving access to essential services like drinking water, sanitation and healthcare, recognising these as fundamental human rights that have a direct impact on people's health and productivity, which are key factors for escaping poverty.
- **Generating Economic Opportunities and Employment:** supporting rural development, sustainable

agriculture, entrepreneurship and professional training with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups like women and young people, to improve their livelihoods and income.

- **Social Inclusion and Protection:** working to ensure the protection and inclusion of vulnerable people such as migrants, refugees, displaced people, indigenous people and people of African descent, and fighting against discrimination and gender-based violence.
- **Strengthening institutions:** supporting public institutions in partner countries for improving basic service provision and promoting good governance, which is essential for sustainable and inclusive development that benefits the poorest people.
- **Financial Cooperation:** mobilising resources for development, microfinance and impact investment projects targeting people and companies in partner countries, through the Development Promotion Fund (FONPRODE), which aspires to end poverty and reduce inequalities.

KEY PROJECTS


HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO THE MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE

The START team travelled to Morocco to set up water purification units in the Tensift basin, providing an essential service to people affected by the disaster.

ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION IN THE DARIÉN GAP

The goal of this project is to improve living conditions for migrants and refugees, reduce the risk of gender-based violence and improve protection monitoring along migratory routes between Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica and Honduras.

SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS IN NGÂBE BUGLÉ

This project aims to build local capacities for driving sustainable human development, while improving access to basic services like healthcare and drinking water. The project helps to reduce inequalities and improve community participation.

AGRI-EMPLOYMENT PROJECT IN MOZAMBIQUE

This project has helped to reduce poverty in vulnerable communities, improving food security, rural income, women's empowerment and environmental sustainability with an agroecological approach.

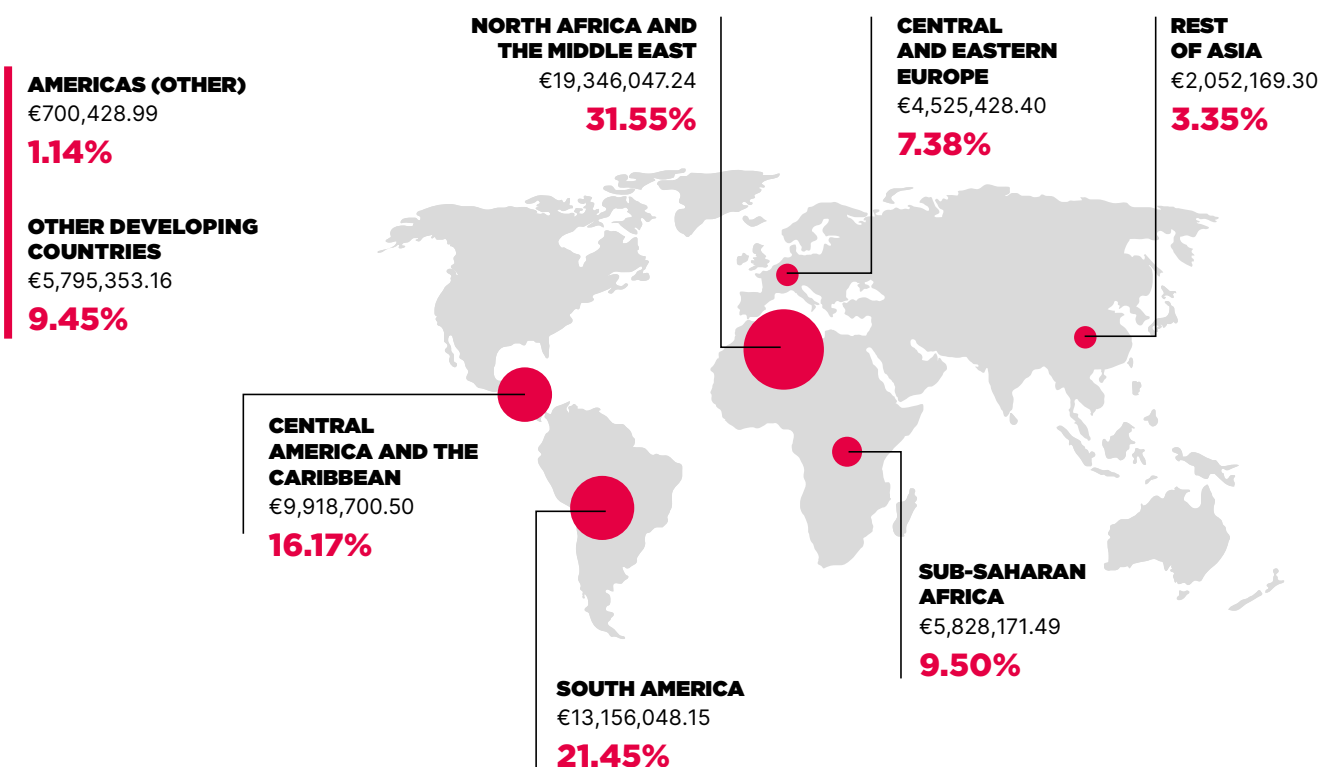
FONPRODE PADAER II PROJECT IN SENEGAL

This project aims to directly reduce poverty affecting women, young people and men by integrating them into lucrative and resilient value chains, creating stable jobs in the rural community.

KUALI FUND

An investment project based on funding innovative companies and small financial service providers in Latin America, the Caribbean and India, with the aim of making their business models, and their borrowers' business models, greener, more sustainable and inclusive.

SDG 1 TOTAL

€61,322,347.23
9.78%


2 ZERO HUNGER



This goal is at the heart of global sustainable development, with extreme hunger and malnutrition acting as a barrier to progress in other areas like health, education and gender equality.

In order to achieve "zero hunger", a multi-dimensional approach must be adopted which incorporates social protection, reshaping food systems and investing in sustainable farming practices. The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) has carried out extensive work in this area, reaffirming its commitment to food and nutrition security in various regions across the world.

Approximately 735 million people were estimated to be living in a situation of chronic hunger in 2023, marking a significant increase since 2015. This has been exacerbated by conflict, climate change and the pandemic.

In 2023, AECID's Office for Humanitarian Action (OAH) made food security a priority, allocating almost €24.3 million to the issue. This support was channelled through key partners like the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, UNHCR and several NGOs. On top of this, Spain was a Member of the Executive Board of the WFP between 2019 and 2024, carrying out important political advocacy work.

AECID also participated in global funding initiatives specialising in health and agriculture, like the **Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP)**. Work on this SDG is cross-cutting and aligns with target 2.1 to ensure access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food.

In 2023, AECID allocated €10.7 million to 24 NGO projects focused on food security and the fight against hunger, marking a significant increase on the previous year.

In summary, through substantial investment and a diversified strategy, AECID has reinforced its position as a key player in the effort towards achieving SDG 2, working to guarantee the right to food and resilience among the most vulnerable communities in the face of a persistent global challenge.

KEY PROJECTS



THE SAHEL

This region received over €15.75 million, with funding predominantly allocated to **Mali** and **Niger** in response to the extreme food crisis.

SAHRAWI REFUGEE CAMPS

Spain established its position as the **primary donor** to this "forgotten crisis", with a contribution of €9.32 million. These funds supported the distribution of fresh produce and basic food supplies, as well as healthcare services.

PALESTINE

The Office for Humanitarian Action (OAH) increased its humanitarian funding for Palestine to €10.63 million in response to the crisis in Gaza, and completed an agricultural programme together with the EU for a value of €4 million.

ETHIOPIA

AECID continued to support the **Food Systems Resilience Programme Common Fund**, and approved a new bilateral project to strengthen capacities in order to improve agricultural productivity, including in fish farming. It also promoted the **Empowering women for socio-ecological resilience in the coffee value chain** project, providing €1,118,000.

MOZAMBIQUE

AECID continued to support the fight against malnutrition in Cabo Delgado, and provided €400,000 of funding for an agroecology project in Matutuine, to improve food security, rural income and women's empowerment.

EGYPT

AECID supported the **Innovative desert farming for resilient livelihoods in Egypt** project, providing €500,000 of funding. The project benefited over 2,500 farmers and contributed to water sustainability and energy efficiency.

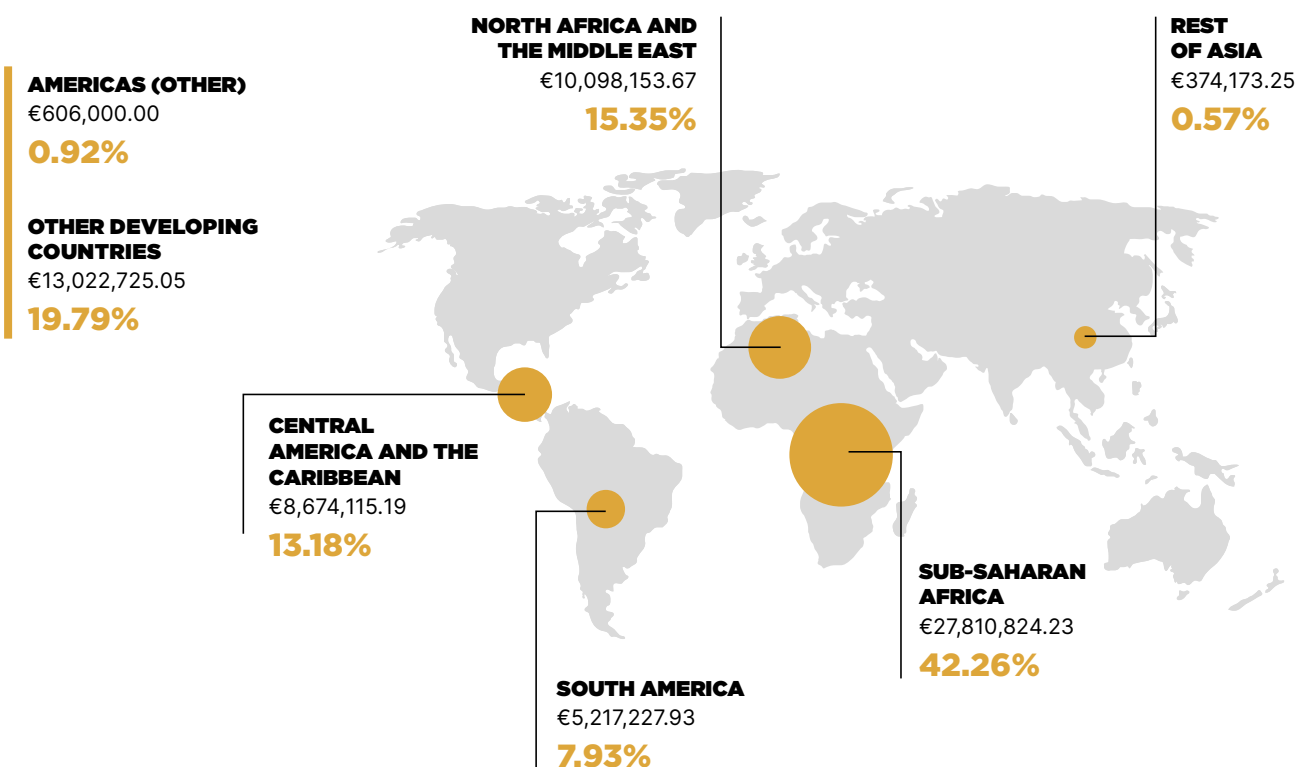
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The OAH allocated almost €29.2 million to this region. In particular, AECID provided €700,000 to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) towards the multilateral Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger Initiative. €300,000 was also given in support of the Second Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, held in Chile.

SDG 2 TOTAL

€65,803,219.32

10.49%



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



In 2023, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) reaffirmed its commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3), aimed at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all.

Significant progress has been made in recent years, including a decline in the under-5 mortality rate and a 52% drop in HIV-related deaths since 2010.

Nonetheless, millions of people continue to be affected by unequal access to healthcare, and recent crises like the COVID-19 pandemic have slowed progress. Recent years have witnessed the biggest drop in childhood vaccination rates in thirty years, as well as an increase in tuberculosis and malaria deaths compared to pre-pandemic levels. Tackling these challenges calls for consistent and strategic investment in health systems, in order to support countries in their recovery and to strengthen their ability to respond to potential future health threats.

In the context of **humanitarian action**, AECID deployed the **Spanish Technical Aid Response Team (START)** in Türkiye and Morocco in response to earthquakes, with the EMT-2 field hospital in **Türkiye** treating 7,387 people. AECID

scaled up its response to the humanitarian crisis in **Palestine**, with an increase in humanitarian funding. **Two armoured ambulances** were donated to **Ukraine**, while humanitarian support was provided to protect displaced people and help to prepare for winter. Another major project was **HIAS's Darién Gap programme**, which provided humanitarian assistance, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and emergency kits to migrants and refugees. Under Phase 2 of the project, 2,442 people received mental health and psychosocial support and 2,282 emergency kits were distributed.

In terms of **bilateral and regional cooperation**, AECID maintained a strong presence in countries like **Afghanistan**, where it ran a project for improving **reproductive healthcare and gender-based violence** services, which reached over a million people through Mobile Health Teams (MHT) and Family Health Houses (FHH).

In **sub-Saharan Africa**, AECID promoted universal access to healthcare systems across several countries. This included collaboration with the Manhica Foundation in **Mozambique** and support for the Health Sector Common Fund (PROSAUDE). In **Mali**, it continued to support the Ministry of Health in Kayes and the fourth phase of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme. In **Niger**, AECID supported the Health Sector Common Fund and Specialised Medical Training programmes, while carrying out initiatives in **Ethiopia** aimed at strengthening capacities in the fight against female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage. In **Equatorial Guinea**, it continued to provide support towards infectious disease control and improvements in hospital management, including developing the Baney Laboratory and supporting the Castroverde Laboratory.

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, considerable funding was allocated to initiatives aimed at improving the health and well-being

ing of vulnerable people. Work to reduce femicide and violent deaths among women, as well as to offer comprehensive support to LGB-TIQ+ people on the move, received backing in **Ecuador**. **Paraguay** saw the implementation of a project aimed at improving psychological care for boys, girls and adolescents who are victims of abuse. In **Panama**, health infrastructure was improved and basic medical equipment provided to various communities. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) also received support for its work in providing essential medicines to respond to obstetric and newborn emergencies in **Venezuela**.

Turning to **Asia and the Arab World**, AECID upheld its commitment to **Mauritania**, with efforts focused on training health professionals and implementing universal healthcare, with a particular emphasis on strengthening the emergency services. In **Morocco**, a collaboration with the Barcelona Institute for Global Health drove initiatives in the fields of public health, epidemiology and migrant healthcare. Progress was made in **Jordan's** health system reform, with a focus on treating Syrian refugees and preventing noncommunicable diseases, as well as supporting WHO in improving health information systems. A project for developing a national transplant programme was launched in **Egypt**, while in Palestine the SAWASYA II programme received backing to guarantee access to justice and safety for women.

AECID was actively involved in **multilateral cooperation** in 2023, collaborating with 18 organizations and bumping up contributions to global health initiatives like the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**, the **Pandemic Fund**, **Gavi** (the Vaccine Alliance), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (**CEPI**), and **Unitaid**. AECID continued to work with **UN Women** on tackling gender-based violence, and with the

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on ending female genital mutilation and improving access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services. Collaboration with the **World Health Organization (WHO)** funded initiatives for improving universal health coverage and controlling infectious diseases, while work with the **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)**, focused on strengthening health information systems and human resources in post-COVID times. The **COMISCA project for Public Health Support to the COVID Contingency Plan of the SICA region** mitigated the impact of the pandemic, with a saving of 29% when purchasing medicines and supplies.

Finally, thanks to **sectoral cooperation**, the **Salud+** programme had a 2023 budget of €5 million to support the strengthening of health systems in partner countries in post-COVID times. This programme funded nine projects iden-

tified by the Technical Cooperation Offices in Guatemala, Costa Rica, Cuba, Jordan, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania and Niger as well as the Antigua Training Centre in Guatemala. AECID also upgraded the **Specialised Medical Training programme in Ethiopia** to a Joint European Initiative.

Working collaboratively, AECID has comprehensively addressed SDG 3, focusing on universal health coverage, maternal and infant health, the fight against disease, sexual and reproductive health and strengthening health systems and human capabilities in partner countries. These efforts reflect AECID's continued commitment to improving the health and well-being of the most vulnerable people across the world.

“ Despite significant global health advances, the COVID-19 pandemic triggered the biggest drop in childhood vaccination rates in thirty years. ”



KEY PROJECTS

**START TÜRKIYE**

The START EMT-2 field hospital treated 7,387 people in the wake of the earthquakes in Türkiye, demonstrating Spanish Cooperation's effective response capacity through its emergency humanitarian unit.

SUPPORT FOR UNRWA IN PALESTINE

In 2023, Spain tripled its contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to €19.5 million. Of this, €8.75 million was channelled through AECID, which enabled the agency to continue providing education and health-care to nearly six million Palestinian refugees.

HIAS PROJECT IN THE DARIÉN GAP

The second phase of this project had a budget of €500,000, and provided humanitarian assistance, including mental health and psychosocial support for 2,442 people, and 2,282 emergency kits distributed to migrants and refugees on the move.

UNFPA PROJECT IN AFGHANISTAN

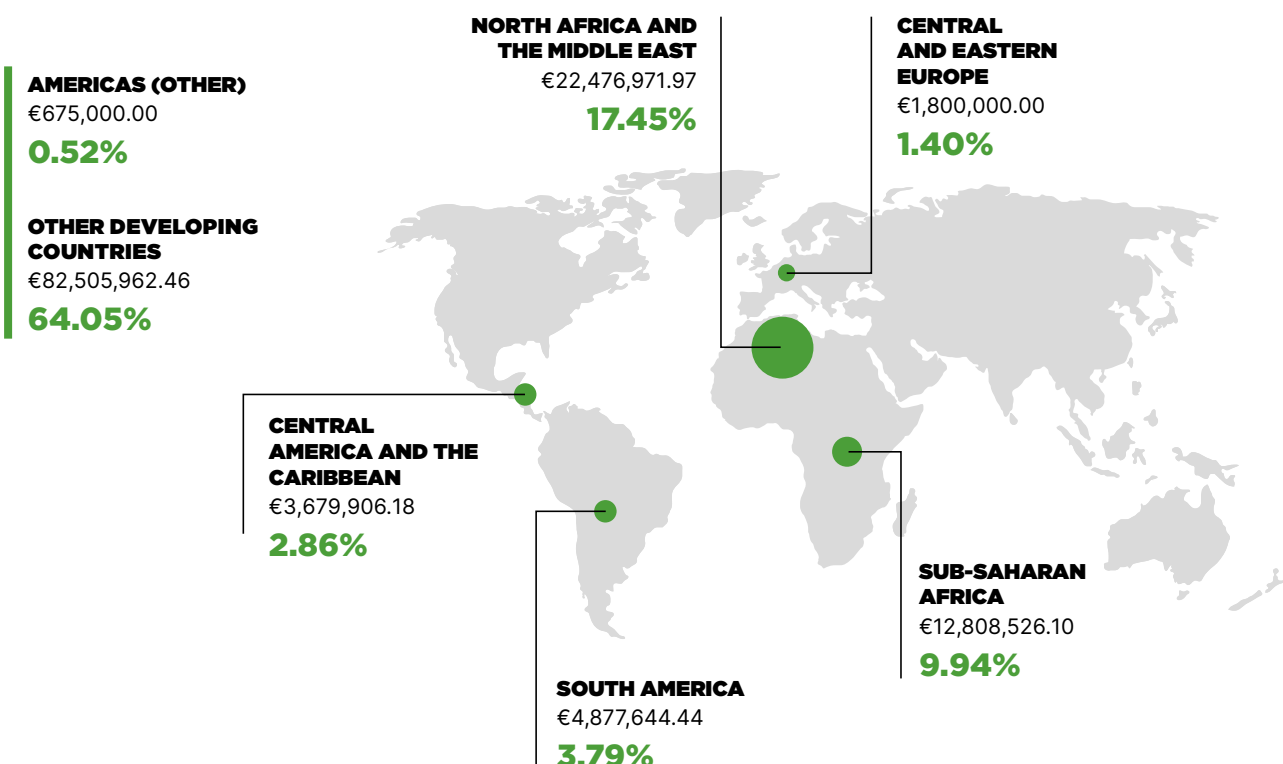
With a total AECID budget of €1.5 million, services for reproductive health and gender-based violence prevention were provided, benefiting over a million people by means of mobile health teams and family health houses.

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

AECID contributed €45 million to this fund, representing its largest donation to a multilateral health initiative.

COMISCA-COVID-19 PROJECT IN THE SICA REGION

With a €4.5 million budget, this regional project mitigated the impact of the pandemic, with a saving of 29% when purchasing essential medicines and medical supplies for SICA countries.

SDG 3 TOTAL
€128,824,011.15
20.54%


KEY PROJECTS

REBUILDING THE HEALTH SYSTEM IN TIGRAY, ETHIOPIA



BUDGET

€750,000



OBJECTIVE

To restore the response capacity of three key hospitals in Tigray, Ethiopia, by providing medical equipment and training medical staff.

In collaboration with the Ethiopian government, Spanish Cooperation launched a vital project for **reversing the health system collapse in Tigray** in 2023. Armed conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic have left **more than 9 million people in this region without access to essential medical services**.

The two-year initiative, which has €50,000 of investment aims to **restore the response capacity of three key hospitals**: Ayder, Axum and Adigrat. The plan prioritises the **provision of critical medical equipment** for health centres which have been completely looted, including monitors, operating tables and ultrasound devices, as well as **training for at least 300 healthcare professionals** in emergency management and clinical care.

At the end of 2023, 74% of the funding had been used on strategic acquisitions.

This work has the effect of not only rebuilding hospital infrastructure, but also **reestablishing the network of outlying healthcare centres**, thereby improving access to essential services for millions of people in this badly affected part of the country. The project, which aligns with national health policy, is implemented in coordination with other Spanish Cooperation work in the country, such as the programme of Specialised Medical and Healthcare Training.



KEY PROJECTS

BOOSTING MEDICAL SPECIALISATION IN ETHIOPIA



BUDGET

EU contribution
€5 MILLION



OBJECTIVE

To improve the advanced medical specialisation capacity of Ethiopia's health system, as well as its technical infrastructure, to offer comprehensive health coverage for the entire population.

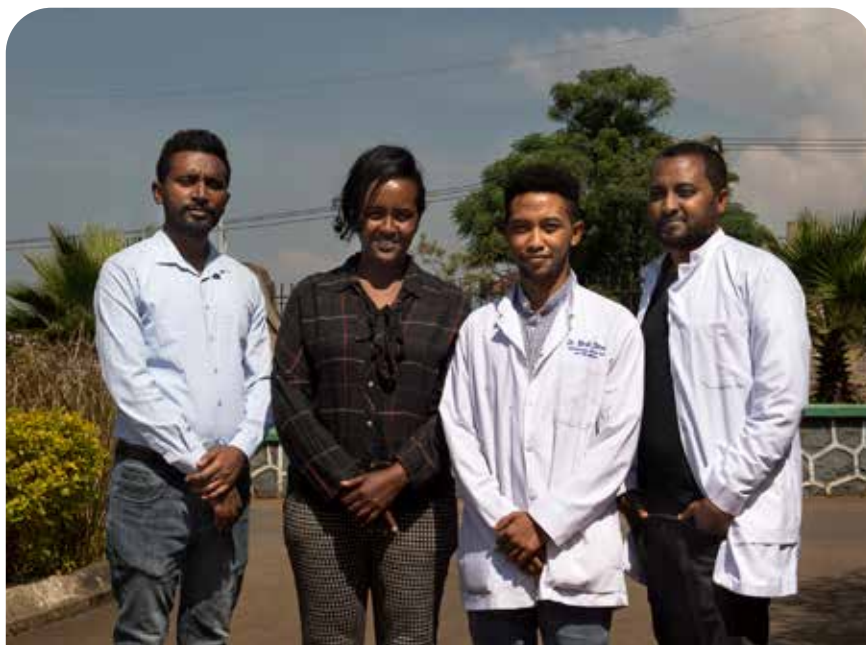
In March 2023, in joint leadership with Italian Cooperation and with European Union backing, AECID launched a pioneering initiative to boost medical specialisation in Ethiopia. With over €5 million of EU funding and running until June 2026, this project aims to strengthen human and technical capacities within the Ethiopian health system, supporting its post-conflict recovery and progress towards universal health coverage.

This initiative, which is the first multi-partner agreement in the country under the **Team Europe** approach, is focused on supporting **eight key university hospitals**. Despite significant logistical and security challenges due to conflicts in regions like Tigray and Amhara, the project has proven to be remarkably resilient and adaptable. Major achievements include **58 in-service training programmes** which reached **728 professionals** (residents and senior staff) in crucial specialties like **psychiatry, surgery and paediatrics**; evaluation of **international tenders for the provision of specialised medical equipment**; and the creation and development of a **recruitment platform aimed at European specialists**, to which **over 400 people have now registered**. AECID also supported clinical re-

search projects and staff training on the cross-cutting subjects of gender and patient safety.

The coming months will be crucial for completing infrastructure reform work, consolidating training programmes and ensuring sustainable and scalable results in medical specialisation in Ethiopia. This col-

laborative work highlights the commitment of the European Union and its Member States to recovery and resilience in Ethiopia.



KEY PROJECTS

COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH SURVEILLANCE IN SANTANDER DE QUILICHAO, CAUCA, COLOMBIA



BUDGET

€694,624



OBJECTIVE

To reduce the risk of COVID-19 cases and deaths by strengthening the community-based health surveillance system.

In 2023, AECID launched a key project in Santander de Quilichao, Cauca, Colombia. With a budget of €694,624.60, the main goal of this project is to **reduce the risk of COVID-19 cases and deaths**, as well as other events of public health significance in the general population.

This project focuses on the **Network of Health Surveillance Centres**, reinforcing Community-Based Public Health Surveillance (CBPHS). This innovative approach is based on creating and maintaining community networks and health surveillance centres, which operate in the most complex areas of the Cauca department, including areas with high rates of violence. These centres map health events, implement healthcare referral systems and act as the first point of healthcare access for these communities.

There were several key achievements, including **412 new health surveillance centres** set up and **40 training workshops delivered on the subjects of first aid, community surveillance and prevention**. 6,914 households (22%) in Santander de Quilichao were identified and included in the Ministry of Health's official statistics, with **2,319 individual care plans** and **4,221 family care**

plans drawn up and implemented as a result. Furthermore, **12 health fairs** were organised with community action boards, in which over 2,000 people participated.

A major accomplishment was improving the local health department's **cold chain**, which was essential to ensure **routine EPI vac-**

cination access and coverage, as well as improving COVID-19 vaccination coverage. The main recipient organizations under this initiative were the State Social Enterprise ESE Quilisalud and the Municipal Health Secretary of Santander de Quilichao.



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Education is without question one of the most powerful drivers of social change and building a fairer and more equitable future. Within the framework of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) aspires to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all".

SDG 4 promotes inclusive quality education at all levels, however global progress in this area has been limited, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which provoked learning losses in most countries.

It is estimated that, by 2030, 84 million children and young people will be out of school, and some 300 million will lack basic literacy and numeracy skills.

The situation is exacerbated by the digital divide, economic inequality, gender inequality and a shortage of resources in regions like sub-Saharan Africa.

In the light of this, AECID reaffirmed its commitment to SDG 4 as a cross-cutting priority goal, mobilising over €11 million towards the cause, marking an increase of 9.6% compared with the previous year. AECID's key areas of action on SDG 4 included:

- > **Education in emergencies:** providing support in crisis situations, for example in Afghanistan, Ukraine, Venezuela and the Sahrawi refugee camps. In particular, a UNICEF project in Afghanistan to guarantee access to education for girls has already reached over a million people.
- > **Training and mobility:** scholarships for students and professionals from Spain and partner countries, including programmes like Africa-MED and the Master for Latin American Civil Servants.
- > **Promoting the Spanish language:** 14 new language assistantship positions were created, and 12 agreements signed with foreign universities to strengthen Spanish language departments.
- > **Digital transformation:** through the e-Duc@ programme, the digital divide was closed in countries like Mozambique, with technology equipment and training reaching over 2,800 people.
- > **Promoting employment and entrepreneurship:** projects like PROTEC (€10 million) supported training on the green and circular economy, with a particular emphasis on women and young people.
- > **Gender equality:** the Ellas+ programme allocated €5 million to 14 projects focused on empowering women and girls and promoting equal access to education.
- > **International partnerships:** AECID collaborated with the likes of UNICEF and the Global Partnership for Education, and led networks like DevCom (OECD), boosting global cooperation on education.

KEY PROJECTS


“INVESTING IN THE CHILDREN OF AFGHANISTAN: KEEP GIRLS LEARNING”

This project, which is led by UNICEF and funded by AECID, sets out to improve educational opportunities for young people, in particular girls, in Nuristan and Nimroz.

FIFTH CONFERENCE OF THE WORKSHOP SCHOOLS NETWORK IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (RETALEC)

This event facilitated an exchange of methodologies and strategies relating to education and creating employment for young people

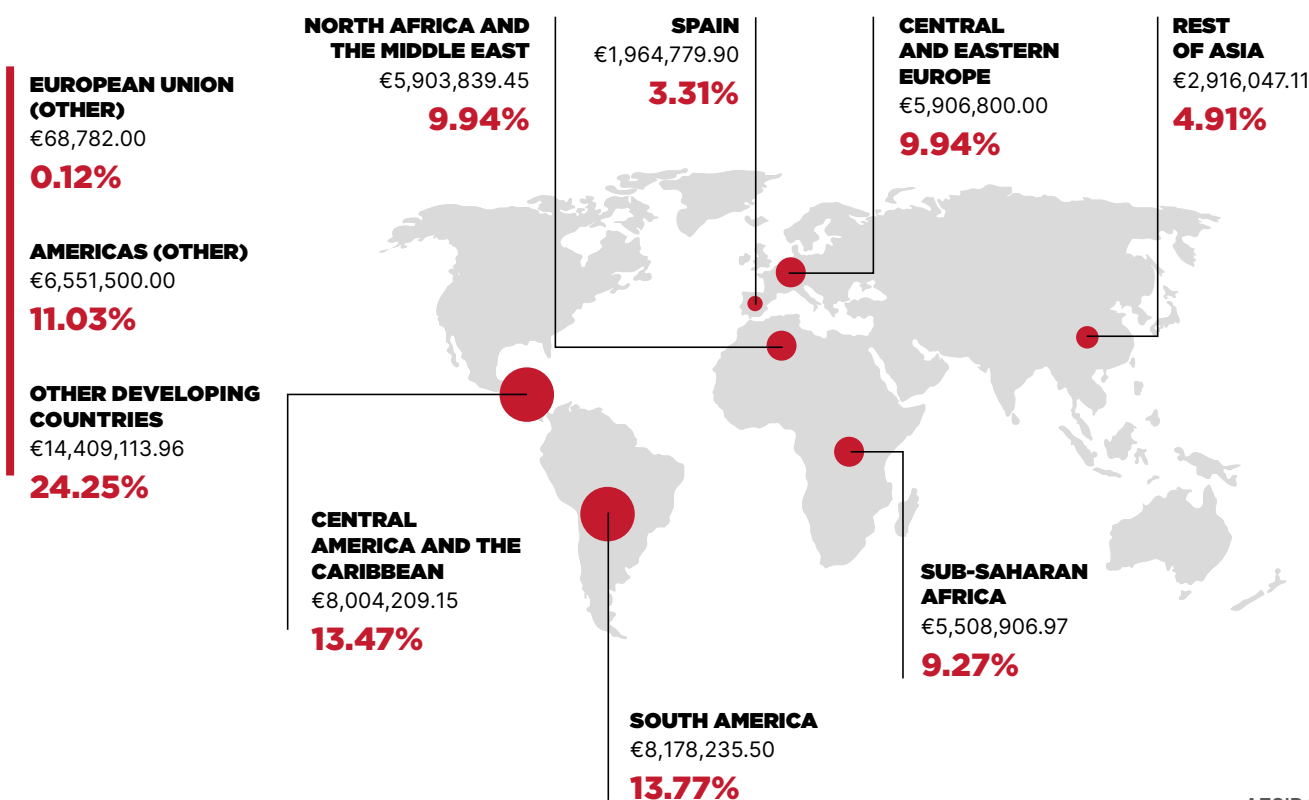
PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT IN CULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND TIMOR-LESTE

In 2023, the second phase of this programme delivered training to a great number of participants in countries like Angola, Timor-Leste and Cabo Verde, developing their skills in cultural entrepreneurship and income generation, ensuring equal access to quality technical and professional training.

CABO VERDE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PROJECT

This project was an AECID-supported initiative led by the Cabo Verde Institute for Gender Equality and Equity. It delivered training in subjects like baking, cosmetics, sewing, health and basic care to 300 people (285 women, 15 men) across nine municipalities. In some cases, 100% of students secured employment, illustrating the initiative's direct impact on improving standards of living and reducing poverty.

SDG 4 TOTAL

€59,412,214.04
9.47%


QUALITY PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS IN GAZA PROVINCE, MOZAMBIQUE



BUDGET

€600,000



OBJECTIVE

To support access to quality technical education and training for vulnerable groups to improve employability and employment rates.

The AECID project "Improving professional training quality and access for vulnerable groups in four districts of Gaza to improve employability", which is run by the Madre Coraje Association, aims to support **vulnerable groups in accessing quality technical education and training to improve employability and employment**. With a budget of €600,000 the initiative works to secure the right to technical and professional training which creates employment opportunities in Gaza, Mozambique, where unemployment rates are high.

The project supports around **41,000 people directly and indirectly, including 23,000 women**, in the Mapai, Chiguto, Mabalane and Manjacaze districts. The priority vulnerable groups are **women, people with disabilities and young people at risk of social exclusion**.

The main achievements and actions under this initiative include:

- > Setting up a Training Centre in Manjacaze by restoring infrastructure (six classrooms, bathrooms, workshops, canteen, bedrooms) and providing equipment.

- > Extending the water supply system and providing equipment for two poultry farms.
- > Accrediting the training centre to deliver intermediate-level courses in farming, hospitality and tourism.
- > Supporting access to professional training through talks at secondary schools and in the community, as well as through IF-PELAC short courses.
- > Facilitating integration into the labour market by way of informative activities on the INEP employment portal and by distributing business entrepreneurship kits to top students in courses like plumbing, electrical training, locksmith training and cooking.

To summarise, this intervention supports the right to a life of dignity for women, young people and other vulnerable groups, by enabling them to access quality em-

ployment through technical and professional education and training.



5 GENDER EQUALITY



This goal promotes gender equality through ending discrimination, violence and harmful practices against women and girls. It sets out to guarantee full participation in decision-making processes, recognise unpaid domestic and care work and ensure access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and rights for women.

Gender Equality, represented by Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) of the 2030 Agenda, is more than just a fundamental human right – it is also the foundation for building a peaceful, successful and sustainable world. Despite progress made in this area in recent decades, this goal remains a long way from being achieved by 2030, faced with persistent challenges like the gender pay gap, disproportionate unpaid domestic and care work, and gender violence, which saw a spike during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2023, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) bolstered its commitment to this goal, adopting gender equality and empowerment of women, girls and adolescents as a **cross-cutting concept at the core of all of its cooperation work**.

AECID allocated almost €30 million to humanitarian interventions with a gender equality element, including projects with specific gender-based results or activities, as well as projects where gender equality is the main or sole focus. **The main recipient regions were Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Africa.**

In the context of multilateral cooperation, AECID continued to collaborate actively with organizations like **UN Women** and **UNFPA**, supporting initiatives to fight gender-based violence, female genital mutilation and child marriage, while promoting universal access to education and sexual and reproductive rights. An example of this commitment was AECID's support for the **Spotlight Initiative**, a joint European Union and United Na-

tions campaign to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

In 2023, the subject of gender equality and women's empowerment accounted for the largest proportion of projects and funding in the NGDO call for development cooperation projects (26 projects, €14.4 million). 25% of the total budget of the call was also reserved for Spanish NGDO humanitarian action projects focused on gender equality.

This work highlights AECID's role in promoting sustainable and equitable development, where gender equality is recognised as an essential driver for social progress and protecting human rights across the world.

KEY PROJECTS

**AGRI-EMPLOYMENT PROJECT
IN MOZAMBIQUE**

This project promoted women's empowerment by including women farmers in organizational and decision-making spaces. It also provided technical training and advice for including the gender perspective throughout decision-making processes.

**HIAS PROJECT IN THE DARIÉN
GAP**

This project focused on protecting migrants and refugees from gender-based violence, creating safe spaces for women, girls and adolescents, distributing emergency dignity kits and providing psychosocial support and legal assistance.

GENEROS.AS PROGRAMME

This long-term, cross-cutting project by the Cultural Centre of Spain in El Salvador promotes gender equality and diversity, fighting all forms of violence and discrimination. In 2023, it ran around 50 activities, including the Escuela Géneros.as learning space on Afrofeminism and the first Géneros.as "women making music" festival.

**UNFPA PROJECT**

In a context of humanitarian crisis, this project aimed to respond to women and girls' reproductive health needs and prevent gender-based violence, setting up Mobile Health Teams and Family Health Houses to provide comprehensive care services in response to gender-based violence, reaching over a million beneficiaries.

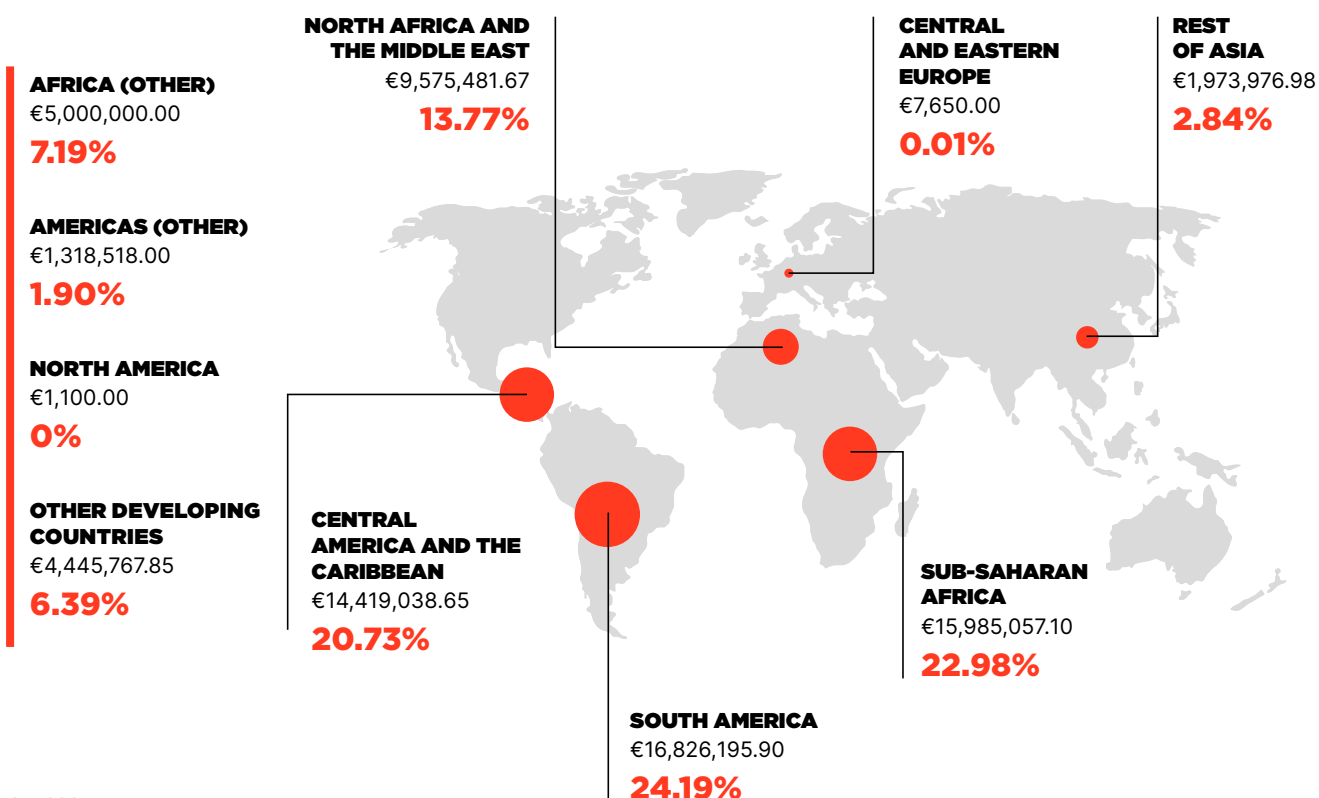
ELLAS+ PROGRAMME

This programme, which was selected as an example of good practice in equal leadership and participation by the EU, financed 14 projects in 2023 for a total of €5 million, addressing gender equality in multiple countries across Africa and Latin America.

SDG 5 TOTAL

€69,522,786.15

11.09%



KEY PROJECTS

ELLAS+ PROGRAMME IN PALESTINE



BUDGET

€419,228



OBJECTIVE

To promote full and effective participation of women, and ensure equal leadership and active citizenship opportunities, improving the presence of women in decision-making processes relating to civil society and economic and social activity in occupied Palestine.

The 2023 Ellas+ Palestine project, named "*Working Together for Change*", was rolled out in camps in central and southern **Gaza** (Bureij and Khan Younis) over the course of 24 months.

In partnership with the **Culture and Free Thought Association (CFTA)**, this programme directly assisted **400 women**, including women with disabilities, who received hands-on training to suit their needs, personalised *coaching* sessions and dynamic learning activities as well as access to spaces for sharing experiences with other participants. These activities took place in a safe space that fostered confidence, skill building and the creation of support networks. **Five women-led organizations** also received mentoring and support to strengthen their institutional capacities and boost their impact in the community. The work gave participants access to tools for running their

own initiatives and exercising their leadership in defence of their social, economic and civil rights. In this way, the project encouraged women to take a more active role in public life and in formulating solutions to challenges in their communities.

The end of the project saw a remarkable shift in beneficiaries' ability to see themselves as agents of change who can have an impact on the world around them and drive an inclusive leadership model. Furthermore, a network of empowered women and organizations that continue to work together to promote equality and participation in the Gaza Strip was formed.



KEY PROJECTS



ELLAS+ PROGRAMME IN MOZAMBIQUE

BUDGET

€245,000

OBJECTIVE

To build entrepreneurship skills among 1,500 girls and 500 young women, thereby improving their confidence and boosting their influence in socioeconomic and political processes in their communities.

With the support of **Fundação para o Desenvolvimento Comunitário (FDC)**, the Ellas+ project was rolled out in the Nampula and Gaza provinces of Mozambique over the course of 24 months.

Beneficiaries of the project completed training modules in entrepreneurship, leadership and com-

munity finance, setting them up to create sustainable business plans and generate income.

The project also fostered the creation of interest groups to promote active participation of young people in local government. Beneficiaries participated in meetings with community authorities and leaders,

enabling their role in defending rights and making decisions to be recognised.



ELLAS+ PROGRAMME IN PERU

BUDGET

€450,000

OBJECTIVE

To create an environment where all women can participate fully, where their rights are respected and they can exercise their autonomy.

The 2023 Ellas+ Peru project was carried out in the Apurímac, Puno and Lima Metropolitan regions over the course of 24 months. This initiative, which was run by the **National Coordinator for Human Rights (CNDDHH)** together with the **Manuela Ramos Movement** and **DEMUS**, assisted over **700 women and LGBTIQ+ people** by providing

training and leadership coaching as well as strengthening community networks.

Over the course of the project, it promoted dialogue and discussions about political rights, encouraged public debate about political harassment and presented proposals to local and re-

gional authorities aimed at promoting gender-equality policies.

The project helped to raise awareness about the **Manta and Vilca** case, which recognised sexual violence as a crime against humanity, establishing a precedent across Latin America.

KEY PROJECTS

CIUDAD MUJER PROGRAMME



BUDGET

€350,000



OBJECTIVE

To prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in Honduras, strengthening cross-sectoral and community networks for a coordinated local response.

As part of its commitment to protecting women's rights and reducing inequalities in Honduras, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the Ciudad Mujer programme (PCM) joined forces to implement a project for **Intersectoral strengthening and connection for preventing and responding to violence towards women**.

With an investment of €350,000, the initiative focused on preventing and responding to violence against girls, adolescent girls and women, through strengthening **networks of local stakeholders** and **Ciudad Mujer centres** in Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Choloma, La Ceiba, Juticalpa and Choluteca. Local networks were made up of

public institutions, municipal governments, the private sector, civil society organizations and private companies. The initiative aimed to encourage active and coordinated participation from all stakeholders to bring comprehensive Ciudad Mujer services to target communities. Additionally, it supported and trained up **community promoters** to boost gender-based violence prevention and response.

Faced with the alarming statistic of **386 women murdered in 2023** – that's one violent death every 23 hours – AECID reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the fight against all forms of violence against women. The project underlined the importance of **forging intersectoral partnerships** and **strengthening**

institutional capacities in order to provide an effective response to gender-based violence.

The results achieved reflect the commitment of AECID and the Ciudad Mujer programme to building a fairer and more equal society. Thanks to these actions, Honduran women had better access to comprehensive support and protection services, while the possibility of a life free from violence and discrimination was promoted.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene is a basic human need and a fundamental human right, which has a direct impact on health and well-being. However, despite considerable progress made, billions of people are still living without access to these essential services.

SDG 6 is considered a pivotal goal due to its direct impact on other development goals such as health (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), the fight against poverty (SDG 1) and climate action. Water is a linchpin that connects social, economic and environmental development.

This goal entails not only ensuring equal and affordable access to water for all, but also **improving water quality**, reducing pollution, encouraging **safe water reuse** and promoting **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)**. It also involves protecting aquatic ecosystems, extending international cooperation and supporting the participation of local communities.

Spanish Cooperation supports SDG 6 through its main instrument in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation (FCAS). FCAS was highlighted as a key commitment at the **UN 2023 Water Conference**, and works based on an approach of **cooperation between equals**, in which recipient coun-

tries are treated as partners and leaders of their own development.

FCAS's work aligns with the human right to water and sanitation, gender equality, cultural diversity, reducing territorial inequalities and strengthening public policy. The Fund's strategy operates at three levels:

- > **Local:** raising awareness and providing training for communities, creating water boards and empowering women in both management and technical training.
- > **National:** supporting ministries and agencies in developing regulations, technical standards, policies and governance in the sector.
- > **Regional:** promoting an exchange of technical expertise and experience through **networks like CO-DIA and RALCEA**.

FCAS also develops capacity-building tools:

- > **A guide** for implementing the human right to water in municipal management.

- > **Checklists** for applying the IWRM approach and protecting rights within projects.
- > The **SISRI system**, which evaluates the technical, economic, social and environmental sustainability of water and sanitation operators, with pilot projects in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.
- > **Guides to selecting land and waste water treatment technologies**, drawn up with the support of CEDEX.

FCAS incorporates the cross-cutting subjects of **gender equality** and **cultural diversity**, promoting the participation of women in water management, and active inclusion of indigenous communities. It also **prioritises rural and peri-urban areas** with the aim of reducing territorial inequalities and improving the well-being of the most vulnerable groups.



KEY PROJECTS

INTEGRATED SECTORAL PROGRAMME FOR WATER AND HUMAN SANITATION IN NICARAGUA

This programme reached 19 cities, improving the standard of living for over 500,000 people. Its work involved building, extending and restoring drinking water and sanitation infrastructure, improving waste water treatment plants and strengthening the institutional capacities of the Nicaraguan Aqueduct and Sewer Company (ENACAL), which is the country's national body for aqueducts and sewers.

DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAMME IN COSTA RICA

This programme focused on rural and indigenous areas in the north of the country, successfully providing uninterrupted access to water for 26,500 people and helping to improve health and environmental conditions. It also supported aqueduct associations (ASADAS) and the Costa Rican Institute of Aqueducts and Sewers (AyA), ensuring long-term service sustainability.

CREATING A PUBLIC POLICY FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION IN RURAL AREAS IN EL SALVADOR

This programme includes initiatives like supplying water and sanitation for 3,500 people in Suchitoto in 2023. The project focuses on infrastructure and protecting the environment by planting trees, building infiltration wells and training technicians on water conservation.

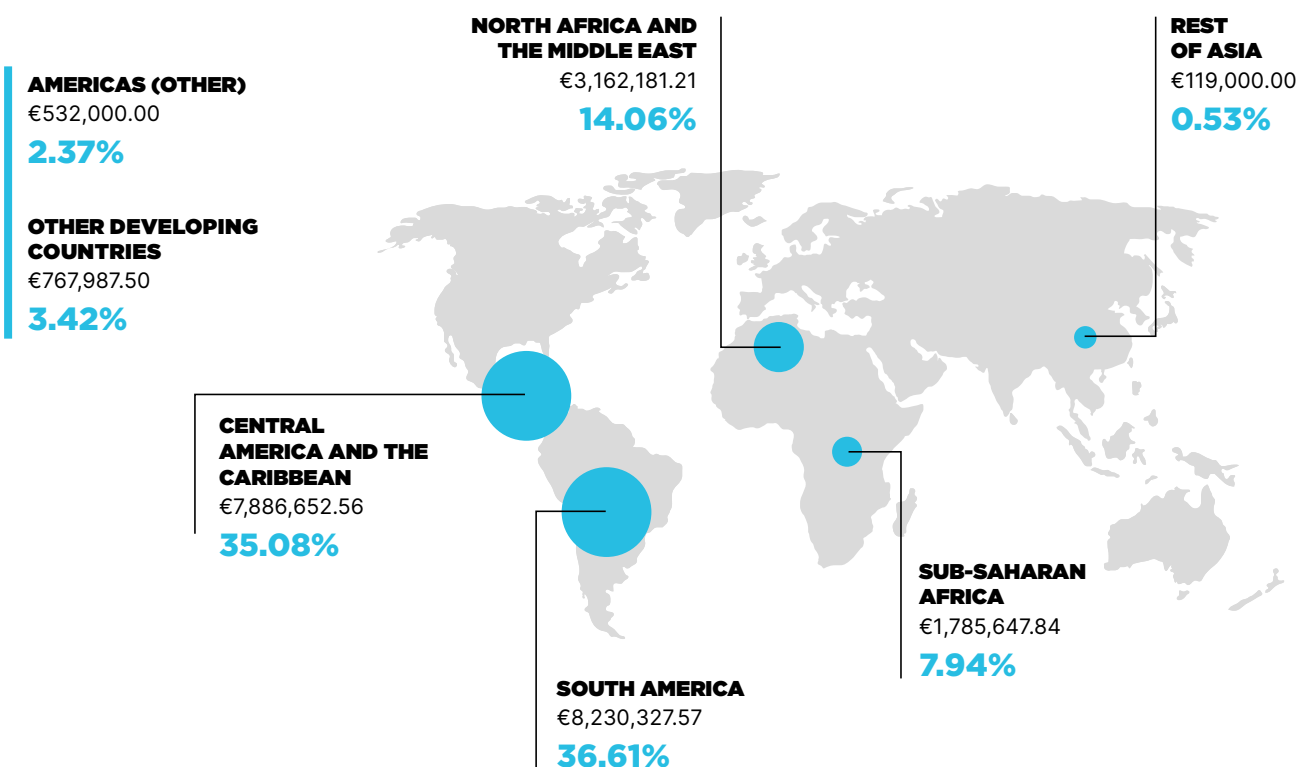
IMPROVING DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION IN MÉRIDA, YUCATÁN, MEXICO

This programme, which was rolled out in a mountainous area with a substantial indigenous Puuc population, aims to create water committees and community participation sessions for operating the water systems. It aims to incorporate the indigenous communities' vision and ancestral knowledge into water management.

SDG 6 TOTAL

€22,483,796.68

3.59%



WATER AND SANITATION IN COMAYAGUA: A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MODEL



BUDGET

Total budget
€2,148,910.81

FCAS contribution
€2,128,910.81



OBJECTIVE

To overcome structural issues and shortages in drinking water and sanitation (sewage and waste water treatment) coverage for the general population.

In 2023, the Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation (FCAS) was central to improving **access to drinking water and sanitation** in rural communities in the north-west of the **Comayagua Valley**, Honduras. Places like Lejamaní, Ajuterique, Isla del Triunfo, Ojo de Agua, El Porvenir, Casabeles and Carlos Miranda were able to break away from a dangerous situation: many families in these communities did not have a toilet and as a consequence were practising open defecation, which carries major risks for health and the environment. Access to safe water was also limited, with many people relying on surface water sources or forced to **purchase overpriced water**.

The **Water and Sanitation project in the Comayagua Valley** (HND-014-B) responded to these needs as part of its additional project phase, providing solid and sustainable solutions:

- > Building **140 household latrines**.
- > Restoring healthcare units in five educational centres.

- > Laying **100 km of water supply network**.

- > Awareness-raising campaigns which reached over 3,000 people.

These actions had a direct impact on health, with a **drop in rates of diarrhoeal disease**, especially among children. It also raised awareness about **responsible water usage**, bringing in environmental and educational components.

A core concept of the FCAS approach is **strengthening local institutions**. In this case, the operator Aguas de la Sierra de Montecillos (ASM), which was created in 2019 as part of this programme, was a recipient of support. ASM manages the water supply in 18 communities and sewerage across various municipalities. With the technical support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and through **twinning with the Municipal Water Company of Seville (EMASESA)**, ASM received professional guidance which equipped the operator to modernise its manage-

ment and promote transparent and participatory leadership.

FCAS also promotes the **use of tools to strengthen local capacities for more effective and sustainable water management**, in line with SDG 6. These include the Integral System of Sustainability and Institutional Strengthening (SISRI), integrated water management checklists and waste water treatment technical manuals, all of which incorporate a human-rights based approach.

This project in the Comayagua Valley is an example of how a **strong, participatory cooperation based on institutional strengthening** can produce lasting change. The combination of **investment in infrastructure, local technical training and strategic partnerships** demonstrates how it can transform communities and make strides towards providing access to water and sanitation for all.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 13 are intrinsically linked to fighting climate change and promoting sustainable development. SDG 7 aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, while SDG 13 calls for urgent climate action, emphasising the fact that climate change threatens our entire civilization.

TOWARDS AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is at the heart of development, with a direct knock-on effect for agriculture, business, health and education. Despite some progress, **millions of people still lack access to electricity**, or rely on dirty fuels for cooking.

AECID works towards this goal through investing in clean energy sources, improving energy efficiency and supporting sustainable infrastructure. The **Team Europe approach (TEI)** seeks to optimise resources for a sustainable impact and has allocated €370 million for the **TEI Regional Green Transition in Latin America**.

DRIVING CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change is one of the most urgent challenges of our time, affecting every person in every part of the world. With extreme weather events becoming ever more common, and the urgent need to cut greenhouse gases almost in half by 2030, drastic action is needed.

In 2023 AECID renewed its commitment to climate action, **allocating over 67 million to this sector through Official Development Assistance (ODA)**.

AECID's climate action work includes:

- **Strengthening resilience and the ability to adapt in the face of** climate risks and natural disasters.
- **Improving awareness and education** on mitigating, adapting and reducing the effects of climate change.
- **Promoting mechanisms** for increasing effective planning and management capacities in rela-

tion to climate change, with an emphasis on women, young people and marginalised communities.

AECID's **Green Transition Programme (PROTEC)** **upped its budget to 10 million in 2023** and is **focused on nature-based and circular economy** solutions. AECID also prioritised the **fight against desertification and drought**, pledging €4 million to the International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA) in 2023 in an engagement led by Spain and Senegal. AECID also backed the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations, an initiative by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and signed the EU's Humanitarian aid donors' declaration on climate and environment.

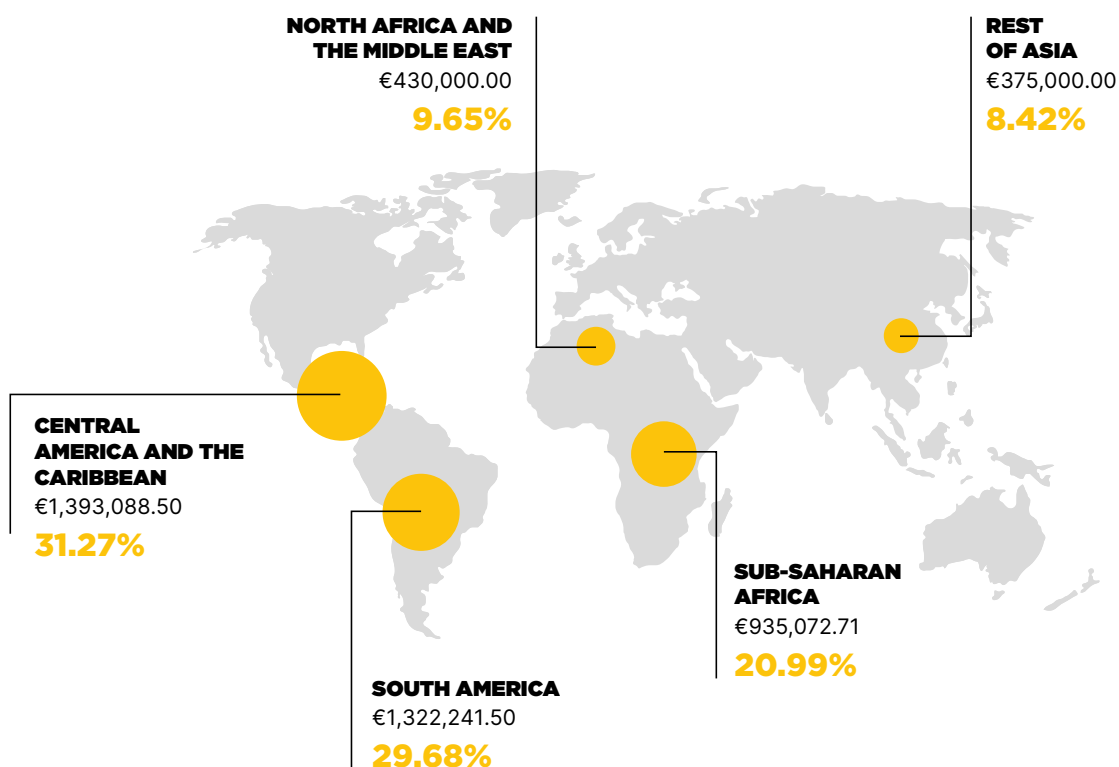


SDG 7 TOTAL

€4,455,402.71

0.71%

66 At the current rate, it is estimated that some 660 million people will be living without access to electricity in 2030.





KEY PROJECTS

INCLUSIVE RECYCLING FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT

Run by the Business Foundation for Social Action (FUNDEMAS), this project has educated and equipped waste collectors and waste centres in **El Salvador**, successfully reclaiming over 18,573 tonnes of recyclable materials and **preventing the release of 53,492 tonnes of CO²**. In this way, the project stimulates the local economy and reduces environmental pollution, promoting a circular economy model.

INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURE IN THE EGYPT DESERT

This initiative promotes agriculture in desert areas using **organic and conventional farming techniques together with innovative practices**. It focuses on efficient water management, selecting climate-smart crops and optimising land usage.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY IN PALAWAN

This project is an example of AECID's support for expanding clean energy opportunities. It focuses on providing electricity from renewable sources in the province of **Palawan**, thus improving access to modern and sustainable energy services.

KUALI DEBT SECURITY INVESTMENT OPERATION

A financial operation of up to €50 million to support innovative companies and small financial service providers. Its goal is to transform their business models and the business models of their providers (MSMEs and smallholder farmers) towards greener, more sustainable and inclusive models with better climate practices, promoting low-carbon economies and increasing climate resilience in Latin America, the Caribbean and India.

SDG 13 TOTAL

€8,947,563.49

1.43%

AMERICAS (OTHER)

€360,000.00

4.02%

NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

€231,000.00

2.58%

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

€3,102,952.71

34.68%

SOUTH AMERICA

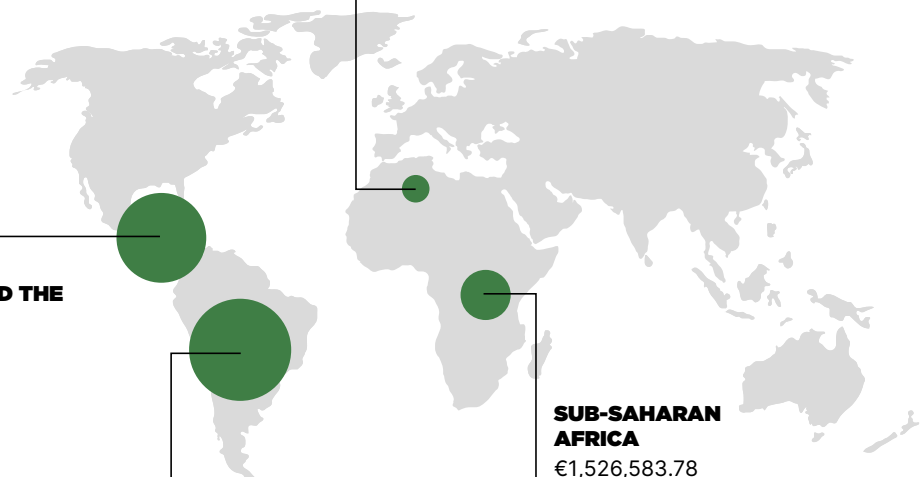
€3,727,027.00

41.65%

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

€1,526,583.78

17.06%



8 DECENT WORK AND INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH



This goal aims not only to maintain sufficient economic growth per capita, but also to increase productivity through innovation and diversification, fostering entrepreneurship and creativity, formalising micro and small enterprises, and ensuring access to financial services.

Persistent challenges include high rates of youth unemployment, prevalent informal work, the gender pay gap, and the need for safe and protected work places.

In this respect, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) demonstrated its strong commitment to SDG 8, integrating it into its strategies and projects by means of a variety of cooperation methods, prioritising the creation of decent work and supporting entrepreneurship and economic growth, with a special emphasis on women and young people.

AECID's primary financial instrument, **FONPRODE**, which is currently in the process of becoming the **Spanish Sustainable Development Fund (FEDES)**, managed a port-

folio of approximately €518 million in 67 countries, channelling funds through loans, microfinance and impact investing in order to end poverty and reduce inequalities.

In this context, AECID allocated significant resources **to operations in the private and public sectors**. For example, it approved loans to improve access to financial services for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and purchased debt securities through the KUALI fund for a value of €50 million to support over 300,000 smallholder farmers and 15,000 MSMEs in Latin America, the Caribbean and India, promoting more sustainable and inclusive business models. €9.5 million of technical assistance was also provided in order to promote sustainable business development and the transition to low-carbon econ-

omies. The Agency also reinforced its collaboration with the African Union, through AUDA-NEPAD, providing €5 million for skills development programmes for young people and women, business hubs and socioeconomic inclusion. Further to this, AECID sectoral cooperation – including the **Green Transition programme (PROTEC)** – increased its budget to €10 million in 2023, addressing innovative solutions and the circular economy, which generate value and employment opportunities. AECID funding calls for training, artistic creation and promoting the Spanish language also have an impact on SDG 8, encouraging training and employment for young Spanish people.



KEY PROJECTS

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CABO VERDE

This project promoted inclusion and empowerment of women and young people through access to decent work and social protection, with a focus on formalising domestic work. The project offered training in subjects like baking, cosmetics and basic care, issued business start-up kits and in some cases achieved a rate of 100% of students securing employment.

PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT IN CULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND TIMOR-LESTE

This programme delivered professional training in finance, good practices and advice for cultural projects enabling the creation of cultural management associations in Timor-Leste and São Tomé and Príncipe.

WORKPLACE INTEGRATION FOR WOMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE LGBTIQ+ COMMUNITY

Working in collaboration with Spanish companies, the project offers housing, social and emotional support, and decent work for refugee women and LGBTIQ+ people who have been victims of violence in Mexico, supporting their personal development and providing stability.

SUPPORTING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SENEGAL

This project sets out to bring the rates of poverty down in Senegal by incorporating women, young people and men into sustainable value chains, with the aim of improving food security, increasing smallholder income and creating stable employment in rural areas.

SUPPORTING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE

This project, rolled out by CESAL, improved food security and rural income through agroecology, and promoted women's empowerment through integrating women farmers into organizational spaces and strengthening their production capacity.

SDG 8 TOTAL

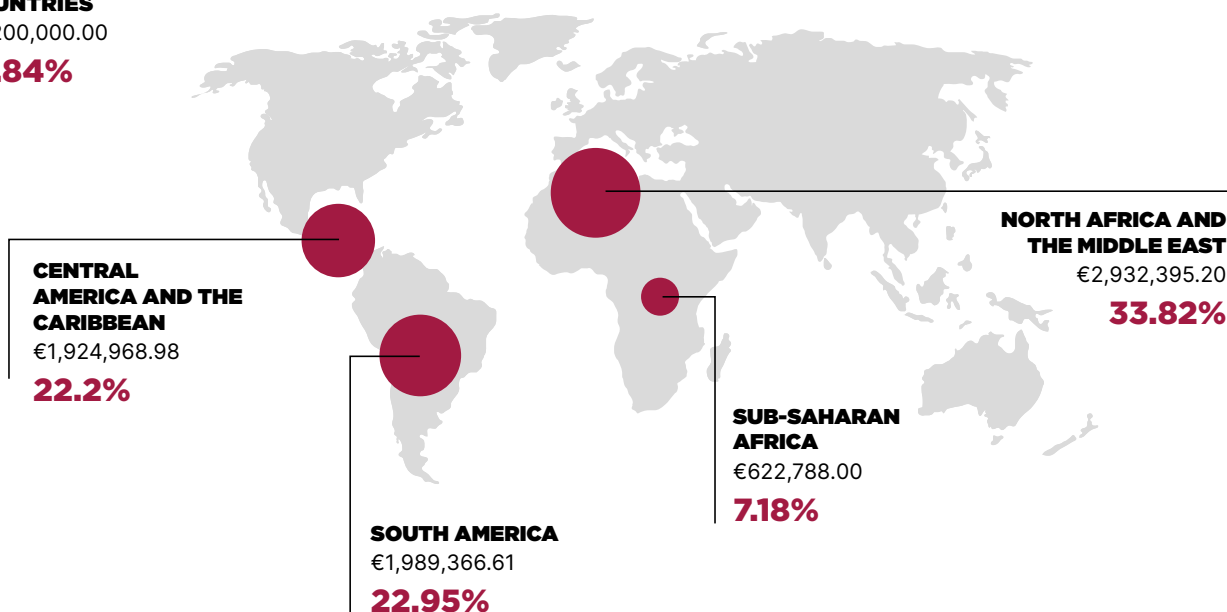
€8,669,518.79

1.38%

OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

€1,200,000.00

13.84%



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



SDG 10 aims to drive and promote social, economic and political inclusion of all people, throwing out discriminatory practices and laws and encouraging more equitable tax, salary and social protection policies. Furthermore, it aims to improve the representation of developing countries in international economic and financial institutions and facilitate organised and safe migration, tackling the root causes which motivate millions of people to seek a better life.

AECID worked towards SDG 10 through various channels, prioritising the most vulnerable groups and promoting all forms of inclusion.

➤ **Cross-cutting gender and inclusion approach:**

gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls and adolescent girls are a pivotal feature of Spanish Co-operation's work, applying across the majority of its interventions. In 2023, nearly €30 million was allocated to humanitarian interventions with a gender equality element. AECID also worked on the prevention and response to gender-based violence, and building economic rights and political participation of women across areas like Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia and the Philippines.

➤ **Forcibly displaced people and people with disabilities:**

AECID prioritised protection and care

for refugees, internally displaced people and stateless people, **with almost 25.9 million provided for these causes, exceeding its pledge of 10% for humanitarian aid.** It also actively supported the inclusion of people with disabilities, indigenous people and people of African descent, in line with the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

➤ **Strengthening institutions and inclusive governance:**

aware that inequality is achieved by strengthening institutions and ensuring access to justice for all, AECID backed programmes for improving governance and democracy. This includes providing training for public officials in partner countries, in support of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), which directly contributes to reducing inequalities.

➤ **Promoting employment and economic opportunities:**

creating decent work, supporting entrepreneurship and the social economy are key areas of focus for reducing economic inequalities. AECID placed a special emphasis on creating opportunities for women and young people, in particular in the culture and agriculture sectors.

KEY PROJECTS


HIAS PROJECT IN THE DARIÉN GAP

Aimed at improving living conditions for migrants and refugees, this project provided humanitarian assistance and created safe spaces along migratory routes between Colombia, Panama and Costa Rica. It also brought the risks of gender-based violence down and provided psychosocial and legal support to thousands of vulnerable people, surpassing targets for mental health and gender-based violence aid.

GENEROS.AS PROJECT

This cross-cutting long-term programme, led by the Spanish Cultural Centre in El Salvador, promoted gender equality and diversity by offering safe spaces for expression, reflection and debate. The project sets out to shine a light on and fight against injustice, inequality and violence against women, girls and LGBTIQ+ people.

SPECIALISED MEDICAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

In countries like Niger, Mali, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Equatorial Guinea, AECID supported universal access to health systems, strengthening capacities and running sexual and reproductive health programmes. This training and support aim to reduce inequality in terms of access to essential health services.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CABO VERDE

This project has been vital in building a fairer and more inclusive society, delivering training in subjects like baking, cosmetics, sewing and healthcare for domestic workers to 300 people, resulting in high rates of employment among recipients.

AGRI-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

This project improved food security, rural income and women's empowerment in Matutuíne, Mozambique. By providing technical training and promoting agroecology practices, women farmers were integrated into decision-making spaces, thereby improving their economic independence.

SDG 10 TOTAL

€5,746,247.54
0.92%
AMERICAS (OTHER)

€531,200.00

9.24%
AFRICA (OTHER)

€11,616.00

0.20%
OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

€145,404.04

2.53%
NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

€1,744,472.11

30.36%
CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

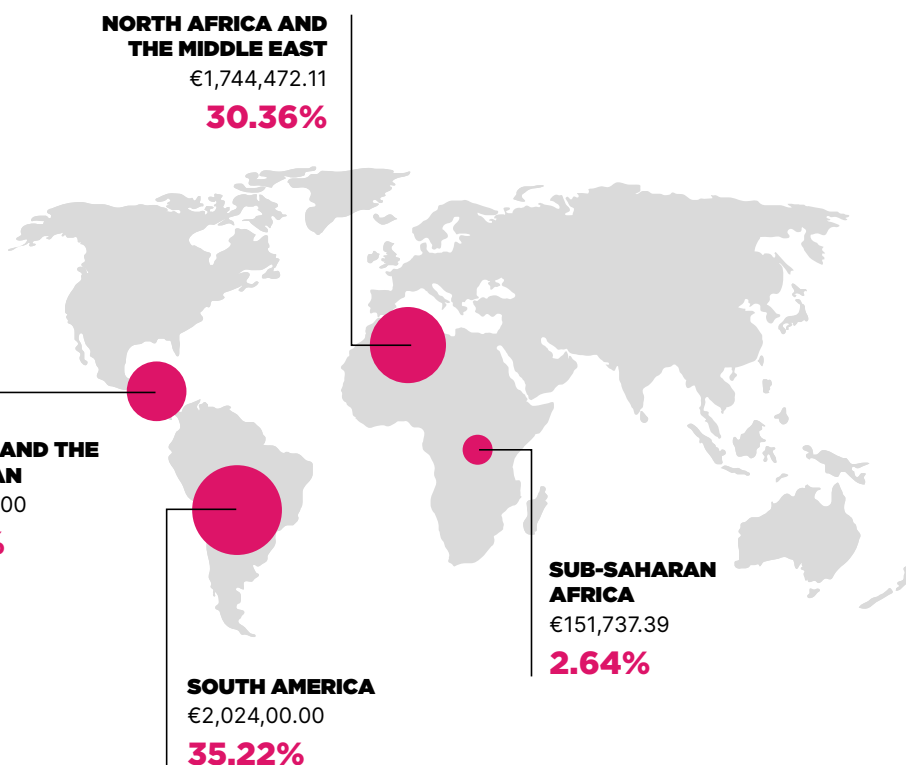
€1,137,818.00

19.80%
SOUTH AMERICA

€2,024,00.00

35.22%
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

€151,737.39

2.64%


16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



This goal aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Violent conflicts, insecurity, sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are widespread occurrences which act as a barrier to progress. For this reason, reducing violence, fighting corruption, stopping the movement of illegal finance and weapons and promoting inclusive participation, are all crucial actions to be taken.

In 2023, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) demonstrated a steadfast commitment to achieving SDG 16, incorporating the principles of this goal across various lines of work and global projects.

> **Strengthening institutions and governance:** AECID provided backing for programmes aimed at reinforcing public administrations and democracy across multiple regions. This work included supporting improvements to governance and transparency, systematising processes and developing codes of conduct for judicial organizations in Mozambique. In Senegal, it included support for the Civil Registration System Reform, aiming for higher registration of births – crucial for establishing a legal identity.

> **Reducing violence and protecting human rights:** Spanish humanitarian action, coordinated by the Office for Humanitarian Action (OAH), put a major emphasis on the humanitarian disaster in Palestine, providing additional funding and carrying out essential work within the Council of the European Union to address the crisis with a comprehensive and consistent approach. Priority was given to protecting and caring for forcibly displaced people, with allocated funding of almost €25.9 million. In Ukraine, the Agency continued to provide humanitarian assistance, including a demining project following the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus approach.

> **Social inclusion and participation:** AECID worked actively to promote full participation of the most vulnerable groups such as

people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ people, indigenous people and people of African descent. Gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls and adolescent girls were critical, cross-cutting concepts applied across much of the Agency's work.

> **Fight against corruption and organised crime:** significantly lowering rates of bribery and corruption is a major part of SDG 16. AECID continued to back the Supporting the Fight against Corruption project in Mozambique, which works to strengthen the capacities of judicial institutions and civil society. In Egypt, it worked with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to fight against human trafficking.



KEY PROJECTS

SUPPORTING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN MOZAMBIQUE

With a €9 million budget, this project aims to build capacities within judicial institutions and civil society in order to fight corruption. As part of this project, risks of corruption were diagnosed, training was rolled out and institutional transparency was improved, while civil society and the media received support to look out for and report cases.

SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS IN NGĀBE BUGLÉ

This project provided training for municipal officials and justices of the peace on the subjects of community mediation and human rights, and made improvements to healthcare and water facilities, fostering inclusive governance and reduced inequalities in one of the most vulnerable regions of Panama.

PRISON SERVICE MODERNISATION IN MOROCCO

This project focused on improving the institutional capacities of the General Delegation for Prison Administration and Reintegration (DGAPR), improving inmate classification, processing, rehabilitation and the work system.

JUSTICE AND SOCIETY PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

With a budget of €6 million, the aim of this programme is to establish a context of democratic governance which favours a peaceful transition in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. It helps to build the capacities of the Bangsamoro government's three powers to promote good governance and apply policies effectively.

SDG 16 TOTAL

€60,174,023.87

9.60%

AMERICAS (OTHER)

€12,776,246.47

21.23%

AFRICA (OTHER)

€200,000.00

0.33%

OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

€1,432,515.46

2.38%

NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

€13,137,812.97

21.83%

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

€1,500,000.00

2.49%

REST OF ASIA

€7,509,701.46

12.48%

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

€5,143,748.38

8.55%

SOUTH AMERICA

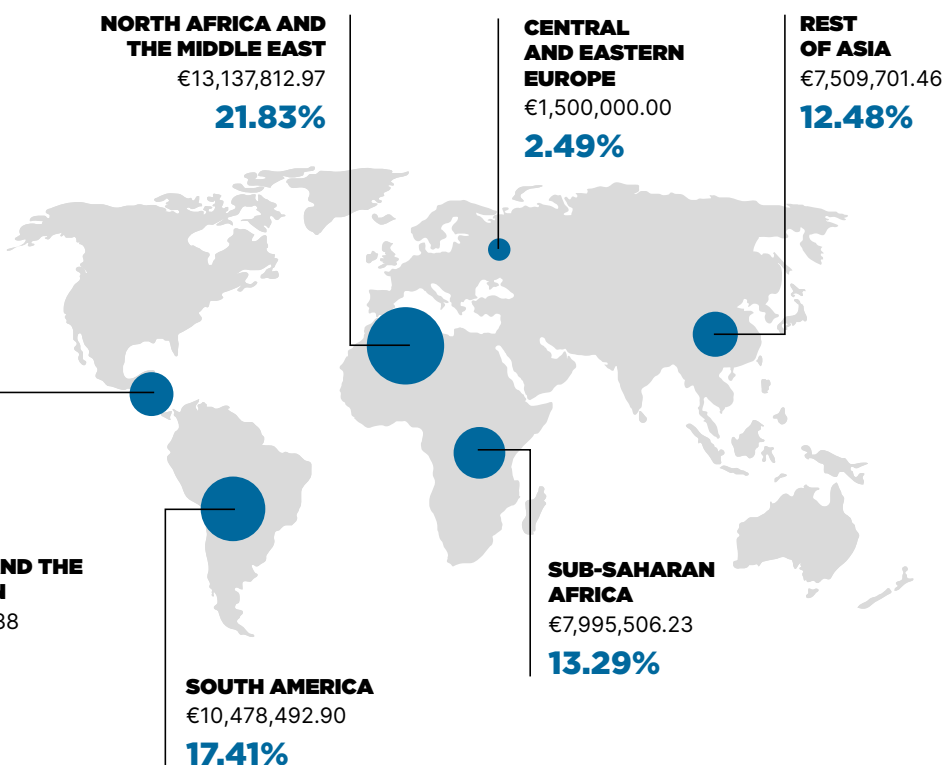
€10,478,492.90

17.41%

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

€7,995,506.23

13.29%





INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE GENERATION TO TACKLE THE DEMOCRATIC CRISIS IN CENTRAL AMERICA



BUDGET

Total budget
€333,944



OBJECTIVE

To promote peaceful, inclusive societies with accountable institutions in Central America, through knowledge generation, interdisciplinary analysis and innovative proposals that help to understand the democratic crisis and promote processes for sustainable social change.

Run by the **Complutense University of Madrid**, the **Loyola University Andalusia Foundation** and the **ETEA Foundation for Development and Cooperation**, this initiative is part of the **Central America Initiative Network (ICA)** which aims to support democratic movements and inclusive and sustainable social transformation in Central America by generating new perspectives, knowledge and proposals on the sociopolitical situation in the region and each of its countries, identifying new stakeholders, support mechanisms and political impact mechanisms, as well as the narratives that underpin public intervention.

This involves holding **webinars and online and in-person meetings**, **producing research and publications** and **delivering a training course about Central America**, taught by members of the network. Political economy and social sciences analyses, with an interdisciplinary and

regional comparison approach, are essential for making proposals relating to the work of international stakeholders, including **Spanish and European Cooperation**, and to underpin inclusive and sustainable democratisation and social inclusion

processes. Identifying new stakeholders, public action processes and narratives will enable international stakeholders to provide more focused and effective support.



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



This goal recognises that global targets cannot be achieved by individual countries or actors alone. They call for inclusive partnerships built on shared principles, values and objectives focused on prioritising people and the planet.

In 2023, AECID confirmed its position as a major player in sustainable development and humanitarian action, underpinned by an extensive network of strategic partnerships to boost the impact and efficiency of its interventions.

With regard to **multilateral alliances**, AECID was actively engaged with the United Nations system, **collaborating with 18 organizations on 42 multilateral lines of action**. Its commitment to the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**, for example, led to substantial support for humanitarian and social assistance for Palestinian refugees, including essential services like education and healthcare. Collaborative work with the **United Nations Population Fund** focused on ending female genital mutilation, preventing gender-based violence and promoting sexual and reproductive rights, with major projects in places like Afghanistan. With the United Nations Children's Fund, AECID provided support for child protection and social inclusion as well as expanding education opportunities for adolescents, especially girls, in

vulnerable situations. The **United Nations Development Programme** was a key partner in strengthening democratic governance and climate action. Other organizations like **OCHA, UNHCR, FAO, WHO, IOM, ILO, ECLAC, UN-Habitat** and **WFP** also received critical support in areas ranging from humanitarian coordination and food security to universal health and labour rights.

Beyond the UN system, AECID also extended **support to specialised global initiatives and funds**, demonstrating its commitment to global health by contributing to funds like the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance) and CEPI (the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations), participating actively on their governing boards. It also strengthened work on adapting to climate change and supported agriculture, food security and education programmes in developing countries.

Furthermore, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) received backing for its response to multi-

ple emergencies, including natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes, while the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** worked on humanitarian assistance and protection in conflict situations, providing aid for crisis situations including the Sahrawi refugee camps.

AECID organised a strong humanitarian response through **bilateral and regional agreements**, acting quickly and efficiently in the face of various crises. In **Türkiye and Morocco**, it deployed the **START** team in the wake of the earthquakes there, providing medical care and essential services to affected communities. Meanwhile, it reaffirmed its commitment to **Palestine** by supporting access to justice for women and helping particularly vulnerable groups. In the **Sahel**, significant resources were mobilised to tackle the food crisis, while interventions were launched on education and protection. This comprehensive action included the Sahrawi refugee camps, where support was offered in the areas of food security, health and education. Furthermore, in response to the crisis situations in

Syria and **Ukraine**, AECID focused on assisting displaced people, protecting rights, preparing for winter and promoting gender equality.

AECID's work in **Latin America and the Caribbean** was based on the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus, climate resilience and gender equality, including projects which provided assistance to migrants in the Darién Gap, promoted the inclusion of refugee women and LGBTIQ+ people in Mexico, encouraged inclusive recycling in El Salvador and strengthened access to justice in Bolivia.

In **sub-Saharan Africa**, AECID strengthened regional alliances in order to promote the empowerment of women and young people, and supported key initiatives in countries like Mozambique, Mali, Ethiopia, Senegal and Cabo Verde, focused on health, nutrition, agriculture, governance, the fight against corruption and women's economic independence.

AECID worked tirelessly in **Asia and the Arab World** through initiatives focused on gender, sustainable development and strengthening institutions. In particular, projects in

Tunisia and Morocco provided support for women, entrepreneurship and rural development, in Egypt and Jordan for the green economy, health and women's rights, and in the Philippines for peace processes with a gender approach and protecting indigenous women.

Collaboration with the private sector and civil society is key. AECID strengthened its collaborative work, supporting NGOs and partnering with companies and foundations to **promote economic, cultural and educational development** as well as teamwork with the science community and the media to foster knowledge and quality journalism. Meanwhile institutional and coordination initiatives helped to improve efficiency at the Agency. During the **Spanish presidency of the EU**, over 150 cultural activities were organised and Spain co-organised the European Science Diplomacy Conference. Spanish Cooperation also expanded its Network of Embassies and Cultural Centres with new offices, strengthening its presence and cultural engagement. Consolidation of the **Team Europe Initiatives (TEI)**, which mobilised substantial resources in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, demonstrat-

ed Spain's commitment to inclusive economic and human development.



In the European sphere, AECID participated actively in the **Practitioners' Network**, founded in 2007 for cooperation agencies to share expertise and good practices, helping to produce more coordinated and consistent action. It was within this network that AECID, alongside German agency GIZ, led the **Team Europe Task Force**, which aims to facilitate dialogue between members of the network and the European Union about adopting a Team Europe approach and sustainably implementing the Global Gateway initiative.

SDG 17 TOTAL

€3,700,085.39

0.59%

AMERICAS (OTHER)

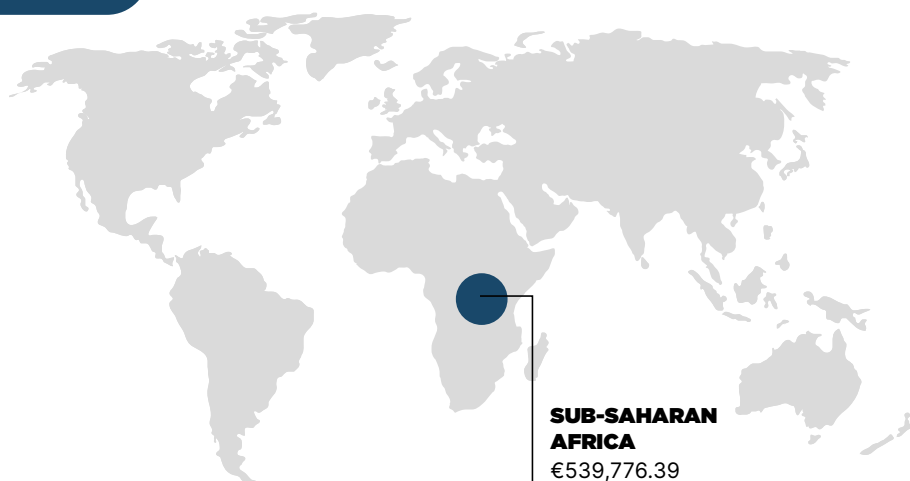
€1,060,309.00

28.66%

OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

€2,100,000.00

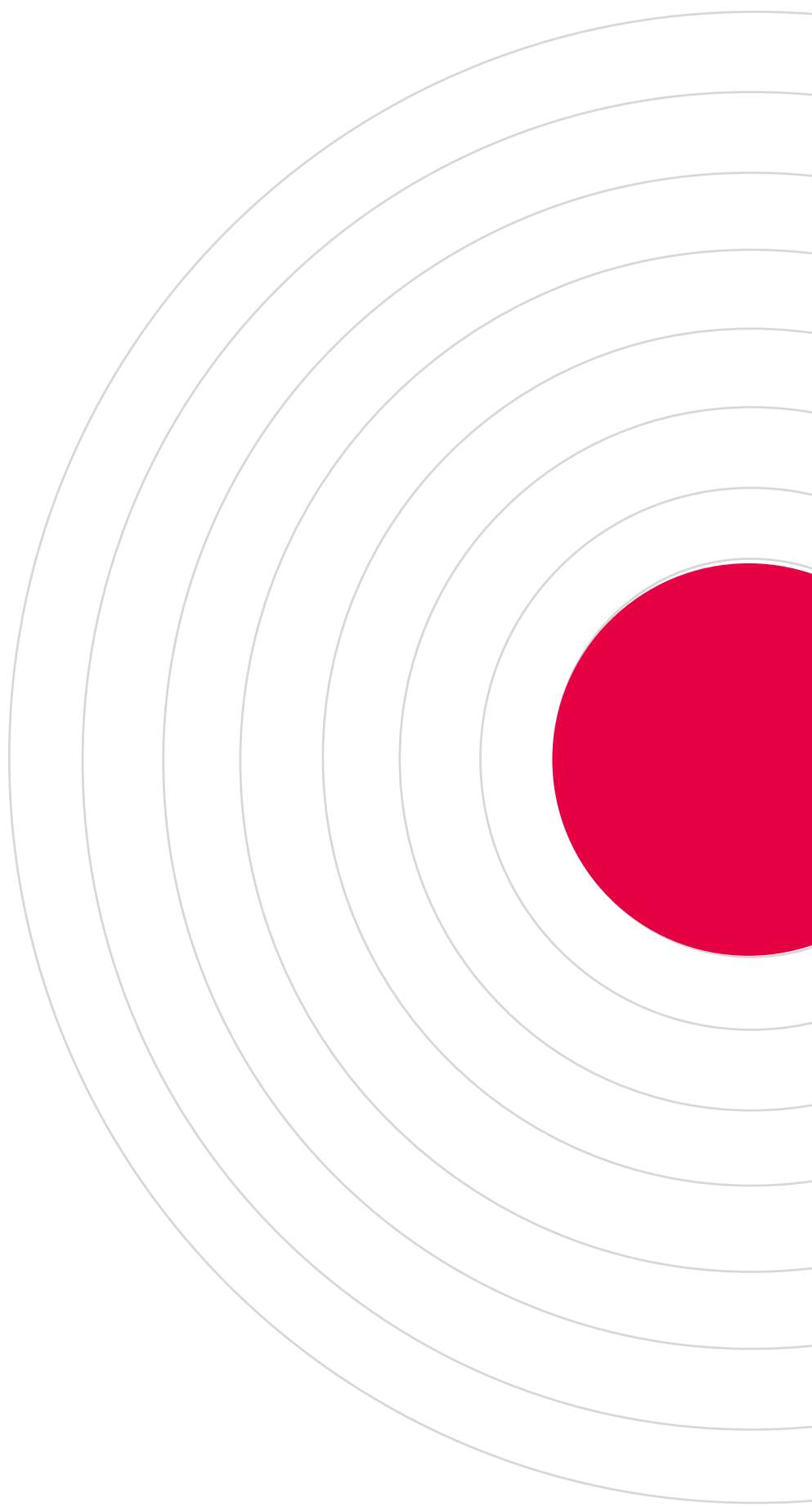
56.76%

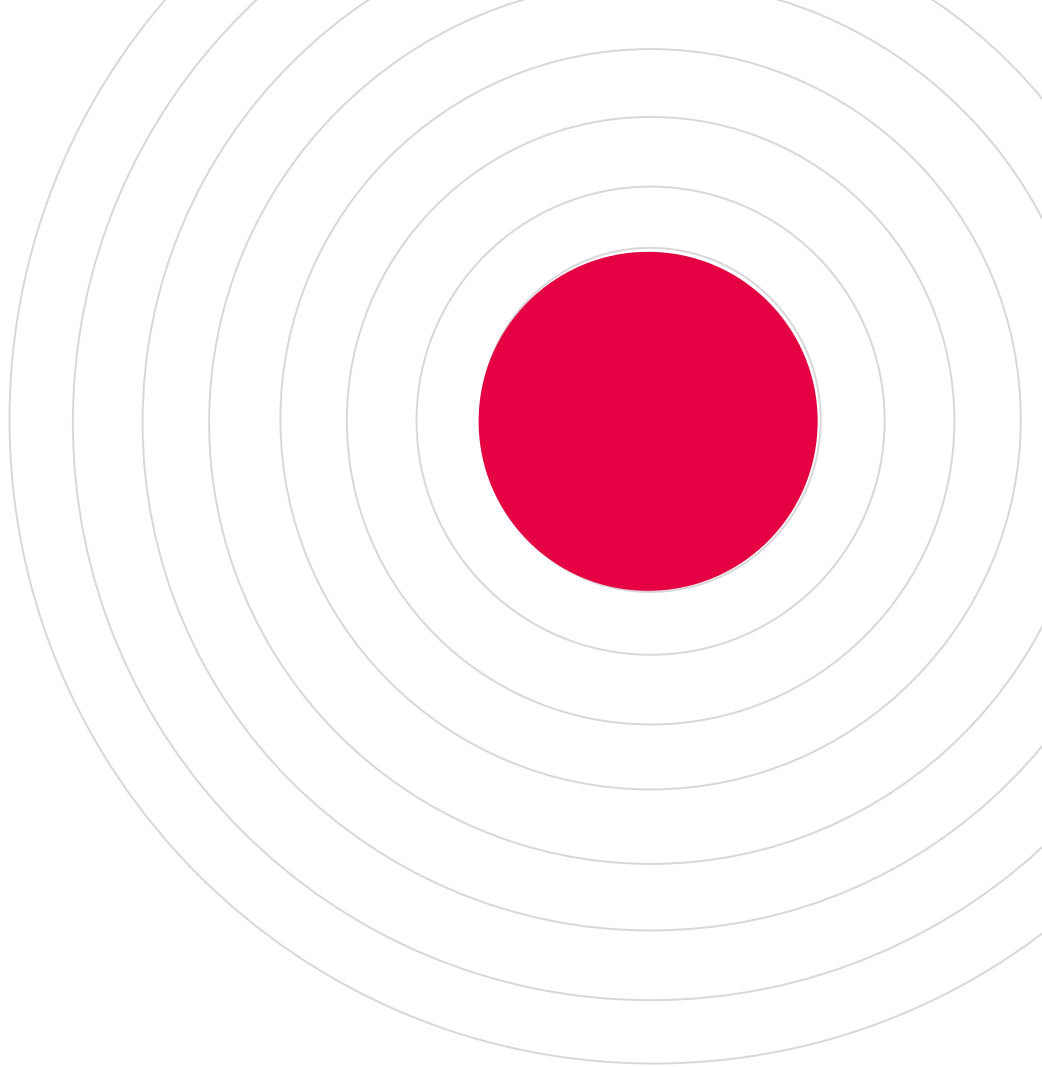


SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

€539,776.39

14.59%





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