



**RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE**

*Liberté
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**EXPERTISE
FRANCE**
GROUPE AFD



Expertise France in Syria

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18

Projects implemented since 2013

63.6

Million EUR

3.8

Million direct beneficiaries

Expertise France, the French public agency for international cooperation, has been working in Syria since 2013 within the framework of stabilization programming, focusing on regions outside the control of the Syrian regime. In line with the humanitarian-development nexus, Expertise France's action seeks to create the conditions for a sustainable end to the crisis. The overall objective is to strengthen human security and support the resilience of affected communities.

Table of contents

Context	2
Expertise France in Northwest Syria	5
Expertise France in Northeast Syria	7
Health interventions	9
Rehabilitation of public infrastructures	13
Food security and livelihoods support	15
Strengthening local civil society organizations	19
Cross cutting themes	21

Context

Thirteen years since the beginning of the Syrian conflict, communities, both within and outside the country, continue to bear the brunt of the crisis. Hostilities have claimed thousands of lives, leaving more than, as of February 2024, 16.7 million of people in need of humanitarian assistance, and forcing millions to flee their homes.

While livelihoods continue to be severely disrupted as a result of the conflict, human capital has also been impacted, with increased injuries, disabilities, displacements and a significant brain drain. This directly affects vulnerable communities' access to essential services, including health. This is compounded by the fact that training opportunities for service providers are scarce, creating pressing needs in terms of skills development.

While providing emergency humanitarian relief during protracted crisis remains necessary to alleviate suffering, more sustainable approaches are also required to improve vulnerable populations' livelihoods, but also to enhance and sustain their access to more resilient essential services.

16.7M of people

in need of assistance in 2024 according to OCHA's Humanitarian Needs Overview



Expertise France, the French public agency for international cooperation, has been working in Syria since 2013 within the framework of stabilization programs, focusing on areas outside of direct control from the Syrian regime. In line with the humanitarian-development nexus, Expertise France’s action seeks to create the conditions for a sustainable end to the crisis. The overall objective of Expertise France’s program in Syria is to strengthen human security and affected communities’ resilience by improving livelihoods and preparedness. Expertise France’s interventions are also designed to facilitate the peaceful and voluntary return, as well as sustainable reintegration, of formerly displaced communities.

Expertise France’s approach in Syria:

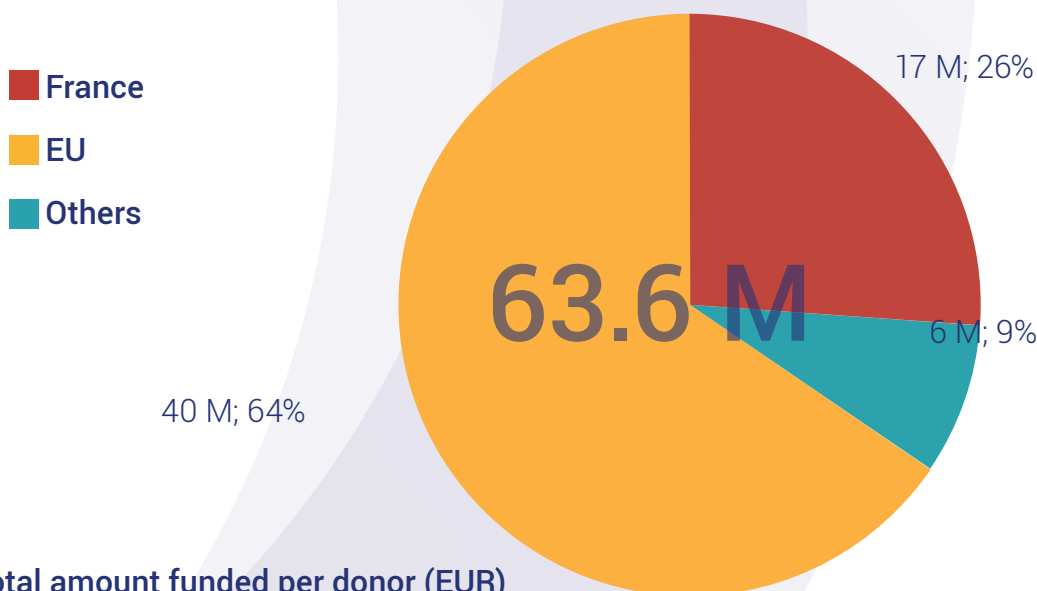
- **Providing support to Syrian vulnerable communities**
- **Working with local implementing partners**
- **Developing local actors’ capacities**
- **Monitoring systems with field teams on the ground**

Expertise France’s interventions are based on three mutually-reinforcing pillars:

- **Strengthening vulnerable communities’ access to essential services (i.e. health, education, electricity and water, waste management).**
- **Supporting early economic recovery, access to employment, vocational training and sustainable livelihoods, with a specific focus on food security and agriculture.**
- **Strengthening the Syrian local civil society to be more resilient and better prevent conflicts.**
- **Contributing to health recovery system in the northeast of Syria through service provision and increasing the capacity of health workers.**

Since 2013, Expertise France has implemented 18 projects in areas outside the control of the Syrian regime, with support from the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and international donors such as the European Union (EU), UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) or Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

As a French public agency, Expertise France benefitted more specifically from the support of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, and in particular from its Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) in charge of stabilization programming. The CDCS also played a key role in seeding Expertise France’s interventions from the start, and giving it the capacity to further intervene along the years, where local populations’ needs are the greatest.

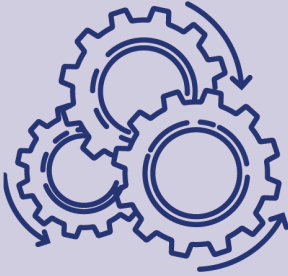


Total amount funded per donor (EUR)



33.6 M €

Total volume of activity implemented through local partners since 2013



137

Grants awarded to Syrian CSOs



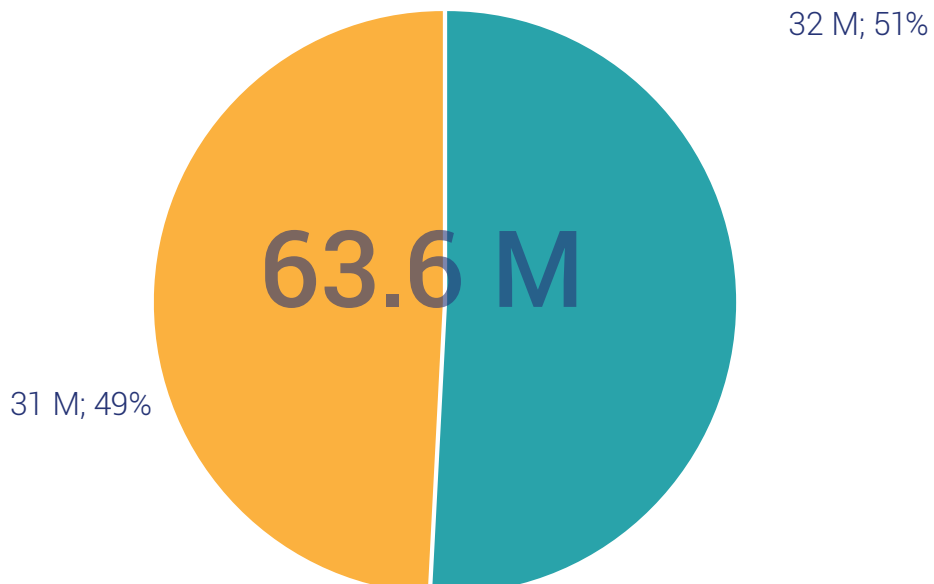
71

Different Syrian CSOs supported

Total amount funded per main sector (EUR)

Rehabilitation & FSL

Health



Expertise France in Northwest Syria



Zoom on two Expertise France's projects in Northwest Syria



HEALTH

Primary Health Care-Mat
Phase I and II PHCs



Rehabilitation and FSL

Initiative Gaziantep
I & II
DFID- Livelihoods project

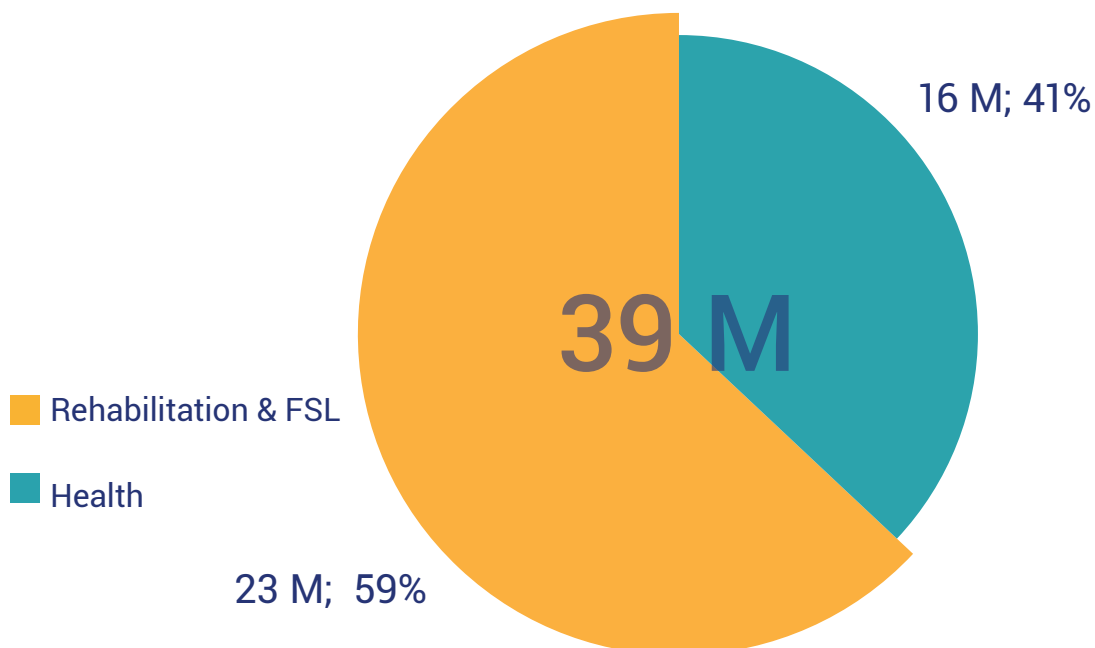
Support primary health care, drug control, health information systems and build capacities of Syrian health providers and the Idlib Health Directorate.

Support local CSOs in restoring essential public services, rehabilitation of productive assets and support to livelihoods including to agriculture and strengthening food security.

Between 2013 and 2020, Expertise France focused its response in the Northwest (and initially the South) of Syria, in pockets outside the control of the Syrian regime by supporting access to essential services while seeking to lay the groundwork for capacity building of national (the Syrian Interim Government) and local governance bodies. Expertise France awarded more than 90 different projects in the form of granting to local civil society actors. Projects focused on restoring livelihoods and productive assets while delivering health services to the population.



Total amount funded per sector in NWS (EUR)



Expertise France in Northeast Syria



From 2013 to 2017, the north-eastern region of Syria has largely been occupied by ISIS before being progressively retaken by the Syrian Democratic Forces, backed by the international coalition. The high level of destruction caused by the anti-ISIS war has negatively impacted the economic activity and access to basic services such as health, education, water or electricity.

There is an important need to restore and support the livelihoods of population in NES, and increase food security in areas formerly known as the bread basket of Syria, where people rely heavily on agriculture as their main source of income. Drought and climate change are also increasingly impacting livelihoods requiring adaptation to the modes of production, a transition that Expertise France is accompanying throughout its projects.

Expertise France's projects in NES



HEALTH

HERNES Program

Support health recovery in northeast Syria, with a focus on maternity and child health and capacity building of health providers.



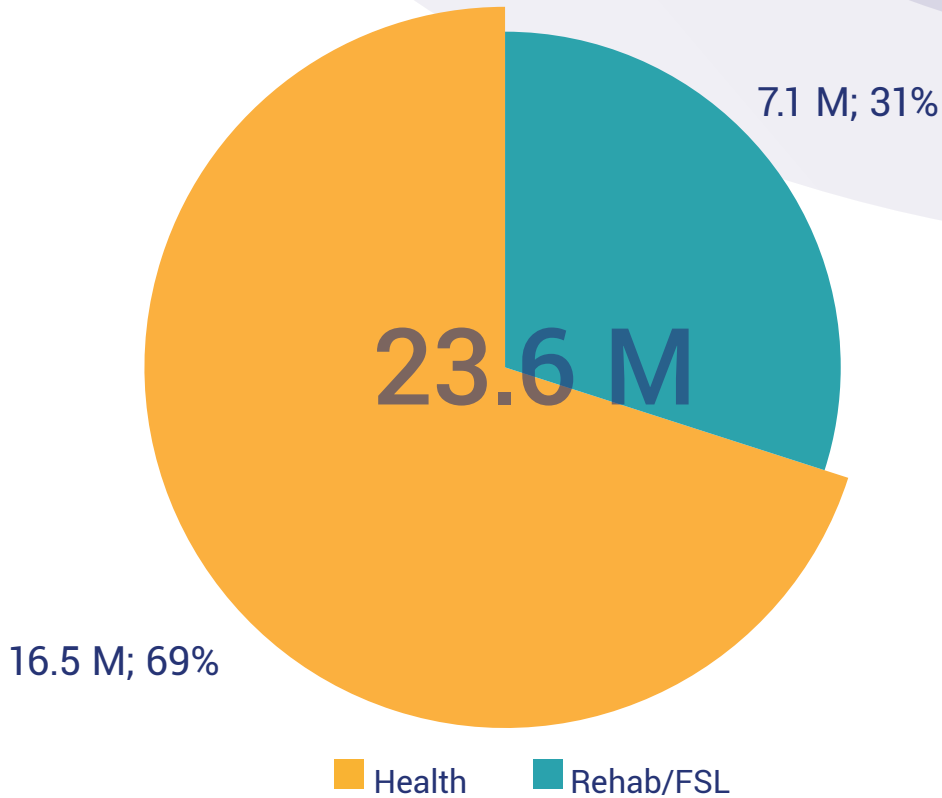
Rehabilitation and FSL

INES Program

SABIR Program

Support local CSOs in restoring essential public and productive assets and strengthen food security through agriculture support and by providing a better access to sustainable livelihoods

Total amount funded per sector in NES (EUR)



THE AREA-BASED APPROACH FOLLOWED UNDER SABIR PROJECTS

The area-based approach can be defined as providing multi-sectoral services in a defined area to better serve the needs of vulnerable communities (rehabilitation of essential services, vocational training, agriculture support, social cohesion, etc). It is particularly relevant in situations with multi-sectoral needs and geographical disparity and it is a way to maximize the impact of the intervention benefitting to sectors that are not directly targeted by the project. Synergies between rehabilitation, access to livelihood opportunities and reinforcement of local actors are encouraged in order to strengthen the impact and ownership of the project activities by the beneficiaries. The approach facilitates the early recovery of the targeted territory and enhances sustainability of the projects. This approach was used under the SABIR projects, targeting specific communities present within a sub-district (Al Kesra in Der-ez-Zor, Mansoura in Raqqa, Markadah and Shaddadi in al Hassakeh).

Health interventions

To strengthen the provision of essential services to conflict-affected populations, Expertise France has been, since 2015, expanding delivery of quality health services, increasing medical staff's capacities and paving the way for a more resilient health system through coordination and research across the North of Syria.

Services delivery is ensured by trusted Syrian medical organizations, while Expertise France is accompanying these local organizations in the development of their technical and organizational capacities. EF is also training medical staff and reinforcing coordination between health actors.



«The centre has a good reputation in the region because it offers its services free of charge and doctors and staff treat everyone with respect. This relieves people of visiting private clinics and makes them come from the countryside to the centre of Raqqa exclusively. Even if they have other centres in their areas, they still prefer to come to the centre of Raqqa»

Female local community member
from Raqqa

Key achievements since 2013



3,052,699 consultations provided



22,405 babies delivered in supported maternities



22 health facilities supported



16 health facilities rehabilitated



4,035 medical staff trained



4 medical research papers carried out

2013

Health Projects in Syria

Primary Health Care (PHC) Programme

Pilot Project
Non humanitarian
support

Dates: Feb 2013– July 2015
Budget: 2,222,698 €
BEN: 337,188
Donors: EU and France
Implementing partner: UOSSM

PHC-Maternity 1

Dates: Aug 2015 – Jan 2017
Budget: 3,951,183 €
BEN: 293,240
Donors: EU and France
Implementing partner: UOSSM

PHCS

Dates: Sep 2017- Mar 2020
Budget: 12,577,102 €
BEN: 1,233,069 consultations
Donors: EU and France
Implementing partner: UOSSM

Health Recovery in Northeast Syria (HERNES)
Programme

HERNES 1

Dates: Aug 2019 – Aug 2021
Budget: 8,216,611 €
BEN: 572,999
Donors: EU and France
Implementing partner: Sawsan/Mehad

HERNES 2

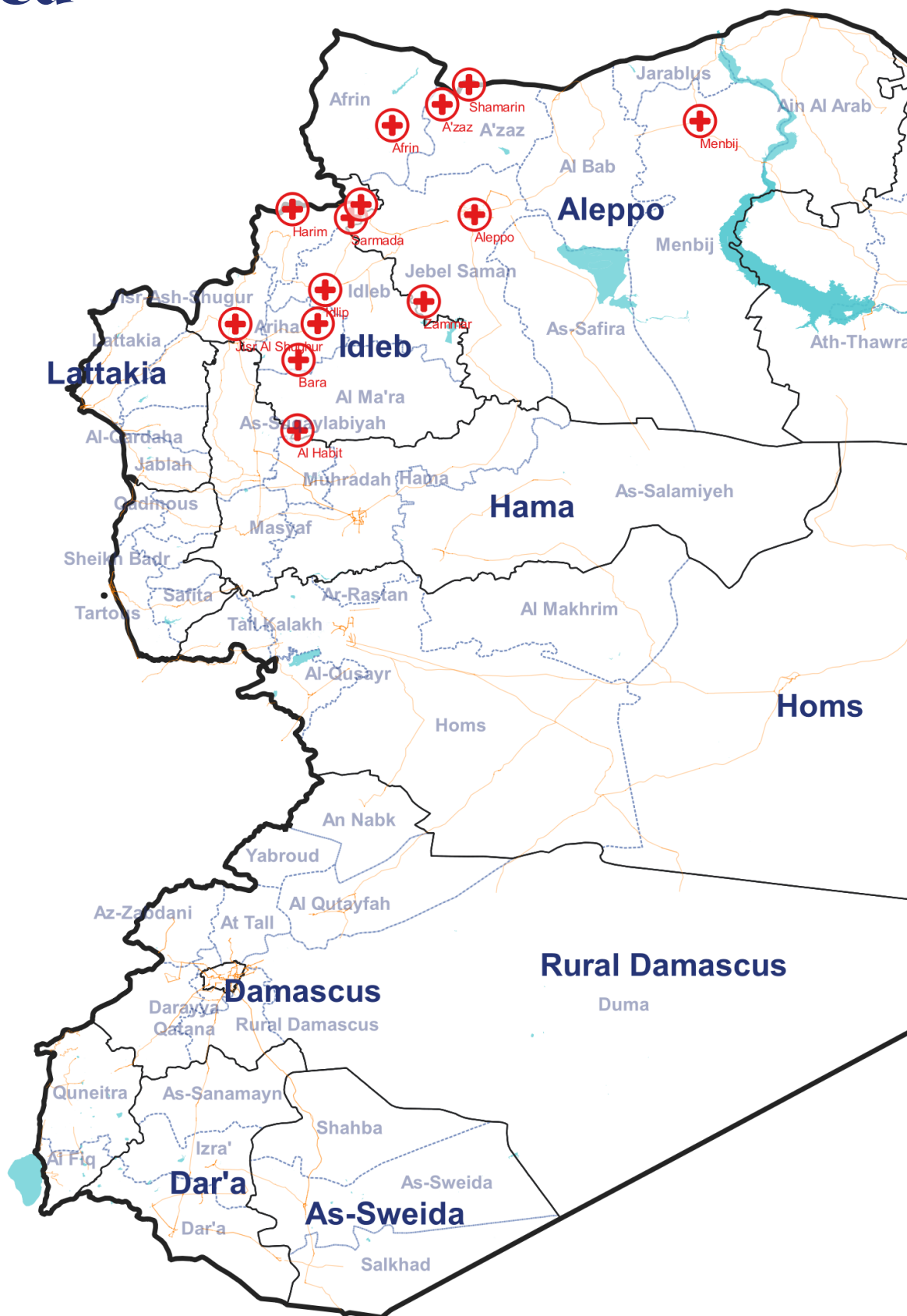
Dates: Aug 2021 – Jan 2023
Budget: 6,500,000 €
BEN: 484,046 Consultations
Donors: EU and France
Implementing partner: Sawsan/Mehad

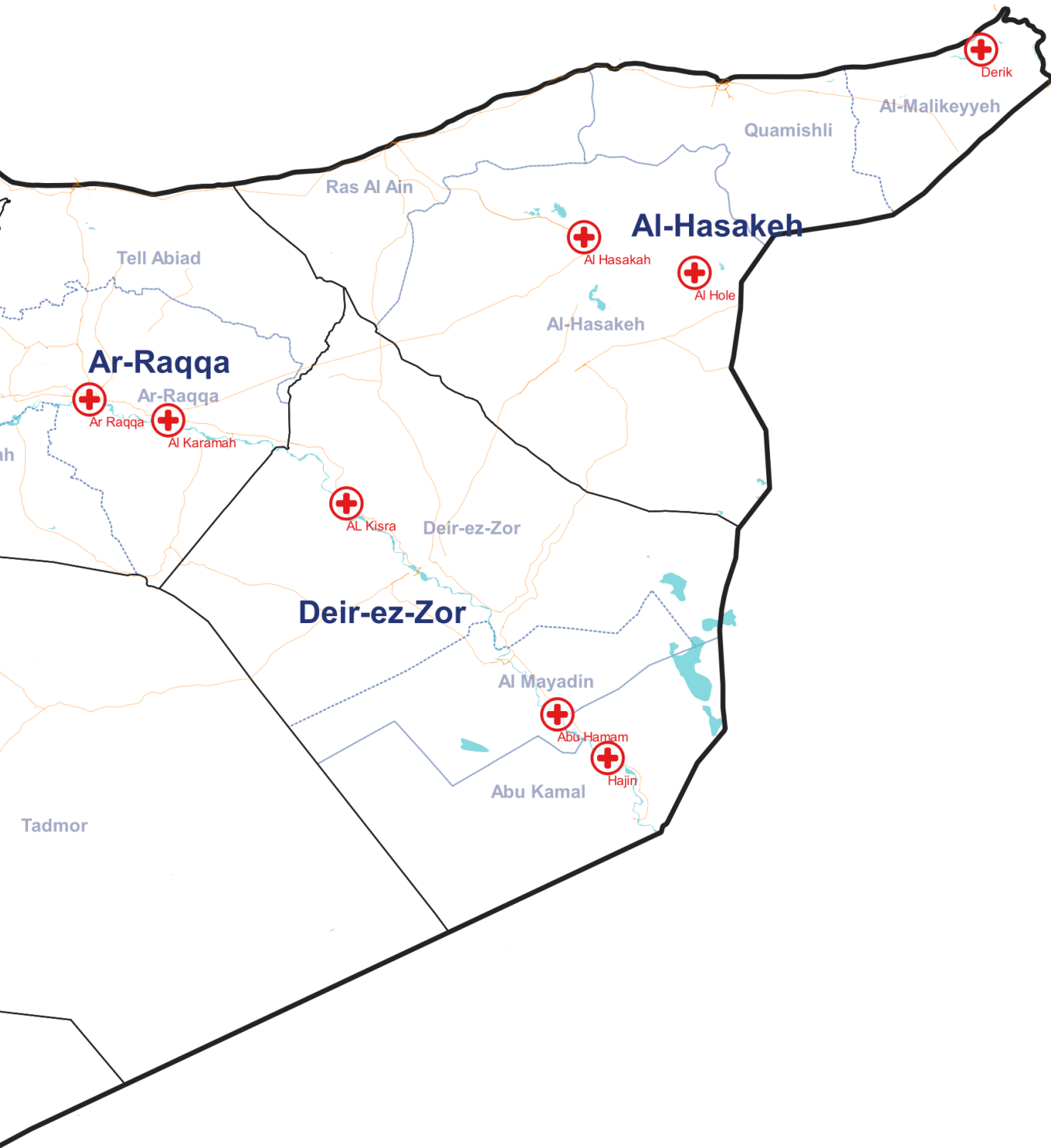
HERNES 3

Dates: Feb 2023 – Jan 2024
Budget: 2,000,000 €
BEN: 90,920
Donors: France
Implementing partner: Sawsan/Mehad

2024

Locations of health services provided





 Health facilities supported

Rehabilitation of public infrastructures

During ISIS occupation and liberation war, public infrastructures have been severely damaged causing a disruption in the delivery of basic services, such as water or electricity. Public spaces such as schools, parks and other public buildings were also out of service. In response to this crucial issue, EF designs projects to restore access to: (i) water supply for domestic and irrigation purposes (ii) electricity and (iii) schools. While households are the first beneficiaries of these rehabilitation works, local businesses and farms also benefit from an improved economic environment. Finally, such rehabilitation contributes to better coping with climate change as they contribute to reduce the waste of water, and rationalize the use of public energy as opposed to costly and inefficient private fuel generators.



«This project is unique, when a 400 KV power station is rehabilitated by removing the old 200 KV transformer, a new centre is rehabilitated with the removed transformer from the network with a capacity of 200 KV, thus achieving a greater number of beneficiaries»
 Community Leader, Mansoura, Ar Raqqa

Examples of Rehabilitation Projects

Examples Projects in NES

Rehabilitation of schools	Rehabilitation of electrical infrastructure	Rehabilitation of water stations
ENMAA	New Horizon	Total
Dates: Feb 2020 – Apr 2020 Budget: 50,858 USD BEN: 1,405 Location: Al Karama, Raqqa	Dates: May 2023 – Nov 2023 Budget: 141,993 USD BEN: 19,594 Location: Mansura, Raqqa	Dates: June 2022 – Dec 2022 Budget: 127,510.96 USD BEN: 77,030 Location: Mansoura and Hammam, Raqqa



Key achievements since 2013



9 electrical rehabilitation projects supported



6 water rehabilitation projects supported



7 schools rehabilitated



7 irrigation infrastructures rehabilitated



459,347

Beneficiaries reached through rehabilitation projects

20

Rehabilitation projects funded

1,613,794
USD

Overall budget for rehabilitation projects

19

Communities or villages that benefitted from rehabilitation projects

Food Security and Livelihoods Interventions

As part of its economic recovery, access to employment, vocational training and sustainable livelihoods pillar, Expertise France supports projects that ensure local households and small-scale producers/breeders have improved access to food and income-generating opportunities. Taking climate change and extreme weather-related events into account, Expertise France also works with local communities to develop climate-resilient agricultural techniques. Agriculture is a key focus for Expertise France as it represents the main source of employment and guarantees food security for vulnerable communities in Northern Syria. Expertise France also provides supports to non-agricultural livelihoods by providing cash-for-work opportunities, technical and vocational education and trainings (TVET).

«As for agriculture and livestock, it provides a source of income for the beneficiary in addition to supplying the market with vegetables and dairy products, making them available at cheap prices»
Community leader

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2013

FSL Projects in Syria

Examples of FSL Projects funded in NWS

Empowering young people through specialized vocational training leading to job opportunities	Afaq Organization	Dates: July 2018 – Dec 2018 Budget: 32,571 EUR BEN: 209, Location: Atmeh, Harim, Idlib
Supporting host communities and IDPs through support and inputs distribution to farmers, olive tree pruning, and rehabilitation of agriculture roads	IYD	Dates: Dec 2019 – May 2020 Budget: 211,096 EUR BEN: 800 Location: Atareb, Aleppo
Improving resilience and food security through livestock investment system, access to market, and access to service assets	Ihsan	Dates: Sep 2018 – Apr 2019 Budget: 296,702 EUR BEN: 1595 Location: Ar-Rastan, Homs

Examples of FSL Projects funded in NES

Supporting cow breeders through reducing costs on breeders through provision of livestock vaccination and inputs	Oxygen Shabab	Dates: Oct 2020 – Apr 2021 Budget: 95,711 EUR BEN: 687 Location: Al Kisra, Deir ez-Zor
Farmers and livestock breeders benefitted from drilled wells in Marakada district	DAN	Dates: Aug 2022 – Dec 2022 Budget: 137,000 EUR BEN: 277 Location: Markada, Al Hasakah
Supporting SMEs in transforming dairy value chain to enhance livelihood resilience and revitalize the local economy	Mari	Dates: July 2023 – Dec 2023 Budget: 140,000 EUR BEN: 345 Location: Shadadi, Al Hasakah

2024



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Key achievements since 2013



1,050,090 total beneficiaries reached



4,559 beneficiaries of vocational trainings



4,407 farmers supported with inputs or trained



6,018 head of livestock vaccinated



65 grants provided to small businesses

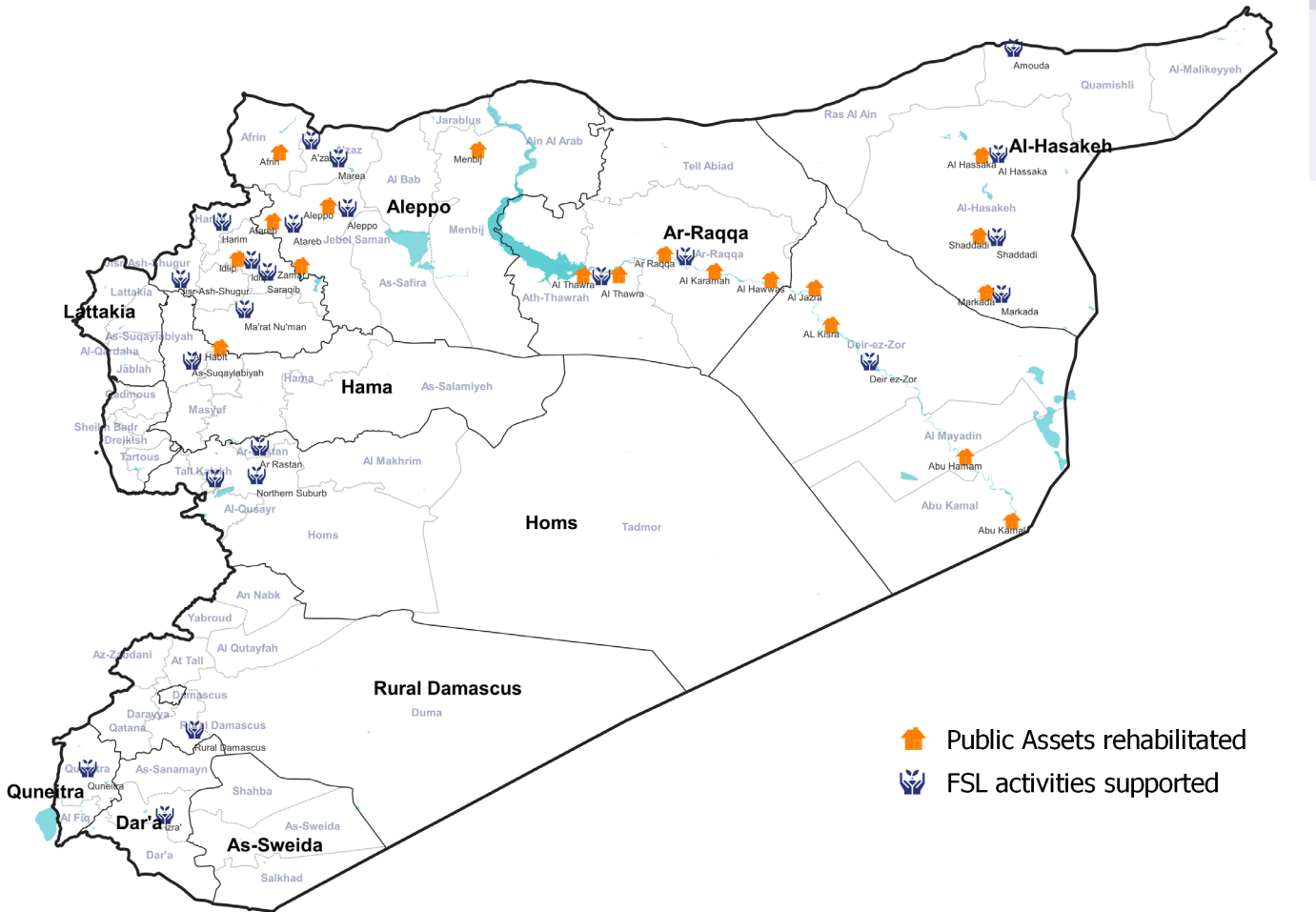


87 FSL projects funded



20 districts covered by FSL interventions

Locations of rehabilitation and food security and livelihoods projects



9,835,015
USD

Overall budget of FSL projects

1,050,292

Total number of BEN reached through FSL projects

87

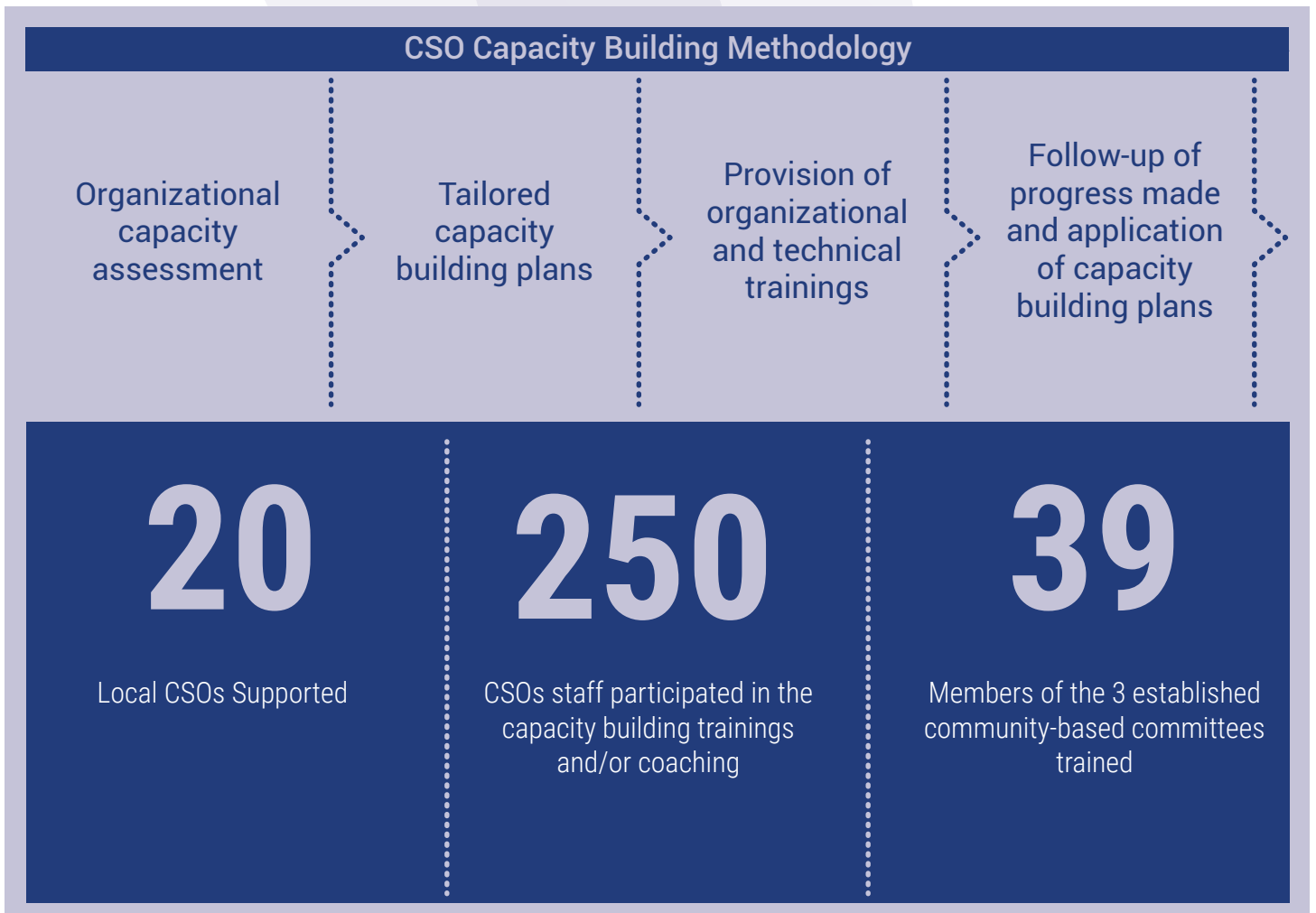
Number of FSL projects funded

20

Number of communities that benefitted from this FSL projects

Strengthening Local Civil Society Organizations

Support to civil society organizations (CSOs) has been a key feature of Expertise France’s intervention in Syria. CSOs are a constitutive component of the Syrian social fabric and can therefore actively identify and voice communities’ concerns and needs, including in terms of inclusive governance, dialogue, support for reconciliation and social cohesion. To support local actors, Expertise France has been strengthening their technical and organizational capacities, including those of civil society actors, professional associations, trade unions, and economic agents. Expertise France’s objective is to contribute to the establishment of a civil society that outlives the current humanitarian crisis and that can sustain its role as an agent of change in the future. Expertise France provides local partner organizations with tools that enable them to propose, and implement, result-oriented projects designed to enhance community resilience. This is done through collectively agreed upon in-situ tailored capacity building programs and coaching sessions.



COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH

Expertise France follows a community-based approach, involving community members and stakeholders at all stages of the projects' cycle. Within this framework, Community Based Committees (CBCs) have been set-up to foster exchanges, and provide accountability mechanisms, between community members, local CSOs and Expertise France. CBCs are composed of influential community stakeholders, such as religious and tribal, schools' heads, women activists, etc. They ensure close coordination, outreach and communication with communities, and are mobilized on a needs-basis to manage conflicts. CBCs are the link between community members and implementing partners, and play a key role in facilitating community-led project designs, implementation and monitoring, fostering a local ownership and sustainability of supported initiatives.

Stabilization projects using a community-based approach in Northeast Syria



Cross-cutting themes

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The humanitarian situation in Syria has exacerbated violence, discrimination, and inequalities against women and girls. To support the most vulnerable populations and promote human rights, Expertise France systematically incorporates gender equality into its intervention strategy. In the Syrian context, Expertise France ensures that gender sensitivity is reflected in beneficiary selection criteria and designs activities to enhance women's and girls' access to essential services and livelihoods. Through these efforts, all projects aim to foster peace-building and women's empowerment.

2.5 million women beneficiaries



ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Environmental safeguarding is a key feature of Expertise France programs in Syria, which increasingly seek to improve communities' coping mechanisms and adaptation strategies to climate change and extreme weather-related events. Expertise France's projects promote a more resilient agriculture and use clean technologies such as solar panels or sustainable waste management practices.

Expertise France's water-focused interventions are designed, for example, to foster more resilient and inclusive water management practices and reduce overexploitation. The use of drought-resistant seeds and fodder also helps to rationalize water consumption for irrigation and soil protection.

Furthermore, the rehabilitation of damaged electricity infrastructures would reduce the population's dependence on heavy use of generators that have recently become the source of energy in the wake of the inability of local actors to intervene to enhance the electricity sector. This would eventually contribute to reducing harmful pollution emitted.

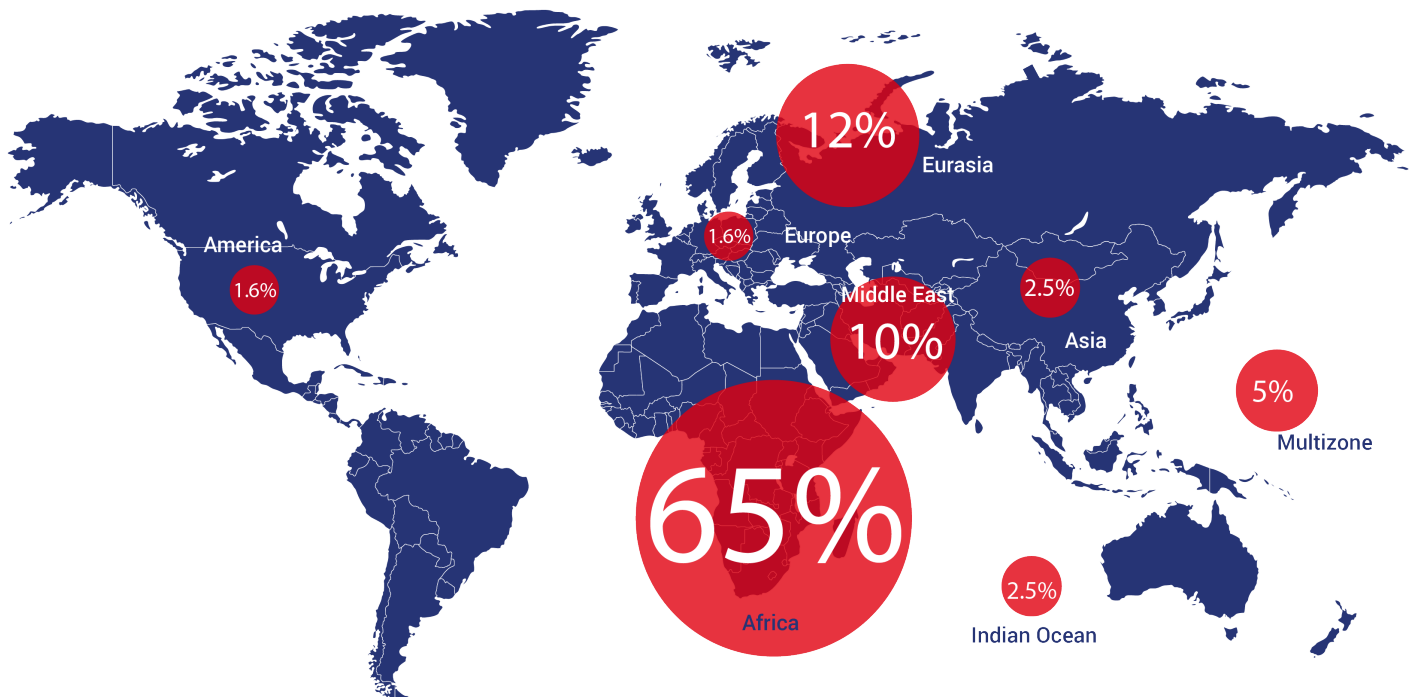


About Expertise France

Expertise France is the French public agency for the design and implementation of international technical cooperation projects. It is the second largest technical cooperation agency in Europe. It designs and implements projects that sustainably strengthen public policies in developing and emerging countries. It operates in key areas of development, such as governance, security, climate, health, education and contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) alongside its partners.

As the French interministerial agency for international technical cooperation, Expertise France's action is in line with France's external policy for development cooperation, influence and economic diplomacy.

Expertise France has been part of the AFD group since 2022.



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