OUR APPROACH TO IMPACT

Our mission and commitments

Since 2008, the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation has been committed to the fight against poverty and inequality through financial inclusion and social impact entrepreneurship. It finances and supports microfinance institutions, companies and projects that promote inclusive finance throughout the world. In 2019, the Foundation managed €96 million in outstanding loans to 85 organisations in 39 countries, benefiting nearly nine million people, mainly women and rural populations.

THE FOUNDATION HAS FOUR LINES OF BUSINESS:

- **Financing**: Loans, guarantees and other financing solutions for microfinance institutions and social impact enterprises.
- **Investment**: Minority equity holdings in the capital of social enterprises, essentially in the agri-food sector, or financial services.
- **Technical assistance**: Coordination of programmes and expertise missions to improve the performance of organisations supported.
- **Investment funds Advisory**: Advice and support for investors in their commitments to inclusive finance or investments with an impact in rural areas.

THE FOUNDATION HAS OVER THE YEARS ASSERTED ITSELF THROUGH SPECIFIC ACTIONS:

3. Its action is characterised by three areas of specialisation:

- **FEMALE EMPOWERMENT**: 85% of the beneficiaries of the organisations supported by the Foundation are women.
- **RURAL ECONOMIES**: 78% of the beneficiaries of the organisations supported by the Foundation live in rural areas.
- **FRAGILE COUNTRIES**: 20 fragile countries* in which the Foundation intervenes, out of a total of 39 countries.

* According to the lists of the World Bank and the OECD.
Our Impact Model

Concrete results

The Foundation has prepared its first impact report, a financial and extra-financial assessment, based on the activity data for 2019, in order to gain better understanding and to share the results of its actions. In 2020, the Foundation will organise the collection of new outcome and change indicators from organisations it supports in order to verify the robustness and relevance of its impact model.

Mission

Help reduce inequality and poverty through financial inclusion and the promotion of social impact entrepreneurship.

Action levers

The Foundation invests in the capital, finances, supports and reinforces microfinance institutions, companies and projects that promote inclusive finance and the development of rural economies around the world.

Impact of the Foundation

1 / FACILITATE the sustainability of organisations that provide essential services
2 / STRENGTHEN the social and environmental performance of the organisations supported and of the Foundation
3 / PROMOTE inclusive and sustainable finance

Impact of organisations supported

1 / FACILITATE access to essential services for vulnerable segments of the population
2 / STRENGTHEN the resilience of fragile economies
3 / IMPROVE the living conditions of vulnerable segments of the population

Definition

The Foundation defines impact as consisting of the sustainable improvements to which its actions have plausibly contributed, which can be estimated by scope, outcome and change indicators. The Foundation’s impact report was drawn up in 2019 with CERISE, an independent firm of experts in impact and social performance measurement.
OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL AGENDA

As the financial partner of 73 microfinance institutions and 12 social enterprises in 39 countries, the Foundation supports a wide variety of projects. Responsible and committed, such activities help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.

Helping to fight poverty

The Foundation helps fight poverty by financing and supporting organisations that facilitate access to financial and essential services for vulnerable segments of the population: rural populations, microentrepreneurs, small agricultural producers and, more recently, refugees.

- **8.9 Million** USD in grants by the institutions supported (compared to 600,000 in 2010)
- **78%** of the clients of the institutions supported live in rural areas
- **36%** of the organisations financed measure the level of poverty of their clients to make sure they reach their target clients

Supporting the empowerment of women through entrepreneurship and financial inclusion

The promotion of women’s leadership and women’s participation in economic activity is at the heart of the Foundation’s strategy. It finances and supports microfinance institutions and social enterprises that promote financial inclusion and the empowerment of women through entrepreneurship.

- **85%** women beneficiaries of microloans
- **28%** of the organisations supported are headed by women

Strengthening the resilience of rural economies in the face of climate change

Faced with the critical environmental situation in the countries of intervention, the Foundation promotes sustainable solutions to adapt to climate change. It also promotes the development of products that finance ecological practices such as renewable energies, waste management, and access to clean water.

- **9%** of the institutions raise awareness about climate risks among their clients
- **42%** of the institutions develop or offer green products

Developing access to drinking water and energy in remote areas

The Foundation finances and/or invests in the capital of socially impactful enterprises that provide essential services to disadvantaged people, particularly in the water and energy sectors.

- **2 TERIAL** for Société Sénégalaise des Filières Alimentaires bolsters rice production in Senegal
- **La Laiterie du Berger** and its subsidiary KOGSAM promote the emergence of a local dairy sector in Senegal
- **Vert** is a social business that provides technical assistance and support for the organic certification of small Kenyan producers
- **8,526** small producers supported by social agrifood enterprises financed
- **4** strengthened agriculture sectors
- **4** supported agribusinesses
- **55** water dispensers in operation
- **20 t** less plastic thanks to dispensers deployed
- **43,729** statements of supported companies that supply solar equipment

Promoting sustained economic growth and decent work

The Foundation seeks to promote economic development that creates quality jobs by financing small and medium-sized businesses. It uses the ALINUS® tool to measure the social performance of microfinance institutions, including responsible treatment of employees.

- **29%** of the institutions financed offer products for SMEs
- **49,008** employees of organisations supported
- **76%** ALINUS® score on the “responsibility to staff” dimension (compared to 60% for the benchmark)

Establishing sustainable partnerships

Stemming from a unique partnership between Crédit Agricole and the Grameen network, the Foundation is developing numerous technical and financial partnerships to promote inclusive, sustainable and responsible finance.

- **51** partner organisations of which
- **5** international donors
- **30** Crédit Agricole entities that are partners of the Foundation

* ALINUS stands for “Aligning Investors due-diligence and monitoring to the Universal Standards”. SPEE-ALINUS is a sub-set of SPEG-CERIDE which enables investors to conduct their due diligence exercise on providers of financial services.