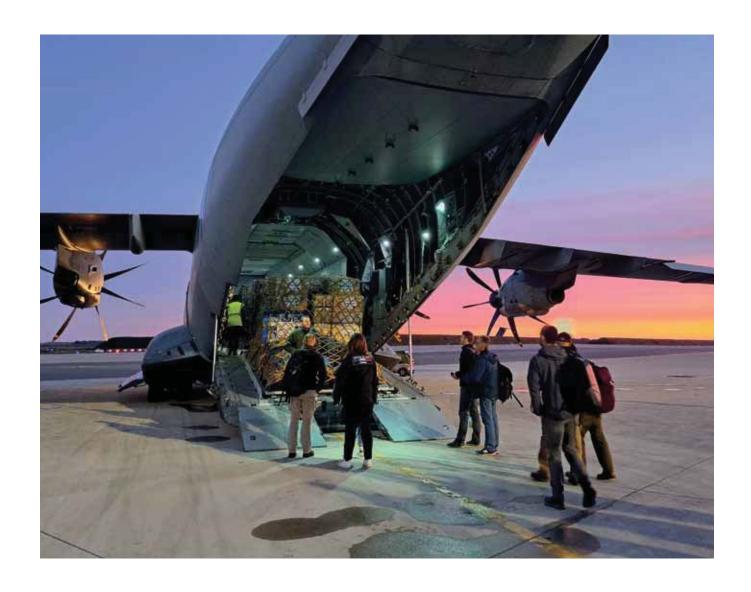


Liberté Égalité Fraternité



2024 ACTIVITY REPORT

OF THE CRISIS AND SUPPORT CENTRE

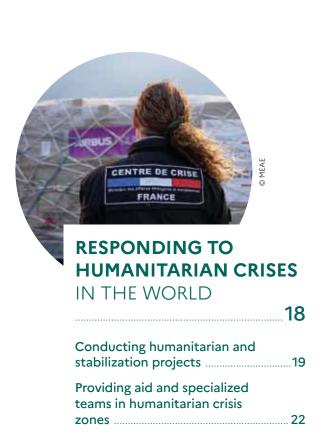
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A WORD FROM THE CDCS DIRECTOR

The French crisis management model once again showed its robustness and the Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) of the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs its effectiveness in 2024. It was created above all to provide security to French nationals abroad, to promote France's interests and to defend its values of solidarity and humanity.

In a world experiencing increasingly violent turmoil and complex crises with overlapping security and humanitarian dimensions, CDCS teams contributed to the protection of our nationals abroad and helped the most vulnerable populations in many vital emergency situations. In the Middle East, Ukraine, Afghanistan, the Sahel, Sudan, the Great Lakes region and the Gulf of Guinea, at the heart of the conflicts given the most media coverage and in the silence of crises being ignored, the CDCS is working to combine and coordinate actions of several ministry departments with very specific remits.

The Haiti evacuation operation in March 2024 and the response to the earthquake in Vanuatu in December 2024 were conducted in close cooperation with the Ministry for the Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior. With the same concern for optimizing government resources, the CDCS trained the international health taskforce with the Ministry for Health and Access to Care to be deployed in crisis areas.

To cope with the growing number of natural disasters, we have developed new partnerships this year to deal with earthquakes, with the French Geological Survey (BRGM), nuclear risk, with the French Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ASNR), and major wildfires with the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), in order to better inform our nationals and better prepare teams from the CDCS and our diplomatic and consular posts.

To diversify our means of action even more, we expanded our circle of partnerships in 2024 to include more and more local governments, corporate foundations, emergency specialist



associations and NGOs. They provide cutting-edge expertise, field experience, and financial support. Over the course of crises, our relations with the European Union and its Member States have also been strengthened when it comes to both humanitarian aid and consular protection.

Informing our nationals and assisting those who are having problems abroad continue to be core priorities. 2024, as in the past, was also a year of individual tragedies: abductions, violent deaths, disappearances of concern, repatriations - so many emergencies occupying our CDCS teams, day and night.

Our Monitoring Unit, available 24 hours a day for our nationals, the "Travel Advice" pages continuously updated to provide risk analysis and locally-sourced recommendations, the Fil d'Ariane service emitting our SMS safety alerts, our security advisories and crisis management exercises organized at the request of our companies - so many tools at the service of our nationals and their security abroad.

Confronted with ever more pressing and numerous threats, our country can count on the professionalism, dedication and sense of public service of the CDCS teams. I would like to pay tribute and thank all of our partners without whom we could not have fulfilled our objectives so effectively.

Philippe Lalliot

Director of the Crisis and Support Centre

THE CRISIS AND SUPPORT **CENTRE: RESPONDING TO GLOBAL SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES**

24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs monitors the development of international crises and ensures the continuity of the Ministry's work.

The CDCS's two main objectives

- 1. Protecting French nationals abroad, in close coordination with the diplomatic and consular network;
- 2. Leading France's humanitarian response to crises, natural disasters, conflicts and epidemics abroad, directly or through non-governmental organizations.

Placed under the Minister's authority and that of his private office:

- · Helping to monitor and analyse the security of regional, national and local contexts to anticipate and understand crises, in connection with embassies and geographic directorates;
- Producing expertise, taking various forms, including humanitarian reports and security advisories in liaison with thematic directorates;
- Informing the public, in connection with the Press and Communication Directorate.

KEY FIGURES

21.9 million visits to "Travel Advice" pages on the France Diplomatie website

277,537 individual and group trips registered on Fil d'Ariane

More than 7,000 calls handled by the CDCS via the 24/7 public hotline

Nearly **1,000** individual consular cases processed during night shifts

1,845 Ministry staff trained in crisis management

234.4 million-euro budget for humanitarian action and stabilization in 50 countries

191 new humanitarian projects funded by the CDCS in 40 countries

76 partners implementing CDCS humanitarian action

Monitoring Unit

- Works 24/7, with a team of 17 versatile operators.
- · Receives and redirects requests to the appropriate Ministry departments.
- Monitors information and safety alerts that could lead to the activation of a crisis unit.

At night, at weekends and on public holidays:

- Has staff on duty 24-hours a day to answer calls, including regarding consular and protocol
- Deals with overflight clearance requests and individual situations of our citizens abroad, in liaison with the diplomatic and consular network and other ministries, particularly the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior.

A multidisciplinary team of some 100 staff members

The CDCS brings together some 100 staff members, including civil servants and staff under contract, with varied backgrounds. Each staff member brings to the group their expertise and specific skills (medical, humanitarian, legal, consular, logistic), often acquired or perfected in the field.



Director: Philippe Lalliot **Deputy Director:** Fanny Demassieux

Administrative and **Budgetary Management** and Logistical **Support Unit**

Experts/Interministerial **Liaison Officers Units:** health, justice, security, communication

Situation Centre

Emergency Operations Centre

Humanitarian and **Stabilization Operations Centre**



Spotlight on the CDCS **Mapping Unit**

The CDCS Mapping Unit is made up of two mappers and one apprentice. Making maps requires detailed collection and cross-checking of data from different sources (satellite images, databases, information monitoring, geospatial information). The Mapping Unit works in close connection with the Mapping Unit of the Archives Directorate.

- It makes and updates security maps for the "Travel Advice" pages informing French nationals of possible risks during their time abroad.
- **During crises**, it produces and updates in real time maps of crisis theatres that are key tools in anticipating and decision-making.

106 STAFF MEMBERS

REPRESENTING 91.8 FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS (59% WOMEN)



60 civil servants

26 Category A (52% women) 24 Category B (57% women) 10 Category C (67% women)

37 staff under contract (65% women) including 9 apprentices

8 staff members seconded from other ministrie (38% women)

diplomat on exchange from Germany

THE CDCS AT WORK FOR A SUCCESSFUL PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

The CDCS fully contributed to interministerial efforts to ensure the security of the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games.

For two months, 30 staff members of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs worked 24/7 at the National Strategic Command Centre at the Ministry of the Interior and at the International Cooperation Centre.

In liaison with the Ambassador of Sport, they collaborated with Protocol to welcome foreign delegations and the French Nationals Abroad and Consular Administration Directorate to issue visas. This special support unit illustrates the ability of CDCS teams and the Ministry to work effectively with many institutional stakeholders, while conserving their responsiveness and ability to manage crises abroad.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

French nationals' safety in the world

To ensure the protection of French nationals in the event of a natural disaster abroad, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs may carry out RESEVAC missions for the evacuation of nationals with civilian and military means. The President of the French Republic makes the decision to deploy them.

Under its emergency assistance mandate, the CDCS meets the needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by humanitarian crises, whether through the delivery of aid in kind or support for projects led by NGOs or government agencies.

Security crises may lead the CDCS and diplomatic posts to intervene to facilitate the departure of our nationals, and sometimes to evacuate them, and likewise in the event of humanitarian crises. The different ways of taking action complement one another and benefit our nationals and local populations.

In 2024, three crisis units were activated to follow developments in the security situation in Haiti, Lebanon and Vanuatu and to meet the needs to protect our nationals. The CDCS had already been conducting humanitarian action for several years in these three countries, action which has continued and been stepped up since.

► Haiti

CDCS crisis unit activated from 19 to 30 March 2024

To deal with the rise in gangs and the intensification of violence and insecurity, the CDCS implemented an aid operation from Haiti. Some 243 people, including 164 French nationals, were able to leave the country, mainly from Port-au-Prince, where the international airport was closed for several weeks. Helicopter shuttles brought them to the amphibious assault ship, Tonnerre, and other French Navy ships sent by the Ministry for the Armed Forces. With the assistance of the Armed Forces in Antilles, those wishing to leave were transported by sea to Fort-de-France (Martinique). After three days at sea, those wishing to do so could continue on to Paris on a special flight chartered by the CDCS. This operation was conducted with the assistance of the Ministry of the Interior and the Prefecture of Martinique.

Humanitarian action in Haiti

In 2024, the CDCS continued to show its long-standing commitment to populations of the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince with an additional €2 million.

The priority was given to NGO projects focusing on health, women's protection against violence, including sexual violence, and access to safe drinking water.

▶ Lebanon

The CDCS crisis unit activated from 23 September to 21 October 2024 in Beirut and Paris

In autumn 2024, the war in Lebanon led to the activation of a crisis unit at the Consulate General of France in Beirut as well as a mirror unit at the CDCS for nearly one month. Operators for the hotline established simultaneously in Beirut, Paris and Nantes dealt with 4,800 calls from people seeking assistance from the French authorities.

Thanks to joint action by the CDCS and the Consulate, the French nationals who were most exposed to the strikes and the most vulnerable, particularly in southern Lebanon, were located and assisted. The teams of the Consulate and the CDCS also advised and assisted French nationals wishing to do so in their return to national territory when the offensive required urgent assistance to bring them to safety. Seats were negotiated on certain regular commercial flights. In addition, two military flights were chartered on 8 and 16 October 2024.

Humanitarian action in Lebanon

The International Conference in Support of Lebanon's People and Sovereignty, held on 24 October 2024 in Paris, mobilized the international community at a high level to work for a ceasefire in Lebanon, to provide humanitarian assistance to meet the people's urgent needs and to support Lebanese institutions and organizations such as the Lebanese Red Cross. Participants announced more than \$1 billion in aid.

In cooperation with Lebanese authorities and the French Embassy in Lebanon, the CDCS also conducted 8 bilateral emergency relief operations for the Lebanese Health Ministry, local and international NGOs and United Nations agencies. These operations were made possible thanks to the CDCS partnerships with the Association Tulipe, the company Nutriset, the Airbus Foundation, Electricians Without Borders, and with support from the European Union and Qatar.



Delivery of emergency freight

Vanuatu

CDCS crisis unit activated from 17 to 23 December 2024



Evacuation of French nationals to Nouméa after the earthquake

On 17 December 2024, a **7.3 magnitude earthquake** struck the Vanuatu archipelago. France, which has more than 2,300 nationals in Vanuatu, immediately took action to respond to the Vanuatu authorities' request for aid. With Australia and New Zealand, the FRANZ Partnership was activated to facilitate coordination of humanitarian means of the three countries

Despite the partial destruction of the French Embassy, contact was rapidly established with the entire French community, thanks to action of Embassy staff in Port Vila and the 24-hour hotline service manned by CDCS teams in Paris and those of the Consulate General of France in Sydney. In one week, with support from the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and that of the Regional Emergency Relief Committee, activated by the High Commissioner's Office in New Caledonia, 11 round-trip flights were organized to deliver humanitarian equipment to Vanuatu on the way there and then to evacuate French nationals wishing to leave to Nouméa on the way back.

Humanitarian action in Vanuatu

Thanks to the round-trip flights conducted by the Armed Forces in New Caledonia, the CDCS, the Red Cross, the High Commissioner's Office and the Civilian Security and Risk Management Directorate delivered essential equipment and water treatment units from Nouméa to the archipelago. 4,250 people regained access to safe drinking water and 1,500 people received emergency essentials kits.

Responding to major humanitarian crises and disasters

Russia's war in Ukraine

The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs continued the support to Ukraine it has provided since the start of the conflict. In 2024, the CDCS contributed €31.5 million to NGOs working in Ukraine in addition to the humanitarian aid provided by the United Nations. Financed NGO action covers urgent needs on the front line and essential needs behind it.

Health and psychosocial support remained a CDCS priority to strengthen access to healthcare via telemedicine, training of health professionals and the refurbishment of medical infrastructures, and to contribute to the treatment of former combatants by providing them with orthopaedic prostheses and rehabilitation. Fighting impunity remains a key focus of CDCS action, particularly in 2024 through support for structures aiming to facilitate the compensation of sexual violence victims. Emergency education, humanitarian mine clearance and access to basic water and sanitation services were also major areas of intervention this year.



Mine clearance of a field in Ukraine

In collaboration with the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism, medical evacuations of Ukrainian wounded soldiers to France continued. Between February 2022 and December 2024, some 30 operations were conducted to transfer nearly 150 patients to French hospitals, where they were operated on and treated.

In Ukraine, the CDCS is also working with other government agencies, such as the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Expertise France, as well as with the private sector, including the Fondation Veolia.

Humanitarian crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territories



A visit from the President of the French Republic to a humanitarian aid warehouse of the Red Crescent of El-Arish (Egypt) near the Gaza Strip

France is working hard to meet the vital needs of the people in the Gaza Strip. France adapted its humanitarian response to help those hardest hit by the bombardments, the destruction of homes and civilian infrastructure, the saturation of any healthcare services which remain operational and the lack of access to drinking water, food and other essentials. France has provided €250 million in humanitarian support to the civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territories since 7 October 2023. In 2024, the CDCS contributed nearly €22 million in support of emergency humanitarian projects implemented by NGOs. The implementation of projects was greatly hindered by restrictions on people's access and on the entry of goods and humanitarian staff into the Gaza Strip, as well as the catastrophic security conditions. The CDCS also continued to pursue its projects in the West Bank amid a rise in forced displacements, tensions and violence and obstacles to humanitarian access.

The CDCS also coordinated four humanitarian aid shipments to Gaza in 2024, partnering with Qatar, Jordan and Egypt, as well as the European Union as part of the humanitarian air bridge project.

Alongside operations to deliver goods and support for humanitarian action, the CDCS organized several operations to help French nationals and their dependants, local employees of the Institut Français in Gaza, and families of refugees and journalists to leave the Gaza Strip.

Continuation of humanitarian action in Syria

Following the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime on 8 December 2024 and the absence of French diplomatic and consular representation in Damascus since 2012, the CDCS has worked with the French Consulate General in Beirut to meet the needs of French nationals there and provide support to those wishing to leave Syria.

The CDCS continues to help implement the commitment made by the President of the French Republic in 2017 to support the Syrian population with €50 million a year. The €42.3 million invested by the CDCS in 2024 was mainly earmarked for local civil society in the areas of health, livelihoods, education and the fight against impunity. In the areas that were controlled by the regime, France worked with trusted NGOs that were not registered with the Syrian authorities and did not have any ties with them. In northeast Syria, France's commitment remains significant, as can be seen in the financing of the running of the Raqqa Hospital since 2018.



Raqqa Hospital

Sudan's conflict and crisis of Sudanese refugees in Chad

To meet humanitarian needs exacerbated by the conflict in Sudan and in neighbouring countries that took in Sudanese refugees, an international conference was organized by France, Germany and the European Union on 15 April 2024. It raised more than €2 billion, including €75 million in French humanitarian aid. At the high-level conference, the importance of compliance with international law and humanitarian access was reiterated so that aid can reach populations. Six months after the conference,

more than 90% of humanitarian finance pledged has been disbursed. The CDCS response is focused on multisectoral needs (shelter, water, food and health) of displaced populations and host communities via NGOs. Almost €10 million was allocated to Sudan's regions that were hardest hit by the conflict, in addition to €5.3 million for Sudanese refugees in Chad and South Sudan.

Moreover, in 2024, the CDCS participated in two European humanitarian air bridges in support of Sudanese populations affected by the crisis or refugees in Chad. Carried out with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and partner NGOs, these operations delivered material to build shelters and improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

Conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

In 2024, in response to the proliferation of armed groups in eastern DRC and the intensification of violence against civilians, the CDCS has continued humanitarian action by financing emergency relief projects to the amount of €10 million. The projects are focused on health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene, and benefit displaced people in North Kivu and Ituri, as well as host populations.

Special attention was given to protecting women and children and the mental health of displaced populations around Goma. In South Kivu, intercommunity dialogue and socio-economic recovery were also CDCS priorities. A regional response was provided to deal with the displacement of many Congolese refugees in neighbouring countries, with projects in Uganda and Burundi.

Following the monkey pox outbreak in the summer of 2024, the CDCS allocated an additional €1.5 million to two projects focused on health and water, sanitation and hygiene in North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika.

ENSURING THE SAFETY OF FRENCH NATIONALS **ABROAD**

Understanding risks and anticipating crises



Services for users: informing, warning and advising

The CDCS develops and continuously updates safety recommendations for French nationals abroad. They are mainly issued via two channels: "Travel Advice" and the "Fil d'Ariane" service.

2024

21.9 million

visits to the "Travel Advice" web pages on the France Diplomatie website

updates

to maps or texts

"Latest News"

81% user satisfaction rate Conseilsaux voyageurs

Travel Advice

Based on information from the diplomatic networks, several Foreign Ministry directorates and CDCS partners, the Travel Advice pages on the France Diplomatie website (www.diplomatie.gouv.fr) aim to help people prepare for smooth tourist and business trips. They provide practical information and safety recommendations in 193 "country files" with maps and factsheets on various topics, including security, health and natural risks (earthquakes, wildfires, etc.) as well as entry and stay requirements. The "Travel Advice" pages are regularly updated. If there is an event or alert that could affect the safety of French nationals abroad (demonstrations that could disturb public peace, terrorist attacks, coup d'états, cyclones, earthquakes, etc.), the CDCS promptly posts specific information and instructions in the "Latest News" section of the "Travel Advice" pages.

TOP 10 DESTINATIONS IN 2024

- 1. Egypt
- 4. Thailand
- 7. United States
- 10. Viet Nam

- 2. Indonesia
- 5. China
- 8. Tunisia

- 3. Morocco
- 6. Turkey
- 9. Mexico





The "Travel Advice"

process has been ISO 9001 certified since 2011. In June 2023, AFNOR conducted an audit that led to the renewal of certification for an additional three years, confirming the efficacy of the process for developing and updating Travel Advice content, which is constantly being improved. The process incorporates insights from across the entire diplomatic and consular network, involving several Foreign Ministry directorates. It also benefits from analysis and expertise from several other ministries (particularly the

Ministry for the Armed Forces

and the Ministry of Health).



▶ Fil d'Ariane service

By signing up for the Fil d'Ariane service on the France Diplomatie website, travellers will receive texts or emails with safety alerts and instructions if warranted by the situation in the country they are visiting. These alerts may relate to security, health or natural risks. In addition, if the situation seriously deteriorates and a crisis unit is activated, through the Fil d'Ariane service, the CDCS and diplomatic posts can swiftly contact French nationals visiting a country and provide them with assistance.

THE TOP TEN **DESTINATIONS FOR** TRAVELLERS USING THE FIL **D'ARIANCE SERVICE IN 2024**

Thailand 1.

6. Spain

2. Canada

Finland

3. United States

8. Viet Nam

4. Morocco

9. India

Mexico

10. Norway

277,537

individual and group trips were declared

176,631 users

received at least one alert

446 alert campaigns were issued

2024



Monitoring and risk analysis of security, health and natural events

The CDCS is responsible for monitoring, collecting and collating information on emergencies and crises throughout the world. It issues alerts on events likely to have an impact on the safety of French nationals abroad or requiring emergency humanitarian action. At night, at weekends and on public holidays, it contributes to continuous public service with a diplomatic and consular staff member on duty 24-hours a day for the entire Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

To hone its understanding and its analysis of certain risks that could affect French nationals abroad, the CDCS forged partnerships with specialized scientific bodies and experts in 2024 to boost its monitoring, analysis and responsiveness in the face of natural or climate-related risks.



Signing of the agreement linking the CDCS to the French Association for Earthquake Engineering on 9 July 2024

NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EARTHQUAKE RISKS

 To build its capacities to analyse and respond to earthquake risks, which concern many French communities abroad, the CDCS signed a partnership agreement with the French Association for Earthquake Engineering on 9 July 2024. This agreement provides for the sharing of knowledge and

expertise for a better understanding of risks when crafting crisis exercises and when Ministry staff are being trained by the CDCS.

- This Association is also committed to supporting prevention and security efforts of embassies and consulates faced with earthquake risks and their consequences, in liaison with the Foreign Ministry's Estate and Logistics Directorate.
- Also, in November 2024, the CDCS and the French Geological Survey conducted a joint mission to Turkey. Conducted in a particularly earthquake-prone region, this mission took a survey of the locations where French people live in Turkey and where there are groups of them, to analyse the relevance of the current security plan with regard to earthquake risks and to train the staff of embassies and consulates in planning and managing earthquake risks.

NEW PARTNERSHIP ON CLIMATE **CHANGE RISKS**

- For some years, extreme weather events have increased and been amplified by climate change. To better anticipate their impact on French nationals abroad, a collaboration was begun in 2024 with the **National Centre for** Scientific Research working under the National Centre for Scientific Research on wildfire-related risks. An initial seminar in which the French Embassy in Greece participated let to a better understanding of the issues, thanks to the sharing of models, analyses and digital tools by experts. Travel Advice pages and the Fil d'Ariane information was then updated.
- An evaluation of wildfires in safety plans prepared by embassies and consulates is the next step of this partnership.



Bolstering the security of companies, NGOs and government agencies working internationally

Over the years, the CDCS has established a security ecosystem made up of public and private stakeholders working internationally, whose aim is to anticipate the safety issues and better respond to them. The changing international security and political context has led to a strengthening and changes in the security component in companies, NGOs and public and parapublic structures. The CDCS is accompanying this evolution and discussions that these entities are conducting when it comes to safety and their collaborators abroad.

Safety recommendations and advisories

The CDCS advises companies and government agencies (Expertise France, AEFE, France Médias Monde, Agence Française de Développement) on a daily basis. More than 800 safety advisories are shared every year with them at their request: approximately 500 are issued to French companies and 300 to agencies. Based on analyses also used for drafting Travel Advice, these advisories are adapted to the specific contexts of missions and outreach projects, and activities of these stakeholders internationally.

Awareness-raising, training courses and crisis exercises

In 2024, a total of 57 training courses and speeches on safety issues were given in companies and agencies, particularly to raise awareness among their international volunteers about possible safety risks they may face.

Every year, two one-week theoretical and practical training courses on risk management abroad are given to NGOs and agencies in cooperation with the Diplomatic Security Directorate.

With corporate security directorates, the CDCS also organizes on-site case studies welcoming some 20 participants. These workshops in small groups enable companies to update and improve their preparation and to work on their coordination with the CDCS, the public authorities and their various interlocutors in case of a crisis abroad.

Annual meetings

Every year, the CDCS holds two meetings dedicated to the safety of collaborators abroad: one brings together French corporate security directorates, and the other, NGOs and government agencies.

In 2024, the 16th Rencontre Sécurité CDCS-Entreprises brought together more than 200 participants from 125 countries of all types and sectors of activity - small and medium enterprises and business clubs. Round tables were devoted to the impact of the growing number of crises on the activity of companies, and feedback from the various stakeholders who have participated in the Sudan, Niger and Turkey crises.

The 9th Rencontre Sécurité CDCS-Opérateurs de la Coopération Internationale brought together more than 150 people from NGOs, associations and government agencies. Participants of round tables discussed safety challenges related to transnational organized crime and the needs of agencies in terms of feedback.



Remarks by General Réty, commander of the National Gendarmerie Intervention Group, at the Rencontre Sécurité

Supporting French nationals with problems abroad

In close collaboration with embassies and consulates abroad, staff at the Individual Cases Unit manage many cases of disappearances of concern and abductions of French nationals abroad, as well as violent and suspicious deaths.



Louis Arnaud reunited with his family

2024

1,015 reports processed

482 deaths reported, including **283** violent or suspicious deaths (e.g. road traffic accidents, diving accidents, drownings, suicides), including 29 murders

526 disappearances of concern reported, 53 of which are still being actively followed up, while 473 people were located

57 referrals to the judicial authorities

Together, they support, guide and accompany victims and their families in completing administrative and legal procedures, as well as in seeking psychological and/or social support. In the course of their work, staff can call on local victim assistance associations, as well as the CDCS psychologist and liaison magistrate. In 2024, 57 associations from the France Victimes network were mobilized by the CDCS. The French judicial authorities (Paris Prosecutor's Office and National Counterterrorism Prosecutor's Office) were contacted 57 times in relation to deaths or disappearances of concern. The Unit also dealt with complicated situations involving French nationals held hostage in Gaza, as well as arbitrary detentions abroad, particularly those of French nationals imprisoned in Iran.

It is also responsible for providing support to the families of French nationals abducted abroad for ransom or due to terrorism. The team mans a 24/7 "abduction" hotline. This support is the fruit of collaboration with many institutional partners, such as:

- The Interministerial Delegation for Victims (DAIV) and the Department for Access to Law and Justice and Victim Assistance (SADJAV) for organizing remembrance events and for organizing broadcasts or involvement from the civil parties in trials abroad:
- The Compensation Fund for Victims of Acts of Terrorism and Other Offenses (FGTI), to compensate victims and their loves ones for losses suffered.

Responding to crises

Activating a crisis unit

In the event of a major incident abroad, the CDCS can activate a crisis unit in addition to the unit set up at the relevant diplomatic post (embassy and/or consulate). How the unit is organized can vary based on needs. Various specialist teams can be set up, all under the authority of a crisis director: telephone response, protected community (for dealing with the individual circumstances of each French national), medical support, communication, chartering of planes or boats, internal logistics, etc.

In order to be able to activate a crisis unit at any time while continuing to perform other CDCS duties, all staff must remain on call on a weekly rotating basis. While on call, each staff member must be available 24/7 and must be able to reach the CDCS within one hour. When a crisis unit opens, it becomes the priority and all CDCS staff members must do duties there on a rotating basis.

2024

1,845 Ministry staff

trained in crisis management, including 560 volunteers from the central administration in France and 1,285 staff from diplomatic and consular posts

Over 100 volunteers from the French Red Cross trained in telephone response activities

90 responders and 16 supervisors within the newlycreated telephone response team in Nantes nouvellement créée

In addition to opening a crisis unit, the CDCS can choose to send support staff to affected embassies and consulates. Staff may thus be deployed at very short notice, particularly to facilitate the evacuation of French nationals. To do so, they can rely on civilian or military dispatch capabilities. In 2024, these teams provided support to our embassies and consulates in Haiti and Lebanon in particular.

Beyond the CDCS, mobilization of Ministry staff

Each year, the CDCS provides training to staff from the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in Paris who agree to join a volunteer pool which can be mobilized in the event of a crisis abroad. These volunteers can be assigned to various centres of the crisis unit based on their profiles and training.

Foreign Ministry staff working in Nantes who join the volunteer pool can now also take part in the telephone response system during crises. Since February 2024, a specific room at the Ministry's Nantes site enables telephone response to be provided which is fully integrated into the crisis unit led by the CDCS from Paris. In the past year, the telephone response in Nantes was activated during Israel's terrorist offensive in Lebanon from 23 September to 21 October 2024. The response team in Nantes has a pool of 90 responders and 16 supervisors.

Joining the Crisis and Support Centre volunteer pool provides Foreign Ministry staff with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with crisis management while contributing to the Ministry's public service work.

10 audit and support missions for crisis support plans at diplomatic posts

10 training and crisis simulation missions based on the specific situations in the countries involved

2024

1,285 staff from the diplomatic network trained in various aspects of crisis management

Preparing posts for crisis management

As part of crisis management preparations, the CDCS advises diplomatic and consular representations on drawing up and updating their security plan for our nationals. Each year, posts are requested to carry out an independent crisis simulation to acquire the appropriate reactions, with an emergency scenario proposed to help them simulate events. These simulations help improve their responsiveness and

ability to respond to a crisis and identify areas for improvement. In 2024, the CDCS also provided extensive online and in-person training to 1,285 staff members across about 100 diplomatic and consular posts.

Partnerships for increased responsiveness

The CDCS is continuing its partnership with the French Red Cross (CRF) so that CRF volunteers can work as telephone responders to improve crisis units. Others help to assist victims or repatriation operations for French nationals by supporting CDCS teams who will be going abroad or when welcoming our compatriots at the airport.

Stronger collaboration with our foreign partners

EU Member States are increasingly cooperating to prevent and respond to consular crises. Although they are responsible for the consular protection of their nationals, there are solidarity obligations to protect all EU citizens when a crisis arises in a third country.

AUTONOMOUS SECURITY TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS: A KEY ASPECT OF THE SECURITY SYSTEM ABROAD

- Since 2009, the CDCS has been responsible for fitting out embassies and consulates with radio networks and satellite phones as part of their safety plans. This autonomous communications equipment is designed to secure buildings, vehicles and French communities. The CDCS installs, services and upgrades all this permanent and temporary equipment, in collaboration with the Diplomatic Security Directorate with regard to the premises of embassies and consulates and armoured vehicles. The Security Communications Team comprises two radio technicians responsible for installing and maintaining equipment, as well as two apprentices.
- To date, 90 diplomatic representations which are particularly at risk have a security radio network. If the normal communication tools (e.g. normal telephone network, GSM, internet) are unavailable

following a natural disaster or security event, this network is activated to enable diplomatic posts to re-establish communication with the French community on the ground and with the Ministry's central administration in Paris.

- Diplomatic representations have satellite phones, to maintain communication under all circumstances; mobile networks can be interrupted or saturated, even in countries generally considered safe, e.g. in the event of a terrorist attack.
- The two systems complement each other: radio is preferred for permanent, low-cost communications in at-risk countries, while satellite phones enable longdistance communications in the event of a breakdown or interruption of ordinary networks, including between embassies and the central administration.

- Through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), one Member State can offer other Member States seats on flights that it is organizing to evacuate its nationals. In such cases, the European Union covers part of the transport costs.
- In the event of a crisis, the CDCS serves as France's contact point for European coordination through the Consular Online Platform (CoOL), facilitating information sharing among EU Member States;
- The CDCS participates in several European forums, such as the Working Party on Consular Affairs (COCON) of the EU Council (jointly with the Directorate for French Nationals Abroad and Consular Administration) and the Security Committee of the EEAS Crisis Response Centre (jointly with the Diplomatic Security Directorate).

There is much discussion and cooperation with other countries: the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs and his Canadian counterpart signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 4 October 2024 to strengthen cooperation in emergency planning and international crisis management.



Minister Jean-Noël Barrot and his Canadian counterpart Mélanie Joly sign a Memorandum of Understanding

EMPHASISING THE HEALTH RESPONSE TO CRISES

Through interministerial partnerships with many health actors, the CDCS can quickly deliver emergency medical assistance to populations affected by conflict, natural disasters and accidents.

The CDCS has signed several agreements with Parisian hospitals to acquire stocks of medical equipment and health products for Mobile Medical Units (MMUs), which can then be quickly and easily deployed in crisis areas. Each MMU has over five tons of medication, dressings and equipment and can handle 500 seriously injured people. In 2024, three MMUs were dispatched to the Middle East.



In 2024, through the signing of a **new** agreement with Hôpital Necker, the CDCS also acquired Paediatric Mobile Medical Units, which can provide urgent care to seriously injured children.

In order to increase its ability to respond to health • emergencies abroad, in 2024 the CDCS continued to strengthen the International Health Task Force (IHTF) by training 100 extra reservists as part of its partnership with the Directorate-General for Health and Santé Publique France, the country's National Public Health Agency. This Task Force now has 200 reservists from various backgrounds, doctors (e.g.: surgeons, paediatricians, gynaecologists), nurses, midwives and paediatric nurses specially trained by the CDCS to undertake health support missions during international crises.

As a result of close coordination with the Ministry for Labour, Health, Solidarity and Families and the Ministry of the Interior, the CDCS can dispatch specialized emergency medical teams to assist French nationals and affected local communities.

The CDCS has also set up several mechanisms to provide medical and psychological support for French nationals abroad. They are activated based on the nature and scale of the needs, in partnership with the Ministry for Labour, Health, Solidarity and Families.

The CDCS can therefore count on 90 mental health practitioners and experts in psycho-trauma from the Medical-Psychological Task Force, trained by the CDCS, who can be very quickly deployed across all crisis areas. It also enables the CDCS to set up a psychological helpline, with the help of medical and psychological emergency units.

RESPONDING TO HUMANITARIAN CRISES IN THE WORLD

2024

France's humanitarian action is an essential lever of our external action and diplomacy. Within the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, it is implemented via various financial channels:

- ▶ the Crisis and Support Centre, which funds assistance projects implemented by specialized humanitarian NGOs and organizes bilateral emergency assistance operations,
- the United Nations and International Organizations Directorate, which contributes to international organizations - United Nations agencies and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement,
- finally, the Director-General for Global Affairs who runs Programmed food assistance (PFA).

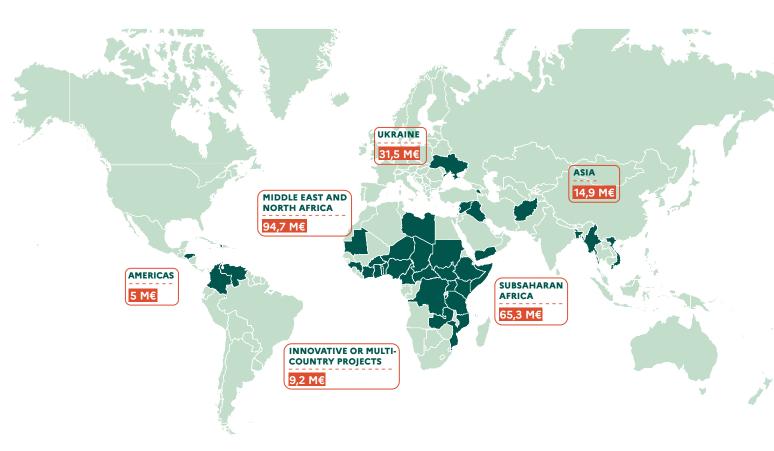
These 3 channels are coordinated by the Crisis and Support Centre.

€235 million

mobilized by the CDCS in response to crises and humanitarian emergencies

Within the CDCS, the Humanitarian and Stabilization Operations Department (COHS) fulfils two complementary roles for populations of countries hit by humanitarian crises, epidemics or natural disasters:

- The financing of humanitarian or stabilization projects led by partner NGOS or government agencies (e.g. Expertise France, Canal France International);
- The preparation and implementation of emergency bilateral operations in response to requests for assistance from foreign States to assist their populations.



Conducting humanitarian and stabilization projects

By financing humanitarian projects abroad led by NGOs and government agencies, the CDCS helps respond to the vital needs of the most vulnerable populations in all sectors, particularly those in the physical and mental health sector, nutrition, energy, access to water and energy, as well as education and emergency accommodation, by

supplying tents and shelters. The CDCS also supports projects to prepare for crisis recovery by funding medium-term stabilization, transition and recovery actions, essentially by financing governance, mediation and civil society organization support projects.

2024

€220.6

million allocated to CDCS partners in the form of project grants

humanitarian projects implemented in 40 countries

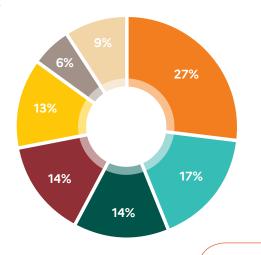
76 partners. including:

- **74** NGOs
- 2 government agencies (Expertise France, Canal France International)

FINANCING BY SECTOR

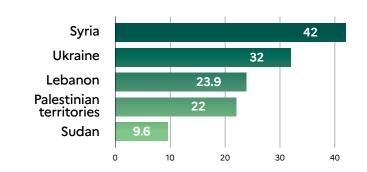
- Health
- Support for civil society and social cohesion
- Nutrition and food security
- Mine clearance and protecting vulnerable populations
- Water, sanitation, hygiene
- Education in emergency situations
- Other

Source: MEAE/CDCS



MAIN TERRITORIES WHICH BENEFITTED FROM CDCS-FINANCED PROJECTS IN 2024

(IN MILLIONS OF EURO)



Source: MEAE/CDCS

THE 12 MAIN CDCS **IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS** IN 2024

- Acted
- Action Against Hunger (ACF)
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- French Red Cross
- **Expertise France**
- **HALO Trust**
- **Humanity & Inclusion**
- **International Medical Corps**
- La Chaîne de l'Espoir
- Doctors of the World
- Première Urgence Internationale
- Solidarités International

An increasingly complex and demanding operational context

In 2024, humanitarian actors encountered major difficulties due to an increased number of overlapping crises:

- Increased restrictions on access to the most vulnerable populations, due to repeated violations of international humanitarian law and numerous attacks on civilians, humanitarian workers, their convoys and their premises;
- · The increasingly visible impact of climate change on the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, and the need to prepare local communities to that end.

Humanitarian actors have thus been forced to gradually review their objectives and working methods in order to best anticipate crises while observing the cardinal "Do No Harm" principle, including from an environmental perspective.

In 2024, France supported several innovative initiatives and actions with a view to these issues.

Upholding international humanitarian law (IHL)

Although 2024 was the deadliest year ever for humanitarian actors around the world, particularly for local humanitarian actors, since 2022 the CDCS has been funding the NGO LAW for a project to provide legal support to humanitarian workers who have been victims of attacks and to fight impunity in fragile and conflict-affected States (South Sudan, Ethiopia, Central African Republic, Somalia).

Furthermore, to increase humanitarian support for crisis-affected populations, in 2024 France organized several international conferences (Sudan, Gaza, Lebanon), through which it reiterated its solidarity, raised funding to help them and reiterated the importance of implementing IHL and removing obstacles to humanitarian aid delivery.

Combating the effects of climate change

Climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation are today among the main reasons for increased humanitarian needs among crisis-hit populations. Since the adoption of the Humanitarian Aid Donors' Declaration on Climate and Environment under the French Presidency of the European Union in 2022, addressing climate and environmental issues has been a central tenet of French humanitarian action.

On 28 November 2024, the Climate Action Accelerator and the CDCS have brought together over 80 participants from NGOs, international organizations and the European Commission to share concrete, environmentally-friendly solutions in order to cut emissions by 50% by 2030. Several areas for improvement were identified, first and foremost the health and food security sectors, and



In 2024, France stepped up its work to further the promotion of and compliance with IHL, unimpeded humanitarian access and the protection of civilian populations and humanitarian personnel.

Within the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, it is the United Nations Directorate that is spearheading these efforts:

- In September, with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and five other States, France launched a high-level initiative on IHL during the United Nations General Assembly;
- At the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, held in Geneva in October, France supported the five resolutions presented, including the resolution to build a universal culture of compliance with IHL and the application of IHL in cyberspace;
- At the United Nations Security Council, France supported the adoption of Resolution 2730 which calls upon States to respect and protect humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel, as well as the adoption of Resolution 2761 which extends the application of the humanitarian carve-out for an indefinite period.

more specifically within supply chains and in transport. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad, for example, the CDCS has funded actions set up by the NGO ALIMA to locally recycle large amounts of plastic waste from therapeutic food packages administered to children suffering from severe malnutrition.

The extreme events in 2024 (e.g.: Typhoon Yagi in Southeast Asia, Hurricane Rafael in Cuba and the Caribbean, earthquake in Vanuatu) recalled the need to increase the resilience of countries and populations against the risks of natural disasters and the importance of preparedness.

That is why the CDCS maintained its support for the NGO Start Network in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Madagascar, to prepare local network partners for disasters through training, pre-positioning contingency stocks, and providing them with immediate financial support as soon as disasters occur. In the DRC, for example, the mechanism enabled humanitarian actors and local communities to respond to flooding in the Kindu area in February 2024, even before international assistance was deployed.

Strengthening synergies between humanitarian assistance actors for greater effectiveness

Against a backdrop of an ever-widening gap between humanitarian needs and available resources, increasing aid effectiveness was another of France's humanitarian priorities for 2024. The CDCS was thus committed to supporting initiatives to pool logistical resources among assistance actors.

The CDCS renewed its support for the HULO cooperative, which aims to increase economies of scale, by organizing airbridges to deliver emergency assistance from several humanitarian partners or carry out pooled procurement in line with the highest quality standards and limiting negative environmental impact. This support is co-financed with the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (DG ECHO), demonstrating the close collaboration between France and its European partners in responding to humanitarian issues.

On 4 December 2024 in Brussels, the CDCS took part in the European Commission's launch of technical workshops on procurement and supply chains for the main humanitarian actors.

These workshops bring together logistical experts from United Nations agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs. Their work will continue throughout 2025 to promote joint procurement, the pooling of stocks and transport solutions for crisis areas.

FRANCE'S 2023-2027 HUMANITARIAN **STRATEGY**

Adopted at the 6th National Humanitarian Conference on 19 December 2023, France's 2023-2027 Humanitarian Strategy sets four priorities for humanitarian action in France:

- 1. Uphold and promote international humanitarian law and guarantee the protection of civilians and humanitarian personnel;
- 2. Strengthen the integration of cross-cutting priorities, such as climate, gender, food security and health in the humanitarian response;
- 3. Make assistance more effective and innovate;
- 4. Diversify humanitarian partnerships, including with local and private-sector actors and with the European Union.



2024

40 operations conducted for the benefit of 19 countries, including:

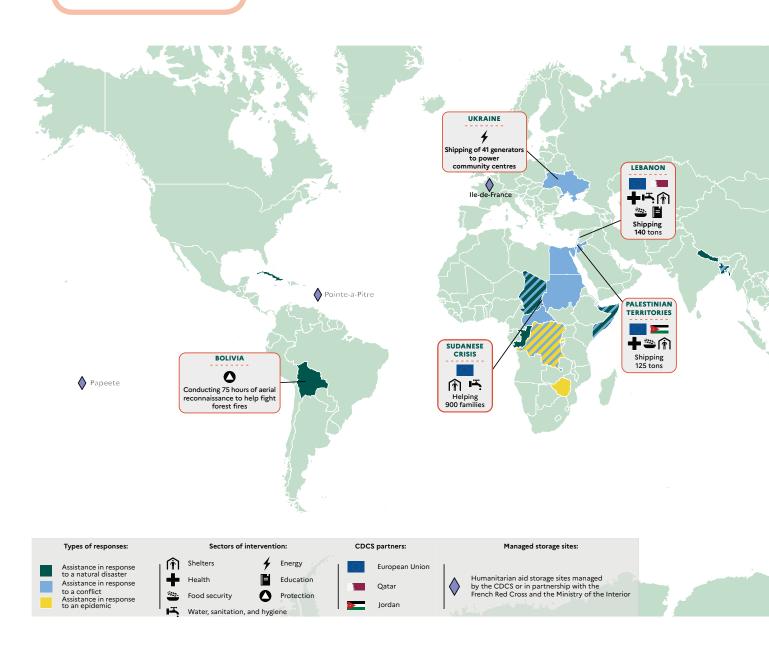
- 30 packages of in-kind aid
- 10 expert missions (e.g.: reconnaissance flights) and logistical missions (e.g.: prepositioning of stocks)

Volume of material sent:

over 400 tons

Providing aid and specialized teams in humanitarian crisis zones

Though the CDCS, France can also respond quickly and directly to requests for assistance made by its humanitarian partners and States experiencing difficulties. This can entail sending in-kind aid (e.g.: hygiene kits, nutritional inputs for severely malnourished children, shelters), providing logistical or transport resources (e.g.: chartering ships or planes, reconnaissance flights, storing material) or deploying experts or support staff (e.g.: medical personnel, firefighters, first-aid workers).



THE MAIN CDCS **IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN 2024**

- Aquassistance
- Tulipe Association
- French Red Cross
- **Electricians Without Borders**
- Airbus Foundation
- **CMA-CGM Foundation**
- **Veolia Foundation**
- Nutriset

Over the years, the CDCS has been developing and strengthening partnerships which are essential to implementing humanitarian operations, both at European and national level, with other ministries and with public, private or community actors.

▶ Pooling resources and operational cooperation with the European Union

As part of its emergency response to disasters and crises, the CDCS contributes to Humanitarian Air Bridges (EU HABs) set up by the European Commission, and did so five times in 2024, in Chad, Gaza, Sudan and Lebanon.

The CDCS also has a cooperation tool for coordinating the dispatch of humanitarian freight by the 27 EU Member States and 10 other states to any crisis-hit country requiring international or European Union assistance. In 2024, the CDCS contributed to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) on seven occasions, delivering humanitarian equipment to Egypt, Rwanda, Vanuatu and Lebanon. The UCPM reimburses up to 75% of transport costs for such equipment.



GREATER COORDINATION WITH EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN DONORS

The CDCS is also active in the various European humanitarian forums. It thus represents France during the monthly meetings of the Council of the EU's Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) in Brussels. This group aims to discuss the strategic priorities of European humanitarian action and improve coordination among European humanitarian donors.

In March 2024, France took part in the 3rd European Humanitarian Forum, co-organized by Belgium (under its presidency of the Council of the European Union) and the European Commission. In 2024, France ranked 9th among governmental donors to global humanitarian aid.

► Implementing partners with wide-ranging expertise

To carry out its humanitarian work, the CDCS draws on a network of public and private partners, who in 2024 directly contributed to 13 emergency operations in Bangladesh, Lebanon, Gaza, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bolivia, Vanuatu and Cuba, as well as to the replenishment of emergency stocks across all continents.

Donations in kind

In addition to its own procurement capabilities, the CDCS delivers food and non-food goods which can be bought but also donated by partners for the populations affected by crises or disasters. In 2024, these donations accounted for over 110 tons of goods:

- In the health sector, particularly through the Tulipe Association which collects donations from Foundation S - The Sanofi Collective and about 60 French pharmaceutical laboratories and companies in order to prepare cases of medicines and medical supplies for humanitarian action.
- In the nutrition sector, thanks to donations from French company Nutriset, an essential player in treating and preventing malnutrition through the production of ready-to-use therapeutic food for children under the age of five, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women.



NGO Electricians Without Borders installing a generator in Ukraine

• In the energy sector, thanks to the donations of the NGO Electricians Without Borders (ESF) and its 14 partner companies, enabling the delivery of generators, batteries and hybrid solutions (e.g.: solar kits and lamps). The partnership agreement between the CDCS and ESF was renewed on 19 June 2024.

The CDCS also receives one-off donations from specialized actors (e.g.: construction materials, water pumps, telecommunications equipment).

Transport and logistics



Helicopter reconnaissance flight during wildfires in Bolivia

To ensure that populations receive assistance as quickly as possible, the CDCS can charter planes and ships, and can also rely on various partners with transport and/or storage capabilities:

- The **Ministry of the Interior**, which stores emergency materials in its warehouses in Ile-de-France for the CDCS;
- The French Red Cross, which manages pre-positioned CDCS emergency stocks in Nouméa, Papeete and Pointe-à-Pitre;
- The Ministry for the Armed Forces, which can mobilize its transport means at the request of the
- EU Humanitarian Air Bridges (EU HAB), which enable the CDCS and partner NGOs to transport donations of humanitarian equipment free of charge to crisis areas;

• Corporate foundations, which make their logistical and/or financial capabilities available to facilitate humanitarian assistance. In 2024, for example, the CMA CGM Foundation enabled medicines to be sent to Bangladesh in May and the CDCS's pre-positioned stocks in New Caledonia to be replenished in July, as part of a renewed partnership in February. The Airbus Foundation helped send goods to Lebanon in November to meet the needs of people displaced by the war. In summer, it also provided the CDCS with hours of helicopter reconnaissance flights during wildfires in Bolivia.

Deployment of staff and material

To tackle these increasingly complex crises, the CDCS also draws on its partners' expertise. Among its main partners, the Operational Centre for Interministerial Monitoring of Crises (COGIC), of the Minister of the Interior, through CDCS financing, can deploy emergency staff and equipment within hours (mobile hospitals, water purification stations, teams to carry out clean-up and search for survivors, etc.).

A NEW DISASTER RESPONSE

To increase its global response capabilities, in October 2024 the CDCS signed a disaster response

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE

FRENCH RED CROSS

Financial support from local government and companies

Local governments and companies can contribute to the humanitarian response provided by the CDCS. The External Action Fund of Territorial Communities (FACECO) and the Corporate Support Fund (FCE) enable French local government and companies which so wish to provide financial support for emergency assistance provided by the CDCS to help the victims of humanitarian crises around the world.

In 2024, the French local governments and companies contributed to the CDCS's humanitarian response in three main areas (Ukraine, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Lebanon).



Signing of the partnership agreement between the CDCS and the French Red Cross

partnership agreement with the French Red Cross. The French Red Cross has the advantage of having regional intervention platforms (PIR) in the Indian Ocean (PIROI), the Americas and the Caribbean (PIRAC) and the South Pacific Ocean (PIROPS).

This new partnership enables emergency response action to be deployed very quickly for a maximum of four months in a wide range of areas, including medical and/or psychosocial treatment, deployment of water purification units and delivery of equipment. This mechanism was first used in December 2024 in response to the earthquake in Vanuatu, distributing emergency kits, producing and distributing safe drinking water and deploying first-aid workers, in liaison with the French armed forces in New Caledonia (FANC) and the New Caledonia High Commission.



Liberté Égalité Fraternité

ACTION HUMANITAIRE FRANCE

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Crisis and Support Centre

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Cover photo: Medical cargo destined for crisis-affected populations in Lebanon – Airbase 123 at Orléans-Bricy – September 2024, © Hélène Maire/MEAE
Reprographic printing, Estate and Logistics Directorate (DIL) at La Courneuve
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