In concrete terms, how can you benefit from the PAIRES partnership?

I am a project manager
I have a project at identification/appraisal stage for which I want to measure the impact on key outcomes

Identifying the IE project
I contact the project secretariat to make an appointment and discuss the characteristics of the project and my needs

Feasibility study for an IE
If an impact evaluation is relevant, a meeting is organized with researchers...

I am a researcher
I have a thematic/methodological field of interest, or already discuss with an operator linked to AFD on evaluation purposes

Institutions involved in the PAIRES partnership:

L’Agence Française de Développement
Agence Française de Développement (AFD) group is a public establishment that implements France’s development and international solidarity policies. Climate, biodiversity, peace, education, urban planning, health, governance... AFD teams are involved in more than 4,000 projects with a strong social and environmental impact in the French Overseas Communities and in 115 countries. In this way, we contribute to the commitment of France to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

L’Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)
The French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) - A privileged partner of AFD in conducting impact evaluations for many years, the IRD has human and logistical resources, expertise in impact evaluations on a wide range of topics and laboratories and research networks in many countries to carry out evaluations with partners from the Global South

Contacts
AFDprojetPAIRES@afd.fr
paires@ird.fr

PAIRES aims to finance a series of impact evaluations on development interventions supported by AFD by giving a central place to research from the Global South.
What are the eligibility criteria for PAIRES funding?

1. The team shall be composed of researchers from laboratories under the supervision of the IRD and researchers from the Global South. The latter are involved in all stages of the evaluation, they co-author the scientific articles and participate in their valorization.

2. The evaluation shall concern a development intervention supported by the AFD Group and is of proven operational interest. The project entity in charge of project implementation and the partners are informed and interested in this evaluation. The AFD operational team is involved in building and learning from this evaluation and supports the request for PAIRES funding.

3. The evaluation shall be of proven scientific interest in the field it covers: it shall be innovative and likely to foster research by addressing questions on which there is a lack of scientific evidence using a convincing methodology, or by proposing methodological innovations in a given field of expertise.

Impact evaluations use methods from social science research to identify and measure the effects that are strictly attributable to an intervention. In concrete terms, these methods consist in comparing the evolution of the situation of the population benefitting from the intervention with that of a population that has not been exposed to the intervention but is comparable to the beneficiary population (the control group).

AFD promotes multidisciplinary impact evaluations, combining quantitative and qualitative methodology in order to reinforce the lessons learned about the mechanisms underlying the change (or lack of change).

What is the scope of interest?

Although PAIRES funding is not restricted to a specific perimeter, the COPIL is interested in the following geographies and themes as a priority:

- Thematic priorities set by the Interministerial Committee for International Cooperation and Development (CICID): international stability, climate, education, health, equality between women and men.

PAIRES may finance rigorous impact evaluation projects on geographical or thematic areas outside this perimeter, but given the limited budget dedicated to the realization of a series of impact evaluations (2.6 M€), it is strongly recommended that researchers seek additional funding from other actors.

Who selects the evaluations benefiting from PAIRES funding?

The PAIRES project steering committee (COPIL), made up of representatives of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, French Ministry for the Economy and Finance, the IRD and the AFD, selects the evaluations that will benefit from PAIRES funding. Their choice is based on the reviews of an independent scientific committee chaired by Jean-Philippe Platteau, Professor Emeritus at the University of Namur. Composed of high-level international researchers, specialists in development issues and/or impact evaluations, this committee guarantees the scientific quality of the evaluations that will be funded. It evaluates the scientific quality of the proposed evaluation protocols, the composition of the research team and the pre-analysis plan.

Transparency of research and data availability:

AFD, IRD and the research team will endeavor to make the databases collected during the evaluations publicly available. This includes encouraging the owners to consent to such publication, to carry out the documentation work if necessary, and to carry out online procedures for making and publicizing them. In addition, the research team will endeavor to publish as systematically as possible the analysis scripts that will have made it possible to obtain the results, in order to promote the reproducibility of the analyses carried out, favoring thus the credibility and usefulness of their work.

In order to encourage this type of good practice, research teams will be invited before the launch of each impact evaluation to:

- Produce a document on their data management strategy;
- Register the study protocol prior to the launch of the surveys on one of the dedicated websites;
- Obtain validation from an ethics committee (which is already mandatory for experimental approaches).