



GOVERNEMENT

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

**Inter-Ministerial Delegation
for Accomodation and
Access to Housing**

Slum clearance

Progress Report



FOREWORD

The public policy on clearing slums where migrants from European Union member states live is one of the most complex that the DIHAL has to implement. It requires us to tackle two major challenges in particular:

- **the integration of people in situations of extreme poverty**, which presents a combination of difficulties and issues that necessitate time and expertise in the solutions to be provided ;
- **working with local partners in the medium and long term**, when short-term evacuation of informal settlements seems simpler but does not provide a lasting solution and ends up costing more.



An ambitious policy framework has been in place since 2018, which has been signed by eight ministers and sets a clear objective for slum clearance as well as a method built on previous successful work on the ground. More resources than ever before have been allocated to support local authorities that choose to take action, with a national annual budget of €8 million. A digital platform, Résorption-bidonvilles, has been developed as a 'state start-up' project, not only as an information and management system but also as a collaborative tool designed with its users in mind.

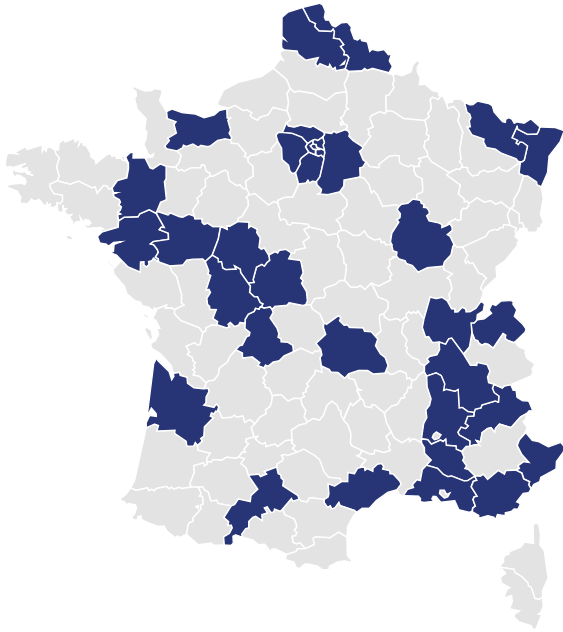
Of course, in 2021, there are still far too many slums in metropolitan France, but a clear-sighted look at a situation must also lead to the acknowledgement of the importance of the progress made and the results achieved. The paradigm change is under way in most of the affected areas. Some sites have been cleared permanently. People are accessing jobs and more and more children are going to school, which is vital to breaking the spiral that perpetuates extreme poverty. **We are seeing a real transformation of public intervention on this complex issue and a profound change in views on this policy.**

That is what is shown in this report, which aims to be concise and informative at the same time, as well as meeting DIHAL's need to report on its work, with the hope of contributing to the public's acceptance of this policy and of the people it aims to help.

Sylvain Mathieu
Inter-Ministerial Delegate for Accommodation and Access to Housing

SLUMS IN METROPOLITAN FRANCE

DATA FROM 12 MAY 2021



439 sites

with more than 10 inhabitants

12,342 European Union migrants

22,189 people across all nationalities

23 departments

received funding from the DIHAL in 2020



20% had a roadmap in 2020, that is 5 departments. This means they had a clearance strategy signed by the local authorities and the state



58% have recruited home-school liaison officers, that is 30 liaison officers across 14 departments



20% have implemented the SIBEL programme (Sortie Inclusive du Bidonville par l'Emploi et le Logement, Inclusive Removal from Slums Through Employment and Housing) in their area, that is 9 departments



75% are areas with accelerated Housing First implementation, that is 18 departments

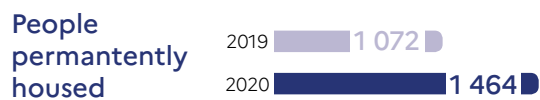
Indicateurs d'impacts

Sites cleared*

2019 2020

18 16

* A site (housing more than 10 people) is considered to have been cleared if a long-term housing or accommodation solution has been put in place for 66% of the site's inhabitants.



Data taken from the digital platform Résorption-bidonvilles on 12 May 2021. Want to find out more about the platform? resorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr
Would you like information? A log-in? contact@resorption-bidonvilles.gouv.fr

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A photograph of a makeshift settlement, likely a slum, situated along a canal. The buildings are constructed from various materials, including wood, metal, and plastic, with some painted in bright colors like blue and orange. A large, dense green tree dominates the background. In the foreground, a concrete curb separates the settlement from the water. Several people, including children, are sitting on the ground outside one of the buildings. The water in the canal reflects the colors of the buildings and the greenery.

Factors Shaping Public Policy

SLUMS IN METROPOLITAN FRANCE

A FRENCH APPROACH TO A EUROPEAN ISSUE

For over 20 years, slums have been reappearing in metropolitan France, informal settlements made from salvaged materials where very poor people live. In most cases, in these slums we can observe a lack of basic services (access to water, access to sanitary facilities, waste disposal, etc.), living conditions that do not meet health and hygiene standards, overpopulation and very pronounced social marginalisation (lack of education, disconnection from the job market, lack of healthcare, exposure to networks of dependency or control between individuals and to crime, discrimination of all kinds, etc.), inhabitants occupying land or buildings without legal claim or authority and problems with residents of the surrounding area.

The inhabitants of these slums are mostly European Union migrants, primarily Romania and Bulgaria. They are often referred to as Roma, especially in their countries of origin, where they are recognised as a minority by the law. In the eyes of the French Republic, they are European citizens who have the right to freedom of movement. **Contrary to a common misconception, they are not nomadic and therefore need to be distinguished from travellers, French citizens with a nomadic or semi-nomadic way of life.**

In this regard, **the work being carried out on slum clearance falls within the EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation, set out in 2011 and renewed in 2020 by the European Commission.**

However, **France's approach differs from that of the European Union** in that it takes a universalistic Republican point of view and **aims to combat extreme poverty and unsuitable living conditions without targeting a particular group on the basis of their cultural or ethnic origin.**

The DIHAL, which is the national point of contact for the European Commission and the Council of Europe on matters relating to the Roma, fulfils this role within these different bodies and when working with its European partners. This includes attending the different working meetings of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM).





THE CLEARANCE POLICY

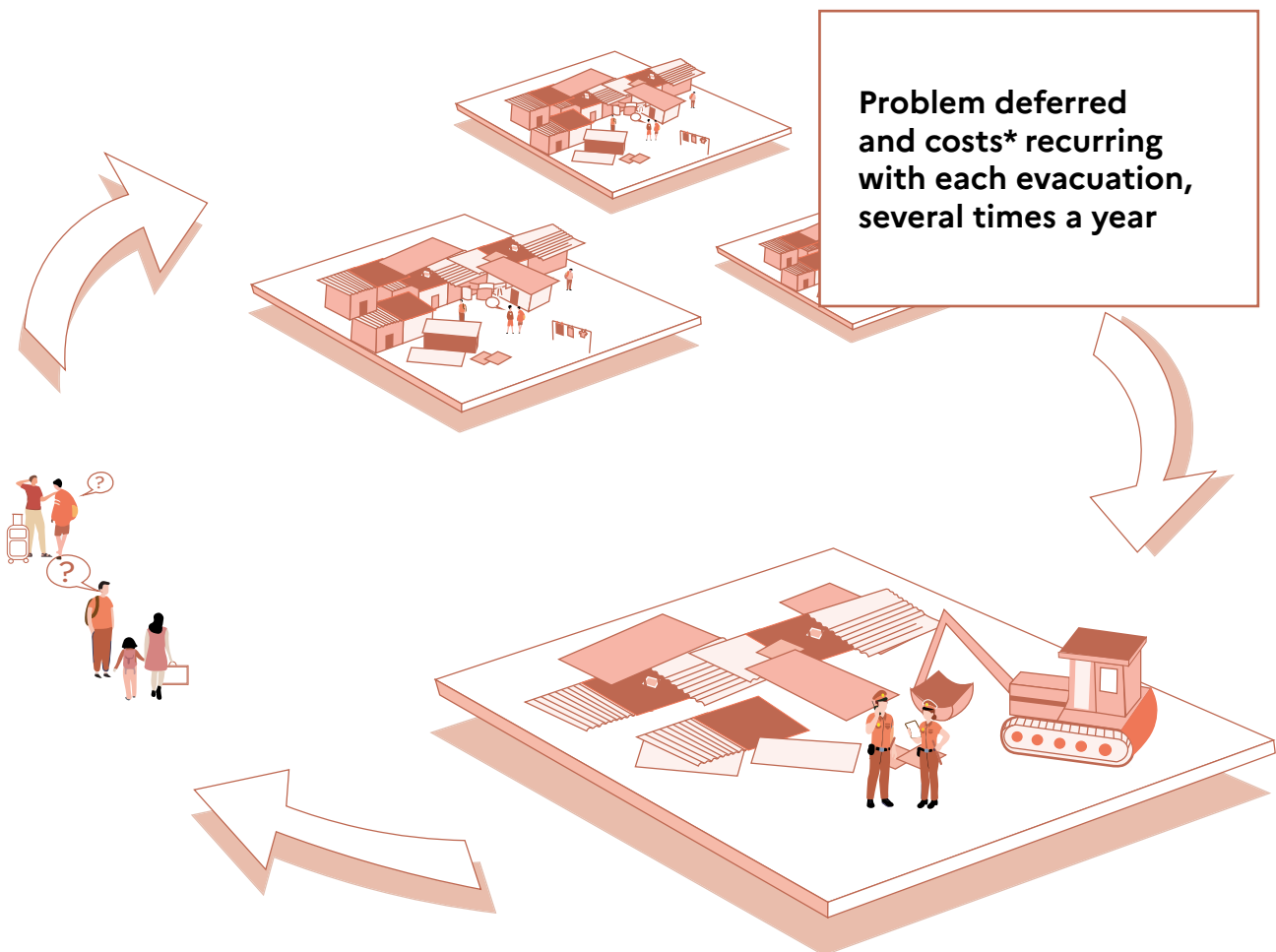
A Paradigm Change for Public Intervention

Initially, the response by the public authorities to the issue of slums was focused on evacuations, carried out on the grounds of administrative orders or court rulings. With insufficient forward planning and poor preparation, these evacuations consistently led to the construction of new slums and squats while also impeding the effects of the work carried out locally on these sites. Not only were they not effective, but they also came at a significant cost for public finances.

At the same time, some local authorities developed medium-term and long-term strategies to provide solutions for the inhabitants of these slums and clear them sustainably, preventing resettling in new slums.

Inspired by this local experience, the government adopted a new, balanced and pragmatic policy framework, with the directive of 25 January 2018. Signed by eight ministers (Interior, Justice, Europe and Foreign Affairs, Territorial Cohesion, Solidarity and Health, Labour, National Education and Gender Equality), it lays out a clear objective for slum clearance. **This directive is also fully aligned with the objectives of the national strategy for preventing and combating poverty as well as with the five-year plan for Housing First.**

Moving from public intervention focus on evacuations

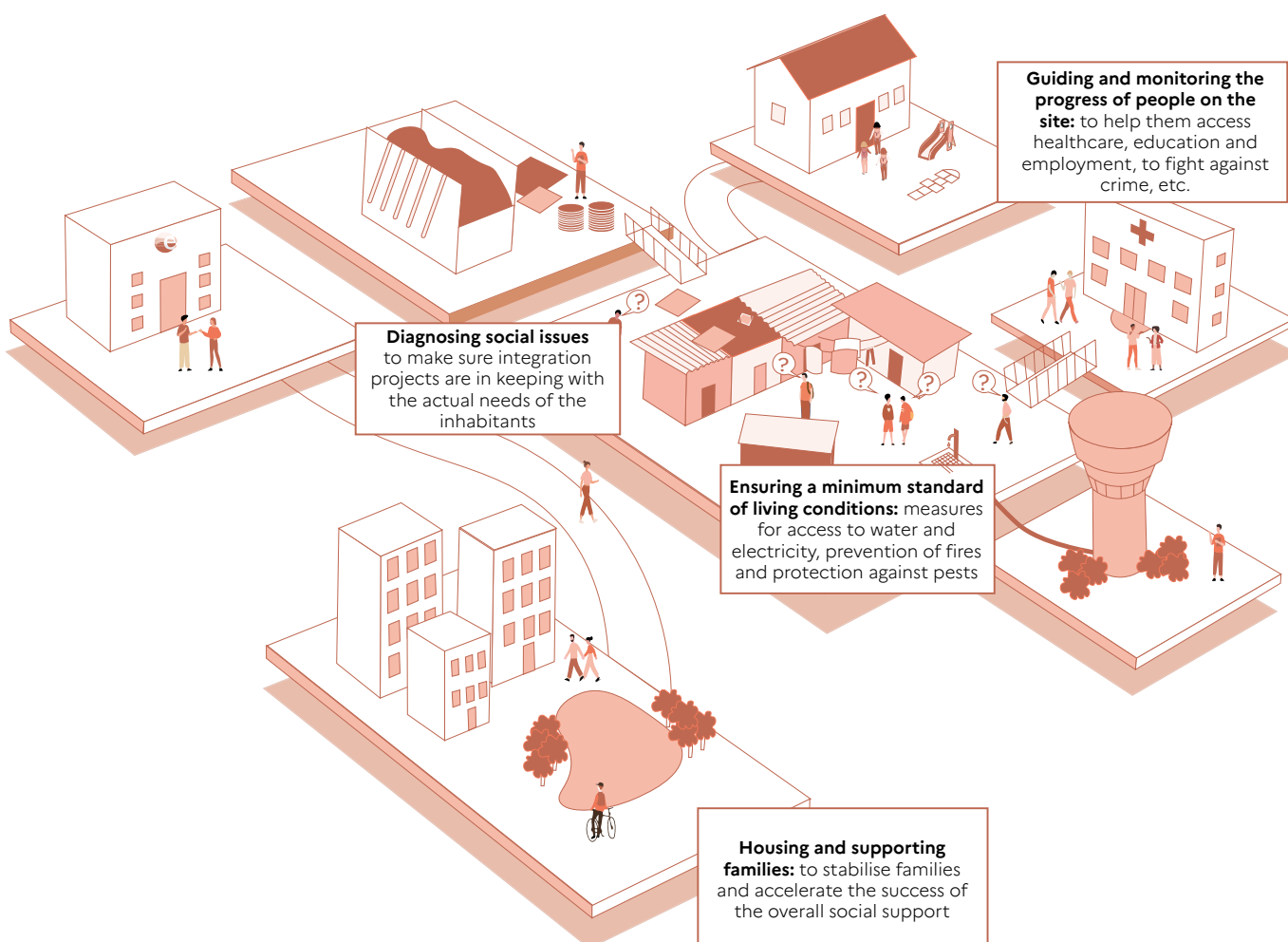


The cost of evacuating an informal settlement of a hundred or so people in La Corneuve was estimated at €108,000 in a report by students of the École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées engineering school commissioned by the DIHAL in 2014

A Comprehensive Strategy

- ✓ It is **to act as early as possible**, as soon as the settlement is constructed. **The trigger for public intervention is not a court ruling or administrative order, but the existence of the slum.**
- ✓ It is a **comprehensive approach**, meaning that it focused on all of the following: access to rights (accommodation, housing, healthcare, school, employment), child protection, women's rights, the fight against crime and human trafficking, the safeguarding of public order and residency rights.
- ✓ **Gradual clearance does not mean allowing a site to stay in place in the long-term:** while it can involve making living conditions safer and supervising the site for a given amount of time, all work carried out must be directed towards the permanent clearance of the site, and it is necessary to fix a deadline at the start of the work (2 or 3 weeks after it starts on average for a site of 50 to 100 people).
- ✓ **Carrying out work on sites beforehand is not an obstacle to evacuation:** evacuations must form part of the clearance policy when they are necessary. Information on legal procedures must be included when the roadmap is put together.
- ✓ **It is important that this clearance work involving supporting European citizens towards integration does not result in new slums.** Experience has generally shown that it does not have this effect in practice. On the contrary, it can act as a deterrent for some of the people targeted. A special focus should nevertheless be placed on preventing new slums.

... to public intervention for sustainable and permanent clearance



New Funds

In 2019, the government announced a step up, doubling the budget that was put towards slum clearance in 2020; the funds allocated to the affected departments went from 4 to 8 million euros.

This is a real change of scale which gave a strong impetus to local strategies, really multiplying the initiatives being carried out. **The objective for 2023 is to permanently clear 150 sites and help over 4,000 people into work over three years (2020, 2021, 2022).**

Bringing Together a Partnership

The multidisciplinary nature of slum clearance means that a **large number of parties, both at the decision-making and implementation levels, need to be involved:** within local authorities - city councils, inter-communal bodies and also departments and regions for anything that falls under their jurisdiction; within state services in all relevant fields (social cohesion and employment, national education, health, public safety, etc.); within the voluntary sector, whether state-mandated organisations or volunteers.

When it comes to this sensitive and complex issue, where both objective obstacles and resistance linked to stereotypes about slum inhabitants are expressed, the involvement of the state representative in the department is decisive in the rallying of the efforts of local authorities, the continued coordination of the network of involved parties and the joint development of a roadmap that gives all parties clarity, settlement by settlement and for all of the sites on a region-wide scale, with a schedule laying out the path towards the objective of clearance.



© Armandine Penna

THE DIGITAL PLATFORM

A REFERENCE TOOL FOR MANAGING AND MONITORING PUBLIC POLICY IN EACH LOCAL AREA

■ *Résorption-bidonvilles* is a digital tool for collaborative work to **accelerate clearance and facilitate the integration of slum inhabitants**.

🏛️ The platform is aimed at all of the parties involved in work on the ground: prefectures, regional state services (employment, solidarity, education, improvement of living conditions, etc.), regional health authorities (ARs), local governments and other state-mandated organisations.

🕒 *Résorption-bidonvilles* offers a solution to the problems caused by limited distribution of information (multiple Excel files) and a lack of coordination between different parties, which often cause time to be lost in situations where intervention should be fast.

📍 *Résorption-Bidonvilles* enables users to manage and monitor in real time the initiatives being carried out in each local area (in health, employment and housing), for example through clear mapping of the sites.

A knowledge and reporting tool for concrete action, the platform also aims to unite a community of participants in slum clearance work by facilitating their cooperation and the sharing of information on the site records (e.g. living conditions, site progress).

🎓 *Résorption-bidonvilles*, is also a 'state start-up' project which has received funding from the FTAP (Fund for the Transformation of Public Action), working within the DIHAL with support from the Ministry for the Ecological Transition's Fabrique numérique, an incubator for 'state start-ups' providing digital services, the Inter-Ministerial Directorate for Digital Affairs (DINUM) and the Inter-Ministerial Directorate for Public Sector Transformation (DITP). Through direct collaboration with users, the platform is evolving constantly to be easier to use and more efficient.

TO FIND OUT MORE

🌐 <https://resorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr>

✉️ contact@resorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

☎️ +33 (0)1 40 81 31 54

IN SEPTEMBER 2021



740
users



323
organizations




The platform's role in public action

The steps to resorb a slum

	What does the platform do?	What is the purpose?
1 Know	The platform provides a shared, centralized, and dynamic overview and its updating is simplified.	Objectivize and make reliable data to act in an enlightened way.
2 Make it a topic	The platform contributes to renewing this public policy , it changes how it is perceived, and puts it forward.	Have local and national political support.
3 Want	The platform encourages actors to take step and become aware of the situation and the need to act.	Mobilize the actors.
4 Empower	The platform contributes to the current state of play prerequisite to consider action.	Prepare the action.
5 Act	The platform helps identify opportunities for action : prioritize sites, identify emergencies, and good practices.	Increase the number of actions and speed-up decision-making.
6 Follow	The platform provides a history of the site's date and actions. It is the memory of the subject	Reinforce the action's management of actions and ensure their continuity.
7 Assess	The platform helps putting results into perspective according to a purpose and the situation of other territories.	Stimulate the actors with a goal to reach.

Indirect impacts :

The platform brings a **culture of transparency** and transmission of information between actors. The platform is not intended to replace informal and oral exchanges but to support discussions.

A person wearing a bright yellow high-visibility vest and dark clothing is walking away from the camera down a paved path. The path is lined with makeshift dwellings, including a large green and white trailer on the right and several tents or temporary structures on the left. The background shows bare trees under a clear blue sky. A large white text box is overlaid in the center of the image.

2019-2020 Overview

CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN SLUMS AND THE NUMBER OF SITES

Introductory Caveats on the Origin and Use of This Data

The data below was taken from the *Résorption-bidonvilles* platform, which allows state services in the departments, with contribution from their partners where necessary, to record data about sites, whether land or buildings, that people are occupying without legal claim or authority on a long-term basis.

This data should be used carefully, bearing in mind the way it has been produced. It should also be kept in mind that taking this data only gives a snapshot of a fast-changing situation at a specific moment in time. In addition, it must be emphasised that this data was recorded in a specific context related to the Covid-19 pandemic, which caused movement on the sites. Finally, as a reminder, this data can in no way be considered to constitute data on Roma populations in France.

The number of European citizens in informal settlements is going down, thanks to the slum clearance policy in place since 2018

In metropolitan France on 12 May 2021, 12,342 European migrants (mainly from Romania and Bulgaria) **were recorded, living in 252 slums of more than ten inhabitants.**

This means that **the number of people dropped by over 10%** in comparison with the figures from 31 December 2018, when 13,728 people were reported to be living in

251 sites with over ten inhabitants.

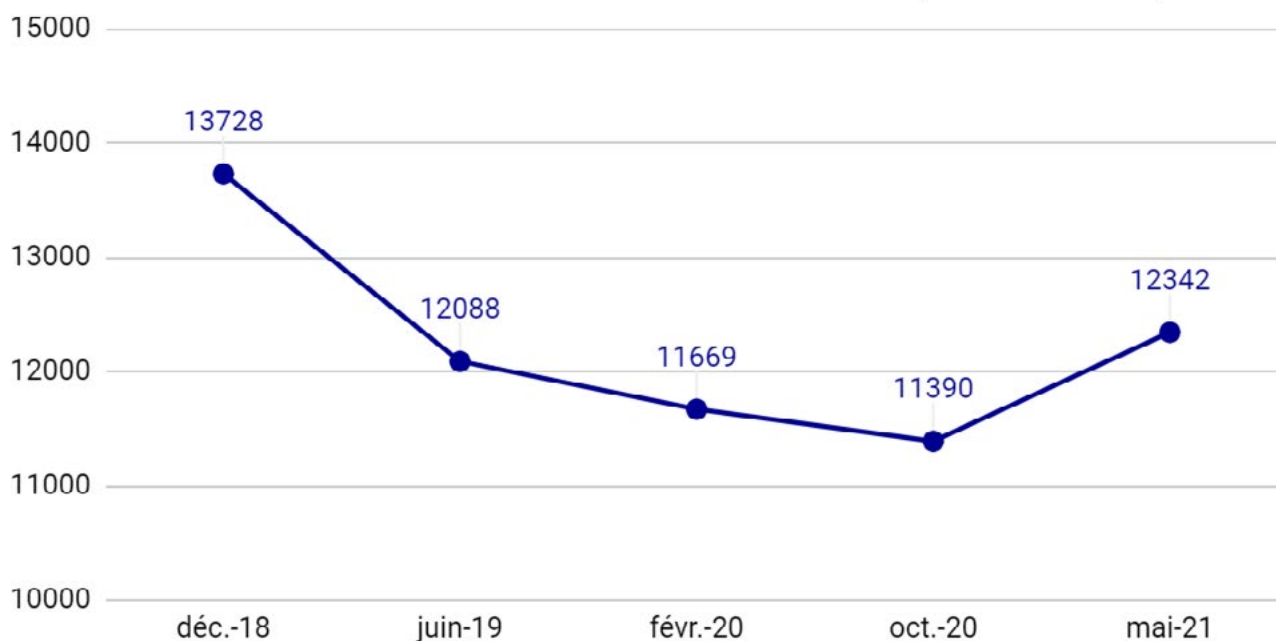
In several departments, we can see that the drop in numbers has taken place in the areas where local slum clearance plans have been put in place. This is the case for example in the Nord department (a reduction of almost 30% following a number of successful clearance operations), in Haute-Savoie (the number of people recorded fell by half), and in Indre-et-Loire, Côte-d'Or, Moselle, Vienne and Bas-Rhin (clearance work on existing sites).

In other departments, the reduced numbers observed could be related to various factors related to the circumstances, such as greater numbers returning to their countries of origin or better support provided to people (in terms of shelter and emergency accommodation).

This is particularly pronounced in Île-de-France (from 6,516 people recorded to 4,732, which is a 27% drop in the number of people). This reduction could be linked to the combination of phenomena mentioned above and to movements of people out of Île-de-France (for seasonal work opportunities for example).

While the number of European migrants living in slums has fallen, **the overall number of people recorded on the Résorption-Bidonvilles platform has however increased**, going from 19,379 people recorded across 360 sites of over 10 inhabitants at the end of 2018 to 22,189 people living on 439 sites recorded in May 2021, which is an increase of 2,810 people. The number of minors has increased by 23%: from 4,622 minors recorded in 2018 (corresponding to 24% of the population), to 5,695 in May 2021, corresponding to 26% of the people recorded.

Change in the number of European migrants in slums in metropolitan France (2018-2021)

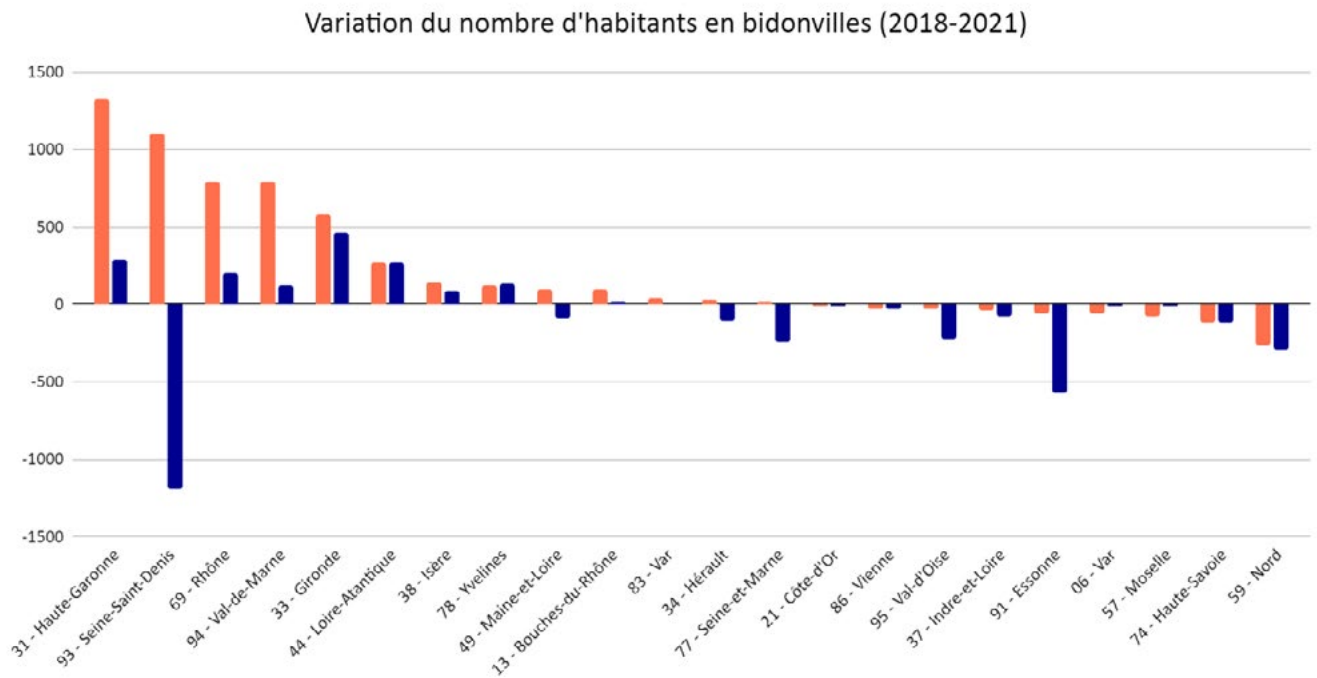
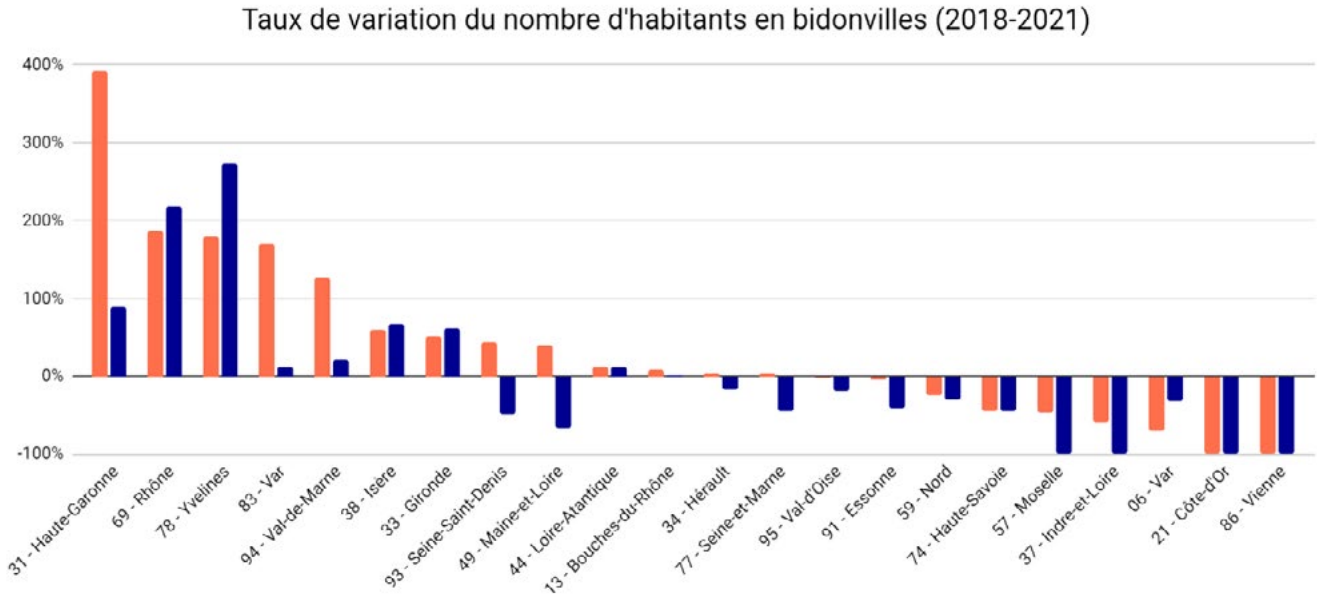


This can be explained by several factors:

- ➔ The data collection method and the increased use of the *Résorption-bidonvilles* platform partly explains the increase in numbers between February 2020 and October 2020;

- ➔ The increase is limited to certain departments and is generally due to the increase in the number of migrants from outside of the European Union since 2018, as is the case in Haute-Garonne and Seine-Saint-Denis. As for the number of migrants from inside the European Union in slums, this has dropped by more than half in the departments in question.

Change, expressed in percentage and in numbers, in the number of people living in slums between December 2018 and May 2021 by department



Slum inhabitants across all nationalities



European migrants

INITIATIVES CO-FINANCED BY THE DIHAL

Results

In total, **111 initiatives were carried out by more than 50 non-profit organisations and public bodies across 25 departments** (including 19 departments outside Île-de-France) in **2019 and 2020**.

Gradually, slum clearance is gaining structure and taking different forms, adapted to local circumstances; it can involve comprehensive social support on the sites, helping people into accommodation or special housing programmes, or initiatives focused on certain areas such as health or education outreach work. Alongside this, the efforts of the public employment service is facilitating the quick social integration of people living in slums.

The results for 2019 and 2020 are positive. They demonstrate an improvement in the skills of the people working with these communities on the ground, the success of the support programmes put in place and effective integration of slum inhabitants.



over **2,000 people were directed towards healthcare services** in 2019



over **2,460 people accessed housing** in 2019 and 2020



in 2019, almost **720 people entered into at least one employment contract or gained self-employed status.** In 2020, the **number of people who accused employment was 1,070.**



in 2020, over **3,100 children entered school.**

Thanks to these initiatives, some administrative regions were able to clear almost all of their slums. This was the case in the Indre-et-Loire, Moselle, Côte d'Or, Bas-Rhin and Vienne departments for example. In other departments, where the number of sites is higher, efforts have gained new momentum in 2020 and 2021. New funding and partnerships in Maine-et-Loire, Essonne, Seine-et-Marne, Yvelines, Val-de-Marne and Val-d'Oise should make it possible to accelerate clearance.

Number of people	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Permanently housed	1 300	1 150	1 320	1 844	1 072	1 464
Having entered employment	500	700	885	974	720	1 078
Children having entered school	1 200	1 800	1 275	1 694	1 431	3 125

Department	State-mandated organisations co-financed by the DIHAL in 2020 and 2021
Alpes-Maritimes	API Provence, ALC, Trajectoires
Bouches-du-Rhône	AMPIL, HAS, Soliha Provence, Paroles Vives, ADDAP13, L'École au présent
Côte-d'Or	COALLIA, ADEFO, 2Choses Lune
Haute-Garonne	SOLIHA, France Horizon, Unis-cités, Croix-Rouge française, Entraide Protestante, Rencont'roms nous, UCRM, Espoir, Solidarités International
Gironde	COS Quancard, Diaconat de Bordeaux, GIP Bordeaux
Hérault	AREA, 2Choses Lune, La Cimade, IPEICC
Indre-et-Loire	Entraides et Solidarités, Touraine Insertion
Isère	L'Oiseau Bleu
Loire	SOLIHA Loire
Loire-Atlantique	Association Saint-Benoît Labre, Une Famille Un Toît, PEP Atlantique Anjou, Les Forges, Trajectoires, Solidarités International
Maine-et-Loire	APTIRA, Abri de la Providence
Moselle	Amitié Tsiganes, Association Est Accompagnement
Nord	La Sauvegarde du Nord, SOLIHA Nord, AFEJI, Réseau Roma, IRIAE, Solidarités International
Rhône	Habitat Humanisme, Entreprendre pour Humaniser la Dépendance (EHP), C.L.A.S.S.E.S, ALYNEA, ALPIL, Médecins du Monde, Maison de la veille sociale
Haute-Savoie	Alfa3A
Var	Logivar-UDV (Romespérance), Paola Solidarité
Vaucluse	SOLIHA Vaucluse
Vienne	Audacia
Seine-et-Marne	Habitat Cité, Equalis
Yvelines	Trajectoires
Essonne	Acina, Intermède Robinson, COALLIA
Seine-Saint-Denis	École enchantiée, Acina, Alteralia, COALLIA, Première urgence internationale, Solidarités International, ASKOLA, Unis Cité, Hors la Rue, Rues et Cités
Val-de-Marne	Acine, Alteralia, Convivances, Emmaüs, Première urgence international, Trajectoires, Les PEP 94
Val-d'Oise	École et famille, ASAV, Acina, Croix-Rouge française

A CLOSER LOOK

Action by a local authority: Grenoble-Alpes Métropole involved in the clearance of slums

In Isère in December 2019, the prefecture, the department council and Grenoble-Alpes Métropole, an inter-communal authority, signed a regional protocol for slum clearance. Since then, the strong political will expressed by the stakeholders has enabled the implementation of a joint strategy. Grenoble-Alpes Métropole runs the MOUS (a state-subsidised project for the housing of disadvantaged people) entitled Résorption des campements (Clearance of informal settlements) and is fully involved in the policy steering committee. The Métropole contributes to the funding of initiatives for access to housing, employment and schooling and improvement of living conditions and employs two social outreach workers.





SPOTLIGHT ON

The expert assessment and diagnostics work supported by the DIHAL

The directive of 25 January 2018 provides a framework for the implementation of comprehensive regional clearance strategies. These strategies must meet specific needs identified by those carrying out work in the region and include objectives that have been set collectively. The approach is comprehensive and must cover all of the issues that arise in a slum, access to rights and economic and social integration but also matters of public order, education, child protection and the fight against human trafficking (forced begging or prostitution) and crime.

In order to better take into account the issues specific to each area, in 2020 the DIHAL formed a partnership with the non-profit organisation Trajectoires whose purpose is to **support public and non-profit bodies in putting in place relevant solutions for the social integration of people living in slums**. This organisation's work includes performing **'social diagnostics'** enabling participants in slum clearance work to have a complete and concrete view of people's situations, needs and expectations, to detect in advance risk factors (people under the control of others, dysfunction in certain families, the informal economy, etc.) that could compromise the progress of families on a pathway to the classic style of integration in France, and to identify those needs that are covered and those that are not covered by the existing measures in order to adapt them.

These diagnostics aim to provide detailed knowledge of the relationships between slum inhabitants, their migration experiences and the links maintained with the country of origin to give a broad overview aimed towards the possibility of joint management of a site (in the case of stabilisation projects) and to establish different types of integration for different households to match the needs and abilities of families. **Based on a shared assessment of the current situation, Trajectoires puts forward an action plan, coordinates its implementation and liaises between different non-profit and institutional participants.**

The organisation also contributes to events organised by the DIHAL aiming to provide local participants in slum clearance work with training on their working methodology and educate them about the situations of the people living in slums and the networks they can find themselves caught in.

In 2020, the organisation was active in Alpes-Maritimes, Loire-Atlantique and Yvelines.



A CLOSER LOOK

A co-financed initiative: the RMG programme in the Nantes metropolitan area

In Nantes, the RMG (Référence, Gestion, Médiation or Reference, Management, Outreach) programme is run by 6 FTEs provided by three state-mandated organisations: Asso Saint Benoit Labre (ASBL), Une Famille Un Toit (UFUT) and Les Forges Médiation. These social outreach workers are managed by Trajectoires, which has the role of strengthening the connections between partners by identifying the competent people within local authorities.

With the help of the social diagnostics carried out by Trajectoires, the outreach workers provide support for families on the sites where they live, following a 'we go to them' approach. Thanks to them, the prefecture can be informed about the living conditions in slums, which stimulates initiatives to improve these conditions.



A CLOSER LOOK

A co-financed initiative: the non-profit organisation Rencont'roms nous giving young people a voice

The non-profit organisation Rencont'roms nous is active in the slums and informal settlements of Toulouse, promoting the roles and the voices of young people. This includes education outreach work. In 2021, it published a booklet called 'Écrire son histoire' (Write your story), a collection of first-hand accounts by young people aged 16 to 25 of their first work experience, including as volunteers in the Service Civique (Civic Service):

<https://rencontromsnous.com/2021/06/28/edition-ecrire-son-histoire-nouveau-journal-dedie-a-la-parole-des-jeunes/>

Les rêves ne meurent que si on ne les utilise pas



SPOTLIGHT ON

Access to education

In 2020, the DIHAL, in collaboration with the DGESCO (Directorate General for Schools) and other partners, including ANDEV (the French National Association of Education Directors and Officials at Local Authorities), launched an initiative for the education and access to rights of children living in situations of extreme poverty (in slums, squats, temporary accommodation, on the streets, etc.) The change in scale of the slum clearance policy enabled an unprecedented increase in the resources allocated to schooling and supporting parents, vital tools in the fight against the perpetuation of poverty.

This prioritisation of the issue of education has translated into the launch of a programme for supporting children into and in school to keep them in education in the long term. Developed in collaboration with all of the parties involved in each region (prefectures, DDETSs (Departmental Directorates for Employment, Work and Solidarity), Rectorates (local education authorities), CASNAVs (Academic Centres for the Schooling of Newly-Arrived Non-Native French Speaking Children and Children from Travelling Families), departmental directorates for education, local authorities, etc.), this programme made it possible to recruit, for the 2020-2021 school year, **around thirty voluntary sector liaison officers over 15 departments.**

These people trained in supporting pupils before, during and after school have varied professional backgrounds (social workers specialised in the education of people with difficulties, school monitors, volunteers with proven practical experience, etc.). They are tasked with identifying children from the youngest possible age and raising families' awareness of the importance of school, helping with the school application process, supporting parents in keeping their children in school and preventing drop-outs (accompanying children to school, tutoring, monitoring attendance, links with teaching teams, etc.), helping children to access before and after-school and cultural activities and preparing 14-18-year-olds for the development of a career plan.

Since its launch in summer 2020, the initiative has produced convincing results, having notably contributed to getting many children back into school in the context of the public health crisis. This progress has been reaffirmed and heightened throughout the first half of 2021. Thanks to the dedication of the liaison officers and the connections forged with the families and all the relevant people at the school, **the programme succeeded in getting 3,125 children into school that year, which is two times more than in 2019; 1,900 children received personalised support in their education with real effects on their attendance and on drop-out rates.**

As with all initiatives co-financed by funds allocated to slum clearance, this work supporting children into school was monitored via the *Résorption-bidonvilles* platform.

A CLOSER LOOK

A co-financed initiative: the French Red Cross and École et Famille in Val d'Oise, an example of voluntary sector coordination

The French Red Cross has been working in slums in Val d'Oise since January 2021. With help from the organisation École et Famille, which was already active in this department, it was able to learn about the work already taking place and propose additional intervention. École et Famille's home-school liaison officers then facilitated the implementation of the Red Cross's new initiatives in the slums. In addition, the two organisations are carrying out joint initiatives; for example, the Red Cross collected donations of school supplies which were distributed to the children by École et Famille.



© Unsplash

INTERVIEW

Merson, home-school liaison officer in Marseille with the non-profit organisation L'École au présent

What drew you to school outreach work?

"My name is Merson, I'm 19 and I've lived in Marseille since I was 15. I started school at the age of 12. I watched Jane Bouvier (the head of École au présent) do her work for years and I wanted to do the same thing"

What does the support you offer involve?

"I try to explain to parents and children that it's important to go to school so that you can get a job later on. I go with them to school in the morning and if the teachers call me to let me know that a child is absent, I go and see the parents to find out why."

What kind of relationships do you have with the families?
With the children?

"They are very good relationships, these are families that I know well. I lived in the street for years with my parents, before we were housed."

How do you work with the teachers?
How are you able to help them?

"I translate for them, I explain to them about the children's situation, because I am very familiar with it."

How do you play a part in helping education professionals to better recognise and understand the reality of these children's lives?

"I talk about my old life, use myself as an example and explain the living conditions of these families."

■ **Find out about home-school liaison work in slums as described by the liaison officers:** <https://spark.adobe.com/page/iV0ipVXXQmNfV/>



SPOTLIGHT ON

Access to housing and employment (SIBEL programme)

The SIBEL programme (Sortie Inclusive du Bidonville par l'Emploi et le Logement, Inclusive Removal from Slums Through Employment and Housing) aims to offer migrants from within the European Union living in slums, particularly women, **a process of training and access to employment and housing combined with increased individual support**. This access to employment and housing at the same time should accelerate progress towards the objective of slum clearance.

Increased overall support is provided throughout the process (access to rights and support with accessing and remaining in employment and housing) by a designated organisation in each department to set up the SIBEL process and support the people following it (SIBEL implementer). The implementer designates a point of contact for the process within the organisation who is responsible for liaising with the providers of public services that are open to all.

Companies in the region, particularly IAE (*Insertion par l'activité économique*, Integration Through Economic Activity) organisations, get involved to provide work placements during the training period and, if possible, jobs when people finish the training.

The access to housing is facilitated through a partnership with Action Logement (Soli'AL). The implementer of the support can receive funds from the AVDL (*Accompagnement Vers et Dans le Logement*, Support Into and in Housing) programme and make use of the services offered by Action Logement to people with a contract of employment in a company of more than 10 employees, with the possibility of using part of Action Logement's share of new housing.

The programme was rolled out in 2020, in 9 departments where SIBEL implementers were designated to support **cohorts of 15 people (which means 135 people for 2021):**

- **ILE-DE-FRANCE**
Essonne, Seine-Saint-Denis, Val-de-Marne ;
- **PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR**
Bouches-du-Rhône (Aix-Marseille Métropole) ;
- **OCCITANIE**
Haute-Garonne (Toulouse),
- **AUVERGNE RHÔNE ALPES**
Isère (Grenoble Alpes Métropole), Haute-Savoie ;
- **PAYS-DE-LA-LOIRE**
Loire Atlantique (Nantes Métropole) ;
- **HAUTS-DE-FRANCE**
Nord (Métropole européenne de Lille).



Target:

To support 540 people
over two years (2021-2022)





A CLOSER LOOK

A co-financed initiative undertaken by La Sauvegarde du Nord, observation of the slums and support at interim sites for integration

The non-profit organisation La Sauvegarde du Nord works in squats and slums in the Lille metropolitan area. It is tasked with an observational role which consists of identifying places that are being occupied, counting the number of families and carrying out an assessment of the situation regarding access to rights. The organisation uses the Résorption-bidonvilles digital platform to carry out this role.

La Sauvegarde du Nord gives families the chance to leave the slum and move temporarily to a 'sas d'insertion', an interim site for integration where they can receive comprehensive social support. In this new home, the families can develop a sustainable plan for access to employment and housing.

INTERVIEW

Argentina, participant in the SIBEL programme in Lille

Can you introduce yourself?

"My name is Argentina and I have been in France for ten years. I've got four children, all boys. They are aged nine, eight, six and four. They all go to school."

Did you like the SIBEL process?

"The training went well, I learned French. I did a two-week work placement, and after that I signed my work contract. And now I live in a mobile home! It's not too far from my work, a 40-minute walk."

And do you like your work?

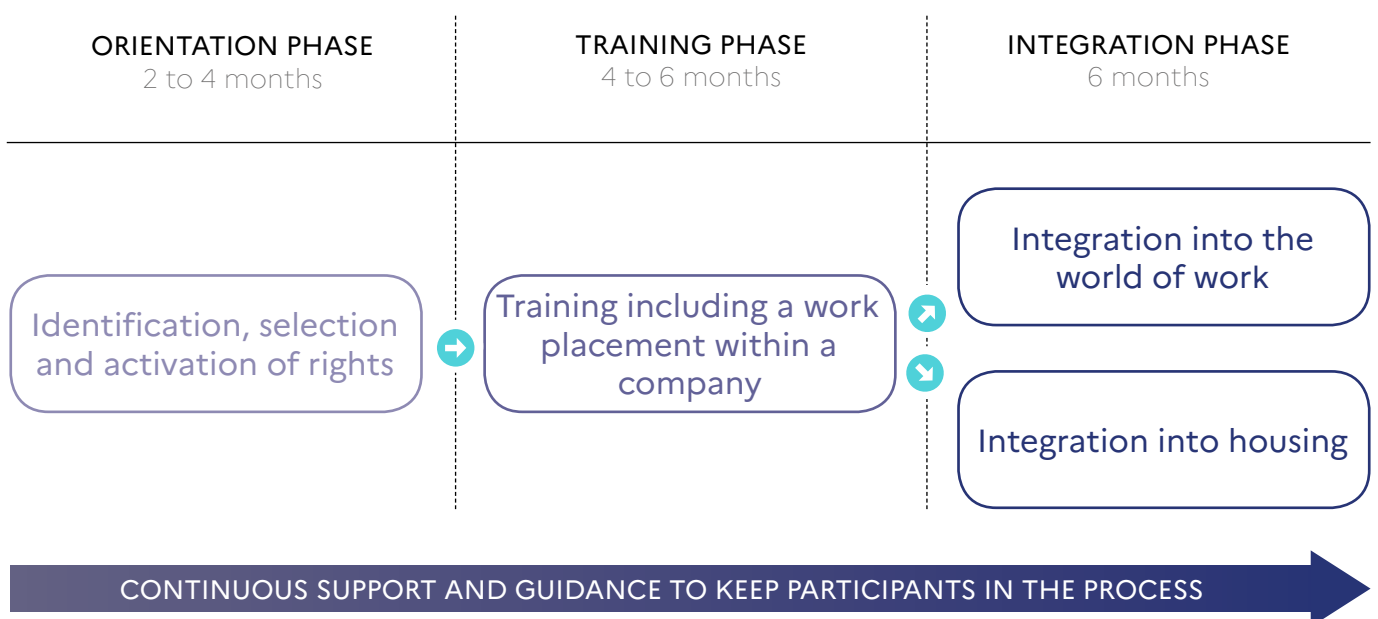
"Yes, it's going very well! I'm working for an organisation for integration through work."

Could you speak French before going into the SIBEL programme?

"No, not at all, I couldn't say more than bonjour! Now I speak it well."

■ **Hear from six participants in the SIBEL programme about their experiences:** <https://spark.adobe.com/page/sA6U19foL5SUx/>

SIBEL : a 3-step process



MAJOR ACTION DURING THE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

In the first half of 2020, **the COVID-19 crisis prompted an unprecedented level of action in slums, where the health and humanitarian risks were particularly pronounced.** New local authorities became involved and new non-profit organisations appeared.

The DIHAL made sure that directions related to access to water and food and to health protection measures were applied on the ground. As soon as lockdown measures were put in place, the slum clearance department set up video conferences with the parties active on the ground using the IdealCO collaborative platform [<https://www.idealco.fr/groupe/386>]. This enabled good practices to be brought into use and shared.

It also monitored the situation in each local area with real-time reporting via the *Résorption-bidonvilles* platform. The platform was used for many purposes, including to notify prefectures of infection cases, identify food aid needs, coordinate healthcare interventions and draw up twice-weekly summaries which were submitted to the CIC (Inter-Ministerial Crisis Cell).

The improvement of living conditions a priority, especially access to water on the sites

In December 2018, only 72 out of the 224 sites reported on the *Résorption-bidonvilles* platform had access to water. To reduce the risk of transmission of the virus and protect the inhabitants of slums, the DIHAL stimulated and supported interventions aimed at improving living conditions. As a result, in April 2020, 312 out of 435 sites were identified as having access to water, with 76% of the people living in slums supplied. **By June 2020, the percentage of inhabitants with access to water had risen to almost 90%.**

The DIHAL called on the logistical support of emergency aid and humanitarian organisations, in addition to the usual non-profit social support organisations, for water, sanitation and hygiene work, food distribution and health protection. During this period, Solidarités International, Action Against Hunger, Doctors of the World and the French Red Cross contributed. **Although their involvement was in response to an urgent need, it enabled new practices and partners to emerge.** These must now be translated into the development and implementation of local slum clearance strategies, since it must be noted that the access to water at some of the sites is not safe (the inhabitants might have to cross a road), is not close enough to the inhabitants (over 200 metres away) or does not meet their needs (small number of taps). To ensure continuous and safe access to drinking water, the DIHAL is continuing with its work rallying different participants in slum clearance work.



SPOTLIGHT ON

Access to water

Ensuring access to water in slums, and a minimum standard of living conditions more generally, is vital. It is a matter of making sure the inhabitants' basic needs are met as well as keeping the site contained, avoiding outward movement and thereby reducing difficulties, as much for the inhabitants as for the residents of the surrounding area, which can in turn contribute to its acceptability while it remains there.

The COVID-19 crisis made these considerations all the more important and showed that access to water on these sites is a health and humanitarian issue. Therefore, during the year 2020, this type of intervention gradually became more structured and brought together parties with the appropriate political and technical competency in this area.

In practical terms, city councils and inter-communal bodies, working directly with the prefectures and DDETSs (Departmental Directorates for Employment, Work and Solidarity), were able to get more directly involved in **ensuring that there were sources of water that met the needs of the inhabitants in place**, either on the sites or in close proximity. The parties active on the ground, mainly voluntary, played an important role by passing on information about non-covered sites or those for which appropriate maintenance needed to be put in place. Many lessons were learned from this ramp-up in the work being done in relation to water access. These were shared in a workshop dedicated to this topic on 3 July 2020.

Promising prospects also emerged with the adoption of the **Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the quality of water intended for human consumption** on 16 December 2020. In article 16 of the Directive, Member States are asked to take the necessary measures to improve or protect access to water intended for human consumption for all, particularly vulnerable or marginalised groups.

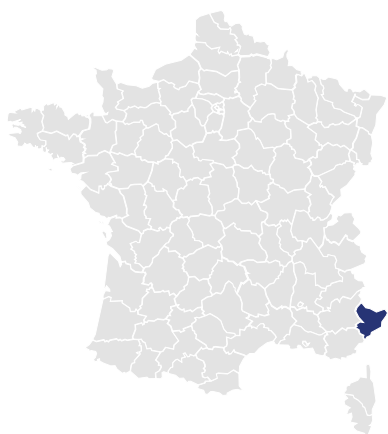
The DIHAL also supported the NGO Solidarités International's work in France, signing an agreement with it and providing funding to support the initiation of this project.



Current situation by Area

ÉTAT DES LIEUX TERRITOIRE PAR TERRITOIRE

DONNÉES AU 12 MAI 2021



06 | Alpes-Maritimes



1 site
with more than 10 inhabitants



26 EU migrants
26 people in total



Housing First plan



5 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
0	0

Children having entered school



People having entered employment



People permanently housed



13 | Bouches-du-Rhône



27 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants



1 184 EU migrants
1 287 people in total



4 home-school liaison officers



Housing First plan



SIBEL Programme



17 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
0	3
0	5

Children having entered school

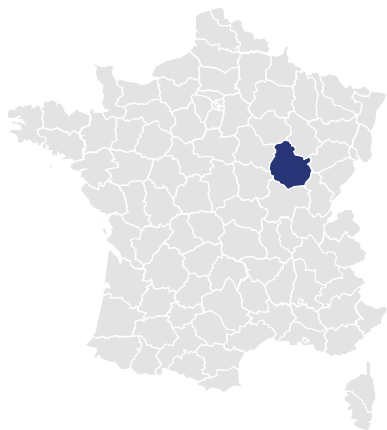


People having entered employment



People permanently housed





21 | Côte-d'Or



0 site
with more than 10 inhabitants



0 EU migrant
0 people in total



0,5 home-school liaison officer



Housing First plan



7 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
0	1
0	1

Children having entered school
2019: 24
2020: 13

People having entered employment
2019: 9
2020: 2

People permanently housed
2019: 124
2020: 3



31 | Haute-Garonne



38 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants



617 EU migrants
1 659 people in total



4 home-school liaison officers



Housing First plan



Programme SIBEL



25 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

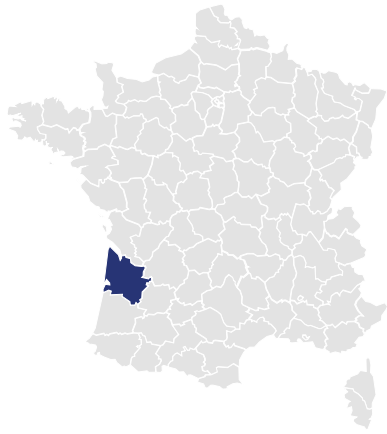
Sites cleared

2019	2020
0	1
0	0

Children having entered school
2019: 147
2020: 196

People having entered employment
2019: 125
2020: 124

People permanently housed
2019: 60
2020: 105



33 | Gironde



45 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants



1 217 EU migrants
1 702 people in total



Housing First plan



54 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
00	01

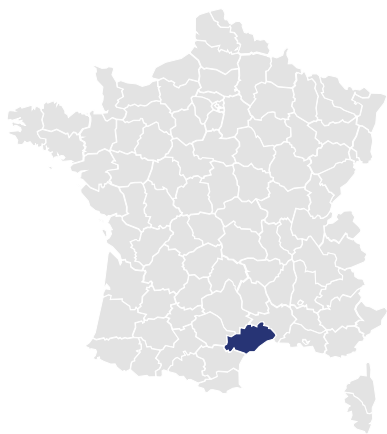
Children having entered school



People having entered employment



People permanently housed



34 | Hérault



11 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants



574 EU migrants
891 people in total



Housing First plan



3 home-school liaison officers



23 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
00	00

Children having entered school



People having entered employment



People permanently housed





37 | Indre-et-Loire

1 site
with more than 10 inhabitants

0 EU migrant
30 people in total

Joint roadmap

0,5 home-school liaison officer

Housing First plan

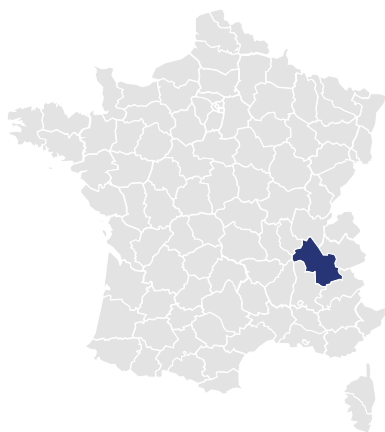
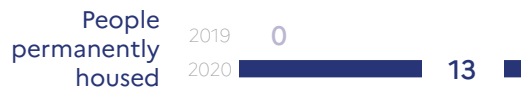


7 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
0	1
0	0



38 | Isère

8 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants

222 EU migrants
386 people in total

Joint roadmap

SIBEL Programme

1 home-school liaison officer

Housing First plan



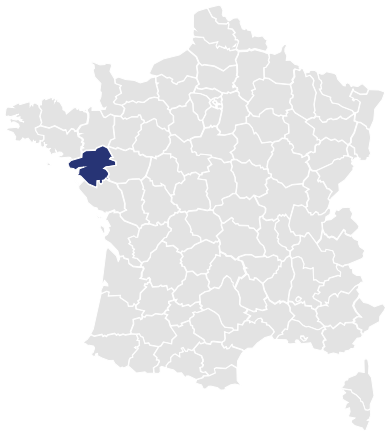
12 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
0	0
0	1





44 | Loire-Atlantique

44 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants

2 594 EU migrants
2 594 people in total

5 home-school liaison officers

Housing First plan

SIBEL Programme



56 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

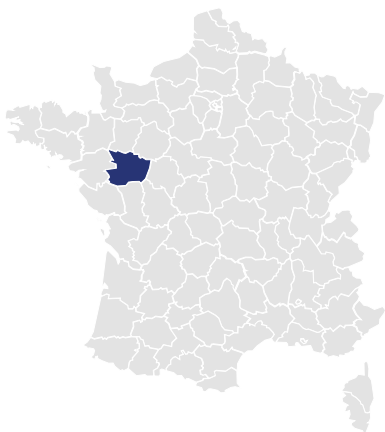
Sites cleared

2019	2020
0 1	0 0

Children having entered school
2019 82
2020 660

People having entered employment
2019 36
2020 57

People permanently housed
2019 15
2020 25



49 | Maine-et-Loire

8 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants

41 EU migrants
353 people in total

Children having entered school
2019 n.c.
2020 20

People having entered employment
2019 n.c.
2020 n.c.

People permanently housed
2019 n.c.
2020 n.c.

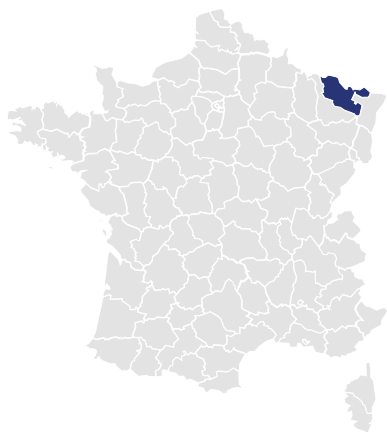


6 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
0 2	0 0



57 | Moselle



2 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants



0 EU migrant
89 people in total



Joint roadmap



Housing First plan



6 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

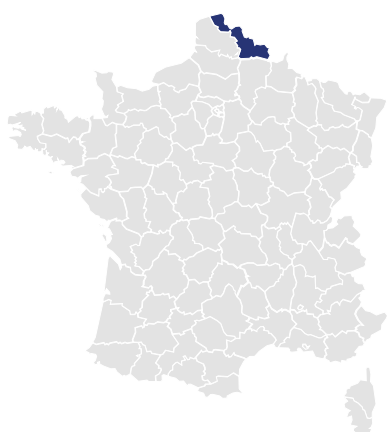
Sites cleared

2019	2020
0	1

Children having entered school
2019: 15
2020: 12

People having entered employment
2019: 10
2020: 8

People permanently housed
2019: 40
2020: 22



59 | Nord



31 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants



714 EU migrants
847 people in total



6 home-school liaison officers



Housing First plan



SIBEL Programme



12 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

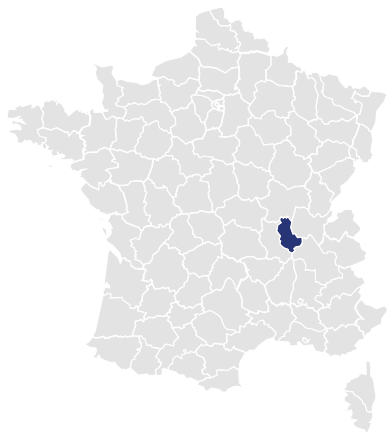
Sites cleared

2019	2020
2	0

Children having entered school
2019: 283
2020: 302

People having entered employment
2019: 78
2020: 53

People permanently housed
2019: 253
2020: 344



69 | Rhône



29 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants



296 EU migrants
1 219 people in total



Housing First plan



1 home-school liaison officer

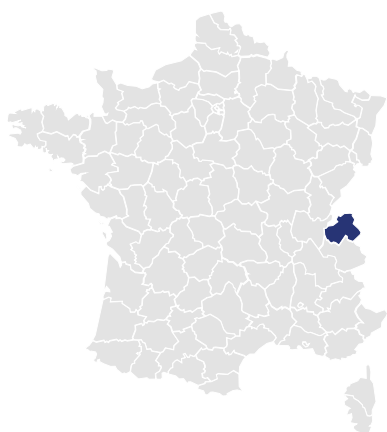


25 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
00	00



74 | Haute-Savoie



4 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants



137 EU migrants
137 people in total



1,5 home-school liaison officers



SIBEL Programme



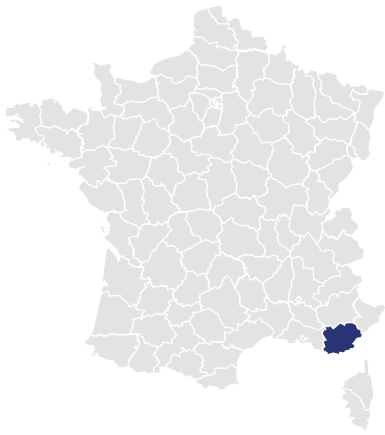
15 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
00	00





83 | Var



3 sites

with more than 10 inhabitants



26 EU migrants

62 people in total



0,5 home-school liaison officer



Housing First plan



3 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
0	1
0	0

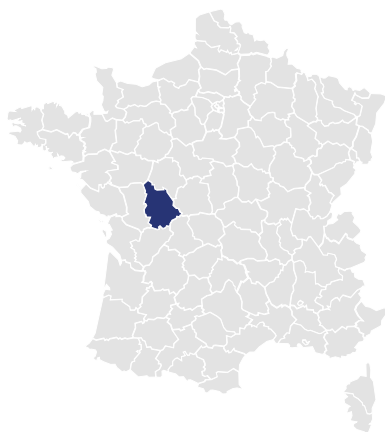
Children having entered school



People having entered employment



People permanently housed



86 | Vienne



0 site

with more than 10 inhabitants



0 EU migrant

0 people in total



0,5 home-school liaison officer



Housing First plan



Joint roadmap



7 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
0	1
0	0

Children having entered school

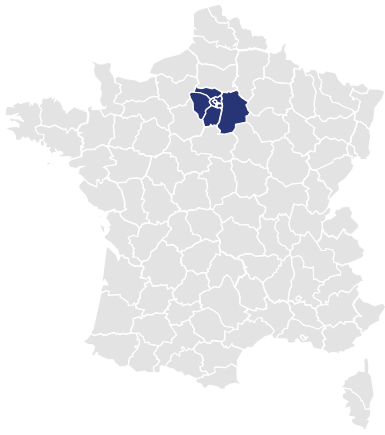


People having entered employment



People permanently housed



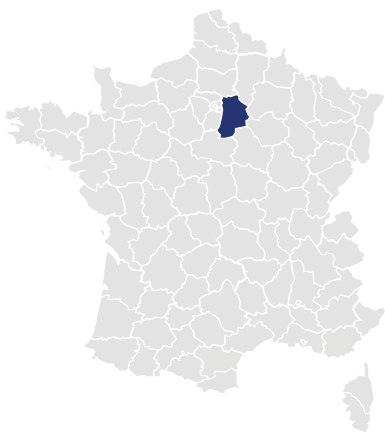
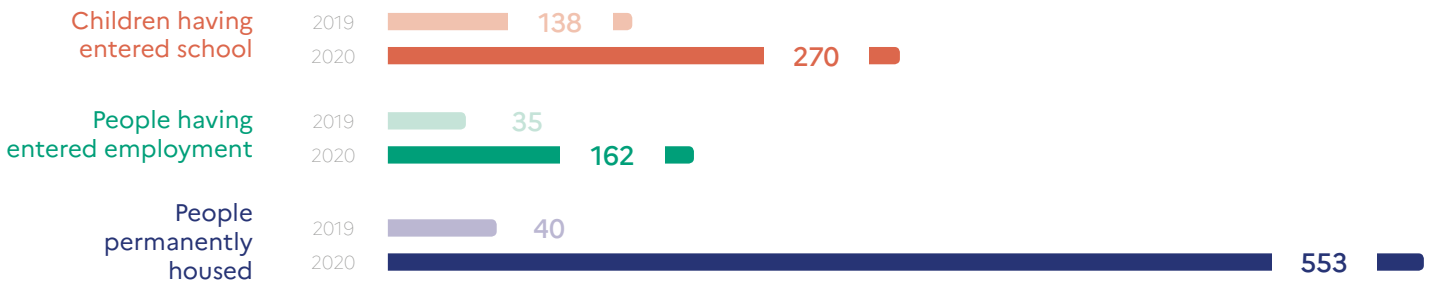


Projets régionaux | Ile-de-France

151 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants

4 732 EU migrants
8 782 people in total

98 users
résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr



77 | Seine-et-Marne

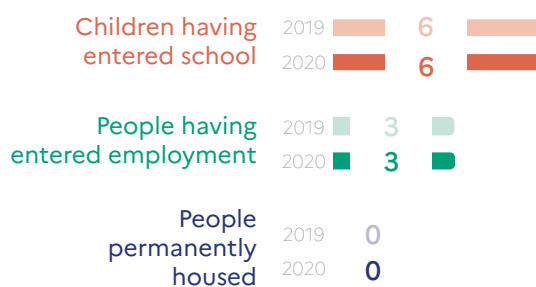
12 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants

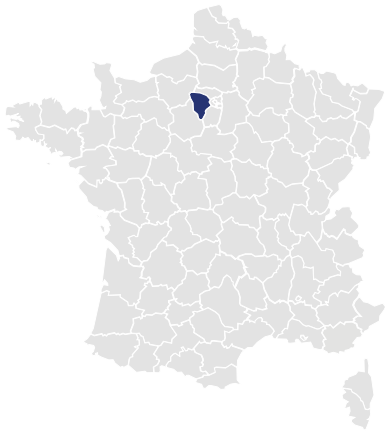
300 EU migrants
663 people in total

11 users
résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
00	06





78 | Yvelines



9 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants



183 EU migrants
193 people in total



3 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

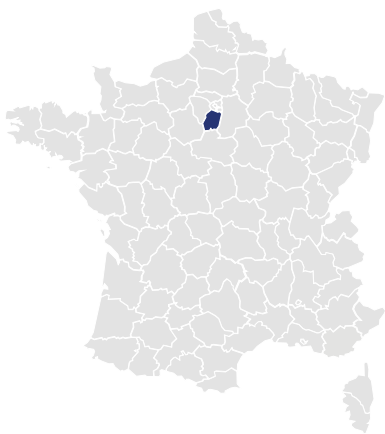
Sites cleared

2019	2020
0 0	0 0

Children having entered school
2019 0
2020 0

People having entered employment
2019 0
2020 0

People permanently housed
2019 0
2020 0



91 | Essonne



26 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants



809 EU migrants
1 328 people in total



2 home-school liaison officers



14 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

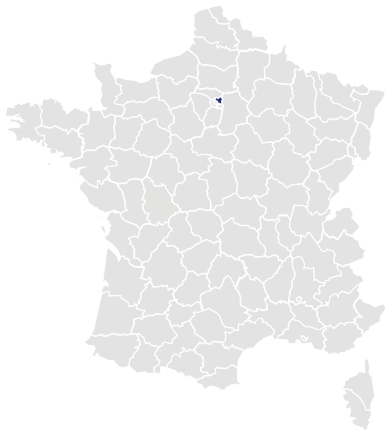
Sites cleared

2019	2020
0 2	0 1

Children having entered school
2019 0
2020 89

People having entered employment
2019 0
2020 18

People permanently housed
2019 0
2020 0



93 | Seine-Saint-Denis



48 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants



1 290 EU migrants
3 583 people in total



6 home-school liaison officer



Housing First plan



Joint roadmap



30 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
00	00

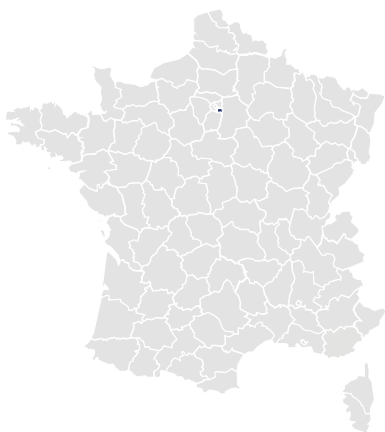
Children having entered school



People having entered employment



People permanently housed



94 | Val-de-Marne



30 sites
with more than 10 inhabitants



718 EU migrants
1 419 people in total



15 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
00	00

Children having entered school

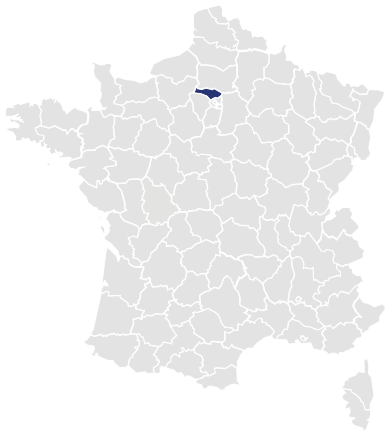


People having entered employment



People permanently housed





95 | Val-d'Oise



22 sites

with more than 10 inhabitants



921 ressortissants UE

1 111 people in total



2 home-school liaison officers



Housing First plan



Joint roadmap



25 users

résorption-bidonvilles.beta.gouv.fr

Sites cleared

2019	2020
03	00

Children having entered school



People having entered employment



People permanently housed



APPENDIX

THE DIHAL'S ROADMAP

Put the public 'street to housing' service (a Housing First policy framework) in place

- Roll out the five-year Housing First plan
- Guide the transformation of the temporary housing stock according to a long-term trajectory compatible with Housing First
- Make the SIAOs** (Integrated support services for homeless people in each departement) **the cornerstone of the implementation of Housing First in a local level**
- Develop a new pricing system for CHRSS (Temporary Accommodation and Social Reintegration Centres) and propose measures to simplify administrative processes
- Better accommodate specific groups** such as women who have been victims of violence, young people without a fixed home and highly marginalised people
- Continue to humanise and renovate** homeless shelters and day centers
- Develop a strategy** and take action in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior on welcoming and providing accommodation to asylum seekers
- Mieux support migrants** in temporary accommodation
- Improve dialogue with the **voluntary sector**

Develop the structural levers for the implementation of Housing First

- Improve knowledge on homeless people** and improve the visibility of existing studies
- Develop a SI-SIAO (the digital platform of integrated support services for homeless people) that lives up to the expectations**
- Develop the special housing options available** : temporary social housing, services for renting through an intermediary, homeless households boarding houses, social housing for people in extreme poverty, etc.
- Accelerate access to housing for people with no fixed address, especially refugees**, by strengthening coordination with all involved parties in each area
- Develop area-specific approaches with partners** and support local authorities in the implementation of Housing First
- Transform and make consistent support services** for homeless households
- Boost combined approaches** looking at employment and housing or health and housing

Put social performance at the heart of the fight against homelessness

- Make programme 177 a tool for the implementation of Housing First** according to a controlled long-term trajectory
- Develop a long-term area-specific plan**
- Give clarity** to the different parties involved and **take on a joint strategy for managing costs** to make accommodation prices per person more consistent and adapted to individual regions
- Make results-based management and prioritisation of social performance standard**
- Strengthen the management dialogue** with local authorities and state-mandated organisations
- Rework the **temporary housing stock monitoring system** and simplify survey methods
- Continue with the **professionalisation of voluntary sector workers**

Prevent evictions

Implement the third inter-ministerial plan for preventing evictions

- ✓ Ensure a gradual transition from the state of public health emergency to a **controlled return to the usual management of the rental eviction procedure**
- ✓ **Improve the electronic reporting** of people threatened with eviction and the ability to monitor activity (EXPLOC)
- ✓ **Increase the power afforded to CCAPEXs** (Commissions for the Coordination of Actions for the Prevention of Evictions) and set up more of them
- ✓ Continue work towards the **development of a landlord compensation strategy**
- ✓ **Involve metropolitan councils** in the strategies for preventing rental evictions in their areas

Develop a comprehensive strategy to ensure travellers' needs are taken into account

- ✓ **Improve the recognition of travellers' homes as a type of residence**
- ✓ **Renovate halting sites** within the context of the recovery plan
- ✓ Draw up a **general plan to improve the accommodation and living conditions** of travellers
- ✓ **Improve school registration and drop-out rates** among children from itinerant and traveller families
- ✓ Revitalise the **departmental plans** for the accommodation of travellers
- ✓ **Run the French National Consultative Commission on Travellers** for a five-year term

Transform housing centres for migrant workers (FTMs)

- ✓ **Accelerate the government plan for the transformation of FTMs** through the recovery plan and support for state-mandated organisations
- ✓ **Strengthen the coordination of the network** and circulate good practices
- ✓ Deploy the roadmap to **create more temporary social housing** and specify its social goals
- ✓ **Increase special monitoring** of migrants in certain situations (e.g. pandemic, heatwave)

Take action in all areas where progress can be made towards slum clearance

- ✓ **Rejuvenate the slum clearance policy** en by reinforcing slum clearance joint strategies
- ✓ **Improve the identification and education of children in situations of extreme poverty** (in squats, slums, temporary accommodation, on the streets, etc.) and reduce drop-out rates
- ✓ Develop a **professional version of the digital platform**
- ✓ Develop a **network of specialists in slum clearance work**

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- p.19 Action by a local authority: Grenoble-Alpes Métropole involved in the clearance of slums
- p.20 A co-financed initiative: the RMG programme in the Nantes metropolitan area
- p.21 A co-financed initiative: the non-profit organisation Rencont'roms nous giving young people a voice
- p.22 A co-financed initiative: the French Red Cross and École et Famille in Val d'Oise, an example of voluntary sector coordination
- p.25 A co-financed initiative undertaken by La Sauvegarde du Nord, observation of the slums and support at interim sites for integration

Acknowledgements

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- the DIHAL's departmental contacts designated by the prefects to coordinate action related to slums in their regions;
- the DDETSs (Departmental Directorates for Employment, Work and Solidarity), the DDTs (Departmental Land-Use Directorates) and the regional directorates, which direct and finance these initiatives and monitor their implementation;
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