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# THE VEOLIA FOUNDATION

The Foundation supports community-oriented, nonprofit projects contributing to sustainable development, in France and abroad. Its priority areas of action are humanitarian emergencies and development aid, employment and social links, and environmental conservation and biodiversity. It takes an original approach by having each project supported by a Group employee acting as sponsor and by encouraging skills sponsorship, which gives its partners - nonprofits and institutions - access to the know-how of its Veoliaforce network of employee volunteers. Since its creation, in 2004, the Foundation has supported more than 1,500 projects and carried out more than 200 skills volunteering missions.

# ANTOINE FRÉROT

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
of Veolia



The Foundation is used to managing crises – it was created for this very purpose and has organized itself accordingly. Whether unexpected or chronic, local or global, environmental, health or social, natural or manmade, sudden or lasting: the Foundation intervened in all these types of crisis in 2020, harnessing its expertise, resources and commitment to protect people caught up in disasters, combat exclusion and preserve biodiversity.

The Foundation does not claim the stature or the capacity to respond to global disasters, but it acts locally to alleviate or prevent some of the damage they cause. For instance, during the coronavirus pandemic that ravaged – and continues to ravage – many countries, it delivered hygiene kits to people living on the streets and installed water-access solutions in precarious living environments in France. In Cameroon, it worked to raise awareness of preventive measures and strengthened water infrastructure to reduce the spread of the virus and maintain essential services.

**“The Foundation acts to prevent crises from winning, to ensure that they never win, even if, by surprise, they may claim a temporary victory.”**

Also in 2020, the Foundation carried out another atypical mission following the explosion that destroyed the port of Beirut and part of the old town to repair the city’s water network and restore its full distribution capacity – a post-disaster intervention that was unique for being performed in a dense urban environment rather than the kind of rural setting in which such work is usually done.

These two unexpected and unforeseeable disasters – one due to disease and the other manmade – mark the intrusion of the impossible into the real world. But the Foundation’s role is to react to less extraordinary – and, sadly, more common – crises such as the floods in Niger, that deprived communities living on the right bank of Niamey of safe drinking water, or more lasting crises that leave men and women unable to find work. It also acts to clean up regions polluted by the collision of modern practices and the natural environment, and to mitigate the damage wrought by armed conflict, as in Nagorno-Karabakh, where it helped nonprofits deliver the basic necessities of life to populations that have lost everything.

In all these circumstances, the Foundation acts to prevent crises from winning, to ensure that they never win, even if, by surprise, they may claim a temporary victory. It calls on human beings to save other human beings and to save nature, without which we cannot live but which we so often mistreat. In all these circumstances, the Foundation seeks to maximize its impact through its know-how, the dedication of its volunteers and the support of its partners, who increase its firepower. Its impact is tiny compared to the infinite sea of human misery, but powerful compared to the resources it mobilizes and immense for those who benefit from its help. Our means are small, but we have high ambitions; our resources may be limited but not their impact – this is the goal that inspires the Foundation’s action.

INTERVIEW

# WITH **THIERRY VANDEVELDE**

Executive Officer  
of the Veolia Foundation



**“Collective action lets us maximize the impact of our individual actions. 1 + 1 = 3, you could say!”**

**How has the Foundation been able to bring all its added value to bear since the beginning of the crisis?**

**THIERRY VANDEVELDE:** We are familiar with health crises! Basically, water and hygiene have always been our priorities. With our humanitarian emergency partners – Solidarités International and Médecins du Monde – we very quickly identified the needs of the most underprivileged communities in France, primarily homeless people and migrants forced to endure lockdown in the street or unofficial camps and without access to water and therefore unable to respect barrier measures. Together, thanks to our network of Veoliaforce volunteers, we assessed the needs and came up with solutions.

**What are the highlights you would emphasize in this atypical year?**

First and foremost, the great trust placed in us by our partner the Agence française de développement (French development agency – AFD), which renewed support for the program to combat cholera we have been conducting since 2007 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Secondly, I would mention the departure of Tara on a two-year mission in South America to study the marine microbiome and its sensitivity to climate warming and pollution, and lastly, the ramp-up of our partnership with the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation on the BeMed program to combat plastic pollution in the Mediterranean, with creation of the BeMed Business Club, that Veolia has joined.

**Does the conjunction of crises – health, climate, economic – encourage the “hybrid partnerships” that you promote?**

This context calls for an effective response that must be partnership-based and hybrid. This is the thrust of our advocacy with the Foreign Affairs Ministry’s crisis and support center for adoption of a combined public- and private-sector model in response to humanitarian emergencies. It is the only way to respond to the huge challenges of a world that is urbanizing, where the conventional approaches no longer work. The Foundation excels in

urban utilities, whereas an NGO focuses on managing crises, in rural areas. Together, we are capable of bringing collegiate responses that are more ambitious on the technical and human levels. Take the example of the dramatic explosion in Lebanon in August 2020. At the request of UNICEF, a historic partner, Veoliaforce carried out an emergency mission involving, in particular, a large-scale search for leaks in the water networks – a set of expertise that is rare in our world – before UNICEF could finance the repair work. Another example is our program to combat cholera in DRC with the AFD, in scientific partnership with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. The Foundation was able to bring together actors from very different horizons (financial backers, engineers with water expertise, local authorities, Health Ministry, etc.), for a multi-sector strategy to eliminate cholera.

#### **Is innovation still a driver of action for the Foundation?**

Absolutely! Because our goal is effectiveness, we have to identify areas that allow us to maximize our added value. Innovation is one of them, on key priorities close to the Group's core activities such as water and sanitation. With Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), for instance, we are looking at the “greening” of humanitarian action to mitigate the environmental impact of its missions on the ground. At the MSF hospital in Port-au-Prince in Haiti, the Foundation has notably installed a unit to treat effluent that combines biodisks, filtration and UV disinfection of residual pathogenic agents. In the Rohingya refugee camps in Myanmar, where Solidarités International manages the fecal sludge produced by 4,000 latrines, we optimized an anaerobic treatment installation with filtration basins.

#### **What can you say about the force of collective action in such an unprecedented and uncertain period?**

Collective action lets us maximize the impact of our individual actions.  $1 + 1 = 3$ , you could say. This was the main thrust of

our operation to distribute hygiene kits. Croix-Rouge Insertion (CRI) was able to continue helping its work-integration employees who assembled the kits. NGOs active on the ground then distributed them. The platform proved to be a virtuous one, so much so that financial backers – the Fondation Vinci pour la Cité, the Crédit Agricole Solidarité et Développement Foundation, the Eiffage Foundation and the real-estate operator Icade joined us and provided additional funding. Another example is the innovative “Territoires zéro chômeur longue durée” program conducted in some ten specific areas by several NGOs. The idea is to redeploy the resources mobilized to deal with long-term unemployment to create new jobs. The Foundation, a stakeholder, has financed a project in the Val-d’Oise département. The approach is gaining ground – the French government has decided to expand the initiative to 130 local areas.

#### **In what way does the Foundation participate in the corporate purpose defined by the Group?**

Through our different programs to improve access to water, innovation, biodiversity, social and humanitarian action, the Foundation participates in Veolia's corporate purpose. We are on the ground; we work alongside numerous NGOs and United Nations agencies to strengthen different sets of expertise in a proactive and partnership-based approach. We have a strong inclination towards operational partnerships in difficult countries, so as to give the Group a broader window on the world. This crisis is prompting us to make a step change and rethink essential services as the key to our resilience.

# THE VIRTUOUS CIRCLE OF COLLECTIVE MOBILIZATION

**On March 17, 2020, France shut down, stranding its most vulnerable people even more on the outer ring of society.** The coronavirus was circulating and barrier gestures became mandatory. But how can you adopt them if you live in precarious circumstances, without water or soap? How can you adopt the – now crucial – hygiene practices in unofficial camps, squats or shanty towns?

The NGOs Médecins du Monde and Solidarités International, very active on the ground, sought to respond by installing water supply connections and distributing hygiene kits – shower gel, paper tissues, soap, toothbrushes and infant diapers – all packed in a transparent sachet. But they needed to find money to finance the purchases and find a contact capable of making up several hundreds of kits during the lockdown. The Veolia Foundation offered financial support to Croix-Rouge insertion (CRI), a subsidiary of the French Red Cross, so that their employees on work-integration schemes could assemble the kits. The goal: to let CRI continue its vital work of combating precariousness through development of employment, even during the lockdown.



To finance the purchase of products and CRI's work and also to provide access to water for those deprived of it, several private-sector players stepped up to the plate. The Fondation Vinci pour la Cité, the Crédit Agricole Solidarité et Développement Foundation, the Eiffage Foundation and the real-estate operator Icade all mobilized around the project. In just a few weeks, several thousands of kits were assembled, dispatched and distributed by NGOs (Médecins du Monde, Solidarités International, Autremonde, ASAV 92) notably in Île-de-France and the Toulouse region. An unprecedented platform to pool resources and help homeless people, and ensure that the essential work of integration done by the Red Cross could continue despite the lockdown.

## FLORE JACHIMOWICZ

Icade



### **“A commitment in favor of inclusion.”**

We didn't hesitate for a second to join the Veolia Foundation's initiative: first because it fits with the outreach actions we have always promoted, and secondly because it kept work-integration employees on the job, while at the same time meeting the needs of the most vulnerable people who didn't have easy access to hygiene during the crisis period. The initiative corresponded to our commitment in favor of inclusion. Even today, we are still fully committed to acting as the health crisis continues.

## MATHIEU ALESI

Fondation Vinci pour la Cité



### **“Bringing different players together to combine strengths around the same commitment.”**

The lockdown and the health crisis had immediate impacts on the most vulnerable people: we became aware of this very fast thanks to our network of partners. We chose to support people in the front line, in schools and hospitals and in health and social services. We found the Veolia Foundation's approach very appropriate: trusted partners brought together around a solid project, an obvious guarantee of success! Bringing different players together to combine strengths around the same commitment – that's a very pertinent approach.

## DIANE DURAND

Fondation Eiffage



### **“A real social innovation.”**

The Eiffage Foundation could not remain inactive in this crisis situation. We decided to support projects that responded to the health emergency or mitigated the brutal impact of the crisis on the economic and social situation. The DNA of the Eiffage Foundation is supporting social and work-integration projects. The platform built with CRI and Solidarités International around pooling resources was quite unique. The different foundations worked together and nonprofit structures shared their knowledge of conditions on the ground. It was a real social innovation, with an impact on several levels.

## TIEN PHAN

Crédit Agricole CIB



### **“Cultivating social ties and overcoming isolation.”**

We supported assembly and distribution of hygiene kits for older people because there was a health emergency and because this type of action cultivates social ties and helps overcome isolation. That is our credo: “All mobilized for the elderly.” The project in support of CRI is one of the 2,600 front-line projects voted for between April and July 2020. We also worked on culture and digital access in care homes, notably.



# DEVELOPMENT AID AND HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

To live well, people need safe drinking water, food and energy. They also need adequate hygiene and access to healthcare to protect their health. The projects supported by the Foundation, its sponsors and Veoliaforce volunteers are designed to satisfy these basic needs, particularly for vulnerable people.

## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION / WHO (REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA)

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN AFRICAN HOSPITAL STRUCTURES

Water is a potential reservoir for a large number of germs in health establishments, particularly those responsible for nosocomial infections, which is why its quality must be carefully controlled. To improve awareness of this issue, the Regional Office for Africa of the World Health Organization (WHO)

has set up a partnership with the Veolia Foundation to provide support for this crucial issue. The first actions are implemented in the Brazzaville hospital in the Congo Republic.

**Location:** Africa  
**Sponsor:** Thierry Vandevelde  
**Grant:** €100,000

## TOWN OF ATAR

IMPROVING WASTE MANAGEMENT IN A TOURIST REGION OF MAURITANIA

The town of Atar in Mauritania has a little over 20,000 inhabitants. It is the gateway to the Adrar, a region that has become a tourist attraction because of its cultural richness, landscapes and geology. The municipality is working on the town's sanitation so as to improve facilities for tourists. To support Atar's efforts, and in partnership with the Association internationale des maires francophones (International Association of Francophone Mayor - AIMF), the Veolia Foundation has committed to providing technical support for wastewater storage, the weak point of the system.

A first mission to assess needs took place at the beginning of 2020. It examined the entire system and carried out an audit of the pre-collection, collection and waste disposal phases. The municipality also organized visits to the site. In parallel, a grant was awarded to provide the town with a dump truck to facilitate the collection process. The Veolia Foundation hopes to help the town of Atar move onto a new level in terms of waste management.

**Location:** Atar (Mauritania)  
**Sponsor:** José de Graeve  
**Grant:** €40,000



MAURITANIA

## UNISOAP

RECYCLING HOTEL SOAP TABLETS AND FOSTERING THE EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG DISABLED PEOPLE



FRANCE

The nonprofit Unisoap collects the used soap tablets provided by hotels for their customers in an initiative that combines three objectives: health, environmental and social benefits. Almost 115 hotels in France, some independent and some belonging to large hotel groups, supply the raw material. The used tablets are taken to the recycling center located in a sheltered workshop<sup>(1)</sup> in the Lyon region, to be processed by young disabled workers. The recycled soap is then sent to partner nonprofits familiar with local conditions and the needs of the beneficiaries, which distribute the product. Part of the soap produced is retained and used for hygiene education sessions carried out by Unisoap in schools and hospitals. A three-pronged initiative that is supported by the Veolia Foundation.

**Location:** Rhône (France)  
**Sponsor:** Philippe Imbert  
**Grant:** €8,000

(1) A sheltered workshop is a medical-social establishment that works towards the social and professional integration of disabled adults.

## MADAGASCAR



## NANOË

### ELECTRICITY FOR ALL IN RURAL AREAS OF MADAGASCAR

Two young engineers are trialing nanogrids, a new model of decentralized electrification.

In Madagascar, they are testing a solar energy system that could be replicated to serve thousands of people.

Location: **Madagascar**  
Sponsor: **Carine Kraus**  
Grant: **€150,000**

## NEPAL

### Association du Bessin au Népal

Support for a Nepalese village affected by climate disruption, which is moving to a new, more viable site.

Location: **Dhyc (Nepal)**  
Sponsors: **Laurent Pages, Marie Jouault-Orvain**  
Grant: **€6,421**

## CAMEROON

### Les Enfants du Ndé

Structuring a turnkey water access solution for rural areas in 47 Cameroon villages.

Location: **Cameroon**  
Sponsor: **Pierre Ascencio**  
Grant: **€40,000**

## FRANCE

### Solidarités International

Outreach actions carried out to the benefit of vulnerable people during the Covid-19 epidemic.

Location: **Paris region (France)**  
Sponsor: **Damien Machuel**  
Grant: **€50,000**

## FRANCE

### BubbleBox

Development and production of mobile, autonomous hygiene modules for homeless people and migrants.

Location: **Paris (France)**  
Sponsor: **Romain Verchère**  
Grant: **€15,000**

## AFRICA

### Programme Solidarité Eau (pS-Eau)

Studying water access in the hospital environment in Africa to better understand avenues for action.

Location: **Africa**  
Sponsor: **Thierry Vandeveld**  
Grant: **€10,000**

## EIG FEEDAFRICA

### ENCOURAGING SENEGALESE FARMERS TO BREED FISH ALONGSIDE MARKET GARDENING

Aquaponics, which combines fish-breeding with growing plants, can be expensive to set up. And yet the benefits are very tangible for anyone interested – it can allow farmers to generate additional revenue alongside their main activity. This is the thrust of the project led by the EIG FeedAfrica: a low-tech, highly effective aquaponics solution.

Location: **Senegal**  
Sponsor: **Pierre Ascencio**  
Grant: **€50,000**



**CAMEROON**

**ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES MAIRES FRANCOPHONES (AIMF)**

**FIGHTING COVID-19 IN CAMEROON**

In Bangangté, Cameroon, AIMF (association of francophone mayors) and the Veolia Foundation have joined forces to support a program aimed at protecting vulnerable people exposed to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Location: **Cameroon**  
 Sponsor: **Richard Nana Dwanang**  
 Grant: **€26,500**

**CAMEROON**

**Téo Aquitaine**

Creation of family accommodation at the Laquintinie Hospital, in Cameroon.

Location: **Douala (Cameroon)**  
 Sponsor: **Didier Brunet**  
 Grant: **€20,000**

**LEBANON**

**Urgence Liban**

Support for Beirut residents following the explosion on August 4, 2020.

Location: **Beirut (Lebanon)**  
 Sponsor: **Romain Verrière**  
 Grant: **€30,000**

**WORLD**

**ReNewGies**

Research/innovation program around energy savings and development of renewable energies for various Foundation operations and equipment.

Location: **World**  
 Sponsor: **Damien Machuel**  
 Grant: **€20,000**

**WORLD**

**Institut Pasteur**

Co-building a MOOC on infectious waterborne diseases.

Location: **World**  
 Sponsor: **Thierry Vandeveld**  
 Grant: **€50,000**

**ARMENIA**

**Hayastan – Armenian Fund**

Emergency support for people displaced by war.

Location: **Armenia**  
 Sponsor: **Marianna Shahinyan**  
 Grant: **€20,000**

**FRANCE**

**Équipements Veoliaforce**

Renewing emergency equipment inventory and developing new Veoliaforce equipment.

Location: **France**  
 Sponsor: **José de Graeve**  
 Grant: **€300,000**



# MISSIONS IN LEBANON AFTER THE DOUBLE EXPLOSION IN BEIRUT

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2020

**The double explosion that killed almost 200 people and ravaged the Lebanon capital on August 4 left behind a field of devastation.**

Huge open craters, infrastructure reduced to dust and rubble, ships flung on their sides – the explosion took a heavy toll on essential services, particularly water supply, with the Achrafieh pumping station and the water distribution network suffering substantial damage.

The days following the disaster saw total mobilization to gain access to the damaged sites against the complex and continuing backdrop of the pandemic. Veoliaforce experts travelled to Beirut on August 11 to carry out an assessment and technical diagnostic mission, alongside the Beirut Water Authorities and with the support of OTV Veolia Liban. Equipment was shipped to Lebanon and training dispensed for personnel. This intervention enabled development of a targeted response to restore the widest possible service in the disaster zone.

The mission was extended in September, in partnership with UNICEF. It focused on detection of leaks to organize repair of the primary and secondary water distribution networks, a key step for restoring continuous access to water for Beirut residents.



## What is network diagnostics?

Network diagnostics aims to identify the disaster's impact on primary and secondary networks and customer connections. The goal is to guarantee distribution during the crisis and reconstruction, and also to anticipate needs by securing the resource.



# INTERVENTION IN NIGER AFTER FLOODINGS IN THE SAHEL

SEPTEMBER 2020

## The Sahel was hit by record floods in the summer of 2020.

In Niamey, the capital of Niger, the Niger river rose over the alert threshold at end August. Many buildings collapsed, leading to several tens of deaths and leaving many inhabitants homeless, since the great majority of Niamey's residents live alongside the river.

To assist them, the Veolia Foundation and SEEN Veolia, the company in charge of water operations for the Niger river, mobilized after close-down of one of the water production stations.

A team of the Foundation's Veoliaforce volunteers arrived on the ground on September 14 and almost 11 metric tons of humanitarian equipment was dispatched to the site in a few days. In just 48 hours, thanks to the hard work of SEEN and Foundation personnel, three Aquaforce 5000 mobile units were ready to begin the work of producing safe drinking water. Bacteriological analyses were carried out to guarantee the quality of the water produced and distribution started on September 18, managed by the local authorities and Médecins Sans Frontières, a regular partner of the Foundation in humanitarian interventions. The Veoliaforce volunteers also trained SEEN employees to operate the Aquaforce units before completing their mission on the ground.



The Prime Minister of Niger visited the installations and praised the speed at which water production was able to commence.



# INNOVATION IN HAITI WITH MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES

2019 - 2020

**The Veolia Foundation and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) have been partners for many years. After collaborating on several initiatives in the field, in 2012 they signed a framework convention to formally structure their relationship, which is marked by numerous joint humanitarian interventions and a strong desire to innovate.**

The principle behind it is simple: MSF asks the Foundation to provide research/action support, drawing on the technical skills available within the Veolia Group; the Foundation then makes its Veoliaforce volunteer experts available to MSF to assist the NGO in its research and innovation projects around issues linked to its activities in the field and in areas close to Veolia's business activities (water, sanitation, energy, waste). The aim is to test new operating methods and equipment to help MSF better manage its environmental footprint and increase its autonomy in humanitarian interventions.

The issue of sanitation is the subject of several research/action programs, one of which, initiated in 2018, has taken shape in Haiti in the Drouillard district hospital in Port-au-Prince. Hospital wastewater is more complicated to treat than domestic wastewater because of the cytotoxic medical residue it contains (cancer treatment,

for instance) and the high concentration of disinfecting products. MSF and the Veolia Foundation worked together to find solutions for treating this wastewater and define the dimensions of a wastewater plant. The idea is to use biodisks to treat the effluent. What is this exactly? It is a purification process based on aerobic biological digestion with fixed biomass. The supports of the purifying microflora are disks partially immersed inside the effluent to be treated and animated by a rotational movement to ensure the contact of the bacteria with the effluent, oxygenation and mixing. In the immersed phase of the disk rotation cycle, the fixed biomass removes organic and nitrogenous matter from the wastewater, then digests and degrades it. The emergent phase allows the bacteria to breathe. The installed unit treats effluent by combining biodisks, filtration and UV disinfection of the residual pathogenic agents.

Several Veoliaforce volunteers travelled to the site to install this innovative system. Their work involved final adjustment of the equipment, testing correct operation and training local personnel to operate it.

The use of biodisks made it possible to propose a compact wastewater treatment solution.





The system, based on an Ecodisk® biodisk, was installed by Veoliaforce volunteers at a hospital managed by MSF in Haiti.



# SANITATION IN REFUGEE CAMPS

2 0 1 8 - 2 0 2 0

**Many vital services have to be managed for people forced to live in the precarious conditions of a refugee camp. Treatment of fecal sludge is one of these services: good sanitation, while rarely the most visible need, is essential to limit pollution of the immediate environment of camps serving refugees or displaced people.**

Wastewater treatment – or, more commonly, treatment of fecal sludge from community latrines – means ensuring elimination of the pathogens and pollution they naturally contain before discharging the water back into the natural environment. If not managed well, contaminated water can be released into the ecosystems and this pollution sustainably damages health, nutrition and the environment. It is estimated that every year 1.8 billion people risk contracting diseases such as cholera, dysentery or poliomyelitis from consuming supposedly safe drinking water that has been contaminated by fecal matter.

The NGO Solidarités International, which is active in many places throughout the world, encountered this problem in Sittwe, in Myanmar. It has been working since 2008 with many other actors to improve the lives of displaced families in the western part of the country. Internal conflicts between Muslim and Buddhist communities in the former Burma, which became the Union of Myanmar in 1989, broke out in 2012, leading to displacement of more than 140,000 people.

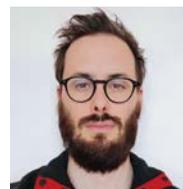
The violence intensified in 2017, leading to the flight of 740,000 Rohingyas, the Muslim minority of Myanmar, to Bangladesh.

Today, several tens of thousands of Rohingyas are still living in camps in Rakhine State, one of the poorest in the country, which is regularly exposed to natural disasters. In Sittwe, the temporary camps have become a permanent fixture and a treatment system has been installed to centralize and treat sludge from 4,000 latrines. The goal: to guarantee satisfactory use of the latrines with regular emptying of the pits and ecological treatment of the fecal sludge.

Since 2018, the Veolia Foundation has been helping Solidarités International to optimize and adapt the capacity of the treatment installation. Veoliaforce volunteers made visits to the site and set up an analysis lab aimed at understanding and subsequently improving the functioning of the system. Collaboration continued with work conducted by Veoliaforce network experts to study ideas for further development, since the plant needs, first and foremost, to double its capacity.

**“An emergency that persists”**

Arthur de Saint-Hubert, volunteer with the Veolia Foundation's Veoliaforce, left on a mission in March 2020 to lay the groundwork for doubling the capacity of the wastewater treatment system in one of the camps.



ARTHUR  
DE SAINT-HUBERT

“I was quite surprised to discover camps installed a long time ago, which look more like a very poor enclave than the kind of temporary camp for refugees or displaced people that we might imagine. This is no doubt the reality of an emergency that persists. A large proportion of the population has been there for a long time but the people I talked to in the camps refused to project themselves into the future: they don't like to think they might still be there in six months' time. My mission concerned the wastewater system in Sittwe, which has to both double its capacity and optimize its operation, bearing in mind that it must be both robust and easy to use. We also sought to improve the quality of the matter discharged (sludge, ashes and water). We have not yet managed to produce water of high enough quality to be used on crops in the fields according to the recommendations of the FAO, but we are making progress.”



**Sanitation:  
a dual objective**

Treating fecal sludge and, more generally, wastewater is a cross-cutting issue that affects both the safety of human communities and environmental protection. The goal is to eliminate the pathogens contained in this water (which presents a risk for the population) and to diminish the concentration of certain compounds naturally present in water but which present a risk for the environment if present in high concentrations.

**NATHALIE  
VIGNERON-LAROSA**

**“Combining  
expertise to find  
solutions”**

Nathalie Vigneron-Larosa, Veoliaforce volunteer, monitored the project remotely for several weeks to optimize and adapt the solutions identified on the ground.



“When we start working on a project such as a wastewater system in a refugee camp, we feel as if we’re very far from our usual skills, procedures and know-how. But, in the end, we quickly understand the techniques used and the stakes. The processes are rustic but we adapt, find solutions, often by talking about the issue with colleagues, so as to combine different sets of expertise. I was very happy to be useful and work on something so concrete while being able to use all my professional tools and continuing to enjoy my normal family life.”



# SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH WORK AND SOCIAL LINKS

Work provides dignity and independence and gives meaning to people's lives. The Foundation supports initiatives and structures helping people who have dropped out of mainstream society return to work: nonprofits and enterprises running subsidized employment schemes and projects that offer training and mentoring or that help strengthen social links. Each of these projects is supported by a Group employee acting as sponsor.

## SOLINUM

### NATIONAL ROLLOUT FOR THE NONPROFIT'S INCLUSIVE GPS

The nonprofit Solinum relies on innovative solutions to give the most vulnerable people easier access to essential services and help them move back into mainstream society. The Soliguide service, which won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the Foundation's Student Solidarity Awards in 2018, was again recognized in the spring of 2020. Against the backdrop of the global health crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Foundation renewed its support for Solinum to deploy the system on the national level, notably in partnership with the French Red Cross. So far, 10 départements have been mapped with more than 26,000 services and 11,000 places referenced. The platform is free and can be accessed from a computer, a mobile phone, a tablet or one of



the interactive terminals installed in Bordeaux. The lockdown measures imposed to combat the virus disrupted many of the services designed to help homeless people. Any tools – especially digital and sustainable – that help fill in the gaps are welcome.

**Location:** France  
**Sponsor:** Jason Wilson  
**Grant:** €21,000



## TERRITOIRES ZÉRO CHÔMEUR LONGUE DURÉE BOUFFÉMONT-ATTAINVILLE-MOISSELLES

### ELIMINATING LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT

This innovative system for eliminating long-term unemployment, focusing on specific areas, has been trialed since January 2017 in the framework of a law voted unanimously by the French Parliament in February 2016. It is being tested in some 10 areas with 5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants, with the active support of several NGOs, including ATD Quart-Monde, Emmaüs France, the Secours catholique, the Pacte civique and the federation of solidarity and outreach organizations. Their goal is clear: to show that nobody is unemployable. The platform is based on a genuine conviction: to transform the social cost of unemployment into jobs that respond to local needs, thereby

combining economic development of a given area, stronger social ties and elimination of long-term unemployment. Concretely, jobs are created through special job-creation enterprises aided by the State, which offer people who have been unemployed for a long period an unlimited-term contract at the minimum wage at a time they choose. Those who agree to participate work on projects that are useful locally but that do not interest the conventional sector since they are not considered profitable. The Bouffémont-Attainville-Moisselles area north of Paris in the Val-d'Oise, with 9,400 inhabitants, submitted an application to the platform.

The program concerns more than 350 people who have been unemployed for a long period. By addressing a vulnerable population living in very precarious conditions, the program targets a public that is difficult to reach but sets an ambitious objective: to help them move back into mainstream society through economic and professional integration. To achieve this, it relies on all the public and private stakeholders present in a given area – a crucial approach for tackling serious social exclusion.

**Location:** Val-d'Oise (France)  
**Sponsor:** Patrick Labat  
**Grant:** €10,000

# ASSOCIATION TREMLIN

PROMOTING ALL FORMS  
OF COACHING

## FRANCE

### Les Brigades vertes

From subsidized jobs in carpentry to training for qualifications.

Location: Rhône (France)  
Sponsor: Aurélien Beaufilets  
Grant: €5,000

The nonprofit Tremplin was founded by École Polytechnique students keen to promote equal opportunity. It is based on coaching that can range from after-school science clubs to residential summer camps and cultural workshops. The idea is to enhance students' knowledge in a playful and friendly ambiance. The structure, launched in 2000, has expanded to cover high schools

located in underprivileged areas across the entire Paris region, with the goal of facilitating access to scientific studies. Some twenty years later, Tremplin has already supported 5,000 students and has moved into the Lyon region.

Location: Île-de-France (France)  
Sponsor: Constance Hervé-Roux  
Grant: €5,000

## FRANCE

### Ressources T

Solidarity between several integration structures in Ille-et-Vilaine.

Location: Ille-et-Vilaine (France)  
Sponsor: Martial Gabillard  
Grant: €5,000

# L'ÉCOLE DES CUISTOTS MIGRATEURS

CREATION OF A COOKING SCHOOL  
FOR RECOGNIZED REFUGEES

## FRANCE

### Association Aurore

Support for a resource center in the Aube region, to replace some of their machines.

Location: Aube (France)  
Sponsor: Laurent Namur  
Grant: €15,000

Since its creation in 2016, Les Cuisstots migrateurs has successfully combined integration with a genuine economic activity. The innovative social enterprise employs refugee cooks to offer its customers Syrian, Iranian, Afghan, Nepalese, Ethiopian, Bengali and Senegalese dishes. This catering activity has sold more than 300,000 meals and in 2019 opened a restaurant-café in the 11<sup>th</sup> district of Paris and published a cookbook with Éditions de La Martinière.

Thanks to this sustainable business model, Les Cuisstots migrateurs has been able to recruit 10 refugees on full-time unlimited-term work contracts, allowing its hard-working employees to access decent housing and improve their living conditions.

To continue promoting talented cooks and their recipes, the enterprise is now seeking to complete the model and enhance



its social impact by creating a cooking school to train and accompany refugees on the path to employment.

Location: Paris (France)  
Sponsor: Salma Gourram  
Grant: €8,000

**INDIA**



**HASIRU DALA**

**SUPPORTING GARBAGE COLLECTORS  
IN SOUTHERN INDIA**

Hasiru Dala launched its charitable activity around waste collection at the beginning of the 2010s in Bangalore, before expanding outside the city into Southern India in the neighboring cities of Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Tumakuru, and the surrounding regions of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The NGO's most recent project involves structuring the waste management sector. Hasiru Dala is keen to create "aggregation centers" dedicated to waste storage and management, which will also handle distribution of personal protection and hygiene products to the collectors. The project accelerated

its pace with the emergence of Covid-19: the pandemic heavily impacted economic circuits such as recycling. Waste collectors could no longer sell on the waste as they used to do before and their living conditions became even more precarious. The first center will allow the NGO to familiarize itself with the norms to be put in place and train personnel. Replication of the model could then be envisaged.

**Location:** Bangalore (Inde)  
**Sponsor:** Sheilaja Singh  
**Grant:** €6,000

**FRANCE**

**Couleurs d'Avenir**

Development of fablabs, mobile and sedentary, for underprivileged neighborhoods.

**Location:** Seine-Saint-Denis (France)  
**Sponsor:** Marion Matter  
**Grant:** €24,000

**FRANCE**

**Institut Télémaque**

Creating the conditions for greater social equity by supporting junior and senior high-school students.

**Location:** Île-de-France (France)  
**Sponsor:** Marc d'Engremont  
**Grant:** €10,000 and later €17,550

**FRANCE**

**Aux captifs  
la libération**

A sewing workshop to move back into employment.

**Location:** Paris (France)  
**Sponsor:** Maëlle Durant  
**Grant:** €3,000



# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY

Living in harmony with nature, conserving resources and biodiversity, mitigating climate disruption – all these can help keep our planet habitable. The Foundation encourages initiatives to build public awareness and teach eco-responsible behavior. It also supports ambitious projects aimed at understanding and restoring natural environments. The Foundation contributes to their financing and helps raise their profile, with the attentive and enthusiastic support of a sponsor.

## TARA OCEAN FOUNDATION

### MICROBIOME MISSION: DISCOVERING THE INVISIBLE PEOPLE OF THE OCEANS

The Tara Foundation bears permanent witness to the state of our seas and oceans and has become a key player in exploring ocean science and building awareness. After ten or so expeditions, four of them supported by the Veolia Foundation, it is now embarking on a new project: to obtain a better understanding of how the microbiome functions and study its vulnerability to climate change. Its subject matter: the whole range of marine micro-organisms (viruses, bacteria, micro-algae, marine protists, etc.) and their interactions with the environment. The researchers on board the laboratory-boat Tara under the direction of Chris Bowler, senior researcher with the CNRS, Daniele Ludicone, researcher with the Anton Dohrn Zoological Station (Naples, Italy), and Colombar de

Vargas, senior researcher with the CNRS, will be collecting microbiome samples and organizing a substantial program of DNA sequencing and imaging. The goal is to include a huge number of environmental parameters: temperature, oxygen levels, the presence of nutrients and also plastic pollution. The schooner will travel 70,000 kilometers over two years. Some 20 stopovers are scheduled and, as Tara's crew has done on each of its expeditions, will provide an opportunity to meet with the general public – in particular young people – to raise awareness of the vital cause of the oceans. Indeed, better understanding of the great mechanisms linking microbiome and climate means better understanding the ocean, which provides 50% of the Earth's oxygen.



**Location:** World  
**Sponsors:** Célia Devinoy,  
 Mathilde Nithart  
**Grant:** €150,000

## OCEAN AND CLIMATE PLATFORM

### THE SEA'TIES INITIATIVE: STUDYING THE RISKS LINKED TO CLIMATE DISRUPTION FOR COASTAL CITIES

The Ocean and Climate Platform (POC) is the result of an alliance between non-governmental organizations and research institutes. It brings together more than 80 organizations – NGOs, foundations, research institutes and national and international institutions – whose goal is to promote scientific expertise and spearhead advocacy on ocean-climate issues with political decision-makers and the general public. In 2020, it is taking a concrete approach to these goals by looking at coastal cities threatened by climate change. The goal of the Sea'ties initiative is to study the risks

linked to climate disruption and analyze responses and solutions that may already exist so as to build an overall panorama for decision-makers and the people responsible for managing these environments. A first stage, supported by the Veolia Foundation, will be to describe the types of response proposed, according to their technical, environmental, socioeconomic and legal characteristics, along with the type of risk these cities face. The second stage, in the form of interviews and regional workshops, will have a dual objective: (1) strengthen the capacities of local actors by sharing the scientific

elements of coastal adaptation challenges and (2) organize feedback with stakeholders and regional managers so as to analyze the key factors of success in implementing adaptation responses. In the longer term, the POC is keen to develop projects in West and or North Africa, in regions faced with particular climate adaptation challenges.

**Location:** World  
**Sponsor:** Clara Bercovici  
**Grant:** €30,000

# LES CARRIOLES VERTES

A LOCAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY LOOP FOR BIOWASTE IN THE BASQUE-LANDES REGION IN FRANCE

The nonprofit Les Carrioles vertes, based in Bayonne, is dedicated to composting. It is focusing on biowaste, because it makes up one third of the volume of our garbage bins and an even larger share in weight given that it is primarily composed of water. Most of this waste is not sorted at the place of production, and as soon as it is mixed with other waste, its quality is degraded and recycling becomes more difficult.

The “Konopost’avenir” project supported by the nonprofit relies on a chain of actors. It starts with restaurants and catering outlets where biowaste is already sorted. The nonprofit then organizes collection of this waste, using bicycles and trailers, and treats it locally to produce high-quality compost. The compost is of interest to fruit and vegetable producers, horticulturists and the general public, as it is an excellent natural soil amendment. The end goal is to create links between all the actors in the sector to generate a local, circular economy loop for food biowaste.

Location: **Bayonne (France)**

Sponsor: **Sylvie Recrosio**

Grant: **€5,000**



FRANCE

## BELGIUM

### Centre d'écologie urbaine

Promoting local recycling of wood from the Sonian Forest (Belgium).

Location: **Sonian Forest (Belgium)**

Sponsor: **Stéphane Deliris**  
Grant: **€5,000**

## FRANCE

### Fondation Entreprise-Réussite scolaire (Fers)

Helping primary-school children discover environmental jobs.

Location: **Lyon (France)**  
Sponsor: **Thierry Roques**  
Grant: **€5,000**

## BURKINA FASO

### Pagabags (Initiatives de Développement Stratégique)

Development of craft activities respecting ecological norms by women in Burkina Faso.

Location: **Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)**  
Sponsor: **Boris Efremenko**  
Grant: **€5,000**

## NIGER

### Empow'Her

An oasis for women, entrepreneurs and environment activists.

Location: **Niamey (Niger)**  
Sponsor: **Fanny Demulier**  
Grant: **€20,000**

## TRISERVICE

### SUPPORT FOR CREATION OF THE CITÉ DU RÉEMPLOI IN THE HAUT-RHIN

The nonprofit TriService, set up in 2014, organizes recycling of non-hazardous waste – paper, plastic and cardboard – for its business clients. It has a dual objective: reducing the carbon footprint of this waste through re-use or recycling, and fostering creation of local jobs through its collection and sorting activities. To this same end, it is supporting creation of the Cité du Réemploi re-use center, which will open in 2021 in the Alsace municipalities of Sausheim and Illzach.

**Location:** Haut-Rhin (France)  
**Sponsor:** Stéphane Millet  
**Grant:** €20,000



**FRANCE**

**FRANCE**

### Parc naturel régional de Camargue (PNRC)

Seeking European funding to secure adequate human, technical and financial resources over an appropriate time period for the Camargue natural regional park's efforts to conserve marine biodiversity.

**Location:** Bouches-du-Rhône (France)  
**Sponsor:** Nicolas Rampnoux  
**Grant:** €5,000

**FRANCE**

### Fondation de l'Académie de médecine

Better understanding of the impact of chemical pollutants on the environment.

**Location:** Paris (France)  
**Sponsor:** Sandrine Oberti  
**Grant:** €10,000

**MEDITERRANEAN**

### Veolia Eau Recherche et Innovation (VERI)

Providing expertise to support the Foundation on specific issues in the Mediterranean region.

**Location:** Méditerranée  
**Sponsor:** Thierry Vandeveldé  
**Grant:** €25,000

**CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

### Moi Jeu Tri

Raising schoolchildren's awareness of waste sorting in Togo and Côte d'Ivoire.

**Location:** Ivory Coast  
**Sponsor:** Valentine Motosso  
**Grant:** €12,000

# 2020 ENVIRONMENT BOOK PRIZE

READING TO AWAKEN  
PEOPLE'S CONSCIENCE

Every year since 2006, the Veolia Foundation awards the Environment Book Prize to a work that aims to build public awareness of major environmental challenges. For its 15<sup>th</sup> year, the jury, chaired by philosopher and professor Dominique Bourg, announced the 2020 prizewinners at the Livre sur la Place festival in Nancy.

Despite the health crisis, the Foundation was keen to perpetuate its Environment Book Prize this year. After pre-selection of ten works, seven were shortlisted in July (four for the Environment Book Prize and three for the Young Readers' Prize). The main prize was awarded to Jean Haëntjens for his book *Comment l'écologie réinvente la politique – Pour une économie des satisfactions*. The Young Readers' Prize was awarded to Bénédicte Solle-Bazaille for her children's book *40 activités zéro déchet pour bricolos éco-responsables*.

For Jean Haëntjens, the exacerbation of the ecological emergency is not simply disrupting the political chessboard. It is also questioning our lifestyles, the way we consume, produce, finance and govern, and hence the dominant model of the economy of wealth. To absorb this shockwave and capitalize on its most positive aspects, it is no longer enough to "green" our practices or criticize the powers in place – we must define another framework of thinking: this is the thrust of his book *Comment l'écologie réinvente la politique* (How the ecology is reinventing politics).

Drawing on the analysis of "satisfaction systems" that preceded and laid the groundwork for our current consumer society, and the examples of local authorities that have successfully undertaken effective ecological conversions, Jean Haëntjens lays the foundations for what could become a satisfaction economy. He uses this theoretical framework to build new and concrete responses to three contemporary challenges:

- the inertia of our societies faced with the ecological emergency;
- the implosion of democracy;
- the rise of a cyber-capitalism that aspires to govern the world.

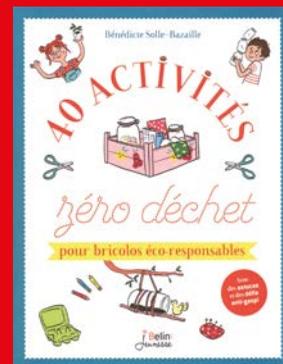
Over and above this conceptual framework, Jean Haëntjens proposes a political method based on the idea of satisfaction. He speaks to all those who want to contribute to a society compatible with the limits of the planet – and, more broadly, to all those concerned about today's ecological and sociopolitical challenges.

Bénédicte Bazaille proposes 40 fun manual DIY activities that develop children's creativity while also combating plastic and waste. From kitchen to balcony, children can learn how to make a sandwich holder, their own shower gel and an amazing lampshade, for instance. Her book is full of bright ideas, habits to adopt for each room and ideas to share with friends. It also includes four ecological reports: eco-smart dressing, using less water, etc. And a bonus: a list of challenges to measure everything you have succeeded in improving!



Left to right: Fanny Demulier, Thierry Vandevelde, members of the jury; Jean Haëntjens, prizewinner; Dominique Bourg, chairman of the jury; Bénédicte Solle-Bazaille, winner of the Young Readers' Prize.

Jean Haëntjens won the 2020 Environment Book Prize with his book *Comment l'écologie réinvente la politique - Pour une économie des satisfactions*.



The Young Readers' Prize was awarded to Bénédicte Solle-Bazaille for her children's book *40 activités zéro déchet pour bricolos éco-responsables*.



# 2020 STUDENT SOLIDARITY AWARDS

ENCOURAGING STUDENT INITIATIVES THAT SERVE THE COMMUNITY

The health crisis failed to dent students' commitment to solidarity. The Veolia Foundation responded by deciding to perpetuate its Student Solidarity Awards, with a ceremony postponed to September 25.

The Veolia Foundation is regularly asked to support student projects. To channel these requests and encourage the initiatives of student associations, it launched the Student Solidarity Awards in 2008 in liaison with Veolia's Human Resources Department. It rewards innovative outreach initiatives in one of the Foundation's three fields of action led by student initiatives, in France and other parts of the world.

For the 2020 ceremony, Estelle Brachlianoff, Chief Operating Officer in charge of Veolia operations, handed the awards to the 3 prizewinners, selected from among 150 candidates at the Group's head office in Aubervilliers on September 25. Over one quarter of the projects came from outside France and 11 were selected to be defended before the jury. The 3 winning student associations received financial support to put their project in place and technical back-up in the form of skills provided by a Group employee acting as sponsor.

## **“Ficha” from the Ficha student association (Grenoble Management School)**

Ficha students designed an innovative device (connected container, app for smartphone) to promote and reward selective waste sorting in places where it is less well respected, i.e. collective housing.

**Grant: €3,000 Location: Grenoble (France) Sponsor: Laurent Keller**

## **“Tizwit” from the student association Follow’Her (Essec)**

In the Ouarzazate region in southern Morocco, it can still be difficult to find a job and move out of the informal sector. Follow’Her is keen to support the most vulnerable communities by proposing structured assistance for entrepreneurial activities.

**Grant: €3,000 Location: Aït Ben Haddou (Morocco) Sponsor: Emma Lafabrie**

## **« Une bibliothèque pour Vo Koutime » from the Go To Togo student association (Paris Dauphine university) – Public Prize**

In the rural village of Vo Koutime, in southern Togo, the Go To Togo student association has already built a junior high school which will soon be joined by a library to combat illiteracy – a project with a long-term aim led by an association that has already demonstrated its determination.

**Grant: €3,000 Location: Vo Koutime (Togo) Sponsor: Sandra Bues-Piquet**



Despite the health crisis, the 2020 ceremony for the Student Solidarity Awards was held on September 25, in compliance with the usual barrier gestures.



The Fichta team was handed its award by Estelle Brachlianoff, Chief Operating Officer in charge of Veolia operations; the students representing the Follow'Her initiative received their award from Thierry Vanderveelde, Executive Officer of the Veolia Foundation; and the Go To Togo association was handed the Public Prize by Isabelle Quainon, Veolia's Deputy Human Resources Director.

# 2020 WASH HUMANITARIAN WORKSHOPS

## SHARING EXPERTISE AROUND ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

At end October, experts invited by the French Water Partnership and the Veolia Foundation participated in the WASH Humanitarian Workshops, a two-day event to share information and ideas around access to water and sanitation in humanitarian emergencies.

This new initiative is set to become a recurring event.

Some 30 experts from NGOs, UN agencies and private groups met in Jonage, near Lyon, to talk about access to water and sanitation. These WASH<sup>(1)</sup> specialists shared their experiences on the ground and the technical innovations now in the pipeline.

Among these innovations is a solution for desalination of brackish water, which should provide access to safe drinking water in environments where fresh water is lacking. This mobile desalination unit will be added to the Aquaforce range of equipment, dedicated to providing safe drinking water in emergency situations. These units have been deployed for some ten years in humanitarian initiatives but their use has been restricted by the need to install them near a river, well or borehole fed by fresh water.

In the field of sanitation, a prototype was presented of a mobile solution that could be deployed in humanitarian situations. The system now being developed is based on a double process of hygienization and methanization of fecal sludge followed by a second hygienization.

These technical presentations were accompanied by feedback from the field. The participants, from Médecins Sans Frontières, Solidarités International, the International Red Cross Federation and UNICEF, talked about several of their operations, notably in Haiti, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Humanitarian actors are asking questions, innovating and projecting themselves into the future. The ambition is clear, as is the momentum in favor of continuing to organize this type of meeting.



### The French Water Partnership

The French Water Partnership, a nonprofit created during World Water Day in 2007, is the reference platform for public and private French water sector players active on the international scene.

Its working group “WASH, Crises and Vulnerabilities” is chaired by David Poinard, Director, Water Operations for Grand Lyon (Veolia) and Veoliaforce volunteer with the Veolia Foundation.

<sup>(1)</sup> WASH is an acronym for “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene”, a sector also known as WatSan (for “Water and Sanitation”) or, in French, “EAH” and “EHA” for “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene”.

The WASH Humanitarian Workshops mobilized several tens of participants, face-to-face and remotely, for ten days at the end of October in the Lyon region.



The workshops were given over to equipment demonstrations, conferences and feedback.

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**MOI JEU TRI | CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

Valentine Motosso

**VEOLIA EAU RECHERCHE ET INNOVATION (VERI) | MEDITERRANEAN**

Thierry Vandeveld

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