



**2023
ANNUAL REPORT**



The Veolia Foundation supports general interest and non-profit projects in France and internationally. Its priority action areas are humanitarian emergencies and development aid, social inclusion through work and social links, and environmental conservation and biodiversity.

It does this by providing financial support and skills sponsorship, based on the involvement of Veolia Group employees, who can become sponsors for supported projects or work as Veoliaforce volunteers. They are then available, during their working hours, to share their professional expertise with the Foundation and its partners.

Since its creation in 2004, the Foundation has supported more than 1,500 projects and completed more than 200 skills sponsorship missions.

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**“Staying ahead
of the curve
in solidarity
and hope.”**

Editorial

ANTOINE FRÉROT

Chairman of Veolia,
Chairman of the Veolia Foundation

The Veolia Group celebrated 170 years in 2023, and, this year, its Foundation will be 20 years old. These two milestones are testament to their continuity and the perseverance of those engaged in building the future. Two milestones that remind us that protecting the environment, safeguarding human health and fighting against insecurity are long-term efforts and must be sustained if they are to bear fruit.

But the Foundation also remains focused on the immediate needs of today. Its humanitarian emergency unit mobilized last year in rapid response to dramatic natural events, following the terrible earthquakes in Turkey and Morocco, and to man-made tragedies in Ukraine, to which it dispatched its mobile water purification units.

Alongside its humanitarian aid efforts, the Foundation also supports long-term development projects, such as the creation of water kiosks in Cambodia, and access-to-employment programs, for example as part of the zero long-term unemployment districts program in France. It also supports scientific research, such as the laboratory schooner Tara’s new expedition to study coastal marine ecosystems in Europe, and the Mission Bougainville, in partnership with the French Navy, Sorbonne University and the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), which is studying microbiomes in rarely sampled areas of the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The Foundation also innovates. It recently launched production of the Aquaforce RO, a new reverse osmosis water purification unit for use with brackish water, a valuable addition to its existing mobile units, which work with fresh water. Why innovate? To make equipment available that is increasingly effective at meeting the needs of the people it is helping. To improve reliability and performance, because there is no room for error when lives are at stake. For this, the primary laboratory is in the field – innovations created there are the result of often modest but continuous progress, which gradually builds until the solutions become definitive.

In areas such as the environment, human health and the fight against poverty, the ocean of need is vast. The Foundation also works in these fields, where it generates strong added value. This specialization and the vast experience accrued from its missions have brought international recognition in areas such as humanitarian crises and water-borne illnesses. As a result, in March 2023, the Foundation was invited to take part in the United Nations Water Conference in New York.

The Veolia Foundation recently saw its mandate renewed for another five years, with an increased budget. With strong support from the Veolia Group, the commitment and professionalism of its volunteers, and the backing of its association and financial partners, the Foundation can continue to follow its path of solidarity, sharing and innovation, to protect humankind against the extremities of nature and nature from the extremities of humankind. It can continue its battle against fatalism and pessimism, staying ahead of the curve in solidarity and hope.

Joint interview

THIERRY VANDELDELDE

Executive Officer of the Veolia Foundation

DAVID POINARD

Deputy Executive Officer of the Veolia Foundation



“To heal the imbalances of today and imagine the world of tomorrow.”

The year 2023 marked a transition for the Veolia Foundation.

Thierry Vandeveldde: I'll be talking more about a handover than transition. Thirty-five years on from joining the Compagnie Générale des Eaux, and twenty-six years after founding the humanitarian aid organization Waterforce, which became Veoliaforce, I am resigning my post. David Poinard, who has been my deputy for the last year, will be succeeding me. I am fully aware of the immense privilege it has been for me to realize the Foundation's ambitions over the last sixteen years. Thank you to Antoine Frérot for believing in this skills-based sponsorship approach, which was unusual at the time, and to Estelle Brachlianoff for the renewed confidence she has shown in recent times.

What do you imagine will come next?

Thierry Vandeveldde: The Veolia Foundation's vocation remains more current than ever: to give substance to the solidarity expected of businesses by acting to support the most vulnerable people. In the face of climate disruption and social problems, the Veolia Group's volunteers and sponsors are always ready to get involved in the missions organized by the Foundation. This is a huge source of pride, and I want to thank them and everyone else who has helped foster this commitment. The Veolia Foundation, which I will continue to support on some projects, is in good hands with David [Poinard] at its head.

David, you were at Veolia Eau and will now be the executive officer of the Veolia Foundation. Tell us about your journey to this point.

David Poinard: I come from operations: until 2022, I was working in the organization supplying drinking water to Lyon Métropole. I have also been a Veoliaforce volunteer for around twenty years, as part of the skills-based sponsorship the Veolia Foundation was offering. So, when Thierry [Vandeveldde] called me, the Foundation's humanitarian activities were not exactly new to me!

You are succeeding Thierry Vandeveldde after several months alongside him...

David Poinard: Yes, we had the benefit of a year to hand over. It was a great comfort to the whole team, as well as being necessary for getting to grips with the Foundation's immense mission, its areas of operation, its action levers and its stakeholders. Trying the impossible to achieve the possible is what makes the possible probable... The Veolia Foundation's high standards match the ambitions of the Veolia Group as it leads the ecological transformation. Our mission is to confront challenges head-on. Climate disruption is already with us – the consequences of climate change are already here, and we have solutions.

The task is, as you said, immense.

How do you approach the work?

David Poinard: We copy and adapt Veolia solutions for our humanitarian partners and for developing countries, exclusively with general interest and non-profit projects. And we never work alone! We are supported by our stakeholders, demanding and committed partners who push us to innovate and challenge ourselves in the field while continuing to listen to their needs.

Resilience is about more than humanitarian work.

David Poinard: You're right. The idea is to not have our agenda dictated to us by disasters. We are working on new models for access to essential services. In Saal, in Senegal, using surface water from the Gambia River is one solution to the wells drying up. In Madagascar, designing electrical nano-networks powered by solar panels is an alternative response to an environment that prevents the national power grid from reaching rural communities. In the food sector, we are testing new agricultural models in Senegal, designing sustainable, virtuous loops. We believe strongly in PPPP (public-private and philanthropic partnership), for example in Cambodia, where we provide water kiosks for the production and distribution of drinking water. The Foundation's efforts can also be seen more locally. By supporting an ingenious mobile laundry initiative in Rennes, we are creating a social link, bringing people together in a place where solitude tends to be the norm.

With the Environment Book Prize, we are clearing a path, imagining desirable futures and looking ahead to a less-unknown future.

2023 also marked the renewal of the Veolia Foundation's mandate. What can we look forward to over the next few years?

David Poinard: We'll very soon be celebrating our 20th birthday! It's less about self-congratulation than showcasing our partners, project owners and Veolia employees.

Thierry Vandeveldde: The Foundation's mandate has actually been extended based on this partnership approach, which has been behind our success and continues to facilitate our work.

David Poinard: Our task, alongside all the Veolia teams and continuing to rely on their expertise, is to build solutions to heal the imbalances of today and imagine the world of tomorrow.

SKILLS SPONSORSHIP MISSIONS

The Veoliaforce skills sponsorship scheme makes the expertise of Veolia's employees available to its NGO partners. During their working hours, volunteers intervene in a humanitarian crisis or are called upon to help with a development project. They may work in the field for several weeks or provide their expertise remotely. The Foundation coordinates and takes responsibility for logistics and travel costs.

In Cambodia, the Veolia Foundation shares its water treatment expertise with the 1001fontaines association, which is developing water kiosks.



HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

UKRAINE EQUIPMENT AND A VEOLIAFORCE VOLUNTEER FOR DRINKING WATER PRODUCTION

Since the war in Ukraine began, the Veolia Foundation has mobilized alongside its partners to offer its expertise in providing access to essential services. In 2022, aid efforts were focused on supporting Ukrainian refugees. In 2023, support for the population turned to drinking water production following the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam on June 6.

As well as the environmental impact of this disaster, the dam had been supplying more than 700,000 people with drinking water. The flooding of industrial sites caused pollution in watercourses, and water treatment plants were shut down, compromising the availability and distribution of water in the region for a long time.

The Veolia Foundation provided equipment for solidarity operations carried out by the Crisis and Support Center (CDCS) of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Mobile water purification stations and flexible water storage tanks were supplied to the NGO Solidarités International, which operates on the ground.

Together, the Aquaforce 2000 treatment units can supply up to 10,000 people a day in line with humanitarian standards (20 liters per person per day). Veoliaforce volunteer Marie Gaveriaux left for Lviv in June to train Solidarités International's teams to deploy the Aquaforce units.



Learn more



MOROCCO FIVE WEEKS OF MOBILIZATION FOLLOWING AN EARTHQUAKE

In September 2023, a 6.8-magnitude earthquake killed 3,000 people and injured more than 5,500 in southern Morocco. This violent earthquake was felt as far away as Marrakech, but its epicenter was close to Amizmiz, a town of just over 20,000 inhabitants at the foot of the High Atlas Mountains. The French Red Cross launched its humanitarian response to this crisis with the mobilization of its emergency response teams (ERTs). These ERTs included four water and sanitation professionals—Veoliaforce volunteers with the Veolia Foundation called upon to apply their expertise in the field. Thibaut Constant, Cédric Thévenot, Anne Gicquel and Jean Michel Gil helped perform needs assessments, install water access points, and build showers and latrines.



TURKEY VEOLIAFORCE EXPERTS INTERVENE FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE

On February 6, 2023, an earthquake struck southeastern Turkey and northern Syria. By February 12, the Foundation's deputy executive officer, David Poinard, was in the field for a week coordinating with employees from Veolia Water Technologies (VWT) Turkey, including Yalçın Yalin and their general manager, Süleyman Erkal. He was joined by Julien de Sousa, a Veoliaforce volunteer for the Veolia Foundation hailing from Veolia Eau. During this humanitarian emergency phase, the team deployed an Aquaforce 2000, a mobile water purification unit air freighted in from France, to cover the water needs of 2,000 people. The unit was installed close to Antakya in the Hatay province and supplied water to refugees in a camp operated by AFAD, the Turkish government's disaster management agency.



LIBYA ASSESSMENT MISSION WITH THE NRC

On September 10, 2023, Storm Daniel ravaged the northeastern coastal region of Libya. A Libyan Veoliaforce volunteer was assigned to work with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) for an assessment mission focused on water resources and infrastructure.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



• **DRC***
IMPROVEMENT OF WATER ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE IN UVIRA



To contain the re-emergence of cholera in DRC, for several years, the Veolia Foundation has supported an ambitious program for improved access to drinking water (production, storage and distribution) in Uvira, in South Kivu. The aim is to improve social and sanitary conditions for the population of Uvira through sustainable access to high-quality water and the promotion of hygienic practices.

In 2023, the Foundation's expert engineers completed several missions in the field, supporting the local operator, Regideso, with works acceptance and making infrastructure operational.



• **DRC***
SIZING THE FUTURE NETWORK FOR THE RUSAYO CAMP

In October 2023, Veoliaforce volunteers Louis Merle and Arnaud Yougbaré arrived in Goma, in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for a mission with Médecins Sans Frontières. Under the supervision of Ntissar Tijani and Stéphane Ravanat, two other volunteers working remotely, they helped the NGO size the future network for the Rusayo camp for displaced people. This initial model could be developed further and has attracted interest from other organizations on the humanitarian scene.



* Democratic Republic of the Congo.



• **SAHEL**
IMPROVED ACCESS TO WATER IN RURAL AND PERI-URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

In Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania, drinking water supply systems have been created to improve access to this essential service in areas where security conditions are unstable. This infrastructure (boreholes, solar pumps, water towers, and distribution networks with standpipes and troughs) was built by two local NGOs (SEEBA and ADED) and co-financed by the Foundation and the Crisis and Support Center (CDCS) of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. The program benefits almost 150,000 people across the three countries.



• **CAMBODIA**
LAUNCH OF NEW "WATER KIOSKS"

1001fontaines, a long-time recipient of Veolia Foundation support, is promoting the installation of autonomous drinking water production stations in Cambodia. In 2023, backed by Foundation expertise and an association of partners (Veolia, Accenture, Danone Communities, Tergys, and GreenCityzen), the NGO rolled out a more efficient, carbon-neutral kiosk model.

The inauguration of this new generation of stations took place in November 2023, with representatives of Cambodia's Ministry of Economy in attendance. The development of these stations was made possible by support from the French Ministry of the Economy, Finance and the Recovery through FASEP (a private-sector assistance fund providing finance for feasibility studies and demonstrations of innovative green technologies).

ACCESS TO WATER FOR IMPROVED HEALTH

The Veolia Foundation was present at the United Nations Water Conference, which took place from March 22 to 24 2023, in New York. Alongside its NGO partners and the French Water Partnership (PFE), it highlighted the importance of water in the fight against cholera and the vital importance of access to water in humanitarian contexts. In the person of its deputy executive officer, the Foundation took part in an event entitled "Reaffirming the Importance of Ending Cholera to Achieve SDG 6", introduced by Erik Orsenna from the Académie Française. The Veolia Foundation is also one of the 34 signatories to a call for action on access to water and sanitation launched by Action Against Hunger (AAH).

The project in images



PROJECTS SUPPORTED

Financial support from the Foundation is accessed through sponsorship by a Veolia employee. This sponsor evaluates the feasibility of the project and meets regularly with the team. They continue to supervise the supported project through to its conclusion.

In the Saône-et-Loire Department, the non-profit association Humanity's edible forest garden project, supported by the Veolia Foundation, employs refugees accompanied by social-sector professionals and permaculture experts.



BLUEENERGY FRANCE BUILDING WELLS AND RAISING AWARENESS AROUND WATER AND SANITATION (NICARAGUA)



blueEnergy is a non-profit organization whose mission is to sustainably improve living conditions in marginalized communities. In pursuit of this aim in the two countries where it operates, Ethiopia and Nicaragua, blueEnergy is working on various problems: access to drinking water, sanitation, waste treatment, promoting agroecology for healthier food, access to electricity from renewable sources, and raising awareness of all these issues.

blueEnergy France has been working in Nicaragua since 2004, focusing on poorer communities along the country's Caribbean coastline. In particular, it is targeting Villa Nueva and Punta Masaya, two new districts of Bluefields, to sustainably improve their sanitation and access to water.

With the renewed support of the Veolia Foundation, it will perform an analysis of the residents' water and sanitation needs. This will be followed by training covering good health and hygiene practices and the efficient use of water. The focus will then shift to the local CAPS (drinking water and sanitation committees), who administer and maintain the wells built by blueEnergy.

NICARAGUA (Bluefields) ●
Sponsor: Luca Pinardi
Grant: €15,000



ALÉNYA COMMITTEE FOR TWINNING, EXCHANGE AND FRIENDSHIP SUPPLYING WATER TO SCHOOLS ON RUSINGA ISLAND (KENYA)

Established in 2005, the Twinning Committee in Alénya (Pyrénées-Orientales Department) was created to manage the relationship with its twin towns: Celrà in Catalonia and Naivasha in Kenya. Over the years, the focus of its relationship with Naivasha has shifted toward international cooperation projects in water, health and education. Five major cooperation projects have been completed in Kenya over the past twenty years.

In 2023, the association's attention was drawn to Rusinga, a Kenyan island in Lake Victoria and part of Homa Bay County. The community draws its water directly from the lake, even though it is unfit for consumption. Also, the chore of fetching water falls exclusively on women and young girls.

To bring this situation to an end, the Alénya Twinning Committee launched an infrastructure project to supply the island with water. The aims are to install a pump powered by a solar field and to build a reservoir and distribution network. Once the work is completed, four schools and a hospital will each have their own water supply.



KENYA (Rusinga) ●
Sponsor: Camille Beaupin
Grant: €20,000



WORLDWIDE ●
One Sustainable Health for All Foundation (under the auspices of the Bullukian Foundation)
Formation of a network of stakeholders in support of the One Sustainable Health (OSH) / Une Santé Durable pour Tous (USDT) initiative. The aim is to generate influential and innovative suggestions.
Sponsors: Bénédicte Wallez, Sandrine Sourisseau
Grant: €25,000

WORLDWIDE ●
Centre français des Fonds et Fondations
Support for Cercle Action Internationale, a forum for discussion and advocating for endowment funds and foundations working internationally.
Sponsor: Thierry Vandeveldt
Grant: €10,000

HAMAP-HUMANITAIRE WATER AND INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES IN OUÉLÉNI (BURKINA FASO)

In its programs dealing with access to water, sanitation and agriculture, Hamap-Humanitaire prioritizes a sustainable management approach based on enhancing the skills of the people involved. This certainly applies in Burkina Faso, where access to drinking water is subject to three main problems: poorly performing water infrastructure, a lack of trained operators and a fragile water service. Ouéléni, one of eight Departments in Léraba Province, is one place beset by these difficulties. However, Ouéléni is benefiting from its partnership with Autun, a town in Saône-et-Loire, France.

The two communities tackled the issue by drawing on the experience of Hamap Humanitaire. A drinking water pipeline and five boreholes are planned in several of the 17 villages that make up Ouéléni Department. Studies are being carried out to gather detailed hydrogeological data. Hamap-Humanitaire is also ready to support the management committees who manage these installations and keep the service viable, offering them full training. The idea is to keep the new infrastructure running and meeting the people of Ouéléni's daily needs for decades to come.

BURKINA FASO (Ouéléni) •
Sponsor: Jean-François Lluch
Grant: €15,000



FONDATION AZNAVOUR HELP FOR THE DISPLACED POPULATIONS OF THE NAGORNO- KARABAKH REGION

Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh have been facing particularly difficult times since late 2022. A blockade is preventing imports of food, fuel and medicines into the region, and the closure of the Lachin Corridor, the only route linking Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia, is hampering international aid efforts.

With support from the Veolia Foundation, the Fondation Aznavour is financing the purchase, packaging and transportation of family aid packs covering basic food and hygiene needs.

ARMENIA
Sponsor: Mathieu Tolian
Grant: €20,000

MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES IMAGINING, DESIGNING, AND DEVELOPING INNOVATIONS FOR THE HUMANITARIAN SECTOR

Since establishing a framework convention in 2015, the Veolia Foundation and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) have been working together to design environmentally friendly humanitarian aid solutions. Several research and action programs have addressed issues such as access to drinking water, sanitation and waste management, supported with technical skills drawn from the Veolia Group. The Foundation has made its expert Veoliaforce volunteers available to MSF to provide support remotely or in the field.

WORLDWIDE •
Sponsor: Romain Verchère
Grant: €150,000

WORLDWIDE •
Défis Humanitaires
Promoting and raising awareness
of issues in the humanitarian sector.
Sponsor: Thierry Vandeveldé
Grant: €15,000

WORLDWIDE •
Veolia Foundation
Renewal of emergency intervention
stocks and development of new Veoliaforce
facilities along with training support.
Sponsor: José de Graeve
Grant: €70,000

BENIN •
Institut de Coopération Internationale (ICI)
Composting toilets to solve sanitation
problems and facilitate access to
agricultural fertilizers.
Sponsor: Romain Verchère
Grant: €25,000



LIFE PROJECT 4 YOUTH TRAINING FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

In Kalai, India, and Jakarta, Indonesia, Life Project 4 Youth (LP4Y) is developing a program to support disadvantaged young women, based on professional apprenticeships and supported personal development – identifying skills and planning for the future. With this new program, LP4Y is capitalizing on thirteen years of experience in the field and its presence in eight countries (India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Egypt and Myanmar).



INDIA AND INDONESIA ●
Sponsor: Agathe Detanger
Grant: €40,000



LES CUISTOTS MIGRATEURS MAKING COOKERY THE KEY TO LIVING TOGETHER

Since its inception in 2016, Les Cuistots Migrateurs has successfully combined social integration with real business activity. This innovative social enterprise employs refugee cooks to offer its customers food from Syria, Iran, Afghanistan, Nepal, Ethiopia, Bengal and Senegal. To continue making the most of its talented people and their recipes, the company also created a training hub to further refine its model and deepen its social impact. In this school, supported by the Veolia Foundation, Les Cuistots Migrateurs hosts cultural and culinary events for businesses, university and school students, and local residents.

FRANCE (Île-de-France) ●
Sponsor: Salma Gourram
Grant: €2,000
 (raised at an event organized by the Veolia Purchasing Department)



HUMANITY AN EDIBLE FOREST GARDEN CULTIVATED BY REFUGEES

Since its creation in 2016, Humanity has been supporting social inclusion for asylum seekers and refugees. It develops access-to-employment programs, working closely with the people affected. In 2023, in collaboration with nurseryman Benjamin Magne, Humanity began creating an edible forest garden in a nature park located in Montceau-les-Mines. The project involves planting a mixture of fruit trees, shrubs and perennials; building wooden shelters, outdoor furniture and cultivation structures; and organizing workshops and demonstrations on subjects ranging from plant propagation (grafting, cutting, and sowing) to how to use a scythe.

FRANCE (Saône-et-Loire) ●
Sponsor: Florent Delemarre
Grant: €14,560



FRANCE (Île-de-France) ●
Sponsor: Marc d'Engrémont
Grant: €14,850

TÉLÉMAQUE MENTORING TO UNCOVER HIDDEN POTENTIAL

To promote equal opportunities in education, Télémaque provides support for young people from low-income backgrounds. The association has developed an approach that identifies good students and supports them from secondary school through to higher education. Drawing on support networks, the aim is to uncover the hitherto untapped potential of young people in vulnerable and priority regions. Télémaque's unique approach is based on double mentoring, provided by an adviser from the teaching staff at the establishment they attend and a volunteer company employee. Together, they support the student in their education and in their personal development throughout their studies.

In 2023, the Veolia Foundation's renewed support for Télémaque made mentoring available to 11 young people in Île-de-France, Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Occitanie. Because equal opportunities must be provided wherever the need arises.

ÉMILE ET ROSA (TZCLD) A COMMUNITY CAFÉ IN PARIS 19

Émile et Rosa opened its doors in the 19th arrondissement of Paris with the aim of creating new jobs to meet the needs of the area's residents, employees and businesses. The founders of this zero long-term unemployment districts (TZCLD) organization are aware that they are operating in an area with a variety of stakeholders – Porte d'Aubervilliers sees many workers passing through on their way to the offices that have sprung up over the past decade. The companies that employ these people are also potential customers for the new services offered by Émile et Rosa, alongside the local residents. Émile et Rosa is counting on them to come to the community café this employment-oriented business (EBE) is about to open. This inclusive and participative living space will distribute fruit and vegetable baskets and hampers, and open a neighborhood canteen making use of unsold and reclaimed vegetables.



● **FRANCE (Paris 19)**
Sponsor: Clara Bercovici
Grant: €10,000



TZCLD AND EBE WHAT ARE THEY?

The zero long-term unemployment districts (TZCLD) initiative embodies the conviction that no one is unemployable. A true social innovation, this initiative transfers the social cost of unemployment to jobs that meet local needs. State-aided employment-oriented businesses (EBEs) hire those long-term unemployed people who choose to take part on permanent, flexible-hours contracts at minimum wage. Their work consists in taking on projects that provide local benefits but have been passed over by conventional businesses as unprofitable.



Learn about the TZCLD districts supported by the Veolia Foundation



VAL D'EMPLOI (TZCLD) CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND SOCIAL EMPLOYMENT IN DRÔME

An initiative by the Communauté de Communes du Val de Drôme, the Val d'Emploi project was launched in early 2023 in Livron (Drôme Department). This EBE operates a number of services: a reclamation and recycling center; a textile recycling and clothes-making operation; a mobility hub (bicycles, bicycle delivery, public transportation); a workshop manufacturing items from recycled wood; and various food-related projects, including a learning garden, market gardening, showcasing local fauna and flora, etc.

● **FRANCE (Livron-sur-Drôme)**
Sponsor: Philippe Lagrange
Grant: €10,000



Ares
Development of social employment activities based on the circular economy.

● **FRANCE (Seine-Saint-Denis)**
Sponsor: Thomas Hascoet
Grant: €30,000

Imaje santé
Improving access to employment for disadvantaged young people in Marseille by supporting work at a local reception and support association.

● **FRANCE (Marseille)**
Sponsor: Olivier Grunberg
Grant: €5,500

La traverse
To expand inclusive employment in Dordogne, a space has opened where small and medium-sized businesses wishing to move toward more inclusive employment practices can make contact with people facing barriers to employment.

● **FRANCE (Bergerac)**
Sponsor: Renaud Decrouën
Grant: €25,000

Heko Farm
A location for raising awareness about reuse, DIY and low-tech businesses in the Air-Bel neighborhood of Marseille.

● **FRANCE (Marseille)**
Sponsor: Hervé Pernot
Grant: €15,000

SENEGALESE NATIONAL AGENCY FOR AQUACULTURE (ANA)

IMPROVING AND REPLICATING A SUSTAINABLE AQUAPONICS MODEL

In Senegal, a streamlined aquaponics model has been created with support from women's EIGs. Supported by the Veolia Foundation since 2020, this program is based on the construction of fish farming ponds, whose water the fish enrich with nitrates, phosphates and potassium, making it ideal for irrigating nearby vegetable crops. The project, named "Ar Jeeguen", is supported by the Senegalese National Agency for Aquaculture (ANA), which identifies potential project sponsors. The initial operations received a repayable grant that financed the creation of the ponds and provided inputs for the first year's production. Loan repayments by the beneficiaries allow the EIGs to finance additional ponds and ensure that the scheme can be replicated elsewhere.



The Veolia Foundation provides both financial and technical support. Several missions took place in 2023, and discussions with the ANA and the Paul Ricard Oceanography Institute resulted in a proposal to create a local hatchery designed for breeding and hatching tilapia eggs. The aim is to provide a guaranteed supply to the fish farms. Alongside this, the Foundation oversaw the conversion of the irrigation pumps to solar power, made possible thanks to the support of the Picardy water distribution syndicate, SIEP.

SENEGAL •
Sponsor: Thierry Vandeveld
Grant: €150,000



The project
in images

ASOCIACIÓN DE CONSERVACIÓN MARINA INNOCEANA

GIVING PLASTIC WASTE A SUSTAINABLE SECOND LIFE

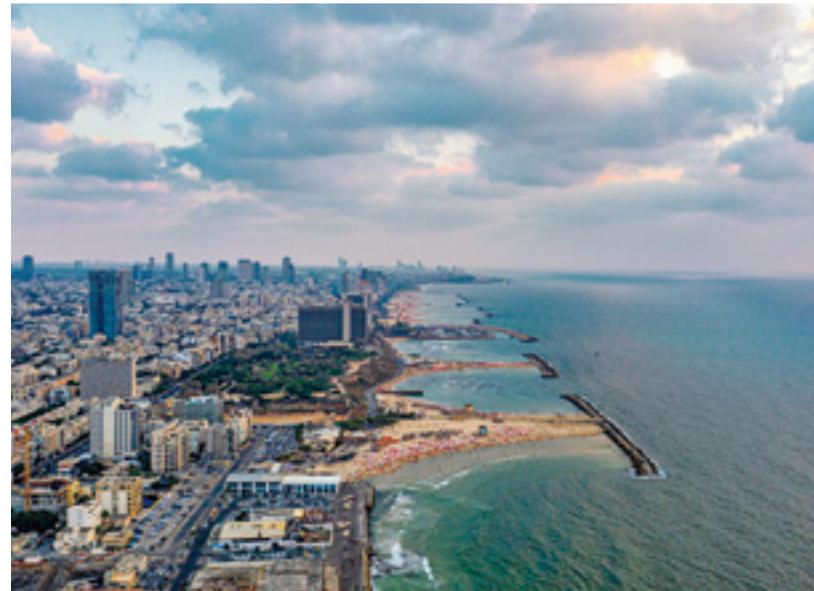
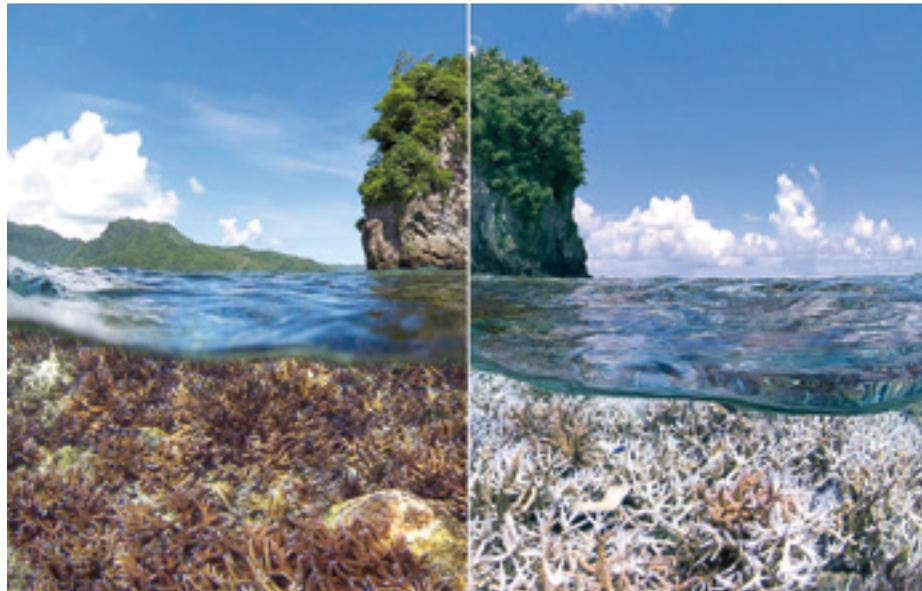
Founded in Spain in 2017, Innoceana is a multi-disciplinary group of engineers, biologists and environmental experts on a joint mission to safeguard the marine ecosystem. Their activities mix awareness-raising workshops for school students, creating audiovisual media, organizing ocean protection expeditions, and restoring marine ecosystems.

Innoceana opened branches in the United States in 2020 and Costa Rica in 2021. The association is already involved in beach clean-up operations, collecting up to 250 kg of plastic waste a month. The next step is to avoid scrapping these plastics. Innoceana is therefore creating a plastic waste recycling workshop in the Bahía Ballena region of Costa Rica. The dual

objective is to give a second life to the waste collected and to move back up the chain by encouraging people to prioritize recycling over disposal. The workshop will include a range of machines and tools for shredding, melting and injection molding the recycled plastic to create new products.

• **COSTA RICA (Bahía Ballena)**
Sponsor: Claire Billon-Galland
Grant: €12,000





PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO FOUNDATION SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT OF ALKALINIZATION

The ocean absorbs more than one-quarter of the CO₂ emitted by human activities, but at a cost: it is warming, losing oxygen, and becoming more acidic. The addition of alkaline minerals – alkalization – is one way to counteract this acidification and its effects on marine ecosystems. The chemical process of alkalization has been mastered, but questions remain as to its feasibility, cost, and potential impacts on marine life. Several organizations are working to appraise the value of this potential solution. One of them, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, has launched the Ocean Acidification and Other Ocean Changes – Impacts and Solutions (OACIS) initiative, supported by the Veolia Foundation, in the search for answers.

OCEAN & CLIMATE PLATFORM A HEALTHY OCEAN FOR A PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT

The role of the oceans in regulating our climate, though essential, remains largely unknown. To raise awareness of the need to protect marine ecosystems for our own survival, a number of non-governmental organizations and research institutes united in 2014 to form the Ocean & Climate Platform (OCP). Launched in the run-up to COP21, the OCP directly contributed to the specific inclusion of oceans in the preamble to the Paris Agreement.

Thanks to its scientific expertise and networks of institutes, the OCP is a leading voice in the ocean and climate community. It is now working to mobilize international decision-makers. The objectives are clear: to continue to explain how the oceans are affected by climate change and, more importantly, to show that the oceans are part of the solutions as we face climate change.

This platform for advocacy and the dissemination of knowledge is supported by the Veolia Foundation, the French Development Agency (AFD), the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB), and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.

WORLDWIDE ●
Sponsor: Thierry Vandevelde
Grant: €20,000
(raised by the Veolia Communication Department at its “Inspiration Days 2022” seminar)



OCEAN & CLIMATE PLATFORM A STUDY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN COASTAL TOWNS

The OCP has launched a huge study of the current situation in coastal towns and their capacity for resilience to climate change. Named Sea’ties, this program studies the risks and analyzes existing solutions. The goal is to create a forum for sharing experiences of sustainable solutions, drawing on feedback from medium-sized towns that represent a diverse range of climatic, geographical, social, economic and political contexts.

Sea’ties is studying coastal settlements in several regions worldwide: in Europe, West Africa, North Africa, North America (West Coast of the United States) and the Pacific. An advocacy document will be created to share political recommendations aimed at local, national and international decision-makers.

WORLDWIDE ●
Sponsor: Clara Bercovici
Grant: €30,000

WORLDWIDE ●
Sponsor: Mathilde Nithart
Grant: €20,000



● **FRANCE (Pas-de-Calais)**
Saint-Venant city
Restoration of wetlands on municipally owned land.
Sponsor: Bruno Godfroy
Grant: €30,000

● **FRANCE (Paris)**
Les amis REcyclours
Support for events at a social venue dedicated to ecoresponsibility.
Sponsor: Fanny Demulier
Grant: €10,000



● **MEDITERRANEAN**
Veolia Recherche & Innovation (VERI)
Providing expertise to support the Foundation on specific subject areas in the Mediterranean.
Sponsor: Thierry Vandevelde
Grant: €10,400



WASH WORKSHOPS 2023

WATER AND SANITATION IN THE HUMANITARIAN SECTOR

A SUCCESSFUL SECOND YEAR

The second edition of the humanitarian WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Workshops event took place from January 26 to 27, 2023. Its objective was to review and share feedback on the state of innovation in access to water and sanitation in the humanitarian sector. The event was organized by the Veolia Foundation together with the French Water Partnership (PFE).



In January 2023, around 50 professionals met in Jonage, near Lyon, to talk about drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene in the humanitarian context. Guests of the French Water Partnership (PFE) and the Veolia Foundation, they were members of NGOs, UNICEF representatives, private stakeholders, and representatives from a think tank specializing in humanitarian action. They shared best practice, discussed the difficulties they had encountered in the field, and assessed the prospects of recent innovations in the sector:

- Saniforce 500 – a low-energy fecal sludge treatment solution for 500 people. This project, devised by the Veolia Foundation and undertaken with the Swiss university ETH Zurich, is

based on a prototype tested in Kisumu, Kenya, that reuses biogas emitted from anaerobic sludge treatment to eliminate pathogens. This is a vital health innovation for the humanitarian sector.

- Gravit'eau – a hand-washing system presented by Médecins Sans Frontières France.
 - The Faecal Sludge Field Laboratory – a lab for analyzing fecal sludge and wastewater in the field.
 - The Aquaforce RO – the latest in the Veolia Foundation's range of water purification units, which can be used to treat brackish water in emergency situations.
- WASH is becoming France's leading event for water, sanitation and hygiene in crisis situations.



Sébastien Truffaut, chief of UNICEF'S WASH program in Ukraine.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE AQUAFORCE RO

In a humanitarian crisis, and following a natural disaster in particular, access to water is vital. For the past fifteen years, the Veolia Foundation has been designing a range of mobile units for emergency purification to make water fit for drinking: the Aquaforce range. These units can be transported by air, land or sea, but previously could only treat fresh water. However, access to water containing no salt, as typically found in a lake or watercourse, is not always possible. Operations in the Caribbean in recent years have highlighted this, for example in the wake of Hurricane Irma in 2017.

A new solution was therefore designed in response to these situations: the Aquaforce RO (as in "reverse osmosis"), a desalination unit designed by Veolia Foundation engineers working alongside Veoliaforce volunteers. It was field tested in mid-January close to the Étang de Salses, a lake in the Pyrénées-Orientales Department of France.

The Aquaforce RO is a valuable addition to the Foundation's range of mobile water purification units, enabling it to utilize brackish water sources. This widens the field of possibility:



humanitarian aid workers and Veoliaforce experts can now deploy a classic Aquaforce or an Aquaforce RO depending on the water source identified. And the Veolia Foundation continues its innovation work for the humanitarian sector.

ENVIRONMENT BOOK PRIZE 2023

FOUR PRIZE WINNERS AND THE CHILDREN’S BOOK COMMENDATION

Now in its 18th year, the Veolia Foundation Environment Book Prize ceremony took place on Saturday, September 9, 2023 at the end-of-summer literature fair “Le Livre sur la Place” in Nancy.



The Environment Book Prize was awarded to Sophie Gosselin and David gé Bartoli for *La condition terrestre : habiter la Terre en commun* (lit. “The terrestrial condition: inhabiting a shared Earth” – Seuil) and the Children’s Book Commendation to Pierre Grosz and Rémi Saillard for *La bonne idée de Monsieur Johnson* (lit. “Mr. Johnson’s good idea” – La Cabane Bleue). Chaired by the philosopher Dominique Bourg, the Environment Book Prize 2023 jury highlighted the importance, if not the necessity, of questioning, and opening up our collective imaginations to invent a shared world.

The first national literary awards with a focus on major environmental challenges, the Veolia Foundation’s Environment Book Prize has been awarded every year since 2006. Its aim is to support, encourage and promote those authors and publishers helping to raise public awareness of the major challenges facing our planet. Through its shortlisted, nominated and prize-winning books, the Prize is designed to spotlight the most remarkable French-language publications.

ENVIRONMENT BOOK PRIZE 2023

LA CONDITION TERRESTRE :
HABITER LA TERRE
EN COMMUNS (Seuil)

With their huge, globe-spanning investigation, Sophie Gosselin and David gé Bartoli open up a new way of thinking about and inhabiting our terrestrial condition. From the Bolivian Andes to New Zealand’s Whanganui River, from the “zone to defend” (ZAD) in Notre-Dame-des-Landes in France to the Kanaky-New-Caledonia archipelago, from the Elwha River in the United States to the Zapatista uprising in the Mexican state of Chiapas, the authors explore the cosmopolitan processes and institutional inventions that are giving back to communities the means to live on Earth.



CHILDREN’S BOOK COMMENDATION 2023

LA BONNE IDÉE DE
MONSIEUR JOHNSON
(La Cabane Bleue)

Rusty nails, rotten fruit, punctured air mattresses, used tires, etc. – this is all that remains of the salt marshes that used to fringe New York, which the city has transformed into a garbage dump. That is, until a man named Herbert Johnson decides the time has come to restore nature’s rights. Inspired by the true story of an ecological pioneer, this book, written entirely in verse, reminds us how each of us, in our own small way, can accomplish big things for the planet.



STUDENT SOLIDARITY AWARDS 2023

THREE PRIZEWINNERS IN THE 15TH YEAR

Navigating the Saône and Rhône on a floating laboratory, opening a store selling second-hand sports clothing and equipment, and protecting the Mé River in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire – the winning projects in the Student Solidarity Awards 2023 offer awareness of student insecurity and questions about water resources.



JUSTE 2.0 °C SAÔNE 2 RHÔNE

Wednesday 7 June, 2023: Estelle Brachlianoff, Chief Executive Officer of Veolia, awarded the Student Solidarity Award to the **Juste 2 °C** association for its Saône 2 Rhône project. The work of students from several elite universities: Ulm, Paris Saclay, Lyon, Sciences-Po (Aix, Lyon), Institut Agro Rennes, Isara Lyon and Montpellier University, Juste 2 °C is a truly multidisciplinary initiative.

From the Upper Saône to the Rhône Estuary, the project invites regional stakeholders, in a campaign that combines research and meetings, to ask questions about their environment, to understand the impact of human activity on watercourses, and think about how we want to inhabit these, now and in the future. To put this into practice, a barge converted into a laboratory is heading down the Saône and Rhône between March and June 2024.

Sponsor: Guillaume Arama



RIVER MÉ PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The **River Mé Protection Association**, which provides access to drinking water, was awarded the Public Prize at the end of a hugely well-supported voting process, with over 5,000 votes cast for the selected projects. Students from the Institut National polytechnique Félix Houphouët Boigny in Abidjan manage this association, which works on and around the Ivory Coast's River Mé to protect this vital resource. The project combines raising awareness in the villages located along the river with operations to reforest the riverbank.

Sponsor: Daniel Brigandat



The grant from the event is worth €20,000.

ANESTAPS FRIPERIE SPORT PLANÈTE

The Jury Prize was awarded to ANESTAPS for its project to create a community thrift store in Paris. Named **Friperie Sport Planète**, this store and community hub will help students acquire sports clothing and accessories at low cost. The students involved in the project, all studying sports science, are particularly in need of these types of products. The project is spreading across the whole of France: Friperie Sport Planète is a network with branches already open or planned in Limoges, Reims, Saclay and other locations. With this regional involvement, ANESTAPS is emerging as a new player in a social and inclusive economy building cohesion based on sporting values.

Sponsor: Haïdy Aron-Campan



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Corporate foundation

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