Student Solidarity Awards
Projects and Veolia sponsors

Development aid and humanitarian emergencies

Social inclusion through work and social links

Environmental conservation and biodiversity
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.
Supplying water for the Indonesia city of Palu devastated by a tsunami, treating wastewater in the crowded Rohingya refugee camps in Myanmar, supporting social inclusion and access to employment in France, combating cholera in the Great Lakes Region of Africa – these are just some of the actions conducted by the Veolia Foundation in 2018.

The Foundation responds to emergencies – earthquakes, cyclones, epidemics and wars – that strike without warning at any time or in any place. Because of their extreme violence, these disasters kill people immediately – but also in the days following the initial impact, since they destroy hospitals, public infrastructure and livelihoods, leaving survivors with no access to healthcare, clean water and electricity and no way of feeding themselves. The Foundation counters the domino effect of devastating disasters with the domino effect of solidarity: a human chain of skills and dedication assembled on the ground to save lives at the other end of the world. It does this by calling on its network of 600 Veolia volunteers, experienced professionals able to work effectively in extreme circumstances and available to respond immediately to the most pressing problems. Because genuine commitment starts with availability and high-level expertise – and also human empathy.

Although crisis situations dictate part of its agenda, the Foundation also supports long-term actions. Urgent humanitarian missions may be short-lived – several weeks or months – but their impact is lasting. After the initial emergency comes the phase of rebuilding, which may span several years – the Foundation frequently participates in this work. The programs the Foundation has supported, since its inception, to combat exclusion and restore degraded natural environments are also long-term undertakings. In addition, the Foundation supports original projects on themes such as mini-grids, family aquaculture and plastics recycling – crucial to foster universal access to basic services, feed human beings and combat the high levels of pollution in the oceans, which have the dubious distinction of being the final depository of humanity’s waste.

Created, supported and financed by Veolia, the Foundation forges relationships between the company and stakeholders other than those it encounters in its normal business activities. Indeed, the Foundation always acts through partnerships: with emergency or development agencies, which enrich its skills and resources, and with local populations, because they are the primary stakeholders of development.

In 2018, the Veolia Foundation’s mandate was renewed for another five years. With tenacity, humility and the professionalism it has acquired over the fifteen years of its existence, it will pursue the never-ending combat of life against tragedy and disruption, for there can be no truce in the fight against natural disasters, poverty and pollution. By working to promote human solidarity and environmental conservation, the Foundation is, quite simply, focusing on the essential.
2018 was marked by renewal of the Veolia Foundation’s mandate for another five years. Should we see this as a validation of the Foundation’s hybrid positioning, between corporate sponsorship and operational activities?

**Thierry Vandevelde**: It confirms the effectiveness of a network of strategic partners built up from the outset, twenty years ago, and the engagement of Veolia employees through volunteering of skills. The operational response the Veolia Foundation is able to deploy on the ground with the 600 Veoliaforce employee volunteers is tangible proof of this success. It is also a challenge for our modest team, which must retain the same high standards despite limited resources. This means that we have to demonstrate creativity and continue to co-build projects with key partners. I am thinking more particularly here of Médecins sans frontières with which we have been working on a number of research and innovation projects over the last five years.
What do you see as the main highlights of 2018?

T. V.: In the field of humanitarian emergencies, we were particularly active in Palu, Indonesia, after the September earthquake, thanks to our partnership with the French Foreign Affairs Ministry crisis and support center and the Indonesian Red Cross. The Foundation also mobilized its experts and equipment in several refugee camps in Uganda and Bangladesh to improve living conditions and access to water and sanitation, and worked alongside the NGO Solidarités International in Myanmar to support Rohingya populations.

Another of the Foundation’s goals is helping people move into employment: in 2018, the transfer of our humanitarian equipment warehouse to Aubervilliers was combined with an inventory management partnership with Croix-Rouge Intégration Logistique, a logistics platform in the form of a social enterprise. Lastly, we are committed to protecting biodiversity and promoting knowledge around this issue. Here, I would like to commend the Environment Book Prize jury’s decision to award this year’s prize to Pablo Servigne and Gauthier Chapelle for their work *L’Entraide, l’autre loi de la jungle.*

What are your main drivers?

T. V.: Innovation, because the Foundation is well placed to explore areas in which Veolia is not active. The most recent example is the development, at the request of Médecins sans frontières, of the Aquaforce 15000, a mobile water treatment unit tested and validated in refugee camps in Uganda.

Training is another driver: it is essential for the new activities we are tackling in partnership, as with Élise and the IOPR. It is also crucial for setting up emergency installations, like the Aquaforce educational guide to train local humanitarian actors in using the equipment. This focus on education is also evident in initiatives to share knowledge with the greatest number of people, in original forms like the MOOCs designed by the Environment and Development Virtual University and supported by the Foundation on themes such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

In his editorial, Antoine Frérot talks about “the domino effect of solidarity...”

T. V.: The skills volunteering promoted by the Foundation within our company is a striking example of this. When an employee goes off to Palu with the Foundation’s permanent team, his or her colleagues have to cover for them, sometimes for several weeks at a time. It’s a good way to spread the idea of solidarity, a value of great importance to Veolia, and instill a culture of risk and resilience among the almost 200,000 people who work for the company.
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.
NANOÉ DÉVELOPPEMENT

Electricity for all in rural areas of Madagascar

As part of its mission to experiment with new decentralized electrification models – or nano-grids – in Madagascar, the nonprofit Nanoé Développement is testing a solar energy system that could be scaled up massively to serve thousands of people. Nanoé Développement was set up in August 2016 in response to the realization that lack of access to electricity is still one of the greatest obstacles to the development and prosperity of Africa. Even today, millions of people are trapped in extreme poverty for lack of this vital service.

A doubly innovative approach

The two engineers who set up the nonprofit were convinced that it was possible to develop access to electricity by creating a new, progressive, scalable model – “lateral electricity”. It consists of encouraging gradual interconnection of small, locally managed, decentralized grids rather than awaiting development of a national grid. Nanoé Développement’s project is based on a system called a “nano-grid”, which is powered by solar energy. It supplies electricity to four to six households which pay by mobile phone on a secure platform to buy a given quantity of electricity in advance, sufficient to power two or three LED light bulbs and charge an electrical or electronic device. It also brings social innovation into play: the model developed by the nonprofit aims to structure a local, decentralized, electrification platform made up of small local entrepreneurs (or “nano-entrepreneurs”). After training by Nanoé, they deploy the nano-grids, powered by solar panels and linked to batteries, and receive an income from operating the installation.

A test phase before scaling up

Trials were carried out in the first half of 2018 in a selected area in north-west Madagascar. In four months, 15 nano-entrepreneurs were trained, 100 nano-networks deployed and almost 300 households connected. The next goal is to demonstrate the reproducibility of nano-networks in preparation for very large-scale rollout. The nonprofit’s ambitions are not confined to Madagascar: Nanoé Développement intends to capitalize on the trials to promote lateral electrification beyond the country and raise awareness of its advantages compared to existing electrification solutions among African and international policy-makers, whether public or private.

Location: Diana region (Madagascar)
Sponsor: Carine Kraus
Grant: €220,000
MÉDECINS SANS FRONTIÈRES

**Innovation and trials of humanitarian equipment in situ**

Médecins sans frontières and the Veolia Foundation have been working in partnership since 2012 to promote research and innovation in humanitarian action, on projects related to energy and access to water and sanitation. The new Aquaforce 15000 water treatment unit, developed by the Veolia Foundation, has been undergoing extensive trials in the field carried out by Médecins sans frontières teams in close liaison with Foundation experts. In the field of sanitation, work on wastewater treatment is continuing, along with exploration of above-ground latrines and treatment of excreta using bio-activators. These innovative and replicable models are at the heart of this innovation and applied research partnership.

Location: World
Sponsor: Damien Machuel
Grant: €200,000

MÉDECINS DU MONDE

**Environmental health as a prerequisite for human health**

Following a project focusing on protecting WEEE recyclers, Médecins du Monde (MDM) and the Veolia Foundation are embarking on a new program to improve the health of communities by acting on their immediate environment. The approach is holistic: the aim is to provide better understanding of the link between everyday practices and their effects on individual health.

In district 775, a shantytown in Manila, operations are being carried out to prevent domestic fires and eliminate pools of stagnant, contaminated water that attract mosquitos, rats and other noxious pests that spread contagious diseases. Waste management, identified by the community as one of the major challenges for their health, occupies a central place in this project. Starting in 2019, MDM will tap into the expertise of the Veolia Foundation to design the solutions to be implemented. In the next two to three years, a number of jobs could be created around these activities. Improving your environment to improve your health – the project requires time and strong commitment.

Location: Manila (Philippines)
Sponsor: Thibaut Constant
Grant: €100,000
ASSOCIATION POUR UN DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (ADED)

Water for the Dogon region

Since its creation in 1996, ADED, a nonprofit supporting sustainable development in Mali, has been monitoring and assessing development actions serving urban and rural populations. With the support of the Veolia Foundation, it is developing a water access project in Kentaba Lèye, a village in the rural municipality of Kendié, in the heart of the Dogon region. The system consists of a borehole and a mini-network that will supply five standpipes. The nonprofit also works on raising awareness to build the organizational and management capacity of the water service users' committees, with the very clear objective of improving living conditions for people in the Kendié municipality.

Rehabilitation of a reverse osmosis unit in areas with high salinity...

The Kaolack region south-east of Dakar has high levels of salinity and fluoride that make its water unfit for consumption. Thanks to the support of the Veolia Foundation, the NGO Enda – Eau populaire installed a reverse-osmosis treatment unit coupled with disinfection and pH adjustment systems in 2010. Eight years later, after the borehole was damaged, the Foundation is again helping the nonprofit, this time to rehabilitate the defluorization unit, reinstall it on a new borehole and train new technicians in operation and maintenance.

... and studying sale of the surplus water produced

A second project concerns selling the surplus water produced to guarantee the economic and hence functional sustainability of the infrastructure. Enda – Eau populaire is examining the idea of selling the water in containers, again with the support of the Veolia Foundation.

Location: Kendié (Mali)
Sponsor: Isabelle Vulliez
Grant: €52,500

Location: Diagane Barka (Fatick region, Senegal)
Sponsor: Pierre-Élie Fratczak
Grant: €27,000

Location: Nguécokh (Kaolack region, Senegal)
Sponsor: Hélène Lebedeff
Grants: €57,000, €15,500
**NIGER**

**LES MATINS DU SOLEIL**

● More efficient farm production thanks to better use of water around Agadez

Les Matins du Soleil, a humanitarian nonprofit that supports development, education and healthcare, is active in the north of Niger. Supported by the Veolia Foundation since 2016, it rehabilitates water points, most around Agadez and Iferouane. Eight sites were identified to take delivery of new infrastructure in 2018 – the equipment will directly benefit thousands of people in Erwag Balnabo, Boudari, Goofat Intamadé, Ibid, Temile and Timia.

Location: Agadez (Niger)
Sponsor: Patrice Fonlladosa
Grant: €10,000

**MALI**

**ESPOIR DES VILLAGES DE SÉRO**

● Access to water for 5,000 Malians

Several thousands of people in Séro, in west Mali, have had no access to water since a borehole system was abandoned in 2014. Thanks to the support of the Veolia Foundation, the nonprofit Agence Micro Projets and the Greater Lyon authority, works were launched in 2018 to sink new boreholes, one of which proved productive. It is, however, located six kilometers from the municipality. The Foundation decided to provide additional support to connect the borehole to the existing infrastructure which the nonprofit plans to use. The next stage will be to rehabilitate the water tower and install a solar pump system. The goal: to guarantee sustainable access to water for thousands of Malians.

Location: Séro (Mali)
Sponsor: Pierre Ascencio
Grant: €30,000
Veolia Foundation
Development aid and humanitarian emergencies

Cameroon

LES ENFANTS DU NDÉ
- Grant for maintaining the hydro-cleaning truck acquired by the nonprofit to support the sanitation network set up in Bangangté, west Cameroon.
  - Location: Bangangté (Cameroon)
  - Sponsor: Richard Nana-Dwanang
  - Grant: €10,000

Burkina Faso

ASSOCIATION POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DES ADDUCTIONS D’EAU POTABLE (ADAE)
- Construction of drinking water supply infrastructure for 18 communes in the Bobo-Dioulasso conurbation.
  - Location: Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso)
  - Sponsor: Pierre Lompech
  - Grant: €90,000

DRC

SOLENA
- University research to enhance understanding of cholera epidemiology in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
  - Location: Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), also known as Congo-Kinshasa
  - Sponsor: Thierry Vandevende
  - Grant: €15,000

Vietnam

HARMONIE MÉKONG
- Organization of garbage collection in three villages on the Cam Ranh peninsula in Vietnam, and a feasibility study for a drinking water supply network.
  - Location: Cam Ranh peninsula (Vietnam)
  - Sponsor: Aurélie Tran Ngoc
  - Grant: €15,000

Kения

COMITÉ DE JUMELAGE, D’ÉCHANGES ET D’AMITIÉ ENTRE LES PEUPLES D’ALÉNYA
- Creation of a “Water and Health” center in the county of Baringo in Kenya.
  - Location: Baringo (Kenya)
  - Sponsor: Jean-François Lluch
  - Grant: €10,000

World

RENEWING THE VEOLIAFORCE EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT INVENTORY
- Replenishing supplies of the equipment and material required for Veoliaforce missions.
  - Location: World
  - Sponsor: José de Graeve
  - Grant: €228,000


2018 Veolia Foundation
SKILLS
VOLUNTEERING
MISSIONS

● Water supply for a Rohingya refugee camp with Médecins sans frontières
Location: Bangladesh
Date: September 2018

In Myanmar, a country that is more than 90% Buddhist, the Rohingyas, who are Muslims, do not have citizenship rights. Persecution has forced them to flee westward and over the border into Bangladesh. Since the summer of 2017, more than 700,000 people have fled Myanmar, joining the thousands of refugees already housed in the camps. Altogether, almost one million people live in very crowded conditions in the huge Kutupalong-Balukhali camp and on new sites that have sprung up, such as Jamtoli, Uanchirang and Nayapara. While the number of refugees has dropped off since the start of 2018, the camps welcoming them are still among the most densely populated places on the planet. Health and medical problems are prevalent and Médecins sans frontières has played an active role in responding to the crisis, in particular by organizing access to basic healthcare. The NGO sets up sanitary infrastructure to guarantee water supply and prevent the spread of disease. As partner to Médecins sans frontières, the Veolia Foundation is helping it install several boreholes, a first stage in supplying uncontaminated water in the camps.

● Humanitarian emergency after an earthquake and tsunami
Location: Indonesia
Date: October 2018

Indonesia was struck by an earthquake followed by a tsunami on September 28, 2018. The town of Palu (350,000 inhabitants) and the region around it on the island of Sulawesi were hit particularly hard, with thousands of victims and seriously injured survivors and more than 200,000 people displaced(1). The Veolia Foundation, engaged in the humanitarian emergency operations organized by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), sent two Veoliaforce experts to Indonesia. They joined the French Civil Security task force mandated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Palu. Over fifteen days, they trained Indonesian Red Cross emergency teams to operate and maintain two Aquaforce 2000 units. These emergency water-purification units designed by the Veolia Foundation are particularly suited to local water production in regions that are difficult to access, where many roads are still blocked to traffic. They also enable rapid relief for isolated populations since they can produce safe drinking water from raw water. The Foundation is involved through the partnership established with the MEAE to ensure a more effective response to humanitarian emergencies.

● Support for Solidarités International in the displaced persons camps in Rakhine State
Location: Myanmar
Date: November 2018

Violent confrontations in Sittwe in the center of Rakhine State in western Myanmar led to the displacement of around 140,000 people, the majority of them from the Rohingya minority, in 2012. They are still living in the camps today. The NGO Solidarités International, a Veolia Foundation partner, has installed a wastewater treatment plant serving the area. Extracting and centralizing the sludge from the 4,000 public latrines installed in the different camps has become a crucial sanitary issue to prevent wastewater filtering down into the water table — the risk is particularly high during the rainy season from mid-May to October. Two Veoliaforce experts carried out a three-week mission in Myanmar to ensure effective operation of the plant. They also trained local teams to continue the work of analyzing and monitoring the processes put in place.

(1) Sources: Unicef, Indonesia Humanitarian Situation Report of October 23, 2018; Indonesian Disaster Management Center.
Development aid and humanitarian emergencies
Development aid and humanitarian emergencies

Mauritania

Iraq

Uganda

Senegal

Mauritania

DRC
Training Iraqi Red Crescent personnel to operate Aquaforce 5000 units

Location: Iraq
Date: March 2018

The Veolia Foundation, partner to the French Red Cross for many years, is involved in several of its projects, particularly its drive to upgrade the skills of national sister societies. In Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan, for instance, the French Red Cross and the Iraqi Red Crescent have carried out several joint humanitarian aid missions. After handling emergency reception and accommodation of refugees, the two national organizations are now preparing to manage future crises, and the Veolia Foundation is keen to accompany them. Aquaforce 5000 mobile water treatment units designed by the Foundation are available to assist a task force that can respond immediately to any new crisis. Two Veoliaforce volunteers have traveled to Erbil to train the Red Crescent teams in the use of these units.

Pilot installation of the Aquaforce 15000 unit with MSF in a refugee camp

Location: Uganda
Date: March 2018

In the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), fighting is forcing inhabitants to leave their homes and cross Lake Albert to the Ugandan side. The situation worsened dramatically at the beginning of 2018. The population of the Kyangwali refugee camp in Mauritania, which houses several tens of thousands of people on the Mali border. The mission entrusted to two Veoliaforce volunteers, in partnership with the UNHCR and the nonprofit Renewgies, was to study the camp’s hydraulic network with a view to switching to solar energy to power the water production infrastructure.

Study and scaling of a solution to produce safe drinking water from surface water

Location: Senegal
Date: February 2018, then August-September 2018

Several Veoliaforce volunteers and Foundation employees traveled to Senegal to look at potential use of the Gambia River to provide safe drinking water for the village of Saal, as a sustainable alternative to the wells currently used by inhabitants. During the dry season from October to June, these wells run dry, limiting access to quality water. The initiative, conducted in partnership with the OMVG, the agency responsible for optimum management of the Gambia River, led to a Veoliaforce volunteer traveling to Senegal in February to conduct a pre-feasibility study. Two other volunteers present in Senegal in August and September validated the initial data collected and provided scaling and quantified data for the planned pilot station. If the system proves conclusive, it could eventually be duplicated and installed in other villages located in the Gambia River basin.

Continuation of works in Uvira

Location: DRC
Date: January through December 2018

The program to combat cholera conducted by the Veolia Foundation over more than ten years is now moving into a strategic phase. After bringing together all the stakeholders (financial backers, local authorities, water experts and NGOs) and supporting the drafting of a master plan for the city’s hydraulic networks, the Foundation continues to be actively engaged in the program. Its experts make frequent site visits to monitor the works initiated in 2017. The goal is to develop, rehabilitate and extend drinking water infrastructure in Uvira, located in South Kivu, with the aim of curbing the development and resurgence of cholera in this part of the African Great Lakes Region.
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.
ÉLISE

Laying the groundwork for tomorrow’s urban agriculture

The world will have to feed nine billion people in 2040 and urban agriculture is emerging as an innovative solution. The problem is a global one, which means that these solutions must benefit as many people as possible. With this in mind, Élise, a social enterprise, is designing a new training course in bio-intensive micro-market gardening techniques, now being tested by two employees with disabilities.

The goal of Élise is to combine environmental protection and job creation for people with disabilities or on back-to-work schemes. It has already worked with the Veolia Group and its Foundation to build a network of subsidized employment enterprises in the recycling sector. This collaboration is continuing today in a completely different field: i.e. urban agriculture.

In Lomme in northern France, Veolia has built a pilot farm within the Marché d’intérêt national (MIN).

The objective is to develop agronomic expertise, evaluate the environmental benefits, envisage the conditions for deployment – and develop a training program to open this form of agriculture to as many people as possible. Veolia asked Élise to design the skills-transfer program.

With the support of the Foundation, Élise is tasked with creating a training course in bio-intensive micro-market gardening techniques, on site and in real operating conditions. It is structured around a learning pathway for two people with disabilities employed on the MIN pilot farm.

Training content, to be developed by human resources experts in the social enterprise, will be structured around three levels of skills. Several areas of knowledge and know-how have been identified for each task to be performed on the farm, classified according to their level of difficulty.

The training pathway will be tested on the site of the experimental farm.

The experiment meets an ambitious overall objective: to create more permanent jobs for people in difficulty and develop a real, meaningful, innovative and circular economy.

Location: Lille (France)
Sponsor: Loïc Couttelle
Grant: €117,000
TREMPLIN HORIZON

Resource and recycling centers to create jobs and foster reuse

Through its resource and recycling centers, Tremplin Horizon tackles the triple challenge of revitalizing depressed areas, providing jobs for people excluded from the labor market and reducing waste.

In 2013, the nonprofit opened a first center in the municipality of Vernoux-en-Vivarais, in the Ardèche region. It enabled creation – in a rural area – of 12 jobs, eight of them occupied by women. The success of the initiative led to the model being duplicated in Tournon, in 2016, followed shortly afterwards by creation of a third center in Saint-Péray, west of Valence. This new activity has created 23 jobs altogether in the three centers, while at the same time reducing the volumes of waste managed by local authorities and increasing recycling and reuse: 350 metric tons were collected in 2017, with a recycling rate of 97%.

In 2019, thanks to the support of the Veolia Foundation, Tremplin Horizon will be opening a new center in Saint-Vallier, in the Drôme region, a locality identified as having ideal characteristics in terms of population density and potential sources of items to be collected (furniture, miscellaneous objects, discarded office equipment, etc.). The project will enable creation of eight subsidized jobs. The Veolia Foundation is happy to support partners that foster recycling and reuse to create sustainable employment.

Location: Saint-Vallier (France)
Sponsor: Bruno Bertini
Grant: €20,000

EMMAÜS DÉFI – FONDATEUR ABBÉ PIERRE

A furniture bank to help people moving into stable housing

In 2012, Emmaüs Défi, part of the movement founded by the Abbé Pierre, which seeks to combat social exclusion, launched a furniture bank to support people making the transition into long-term accommodation. The bank collects unsold stock and end-of-line items from partner firms and sells the goods at affordable prices to people moving into stable housing after a period spent in emergency accommodation. The beneficiaries are referred to the furniture bank by nonprofits and social workers. They can then acquire what they need to rapidly furnish their new home as a first step towards moving back into a dignified life in mainstream society.

A first furniture bank was set up in Paris in 2012 and a second in Lyon in 2016. With the support of the Veolia Foundation, a third outlet opened its doors in Aubervilliers, Seine-Saint-Denis, in 2018.

Location: Aubervilliers (France)
Sponsor: Xavier Metteil
Grant: €25,000
**Life Project 4 Youth (LP4Y)**

- **Supporting training for young Indians in very precarious circumstances**

Life Project 4 Youth (LP4Y), based in South-East Asia, relies on entrepreneurship to foster the professional and social integration of young people aged 18 to 24. The nonprofit has developed micro-project incubators located near shantytowns, notably in India. The young people it supports are assisted in the center and elsewhere to organize their first professional experiences and decide on their ultimate life objectives: joining a company, setting up their own business or continuing with their studies.

After having supported two centers — Chetla, south of the city of Calcutta and Pahar Ganj in New Delhi — the Foundation decided to back LP4Y’s Life Project Money program in 2018. The weekly stipend received by the young beneficiaries is double the amount of the poverty threshold but less than the local minimum wage, the aim being to ensure that employment remains an attractive option. It allows the young people to support themselves for a year while undergoing training — an investment essential to guarantee better socioeconomic integration for the young Indians assisted by LP4Y.

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**KONEXIO**

- **An innovative solution for closing the digital divide**

Since its creation in 2016, Konexio has been working to close the digital divide with the aim of promoting social and economic integration of the most vulnerable people, through innovative learning methods and stronger social ties. The nonprofit offers IT and coding classes to people with little access to the digital world, notably refugees and young people from disadvantaged neighborhoods. It enables them to take advantage of new professional opportunities and work towards sustainable professional integration.

The two-hour sessions offered by Konexio twice a week are led by experienced trainers and volunteer experts. These workshops enable the beneficiaries to acquire IT skills and gain access to an international platform of exchanges. Konexio also offers individual coaching to students keen to set up a business and a mentoring program supervised by digital professionals. The goal is to help all the learners develop their autonomy and enhance their employability.

The system was tested in 2018 with a small number of learners — thanks to its success, the model will be rolled out on a broader scale in 2019.

**Location:** Paris (France)

**Sponsor:** Laurence Mirre

**Grant:** €25,000
INITIATIVES SOLIDAIRES

**From integration to artistic creation**

The nonprofit Initiatives solidaires was founded in March 2013 with the goal of combating social injustice and all forms of exclusion, notably through creation of jobs and inclusive activities. With the support of the Veolia Foundation, it manages two subsidized employment projects in Aubervilliers. One of them concerns hotel and restaurant services and offers 25 subsidized multiskilled jobs. The second focuses on recovery and recycling of objects and furniture, through “wood” and “metal” workshops. Under the aegis of Christian Grisinger, a metal sculptor trained at the prestigious École Boulle, the back-to-work employees are trained to use the machines, tools and specific techniques associated with art metalwork, cabinetmaking and glassmaking, among others. In 2018, Initiatives solidaires joined forces with WeCanDoo, which acts as a middleman between workshops and private individuals, to propose introductory sessions in artisanal recycling of recovered materials and waste. The workshops are supervised by back-to-work employees, who pass on the know-how they have acquired to their “trainees”. The money paid for these workshops to discover cabinetmaking or metalworking techniques increases Initiatives solidaires’ revenues, the goal being to perpetuate a platform that allows 88% of the people it employs to make a successful transition to the conventional labor market.

Location: Aubervilliers (France)
Sponsor: Dominique Boizeau
Grant: €20,000

ESPRACES

**From integration to urban agriculture**

Created in 1994, Espaces is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the social integration of people in difficulties through urban ecology. It works with people excluded from the labor market (people on minimum benefits, young people, seniors, disabled workers, etc.) to whom it offers jobs as ecological and environmental workers and gardeners, etc. Since 2000, the nonprofit has been focusing on the interface between city and environment and has developed high-level skills in ecological engineering. In 2016, it launched a number of urban agriculture projects. With the support of the Veolia Foundation and in partnership with Topager, a company specializing in design of ornamental and urban vegetable gardens, Espaces launched Culticime, a research and action project located on the roof of a shopping center in the municipality of Aubervilliers. Espaces is coordinating the project and the human resources, while Topager contributes its agronomic expertise and monitors the crops. The results obtained during the first two years of the pilot operation (2016-2017) led to a tripling of the area under cultivation, again with the support of the Veolia Foundation. A new 1,000-square-meter roof plot will be developed and connected by walkway to the other roof-top gardens. The goal today is to use market-gardening activities as a way of creating subsidized jobs.

Location: Aubervilliers (France)
Sponsor: Pauline Dumons
Grant: €25,000
Social inclusion through work and social links

**FRANCE**

**AGGSIT - COURS TABARLY**
- Integration and education for young people from underprivileged neighborhoods in the Toulon conurbation, using an innovative educational approach.

Location: Toulon (France)
Sponsor: Olivier Cavallo
Grant: €30,000

**INSTITUT TÉLÉMAQUE**
- Setting up combined teacher/company employee coaching teams to help brilliant students from disadvantaged neighborhoods prepare for advanced studies.

Location: France
Sponsor: Brigitte Durand
Grant: €17,550

**FRANCE**

**OASIS - JARDIN DE COCAGNE**
- Stepping up production of vermicompost to recycle vegetable garden waste and grow the activity of a subsidized employment project.

Location: Saint-Just-Saint-Rambert (France)
Sponsor: Jean-Christian Pottier
Grant: €10,000

**ARMENIA**

**FONDATION « CENTRE D’ENSEIGNEMENT PROFESSIONNEL FRANCO-ARMÉNIEN »**
- Creation of plumber-pipelayer and customer field officer training courses at the former French-Armenian vocational high school in Erevan.

Location: Erevan (Armenia)
Sponsor: Christian Lefaix
Grant: €50,000

**LA MAISON DES ENTREPRISES**
- Strengthening the economic and social fabric by helping people in disadvantaged neighborhoods set up their own company and providing support for isolated company heads.

Location: Hauts-de-Seine (France)
Sponsor: Pierre Victoria
Grant: €10,000

**IKIGAÏ – LES PETITES ÉCOLES POUR TOUS**
- Designing an innovative method to raise the environmental awareness of children with different attributes, notably children on the autistic spectrum, and training special education personnel.

Location: Paris (France)
Sponsor: Dominique Boizeau
Grant: €15,000
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 backs ambitious projects to further our understanding of and restore natural environments. It contributes to their financing and helps raise their profile, with the attentive and enthusiastic support of a sponsor.
PLASTIC ODYSSEY

Making plastic a resource and raising awareness of pollution in the oceans

Combating plastic pollution of the oceans is an important challenge. A French merchant navy officer decided to transform this waste into energy to power a catamaran on a round-the-world trip to raise the public’s awareness of best practices in plastics recycling.

Every day, almost 26,000 metric tons of plastic waste are discharged into the oceans, with devastating effects on marine flora and fauna. The vast majority of plastic waste in the oceans comes from land-based sources, which means we must take action on land to prevent this waste finding its way into the seas – once in the water, it is too late.

Simon Bernard, a merchant navy officer, launched the Plastic Odyssey project to respond to this crucial issue. Working with a team of engineers, he designed a boat powered by plastic waste transformed into fuel by pyrolysis. A first prototype, six meters long, was developed in Concarneau in the shipyards of the sailor Roland Jourdain (base Explore). SARP Industries, a Veolia subsidiary, designed the pyrolysis process installed on the boat, which was launched mid-June, in the presence of Brune Poirson, Secretary of state for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, and Roland Jourdain.

The next stage, with the support of the Veolia Foundation, entails building a 25-meter catamaran, a genuine ambassador for plastics recycling. Plastic Odyssey will depart on a world tour along the planet’s most polluted coastlines to clean them up and raise the public’s awareness of this major challenge for our shared future. The boat will set out on its extraordinary three-year adventure in 2020.

At each port of call, plastic waste will be collected on land, then sorted and processed into useful objects or materials. The residual, nonrecyclable, plastic will be converted into fuel to power the boat. Existing recycling systems will be showcased and new systems developed jointly with local players. These solutions will be adapted to respond to the specific needs of each community, then shared locally. The end goal is to bring about a considerable reduction in plastics pollution while also supporting recycling micro-entrepreneurship in the locations visited.

Location: Concarneau (France) and later the World
Sponsor: Thierry Gosset
Grant: €50,000
INSTITUT OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE PAUL-RICARD (IOPR)

- **Testing new forms of aquaculture**
  Faced with the depletion of fish stocks, solutions are emerging. The Institut océanographique Paul-Ricard (IOPR) is focusing in particular on adapting the principles of permaculture to aquaculture production through its “13 Ocean” project, which combines research and development, experimentation, training and production activities. The project entails adopting the concept of integrated multitrophic aquaculture, i.e. raising several species in the same water circuit, limiting water replacement and consequently discharge, as much as possible. The food given to one of the species provides for them all: the other species use the waste produced by the first species to grow. With this project supported by the Veolia Foundation, the IOPR hopes to propose a new method for producing high-quality foods in large quantities.

Location: Bouches-du-Rhône (France)  
Sponsor: Mathilde Nithart  
Grant: €30,000 and subsequently €300,000

FRANCE

WORLD

FONDATION TARA EXPÉDITIONS / FONDATION PRINCE ALBERT II DE MONACO

- **Raise awareness of plastics pollution and mobilize as many people as possible**
  Given the global stakes of plastics pollution in the oceans, the Veolia Foundation is playing its role by supporting three initiatives, with the Tara Expéditions and Prince Albert II of Monaco partner foundations.
  • A “Plastic in the Mediterranean Sea” program conducted by the schooner Tara, should lead to better definition of the flows of plastic and microplastic pollutants found in the port of Toulon. The expedition, scheduled for 2019, will also be an opportunity to raise the awareness of the general public and policy-makers of the best solutions for combating plastics pollution in the oceans and seas.
  • This advocacy initiative will be accompanied by a series of traveling exhibitions on the theme of plastics in the seas.
  • The BeMed call for projects launched in 2016 by the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation in partnership with the Veolia Foundation has been extended. Alongside continuing support for the initiatives put in place, a BeMed Club has been created as a hub for exchanges between committed stakeholders and providers of solutions.

Location: World  
Sponsor: Célia Devinoy  
Grant: €190,000

- **Designing educational tools for schools**
  With the support of the Veolia Foundation, the Fondation Tara Expéditions is developing an educational kit using games and experiments to help young people understand the challenges, consequences and problems posed by the massive presence of plastics in the oceans.

Location: France  
Sponsor: Arthur Thoux  
Grant: €20,000
FRANCE

HEKO PERMACULTURE

- Turning unused land along the motorway into a green space creating jobs for unemployed people

Heko Permaculture, founded in the Bouches-du-Rhône department in 2016, is a nonprofit focusing on urban agriculture in the Mediterranean region. In Marseille it contacted the A 507 motorway operator to put together a project to transform a one-hectare piece of unused urban land into a green space for the local community where a mix of agroecological services and activities will be developed for local residents. The program, baptized Le Talus, will be kickstarted by replanting the site to restore biodiversity to this urban environment and improve air quality as a direct consequence.

Location: Marseille (France)
Sponsor: Hervé Pernot
Grant: €25,000

PARC NATUREL RÉGIONAL DE CAMARGUE (PNRC)

- The Camargue at the heart of the first Life program integrated project

The Camargue Regional Nature Park (PNRC), which the Veolia Foundation has been supporting for many years, is one of the 12 beneficiaries selected to carry the first Life integrated project awarded to France by the European Union. The “Marha” (for Marine Habitats) program financed by the European Union aims to harness sufficient human, technical and financial resources over an appropriate length of time to make a substantive contribution to marine biodiversity. At the same time, the PNRC continues to work with other sector stakeholders, notably the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve.

Location: Bouches-du-Rhône (France)
Sponsor: Nicolas Rampnoux
Grant: €80,000 and €10,000

OCEAN & CLIMATE PLATFORM

- A think tank to mobilize and convince the public around the issue of the oceans

By absorbing 25% of the CO₂ emitted by human activities every year, the oceans make an important contribution to limiting global warming. However, overexploitation of marine resources and pollution disrupt their role in regulating the climate. It is therefore urgent to maintain the functional quality of marine ecosystems and restore those that are under threat. A number of nongovernmental organizations and research institutes mobilized around this goal set up the Ocean and Climate Platform in 2014. Launched in the run-up to COP21, the platform made a direct contribution to inclusion of the issue of the oceans in the Foreword to the Paris Agreement. After COP21, the founders of the platform, among them the Veolia Foundation, decided to pursue their action to make it a driver of advocacy on the challenges of the oceans and the climate aimed at political leaders, policy-makers and the general public.

Location: World
Sponsor: Mathilde Nithart
Grant: €35,000
**Place to B**

- **Enhance general-public knowledge of COP24 commitments**

Launched under the name Écolo Info in 2007, Place to B is positioned at the crossroads of media, ecology and the collaborative economy. It aims to discuss, study and communicate on climate change, the environment and the democratic transition of our societies. To this end, it publishes blogs on ecology and sustainable development aimed at the general public. The Veolia Foundation is providing support for production of a collaborative journal reviewing COP24 initiatives and following up commitments until the next COP event.

**Location:** France  
**Sponsor:** Fanny Demulier  
**Grant:** €7,500

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**The Conversation**

- **Sharing knowledge so as better to understand the circular economy**

The Conversation, an information and news analysis platform, publishes – and makes available online free of charge – mainstream articles written by researchers and academics. The idea is to offer a form of journalism that is different from the continuous news presented by the traditional media by publishing high-quality editorial content based on expertise, analysis and contextualization. With the support of the Veolia Foundation, The Conversation launched a section dedicated to the circular economy in 2017. Over a period of six months, 46 articles were referenced and a podcast produced. The Foundation renewed its support in 2018 to ensure that building awareness of tomorrow’s environmental challenges will continue to feed general knowledge and awareness.

**Location:** World  
**Sponsor:** Fanny Demulier  
**Grant:** €25,000
Environmental conservation and biodiversity

**FRANCE**

**UNIS-CITÉ**
- Organizing teams of civic service ambassadors to raise awareness of best environmental practices.

  Location: France  
  Sponsor: Isabelle Hellio  
  Grant: €40,000

**COMITÉ FRANÇAIS DE L’UICN**
- Compiling a “Red List” of endangered ecosystems, in France, using an internationally recognized methodology.

  Location: France  
  Sponsor: Coline Jacobs  
  Grant: €20,000

* Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature.

**LES COTEAUX DES HAUTS DE GARONNE**
- Recycling of green waste by a subsidized employment enterprise.

  Location: Gironde (France)  
  Sponsor: Christophe Aran  
  Grant: €25,000

**BURKINA FASO**

**ASSOCIATION BURKINABÉ DE CURAGE ET DE NETTOYAGE (A. B. CURNET)**
- Collection of organic waste in districts on the outskirts of Ouagadougou to transform it into compost.

  Location: Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)  
  Sponsor: Boris Efremenko  
  Grant: €3,000

**PHILIPPINES**

**SULUBAAÏ ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION (SEF) FRANCE**
- Creation of an academy dedicated to the sea in the Philippines to raise the local population’s awareness of the need to protect coral reefs and promote sustainable economic development.

  Location: Philippines  
  Sponsor: Mathilde Nithart  
  Grant: €50,000

**INITIATIVES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT STRATÉGIQUE (IDS), DIT PAGABAGS**
- Support for the activities of an inclusive social enterprise that trains women to create fashion accessories and manage their sales activity.

  Location: Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)  
  Sponsor: Boris Efremenko  
  Grant: €10,000
2018 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. The jury, chaired by Roselyne Bachelot, former Ecology Minister, announced the 2018 prizewinners in September 2018 at the Livre sur la place festival in Nancy.

The winners of this 13th edition are Pablo Servigne and Gauthier Chapelle for their book L’Entraide, l’autre loi de la jungle, published by Les Liens qui libèrent. The book proposes an attentive examination of the whole spectrum of living species and shows that human beings, animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms — and even economists! — have always practiced mutual collaboration. The authors show us that the species that best survive difficult conditions are not necessarily the strongest, but those that collaborate best with each other. Through an inventory of transdisciplinary research, taking in fields such as ethnology, anthropology, economics, psychology, and the neurosciences, Pablo Servigne and Gauthier Chapelle invite us to explore a huge forgotten continent to discover the mechanisms behind this “other law of the jungle.”

The young readers’ prize was awarded to Peter Wohlleben, for his book Écoute les arbres parler (Listen to the trees talking), published by Michel Lafon. By responding to the most amusing and unexpected questions, the author invites his readers to look at the forest and all the living species in it from a completely different viewpoint. The author’s sensibility and his instructive and playful approach to fauna and flora awaken children’s awareness of an environment and natural world that is both fascinating and fragile.
ASSOCIATION DES AMIS RECYCLEURS

A cycle of conferences on the circular economy

Veolia has been a partner of the REcyclerie de Paris since it opened in 2014. The center, dedicated to the circular economy and eco-responsibility, is located in a rehabilitated railway station located in the first ring of Paris suburbs. Veolia supports its environment library in liaison with the Veolia Foundation’s Environment Book Prize, its operation, through an environmental footprint study, and its programming, through a grant to finance the center’s annual theme and a cycle of circular economy conferences (2C). The Veolia Foundation’s 2C Conferences aim to federate a network of students and young people keen to understand how to use the circular economy to create a more responsible economy. It consists of a cycle of four to five evening conferences organized at the REcyclerie. This cycle of conferences is part of a program of free events organized throughout the year to encourage as many people as possible to seek information and act in favor of the environment. In 2018, the theme “Four seasons to change everything” reached 20,000 people interested in eco-responsible values and mobilized 100 speakers – committed citizens and representatives of nonprofits and collectives. The 2C Conferences cycle is continuing, aligned with the REcyclerie’s 2019 program of conferences, “The 4Rs: REthink, REduce, REpair, REcycle” – four successive actions to move towards a healthier, fairer and more sustainable world.

Location: Paris (France)
Sponsor: Fanny Demulier
Grant: €22,500
**STUDENT SOLIDARITY AWARDS**

- **Encouraging student initiatives that serve the community**

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 associations in France and other parts of the world. A jury nominates three prizewinners and a public prize is also awarded after an online vote. The winners receive financial support and technical back-up in the form of skills provided by a Group employee acting as sponsor.

**Location:** World  
**Sponsor:** Nicolas Lecuy  
**Grant:** €35,000

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**PUBLIC PRIZE**

**TR-Monde/Engees**

Rehabilitation of a gravity-feed system for supplying safe drinking water in Congo-Brazzaville

TR-Monde, an association set up by the École nationale du génie de l'eau et de l'environnement de Strasbourg (Engees – water and environmental engineering), is conducting a humanitarian project in partnership with the nonprofit Médecins d'Afrique. It is rehabilitating a gravity-feed system to supply safe drinking water for 8,700 people in the Kombé district, south of Brazzaville (Congo-Brazzaville). The project also includes raising the population’s awareness of best practices in consumption of drinking water and maintenance of the infrastructure.

**Location:** Brazzaville (Congo-Brazzaville)  
**Sponsor:** Emma Bourrat
Student Solidarity Awards

1st PRIZE:
Campus Market
HEI Lille

Collection and reuse of furniture from student housing to reduce waste

When students leave their campus at the end of the year, they often have difficulty disposing of their old furniture, which is sometimes dumped in the street. To deal with this problem in the Vauban district in Lille, Campus Market recovers the furniture free of charge and resells it at affordable prices to the next wave of students moving in.

Location: Lille (France)
Sponsor: Max Dupuy

2nd PRIZE:
Solinum
ECE Paris

An “inclusive GPS” for people in difficulty and carers

The nonprofit Solinum has created a map of places and the associated resources (places to eat, rest, drop off bags, take a shower, carry out administrative formalities, etc.) available to people in very difficult circumstances. Access to this information will be facilitated thanks to digital tools and interactive terminals located in strategic spots such as railway stations or drop-in centers.

Location: Bordeaux (France)
Sponsor: Jason Wilson

3rd PRIZE:
Tarisznya Táborok (Knapsack Camps)
Central European University (Hungary)

Summer camps to overcome community discrimination

Through the Tarisznya Táborok association, Central European University students help organize summer camps welcoming children from Rom and non-Rom communities in the most underprivileged regions of Hungary.

Location: Budapest (Hungary)
Sponsor: Zoltan Mester
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Head office
21, rue La Boétie – 75008 Paris

Postal address
30, rue Madeleine-Vionnet – 93300 Aubervilliers

E-mail: fondation.ve@veolia.com

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