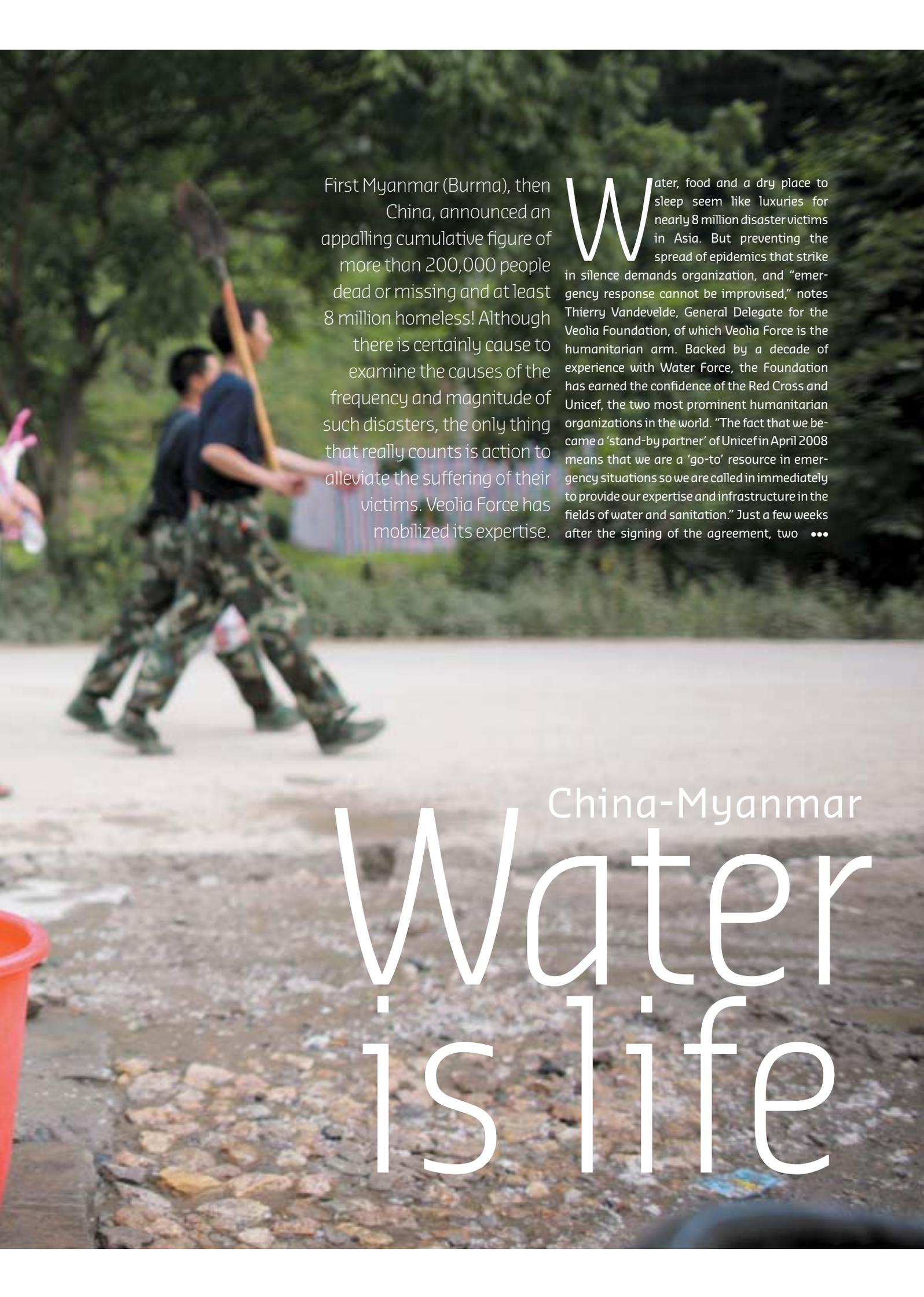




Installation of the second water treatment unit at Taguanje, on the outskirts of Dujianyang (China).



First Myanmar (Burma), then China, announced an appalling cumulative figure of more than 200,000 people dead or missing and at least 8 million homeless! Although there is certainly cause to examine the causes of the frequency and magnitude of such disasters, the only thing that really counts is action to alleviate the suffering of their victims. Veolia Force has mobilized its expertise.

Water, food and a dry place to sleep seem like luxuries for nearly 8 million disaster victims in Asia. But preventing the spread of epidemics that strike in silence demands organization, and “emergency response cannot be improvised,” notes Thierry Vandeveld, General Delegate for the Veolia Foundation, of which Veolia Force is the humanitarian arm. Backed by a decade of experience with Water Force, the Foundation has earned the confidence of the Red Cross and Unicef, the two most prominent humanitarian organizations in the world. “The fact that we became a ‘stand-by partner’ of Unicef in April 2008 means that we are a ‘go-to’ resource in emergency situations so we are called in immediately to provide our expertise and infrastructure in the fields of water and sanitation.” Just a few weeks after the signing of the agreement, two •••

China-Myanmar
Water
is life



One week after the disaster, the installation of water treatment units gives the population new hope.

“Emergency response cannot be



The water treatment unit will allow supply by road tanker to several of the valley's villages that were reduced to ruins by China's most violent earthquake in more than

••• natural disasters in Asia put the partnership into practice.

Myanmar and the monsoon

As the head of the Foundation's emergency response team, Franck Haaser knows that as soon as the call comes, it is time to be on his way. With Marc Petit, another experienced employee, the well-learned procedures are already engaged. These men belong to the large family of Veolia's 400 volunteers. Two hundred of them have already been trained in the educational approaches to be used on the ground along with the necessary physical training. Such preparation is not merely useful, it is essential. In Myanmar, the fifteen metric tons of equipment dispatched to loca-

tion a few days after the disaster are handled manually once they have been collected and cleared through customs at the Yangon airport. With the two French volunteers, three humanitarian aid volunteers from the French Red Cross immediately begin training Burmese volunteers. These employees from the local water treatment plant will be in charge of operating the two compound water treatment units, with the capacity to produce 300,000 liters per day, half of which drinking water, to supply 40,000 people. "They are compound plants because the Red Cross supplies the settling tanks and we supply the filtration units," Vandeveldt explains. The task of bringing the installations to the

heart of the Irrawaddy delta remains, but not just anywhere: the six Burmese volunteers are entrusted with the tricky task of identifying the disaster areas. "We dispatched five volunteers from Veolia Asia to help Unicef in a post-emergency mission to create broader access to drinking water. In the monsoon season, stagnant, contaminated water is a powerful vector of disease," explains one of the employees of the Foundation.

Three water treatment units in operation in China

In Chengdu, Veolia Water is running the drinking water production plant. Relieved to report no victims among its workforce, the company was able to mobilize quickly and

undertake first-response initiatives. Deliveries of emergency equipment began as early as Sunday, May 18, 2008, from the Parisian "stockpile" of Veolia Force. Ten volunteers from Veolia Asia worked alongside three French volunteers. After a fast-track training course, sights were set on Xiang'e where the first drinking water production unit was to be installed at the request of the authorities. Two others followed for locations nearby: Taguanje and Ci Fong. Volunteers were able to establish a dialogue with the authorities to determine the optimal locations for the equipment - where the needs were the most acute. To date, the Aquaforce units are still in operation. ■



improvised."



thirty years.

Veolia Force Emergency preparedness

Veolia Water Force forged its experience in connection with two natural disasters in 1998. Since then, a series of disaster relief assignments (37 in 2007) has sent the teams to aid populations in Pakistan, Kosovo, Bangladesh and Africa. Of the 400 volunteers trained by Veolia, some receive additional specialized training from the Red Cross to become team leaders for these organizations. Volunteers are also selected for their backgrounds: chemists, plumbers, hydrogeologists, logistics experts, project managers, etc. Today the Veolia corporate founda-

tion and Veolia Force have merged into a single organization that donates both financing and expertise. This is the organization that signed a "stand-by partner" agreement with UNICEF. Internationally known for its work in defending the rights of children, UNICEF today has received a mandate from the United Nations to address drinking water and sanitation problems with Veolia as its partner of reference. What better mark of confidence for our company?

Aquaforce, which consists of six core components, is assembled and started up by the Veolia Force team who trains volunteers in the field.

In Taguanje, volunteers install an Aquaforce unit. This small water treatment plant has the capacity to supply 5,000 people (twenty liters per day).



An example of technical prowess on the part of Veolia's engineers, Aquaforce fits into a few crates and is easy to assemble on site.

