

If the page does not display properly, [click here](#).
Lire la newsletter [en Français](#).

Foundation Info



Veolia Environnement Foundation Newsletter

No. 12 - December 2013

Foundation Info keeps you informed of what's happening at the Veolia Environnement Foundation: the projects being supported, reports from sponsors, volunteers leaving on emergency relief, development aid and other assignments around the world. The links in the contents section below will give you more information on each topic: just click and find! Please send us your suggestions, comments, pictures, and anything else you'd like to share (fondation.ve@veolia.com).

FRONT PAGE



Thierry Vandeveld, Executive Officer of the Veolia Environnement Foundation, and Frankaly Keita, Mali's Minister of Energy and Water, officially opened the Sikoro Farada neighborhood's new water supply system on September 14, 2013. The Governor of Bamako District and the economic advisor to Mali's French Ambassador were also present at the ceremony.

[Find more information here.](#)

LATEST PROJECTS TO RECEIVE SUPPORT

The Selection Committee of the Veolia Environnement Foundation met on October 15, 2013. It selected 25 projects (15 in France and 10 in other countries) in the fields of emergency relief and development aid (10 projects), outreach and workforce development (13 projects), and environmental conservation and biodiversity (two projects).

[See the map of projects supported.](#)

-OUTREACH AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT-



Having participated in 2012 in the creation of **Log'ins**, a disability friendly company specialized in logistics and dedicated to the professional integration of disabled employees, the Veolia Environnement Foundation decided to support its expansion to a larger site, in Le Coudray-Montceaux, south of Paris. The aim: to help 80 people a year back into long-term employment by 2015.

[Find details of the Foundation's support in the creation of Log'ins here.](#)

- ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION & BIODIVERSITY-



The **French Committee** of the **IUCN** (International Union of the Conservation of Nature) is the network of the union's organizations and experts in France. The committee is a platform for dialogue and expertise in issues related to biodiversity. For the past three years, the Veolia Environnement Foundation has provided support to the committee for its compilation and circulation of the "Red List," a comprehensive inventory of endangered land and marine species in France. The project includes the production and publication of booklets (paper and electronic versions) to raise awareness among the public, elected representatives and regional decision-makers on the species that require protection. The third and most recent booklet, in 2013, concentrated on vascular plants in Metropolitan France and on birds in the overseas territories.

[Find more information on the Red List on the Foundation's website.](#)

-HUMANITARIAN WORK AND DEVELOPMENT AID-

Students at **Ensip**, the engineering faculty at the University of Poitiers, have been working on a humanitarian project in the southwest of Burkina Faso for several years as part of their work with the university's non-profit **APEMC G GC** (association of professionals and civil engineering students



specializing in construction materials). Having initially set up a solar water pumping system in the village of Wolokonto (2007-2011), they then embarked on a solar lighting project for the same village. The program, which has been receiving support from the Veolia Environnement Foundation since its conception, intends to make a lasting difference: the students from Ensip are working with local companies from Burkina Faso.

Find out about the water supply system installed in [Wolokonto](#) here.

VOLUNTEERS ON ASSIGNMENT



The Philippines (November 2013): The Veolia Environnement Foundation is working with partners in the Philippines to provide drinking water to victims of the recent typhoon. Volunteers left for the region of Tacloban with French NGO Solidarités International on November 20, just two weeks after the disaster, to oversee the assembly of mobile water treatment units and to train operators. The Aquaforce 500 units, which operate using ultrafiltration technology, can produce 15 liters of drinking water per person per day for up to 2,000 people. Veolia volunteers based in Vietnam also traveled to Tacloban to conduct, with UNICEF, an assessment of the damage to the region's water production and distribution infrastructure. Read the [press release](#) for more information.



Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC, November 2013): **Assane M'Baye**, engineering design technician and surveyor at Veolia Water Ile-de-France, and **Jean-Claude Fath**, operations manager at Veolia Water, traveled to Uvira, South Kivu, where the Veolia Environnement Foundation set up a cholera prevention program in 2007. Made possible thanks to the €8.5 million of financial aid recently granted by the French development agency (AFD) and the European Union, a plan to develop the city's water infrastructure is being put together. The two volunteers therefore assisted Regideso, the local water management authority, to prepare bids for work planned for 2014. Assane M'Baye was able to contribute his topography expertise and Jean-Claude Fath continued the needs assessment for the renovation of the water treatment plant. Uvira is the second city in the DRC to benefit from the cholera prevention program supported by the Veolia Environnement Foundation.

Learn more about cholera prevention on [the Foundation's website](#) and the [GAAC website](#).



Cameroon (October 2013): Thierry Victor, maintenance and supervision manager at Veolia Water, and Jérôme Pinel, Veolia Water planner, spent two weeks from October 17 to November 2, 2013 in Bangangté working on the Modeab project for sustainable management of water and sanitation. They assessed progress made during the previous three months in rehabilitation work under way on the different elements of the scan-water network.

More information on [Veolia's webTV](#) and in [the project factsheet](#) on the Foundation's website.



Sierra Leone (September-October 2013): Jean-François Coupel, design engineer at Veolia Water, traveled to Freetown, Sierra Leone's capital, in response to a request from Action Contre la Faim (ACF). The NGO is running a program funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) to improve water quality in Freetown's most vulnerable neighborhoods. After a period of remote assistance, the volunteer completed a first field assignment to advise ACF on the best way to include an in-line rechlorination system in the network. Jean-François Coupel will continue to support the program during 2014 both from France and during field visits to monitor the work in progress.

OTHER VOLUNTEER DEPARTURES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

TIDBITS...

The French Red Cross Emergency Response Units (ERU) celebrated their tenth anniversary at the end of September in Le Gard in the south of



France. During the ceremony, **Veoliaforce volunteers from the Veolia Environnement Foundation who serve in the ERUs were presented with a medal by Jean-Jacques Eledjam** (middle right in the photo), President of the French Red Cross. The ceremony was also an occasion for Thierry Vandeveld, Executive Officer of the Veolia Environnement Foundation, to meet and exchange with the new president of the French Red Cross. Since 2003, the Emergency Response Units have deployed nearly 500 disaster team members in around 40 emergency operations.



The Veolia Environnement Foundation, secretary of the **Global Alliance Against Cholera (GAAC)**, met once again with its president, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, and its US members on October 28, 2013 at the Cosmos Club in Washington D.C. Among the topics discussed were progress made in the alliance's advocacy work and in programs implemented in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Haiti. During this same meeting, Prof. Christine Rozand, representative of the Mérieux Foundation (a Veolia Environnement Foundation partner), presented a rapid cholera detection tool being developed for use in water to be used for drinking. She also participated in discussions with Prof. Rita Colwell and Dr. Eric Mintz, also cholera experts.

The Global Alliance Against Cholera has also announced the launch of its new website planned for January 2014 at the same address: www.choleraalliance.org

AT THE FOUNDATION



The Veolia Environnement Foundation attended the prize-giving ceremony for the Chirac Foundation Conflict Prevention Award. **Dr. Denis Mukwege** was a laureate in 2013 for his work to support women victims of rape during armed conflict. The non-profit **Femmes Africa Solidarités (FAS)** was awarded the Jury's Special Prize. The ceremony brought together the Chirac Foundation's President Jacques Chirac, French President François Hollande, and many other well-known personalities. Thierry Vandeveld, Executive Officer of the Veolia Environnement Foundation, sits on the Access to Water and Sanitation Committee of the Chirac Foundation alongside, notably, Michel Camdessus, former General Director of the IMF, and Jean-Michel Severino, former Director General of the French development agency.



Sandhya Bonnet, project manager at the Veolia Environnement Foundation, took part on September 18, 2013 in a **round table hosted in Brighton, UK, by the International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases**. She presented the Veolia Environnement Foundation-supported prevention program for cholera (a "neglected tropical disease"), illustrating the implication and added value a private actor can bring to "Water (water and sanitation) and Health."

For more information, visit the GAAC website.



Frédérique Héry, international aid coordinator at the Veolia Environnement Foundation, attended the fifth edition of "**Yvelines, partenaires du développement**," which took place in October this year. The International Cooperation Mission of the French department of Yvelines invited Frédérique to present Modeab, a program that aims to improve the sustainable management of water and sanitation in Cameroon. The discussions that followed were an opportunity to highlight best practices for projects aiming to improve access to water and sanitation.

FOUNDATION DIARY



The Foundation will hold its next Selection Committee meeting on December 10, 2013.

See [the map of projects supported](#).

Mali: a new water supply system for the Sikoro Farada neighborhood in Bamako!

Thierry Vandeveld, Executive Officer of the Veolia Environnement Foundation, and Frankaly Keita, Mali's Energy and Water Minister, officially opened the Sikoro Farada neighborhood's new water supply system on September 14, 2013. The Governor of Bamako District and the economic advisor to Mali's French Ambassador were also present at the ceremony.

The Veolia Environnement Foundation, a historic partnership with Mali

The Veolia Environnement Foundation considers both Mali and the Malian local authorities to be particularly important historic partners.

Consequently, the Foundation has developed many partnerships (more than 15 programs) spanning more than a decade, including two ambitious programs to improve the population's access to drinking water—one in the Kayes Region and the other in the Timbuktu Region.

In the Kayes Region, the Foundation worked in partnership with several development organizations and with the Malian community of the French city of Montreuil to support **PADDY**, the Yélimané sustainable development program. From 2004 to 2008, this program built or improved a great number of water systems providing access to drinking water in the area known as the Yélimané Circle. This exemplary program was part of Mali's national water decentralization policy; it aimed to improve access to water in around 10 districts, including Yelimané, while also building local capacity to ensure that the systems can be managed sustainably.

The Veolia Environnement Foundation has been working in partnership with the Regional Assembly of Timbuktu since 2007. It co-funded and provided technical support for the construction of 12 micro water networks fed by solar pumping systems to improve access to drinking water for 20,000 people in the area known as the **Niafunké Circle**.

Improving access to water and sanitation was one of the major challenges of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). It remains a priority both for Mali and for the Veolia Environnement Foundation.

An emergency situation makes the Sikoro Farada project a priority

The conflict under way in Mali has resulted in a mass influx of refugees from the north of the country to the capital Bamako, where supplying sufficient water is becoming increasingly challenging.

During his visit to France in spring 2012, Frankaly Keita, the Energy and Water Minister, highlighted the gravity of the water problem in a number of neighborhoods on the outskirts of Bamako with little or no access to the Somagep (national Malian water management authority) network. Planning is under way for a water treatment plant through the Kabala project, but this will not be operational for several years.

Given the urgency of the situation, Mr. Keita called on the Veolia Environnement Foundation to assist with the implementation of a number of temporary solutions. Mali's national and regional water departments submitted a number of projects for consideration. Among them, a project to **extend the water supply system in the Sikoro Farada neighborhood**, in "commune" 1 of Bamako, was deemed a priority.

Extension of the Sikoro Farada water supply system

The project affects an estimated 37,900 people living in the Sikoro neighborhood, to the north of the capital, who are facing a chronic lack of access to drinking water. The project, which was put forward by the National Water Resources Department, involved drilling a new borehole some 140 meters deep, extending the pipeline network and building two new communal tapstands.



A field visit organized by experts from the Veolia Environnement Foundation confirmed both the technical specifications and the financial data required for the project.

Work undertaken by the Malian company SEEBA (hydrological and geophysical surveys, deep drilling and connection to the existing water tower, construction of the tapstands) is now complete.

Members of the Water Users Association will be responsible for operating the system. The association was set up three years ago when the first water supply system was installed. It has significant management experience and is positively perceived by neighborhood residents.

Once they have been trained by the Regional Department for Water Resources in water resource and water outlet management, they will take part in a wide-scale information, education and awareness campaign targeting the beneficiaries.

The combination of these aspects will ensure the effective long-term management of the water supply system and its sustainability.



Photos of the workflow.