

Press release

1001fontaines brings together its partners to celebrate 20 years of action and innovation to promote access to safe drinking water.

Paris, October 7, 2024 - On September 25, 1001fontaines celebrated 20 years of commitment to access to safe drinking water in Asia and Africa alongside its partners and sponsors at an event in Paris. For the occasion, the NGO reviewed its innovative action model, highlighted its successes and set out its ambitions for the future, with the aim of at least doubling its impact by 2030.

A local model at the service of a global cause

Since its creation in 2004, 1001fontaines has been committed to a local, sustainable solution: producing safe drinking water directly on site and distributing it to communities in the form of 20-liter bottles. Thanks to an innovative business model, water is sold at a price of around 2 cents per liter, making the service accessible to local populations while ensuring the sustainability of the project. This service is now available in countries such as Cambodia, Madagascar, Vietnam and, more recently, Bangladesh.

1001fontaines has proven that its approach can combine impact and sustainability, as witnessed by the success of its Cambodian partner Teuk Saat 1001, which has become the leading supplier of safe drinking water in rural areas, with 1 million consumers and almost 340 water kiosks. This model has also been adopted in Madagascar, where 50,000 people now have access to safe drinking water in Tamatave.



From left to right: Marie-France Chatin, RFI journalist and producer; Samdoup Pascal Allier, Cartier Philanthropy Programs Officer; Eva Leneveu, 1001fontaines Program Manager.

For **Samdoup Pascal Allier, Programs Officer at Cartier Philanthropy**, *“If the Foundation supports 1001fontaines, it is above all because its ambition for excellence in service reflects the vision of a company like Cartier. The fact that 1001fontaines now serves 26% of Cambodia’s rural population is no coincidence. Unlike traditional organizations where the local people are the ones who have to adapt, 1001fontaines overturns this paradigm: it is the organization that responds to the needs of the community. With values such as impact, sustainability and ambition at the heart of its model, it’s only natural for us to support its action, in Cambodia and now in Madagascar.”*

Three fundamental pillars: quality, accessibility and sustainability.

Alongside private and public partners such as the Veolia Foundation, Cartier Philanthropy, Danone, Intermarché, Captain Cause and the French Development Agency (AFD), 1001fontaines reminded everyone of its fundamental principles. The priority remains to guarantee water quality at the time it is consumed, and to be a vital service for all populations.

To this end, the organization has designed social programs for the most vulnerable populations, notably the *Water in School* program, which provides nearly 400,000 children with daily access to safe drinking water in their schools.



Danone Intermarché cheque remitted to 1001fontaines following an operation in Intermarché stores

At the event, **Yves Bernaert, Chairman of the Board of Directors**, reaffirmed 1001fontaines' ambition to **“become a reference solution in at least five countries by 2030”**. After launching a program in Bangladesh in early 2024, the NGO is now exploring the possibility of expanding into Nepal.



The event was an opportunity for 1001fontaines to highlight the fact that access to safe drinking water is a global issue that requires the mobilization of everyone: governments, citizens and economic players alike. **“Access to safe drinking water is fundamental to public health, especially for children in developing countries. Over a million people still die every year because of unsafe water”**, emphasized **Julien Ancele, CEO of 1001fontaines**.

To increase its impact, the NGO is calling on decision-makers to support its initiatives and step up the adoption of innovative, sustainable solutions to this global crisis.

About 1001fontaines:

For two decades 1001fontaines has worked to meet the needs of underserved communities through resilient water purification infrastructure and affordable and convenient services. We aim to encourage long-term behavior change and are proud that a million consumers across four countries in Asia and Africa have adopted our safe drinking water solutions. Our 2030 ambition is to extend our impact by proving the relevance of our safe drinking water solutions in five countries and ensuring all our local partners are on track to reach financial viability at scale.

For more information: www.1001fontaines.com/en/

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