

SOFIDEL AND WATERAID ANNOUNCE A THREE-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

Sofidel has always been committed to limiting the consumption of water in its production processes and now expands its activity, looking especially to the 6th UN Global Sustainable Development Goal, which aims to ensure access to water and sanitation for all.

The Sofidel Group, a world leader in tissue paper manufacturing, **today announced the beginning of a three-year partnership with WaterAid**, the NGO whose mission is to ensure access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services in some of the world's poorest communities.

WaterAid is a non-governmental organisation founded in 1981, and since then **it has given 25 million people access to safe water** and provided **sanitation and hygiene for 24 million people in 30 countries**.

Good health, women's empowerment, education, nutrition, decent housing and successful urban planning all rely on the delivery of good water, sanitation and hygiene services. **Sofidel is committed to ensuring hygiene and comfort in daily life** and it believes strongly in the importance of hygiene and the availability of good sanitation to promote health and protect the dignity of the person.

In the **next three years** Sofidel will support WaterAid's operations, contributing to **spreading better health conditions** and enabling rural communities, schools and health centres to adopt and sustain good practices in hygiene and sanitation. Sofidel will also play an active role by involving its stakeholders in fundraising and campaigning activities for WaterAid.

"Sofidel is perfectly aware of how precious a resource water is, both for natural balance and human well-being and hygiene," commented Luigi Lazzareschi, CEO of the Sofidel Group. "This is the reason why we are already highly committed to using it responsibly in all our production sites and we work on various levels to raise awareness among our stakeholders. So today we are very pleased to announce our new partnership with WaterAid. It is another way to play a responsible role with respect to an issue of global interest, together with a highly appreciated NGO, such as WaterAid."

'We're delighted to announce a three-year partnership with Sofidel. WaterAid believes access to safe water and decent toilets are basic human rights, and that the private sector has an important role to play in

SOFIDEL S.p.A.

Via Giuseppe Lazzareschi, 23 - 55016 Porcari (Lucca) Italy | P +39 0583 2681 | www.sofidel.com



Sofidel is a WWF Climate Savers member

*achieving universal access to water and sanitation” affirmed **Barbara Frost**, Chief Executive of WaterAid. “The global water and sanitation crisis requires a joined-up and collaborative approach, including NGOs, businesses and governments, to ensure everyone everywhere has these essentials by the year 2030.”*

Environmental and social sustainability is a key part of Sofidel’s development strategies.

From this perspective, the partnership is also intended to offer **a contribution to achieving the 6th of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: universal access to sources of clean water and sanitation by 2030.**

It is also a way to demonstrate **how business and NGOs can bring expertise and resources together to contribute to achieving a healthier, more fair, more sustainable world.**

Porcari, 22 March 2017

The Sofidel Group

The Sofidel Group is one of the leading manufacturer of paper for hygienic and domestic use worldwide. Established in 1966, the Group has subsidiaries in 13 countries – Italy, Spain, the UK, France, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Hungary, Greece, Romania, Turkey and the USA - with more than 5,500 employees, a consolidated turnover of 1,842 million Euros (2016) and a production capacity of over one million tonnes per year (1,058,000 tonnes in 2016). “Regina”, its most well-known brand, is present on almost all the reference markets. Other brands include: Softis, Le Trèfle, Sopalín, Nouvelle, Thirst Pockets, KittenSoft, Nalys, Cosynel, Yumy, Soft & Easy, Volare, Onda, Lycke, Forest, Nicky, Papernet, Heavenly Soft. A member of UN Global Compact and the international WWF Climate Savers programme, the Sofidel Group considers sustainability a strategic factor with regards to growth and is committed to promoting socially and environmentally responsible development.

WaterAid

WaterAid's vision is of a world where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation. The international organisation works in 37 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific Region to transform lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in some of the world's poorest communities. Since 1981, WaterAid has reached 25 million people with safe water and, since 2004, 24 million people with sanitation. For more information, visit www.wateraid.org, follow @WaterAidUK on Twitter, or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/wateraid.

- Around 315,000 children die each year from diarrhoeal diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation. That's almost 900 children each day, or one child every two minutes.
- Over 650 million people (around one in ten) are without safe water
- Over 2.3 billion people (around one in three) live without improved sanitation
- For every £1 invested in water and sanitation, an average of £4 is returned in increased productivity.
- Just £15 can help provide one person with access to safe water.
- For details on how individual countries are keeping their promises on water and sanitation, please see our online database, WASHWatch.org.

Sofidel Press Office



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Hill+Knowlton Strategies

Silvia Campanella - +39 347 4501665 - silvia.campanella@hkstrategies.com

Daniele Rurale - +39 346 5011546 - daniele.rurale@hkstrategies.com

Paola Sacilotto - +39 340 5459920 - paola.sacilotto@hkstrategies.com

WaterAid Press Office

Lisa Martin, Senior Media Officer, lisamartin@wateraid.org or +44 (0)20 7793 4524,
Suzy Vickers, PR Manager, on suzyvickers@wateraid.org or +44 (0) 207 793 4995.

Or our after-hours pressoffice@wateraid.org or our press line +44 (0)7887 521 552