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PRESS RELEASE

Mirabaud in partnership with Winds of Hope Foundation

Geneva: 9 June 2011 - Mirabaud has entered into a partnership with the Winds of Hope Foundation, which is active in the fight against the gangrenous disease Noma. The private bank's support for the Foundation, established by the two world-famous balloonists Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones, will continue for at least three years.

A Foundation born of an exceptional adventure

After the record-breaking round-the-world balloon flight in the Breitling Orbiter in March 1999, Piccard and Jones decided to capitalise on the success and publicity achieved in "the last big adventure of the century" to help in the fight against forgotten or neglected diseases, particularly those affecting children living in extreme poverty. The result was the Winds of Hope Foundation, which works to combat Noma by financing prevention projects that help train health care workers, raise awareness in local communities and promote early detection of the disease.

Mirabaud's commitment

Mirabaud joins the other Golden Partners working alongside Winds of Hope: the watchmaker Breitling, co-founder and long-standing partner of the Foundation, as well as Victorinox, the Freddy & Regula Lienhard Foundation and the real estate agency deRham Immobilier.

"Mirabaud has always admired those who work for such exceptional causes. Even more so when they foster values of humanity, tenacity and solidarity, and when these values serve causes that work toward the common good. We are proud to be able to commit ourselves to Winds of Hope and to contribute to the prevention of this terrible disease," said Antonio Palma, Managing Partner and CEO of Mirabaud.

Mirabaud's contribution includes financial support which, along with help from the other partners, will cover the Foundation's operating costs.

"Thanks to partners like Mirabaud, we're able to guarantee that 100% of the donations made by the public are used for humanitarian action and are spent directly on helping those in need. By investing in Winds of Hope and its work against Noma, Mirabaud is making a difference to the world's most underprivileged populations," said Bertrand Piccard, President of the Foundation.

The vital support received from its partners and donors enables the Winds of Hope Foundation to continue its work. In a partnership with the World Health Organisation that has already lasted more than 10 years, the charity has supported the launch and implementation of several national programmes to combat Noma, notably by training health care workers to diagnose and treat the first symptoms of the disease. The Foundation has also helped NGOs carry out numerous Noma prevention projects in the field. Its initial launch was in Niger, and it then expanded its activities to Burkina Faso, Mali, Benin, Togo and Senegal. A long-term partnership with the WHO, Health Ministers and NGOs has also enabled it to take concrete action backed up by technical support, thus having a direct impact on the communities affected.

Winds of Hope

Created on 9 September 1999, the Winds of Hope Foundation has taken on the task of fighting Noma. Its primary mission is not to replace organisations active in the field but to finance national programmes that are simple in structure and capable of having a multiplier effect, with a focus on disease prevention education, early detection and primary health care. Since 2000, Winds of Hope has invested CHF 2 million in national programmes overseen by the WHO and CHF 1.9 million in prevention projects carried out by NGOs. (www.windsofhope.org).

Since 2003, Winds of Hope has played a key role in creating the International No-Noma Federation. Its goal is to attempt to unite the efforts of all those involved in this fight, with particular emphasis on sharing information and working together to achieve synergies both locally and internationally (www.nonoma.org).

What is Noma ?

Noma is a devastating gangrenous disease that develops in the mouth and wreaks havoc on the soft and hard tissues of the face, horribly disfiguring its victims. The disease mostly affects young children and is mainly caused by malnutrition and a lack of hygiene. In the absence of antibiotic treatment, Noma is fatal in 80% of cases. It is particularly common in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the Foundation has concentrated its activities.

Mirabaud in brief

Mirabaud & Cie, banquiers privés, was founded in Geneva in 1819. Having taken on international dimensions, Mirabaud now operates on four continents, providing its international client base with customised financial and advisory services in three core areas: Private Banking (portfolio management, investment advisory services and services for independent fund managers), Asset Management (institutional management, fund management and distribution) and Intermediation (brokerage services, corporate finance and debt capital management).

A fast-growing independent firm, Mirabaud has tripled its assets under management in the span of ten years to CHF25 billion at 31 December 2010. With nearly 600 employees, over half working internationally, Mirabaud has offices in Switzerland (Geneva, Basel and Zurich), Europe (London, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, Monaco and Luxembourg) and in the rest of the world (Montreal, Hong Kong, Dubai and Auckland).

For more information, please visit: [**www.mirabaud.com**](http://www.mirabaud.com)

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