**PRESS**

**RELEASE**

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#### Gewerbepark 1

#### 4133 Niederkappel

#### www.oekofen.com

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**As a UNICEF partner in Austria, Europe's pioneer for wood pellet boilers makes a positive contribution to the future of children worldwide:**

**ÖkoFEN and UNICEF Austria - Two strong  
partners for clean water**

**ÖkoFEN, Europe's specialist for wood pellet boilers, assumes social responsibility as a partner of UNICEF Austria and starts a long-term cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund. The company from Austria is thus not only committed to a better future when it comes to energy. ÖkoFEN managing director Stefan Ortner explains why: "*With our daily work and our products we make a valuable contribution to climate protection. In many regions of the world, however, the effects are already clearly noticeable and are increasingly leading to crisis situations. Many people, especially children, suffer from the lack of access to clean water. Since children are our future, we have decided to combine our social commitment with this cooperation with UNICEF Austria"*.**

**Water as the basis of life**

Water is an elementary prerequisite for life on earth and for us a natural part of everyday life. This makes it even more serious that more than two billion people worldwide do not have sufficient access to drinking water. Around 785 million people do not even have a basic supply of water. Climate change is exacerbating this situation with long droughts and increased flooding.

The lack of clean drinking water is a major threat to people's health. Clean water is essential for the survival and development of children. A large proportion of infectious diseases in crisis areas are due to contaminated water and inadequate basic sanitation.

**ÖkoFEN supports UNICEF Austria**

The wood pellet boiler specialist has been developing sustainable products and climate-neutral energy solutions for more than 30 years. With the credo "We are the first generation to see the effects of climate change. And perhaps the last generation that can do something against it," states the company, which is also committed to a better future outside the energy sector. Since ÖkoFEN has been engaged to social projects in various areas for quite some time, this commitment will now be bundled with the start of the partnership with UNICEF Austria. The company therefore supports a strong partner who is a global leader in the field of disaster relief, especially in the areas of water and hygiene, and who has the necessary experience and structures to provide sustainable assistance.

**For the future of children**

ÖkoFEN offers its customers ecological heating of the highest quality. To ensure that more children have access to clean water, ÖkoFEN donates a "clean water package" to UNICEF Austria for every boiler sold with an integrated domestic hot water system.

The water purification tablets it contains are an inexpensive and safe method of making very large quantities of water drinkable. One tablet is enough to clean 4 to 5 litres of water. Each donated package provides 5,000 water purification tablets and containers for treatment. This purifies up to 25,000 litres of water and converts it into drinking water.

**Picture texts:** (Pictures free of charge)

**Picture 1:** ÖkoFEN managing director Stefan Ortner and UNICEF representative   
Dr. Anna Gudra are pleased about the future cooperation. (© ÖkoFEN)

**Picture 2:** With a "clean water package", up to 25,000 litres of water can be purified as drinking water. (© UNICEF/UN0327682)

**Picture 3:** The children in crisis areas are happy about the purified drinking water.  
(© UNICEF/UN0307484)

**Contact for further inquiries:**

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