

## Sodexo launches “La Passerelle” (The Bridge), a new economic model with a positive social impact, in priority neighborhoods

Issy-les-Moulineaux, May 10, 2021 - Today, Sodexo is announcing the launch of *La Passerelle*, a new economic model that seeks to have greater impact on employability, health through food and social cohesion in priority neighborhoods. *La Passerelle* is first and foremost about centers located at the heart of the city, where several activities are brought together around a vegetable processing plant and a community space. The first *La Passerelle* center has been successful in the *Quartiers Fertiles* (Fertile Neighborhoods) call for projects competition led by the National Urban Renewal Agency. It will open in Clichy-sous-Bois, in the Paris area, in 2022. A further ten similar projects are set to be launched by 2025.



### A place for impact and societal innovation

Building on its historic commitment and its dual mission – to improve the quality of life of its employees and those it serves, and to contribute to the economic, social and environmental development of the communities where it operates – Sodexo is launching a new and inclusive economic model, *La Passerelle*. This innovative model, designed to have a positive impact on the local community, specifically hopes to:

- Help to improve the employability of local residents;
- Contribute to improving health by creating awareness around nutrition;
- Contribute to social cohesion and connection;
- Contribute to the attractiveness of the community.

## In Clichy-sous-Bois, a center designed with and for locals

What is *La Passerelle*? It is a place dedicated to boosting the economy and social life of the local community. It is located within a priority neighborhood, close to the residents who will be the first beneficiaries of the building and its program of activities. The first center will open in Clichy-sous-Bois in early 2022. It will provide four activities:

- **A vegetable processing plant.** As the economic driver behind the project, the vegetable processing plant will support the model while helping to improve the employability of local residents and to promote a more local, plant-based diet. The facility will prepare 350 metric tons of fresh local produce every year. Half of this will be directed to Sodexo's usual distribution channels, while the other half will be sold directly to consumers via retail networks.
- **A daycare facility.** The facility will have 21 places available for residents, as childcare continues to be one of the main obstacles to employment and training. Support workshops will also be offered to parents who are seeking to enter the job market.
- **A training room.** To compensate for the insufficient availability of training facilities in the community, and respond to local demand, this room will offer skills training led by a local provider.

- **A community space.** The community space will be jointly managed by local stakeholders and will host a program of activities aimed at residents from the local neighborhood. These activities might include, for example, workshops on the links between health and nutrition.

The center itself **will create around 20 jobs**, while 500 people will benefit from the various activities, events and training sessions held each year.

## An eco-friendly, collaborative approach

In addition to the anticipated employment and social cohesion benefits, *La Passerelle* in Clichy-sous-Bois forms part of a deliberately eco-friendly approach. Certified by both *Bâtiments Durables Franciliens* and E+C-, the building will have a wooden facade and green roof, helping to combat the urban heat island effect. Its operating principle will be based primarily on the circular economy, from supply through waste management.

Created and designed by Sodexo, the program of activities for this innovative center has been jointly developed with local organizations, both public – including Clichy-sous-Bois City Hall – and private, to ensure that it meets the needs of the community and produces the intended positive impact. Sodexo has also worked closely with relevant non-profit organizations and NGOs.



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## An innovative center supported by *Quartiers Fertiles*

As a social innovation project, *La Passerelle* in Clichy-sous-Bois was named a winner of the *Quartiers Fertiles* call for projects, led by the National Urban Renewal Agency.

The project supports and promotes urban agriculture, because it helps both to guarantee commercial markets for the produce of local farmers and to raise local awareness of short supply chains and the links between health and nutrition, including for those on a limited budget.

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"We are proud to be the driving force behind this new, inclusive and sustainable economic model. It falls within the Group's historic commitment

to social responsibility, while also meeting consumers' desire for a more local and sustainable diet. The return to sustainable growth and the stepping up of our inclusive and supportive approach are closely linked. The crisis is exacerbating the economic and social needs of communities, and I have no doubt that it is at the local level that the responses to many current challenges are to be found. Companies have a key role to play, in partnership with public bodies and associations."

Sophie Bellon, Chairwoman of Sodexo's Board of Directors

## A model destined to spread throughout France

With *La Passerelle*, Sodexo is using its identity as a local player, its knowledge with regard to local and inclusive procurement and its consumer understanding to help create a new economic model. *La Passerelle* in Clichy-sous-Bois aims to break even from its third year of operations. Profits will be reinvested in developing and quickly replicating the model, which is destined to spread throughout France, in service of a single goal – implementing an economic model which has a positive impact on employability, health through food and social cohesion – while adapting to the specific needs of each community. With support from the National Urban Renewal Agency in the long run, Sodexo has set a target of launching ten similar projects nationally by 2025.

© Fabrice Neddiam, city of Clichy-sous-Bois



"As Mayor of Clichy-sous-Bois, I'm thrilled about the opening of *La Passerelle* in 2022. It is above all great news for local residents, who will be the first

beneficiaries, and will see its practical impact in terms of employment, health, nutrition and social cohesion. A truly multipurpose community space, *La Passerelle* is a unique model which will become a reality thanks to financial and operational support from the *Quartiers Fertiles* call for projects launched by the National Urban Renewal Agency and its partners. The *Quartiers Fertiles* call for projects has already provided support to 75 project leaders throughout the country, to democratize and accelerate the introduction of urban agriculture to neighborhoods."

Olivier Klein, Mayor of Clichy-sous-Bois and Chair of the National Urban Renewal Agency

## About Sodexo

Founded in Marseille in 1966 by Pierre Bellon, Sodexo is the global leader in services that improve Quality of Life, an essential factor in individual and organizational performance. Operating in 64 countries, Sodexo serves 100 million consumers each day through its unique combination of On-site Services, Benefits & Rewards Services and Personal & Home Services. Sodexo provides clients an integrated offering developed over more than 50 years of experience: from foodservices, reception, maintenance and cleaning, to facilities and equipment management; from services and programs fostering employees' engagement to solutions that simplify and optimize their mobility and expenses management, to in-home assistance, child care centers and concierge services. Sodexo's success and performance are founded on its independence, its sustainable business model and its ability to continuously develop and engage its 420,000 employees throughout the world.

Sodexo is included in the CAC Next 20, CAC 40 ESG, FTSE 4 Good and DJSI indices.

## Key figures

- 19.3 billion** euro in Fiscal 2020 consolidated revenues
- 420,000** employees as at August 31, 2020
- #1** France-based private employer worldwide
- 64** countries
- 100 million** consumers served daily
- 12.1 billion** euro in market capitalization (as at March 31, 2021)

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