

Crisis Communication @ Nestlé

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## Agenda

#### Introduction

- Policy & Guidelines
- Application @ Nestlé



## Nestlé's mission

Our objective is to be the recognised leader in Nutrition, Health & Wellness and the industry reference for financial performance



#### The Nestlé story





## Nestlé at a glance

- CHF 83.6 billion in sales in 2011
- 328,000 employees
- 461 factories
- 10,000 brands
- 1 billion Nestlé products sold every day

#### Constant interaction with our consumers...!

# We make Nestlé

#### the Leader



Trusted

Nutrition. Health and Wellness

Quality

assurance

and product safety

2

3

4

#### Caring







Environmental

#### Transparent



Consumer communication

Inclusive



Agriculture development

8





7 Supplier and customer relations

Safe



Safety and health at work

6





Exemplary





5 Leadership and personal responsibility



## Nestlé's Social Media Meltdown A Case Study



- Pressure from Greenpeace and like minded individuals over Nestlé's policy of buying palm oil
- Greenpeace accuses Nestlé of supporting deforestation and threatening the Orangutan monkeys with extinction.
- Greenpeace created a video which likened eating a Kit Kat bar to killing an Orang-Utan.
- Mistakes :
  - 1. Nestlé moved to have the video removed, which angered the Greenpeace members.
  - 2. Nestlé then moved to protect their Facebook page by removing critical comments
  - 3. Continuing to do something and expecting the results to change
  - 4. Lack of transparency and apparent unconcern
- Finally, Nestlé began a traditional slow speed counter movement making several environmental statements and announcing initiatives



#### Social media communication Evolution – Kit Kat 2010





Social media lessons from Nestle's reputation crisis

#### Kit Kat Mentions – Jan to July 2010





# Crisis management

Do not compromise on COMPLIANCE :

- Internal controls, food safety, management principles and procedures
- Be prepared :
  - Timely preparation of measures and contingency plans
- Be open :
  - Transparent & proactive communication
- Be decisive and flexible to cope with <u>unforeseen</u> events

Keep in mind, the way we managed crisis does reinforce employees, customers, suppliers and other stakeholders confidence in Nestlé...!



# Policy

Social platforms as both catalyst and amplifier

- Manage issues, incidents and crises online and in social media is key
- Maintain consumer trust and protect company's reputation



## Guidelines

Protect Nestlé and its brands

- Isolated consumer complaint can gather momentum and spread internationally within hours.
- Even when communicating in tense crisis situations, stay true to brand personality :
  - Caring and responsible
  - Open and empathetic
  - Transparent and honest



## Guidance in the following areas

- Laying groundwork before a crisis
- Social and digital media crisis prevention, readiness and radar
- Understanding a social media issue/crisis
- Responding to a crisis
- Reviewing a social media issue/crisis



#### What is a crisis ?

Ongoing debate (often spread by media/social media) :

- "Spiking" issues can become a crisis
- Threatens health and safety of consumers and employees
- Threatens image and value of brands and company
- Left unmanaged, an incident can turn into a crisis
- Never underestimate crisis potential of an issue or incident



#### How do we act?

- Building positive digital sentiment through best practice engagement
- Knowing conversational landscape relevant to our brands / markets
- Investing in our brand's social media presence
- Being strategic about how we approach social media
- Showing consumers that we care and are listening to them



## Which issues should we look out for ?

- Social media crisis situation threatens company in different areas
- Crucial to immediately assess and escalate threat to appropriate internal contacts
- Specific Nestlé "hot topics" :
  - Crises not confined to fixed list of topics
  - Widespread consumer concern
  - Organised attacks.



## How to manage consumer complaints ?

- Sensitive consumer complaints can indicate a serious issue
- Reaction can undermine Nestlé's reputation and trigger a crisis :
  - Urgency ?
  - Threat ?
  - Surprise ?
  - Consumers' health at stake ?
- Monitoring and listening (The Listening Company)
- Learn what consumers really feel before we get told by someone else !



# Monitoring – DO / DON'T ?

#### DO

- Monitoring with keywords
- Monitor daily (or more)
- Perform manual searches (e.g. Google Blogs, Twitter, YouTube)
- Search Facebook (e.g. fan pages, group walls)
- Set up Alerts as back-up
- Analyse samples if data volume becomes overwhelming
- Engage partners (internal & external)
- Establish automated workflow to notify crisis committee

#### DON'T

- Forget to adjust keyword
- Use volumes as key metric (influence and context also important)
- Ignore competitors and retailers
- Report only charts and verbatims (insights are crucial !)
- Assign monitoring to someone too junior or with little knowledge of business



## Impact of crisis communication

#### Risk level





# Key Learning

- Anticipate as much as possible
- *Timely reaction* is essential
- Be flexible to cope with unforeseen events



#### Let's have a break, let's have a...



