# Danone Investment Memo Return: 59.9% (5 Years) | 8.9% / Year Neutral Rating

#### Investment Thesis

- I. <u>Industry</u>
- II. <u>Company</u>
- III. <u>Turnaround</u>
- IV. Valuation & Return

<u>Appendix</u>

BREQ Capital Enrico Andrade Quinzani



## DANONE ONE PLANET. ONE HEALTH

## **Investment Thesis**

The thesis is based on the analysis of **4 key aspects**:

#### I Industry

**42%** of Danone's revenues in markets facing **Headwinds** 

**39%** of revenues to benefit from a **Megatrend** 

#### II Company

Organic Sales Growth: **2.0% p.a** 

#### VS.

Total Shareholder Return: **-1.8% p.a** 

**Industry's 2nd highest** gross margin: **47.4%** in 2021

#### III Turnaround

**Removal** of former **CEO and Chairman** 

4<sup>th</sup> Restructuring in
8 years
New CEO
New Strategy

### IV Valuation & Return

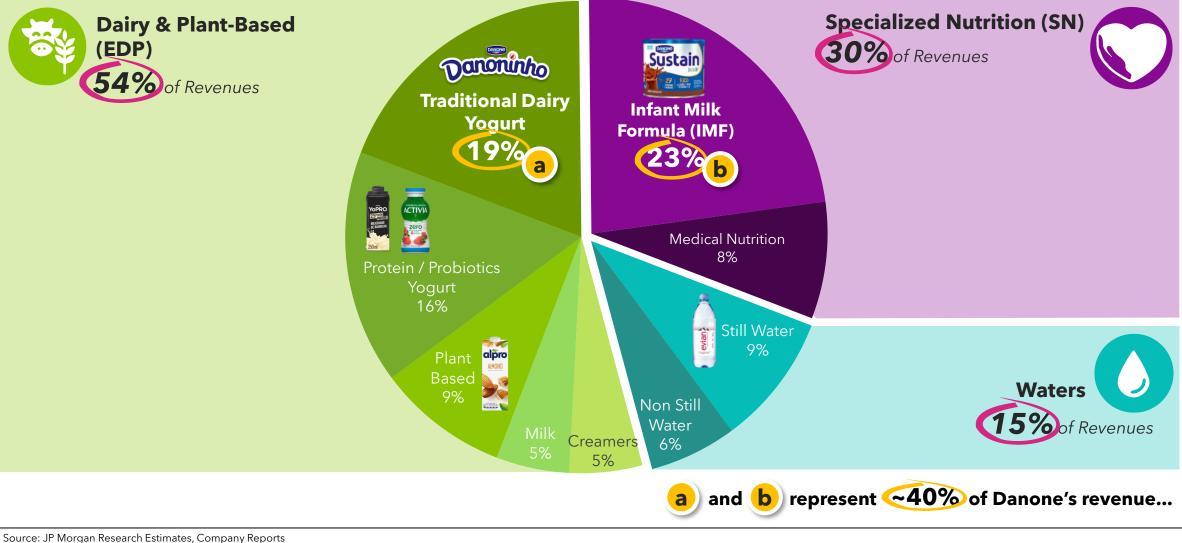
**16.0**x P/E NTM**6%** below 5 yrs. avg.15% below peers 5 yrs.avg.

**10.5**x EV/EBITDA
NTM **12%** below 5 yrs. avg.
23% below peers 5 yrs.avg.



Revenues divided into three business segments

#### Breakdown of Danone's Revenues:

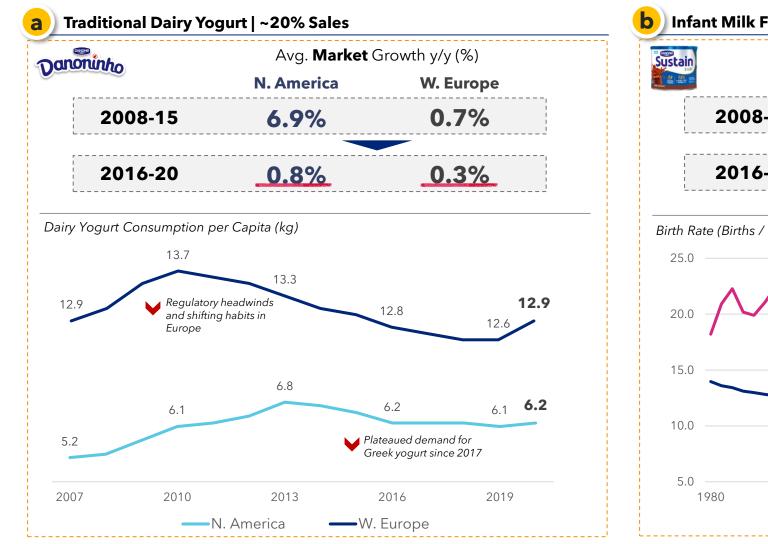


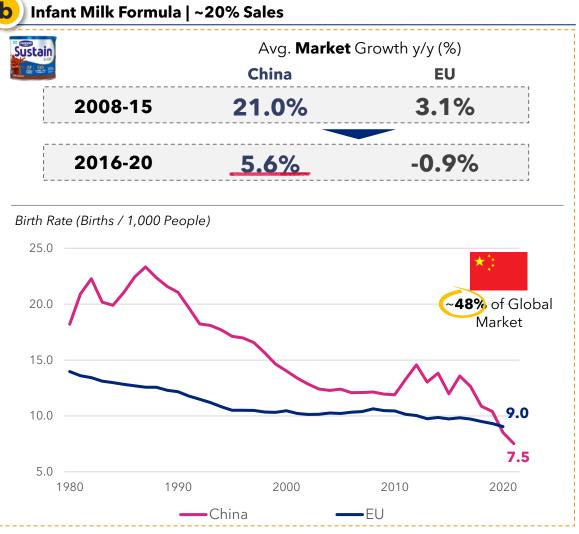
Total may not add due to rounding Revenue breakdown as of 2020

## Negative Trends Impacting Core Categories 🧡



Traditional Dairy Yogurt and Infant Milk Formula showed **declining end market growth** even before the pandemic, due to **secular trends** 





Source: Euromonitor, JP Morgan Research, U.S. Department of Agriculture, The World Bank, COVID-19 Community Mobility Reports

Company

Return

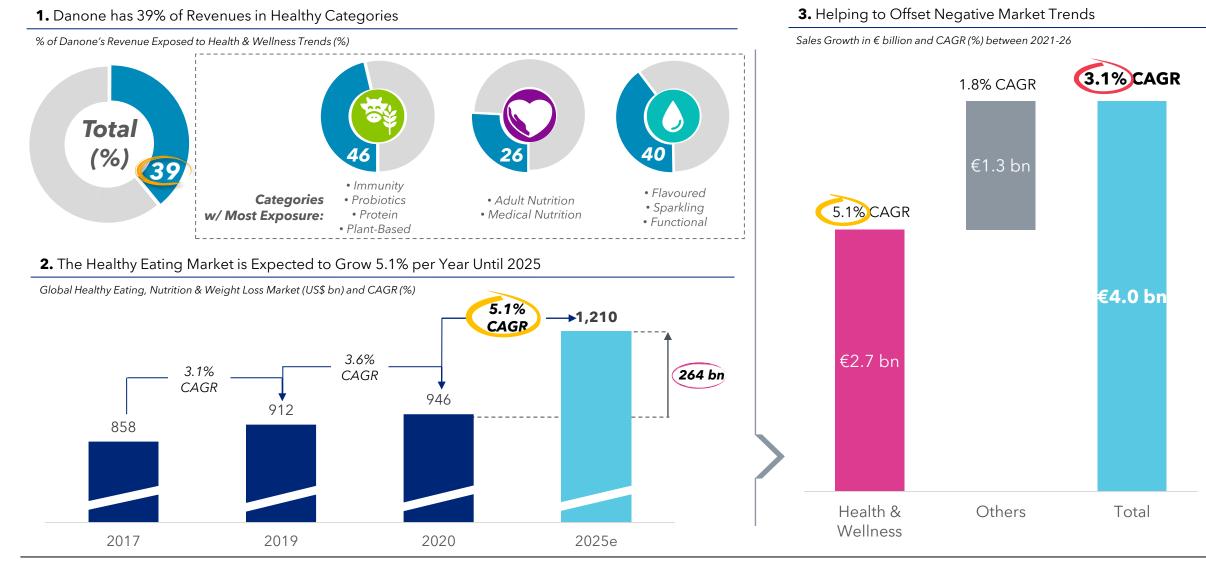
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**N.Valuation** 

## Secular Megatrend: Health & Wellness 🥕



Negative market dynamics could be partly offset by a consumer **Megatrend** in **Health & Wellness** 

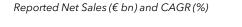


Source: Global Wellness Institute, JP Morgan Research Estimates, Company Reports, IRI Worldwide

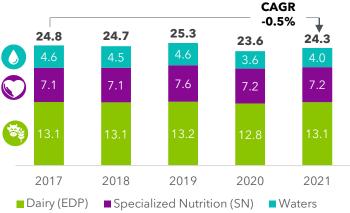


#### Danone has the industry's 2<sup>nd</sup> highest gross margin, resulting from the company's exposure to Specialized Nutrition and Water segments

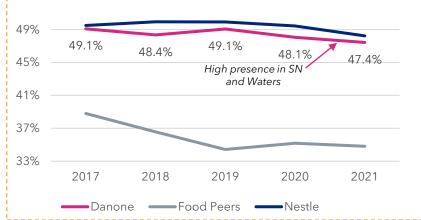
#### **1.** Reported Sales Declined, Mostly due to Negative FX



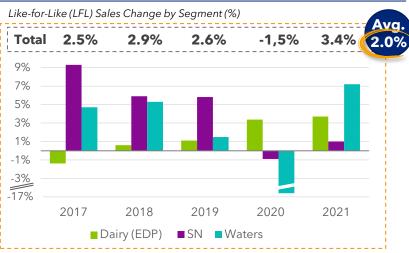
Gross Margin - Danone vs. Peers Median (%)



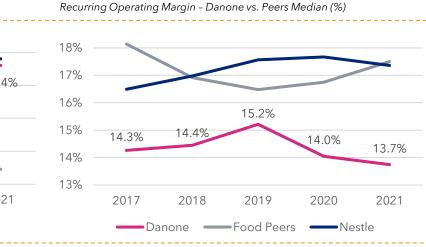
#### 4. Sector Exposure Grants 2nd Highest Gross Margin



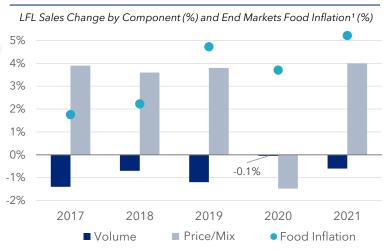
#### 2. Market Headwinds Contributed to Weak Organic Growth



#### **5.** EBIT Margin is Pressured by High OpEx

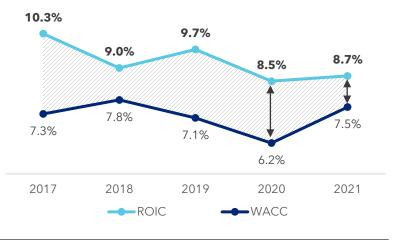


#### **3.** Pricing Growth Below Inflation, with Volumes Down



#### **6.** ROIC Marginally Above WACC

Danone's ROIC vs. WACC (%)



Source: Company and Peers' Publications, BREQ's Estimates, Bloomberg, U.S. Department of Treasury

1. Estimate based on the company's revenue exposure to foreign currency

Return

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**IV.Valuation** 

#### Underperformance

Danone's Market Share (%) by Category

14.3%

Yogurt -

47.2%

Plant-Based

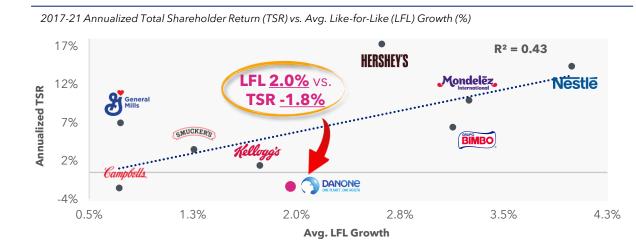
Milk - US

15.3%

1. Shareholder's Return Reflects Low Sales Growth in the Period



Low organic sales growth helps to explain the share's underperformance. Total Shareholder Return is -1.8% p.a for the last 5 years



#### 2. End Markets Slowdown is One of the Reasons, but not the Main One



#### 3. Danone Lost Market Share in Categories Representing ~59% of it's Sales

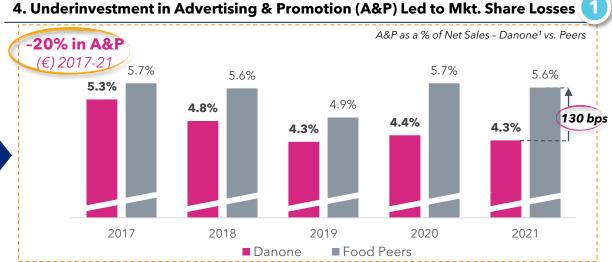
28.1%

6.2%

Waters - Global

of Sales

as a result of...



Milk - Europe Global ■2017 ■2018 ■2019 ■2020 ■2021 Source: Bloomberg, Company and Peers' Publications, Euromonitor, JP Morgan Research, IRI Worldwide, BREQ's Estimates, Statista, Management Statements

Plant-Based

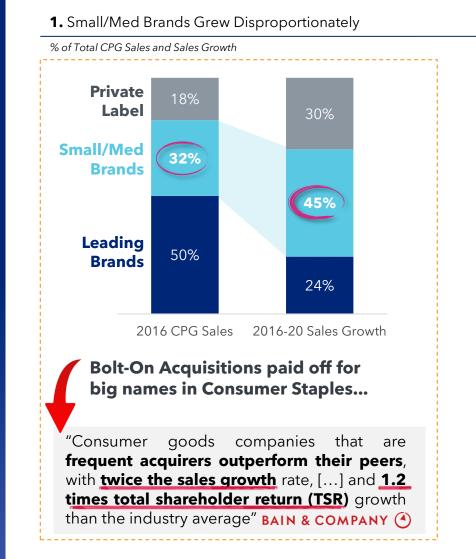
26.7%

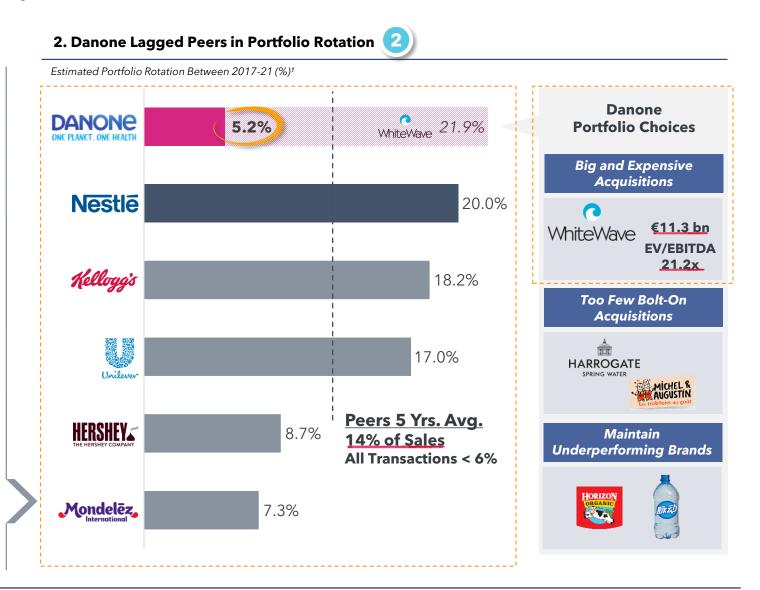
1. 2017-19 figures were estimated based on Danone's USA A&P expenses and 2020-21 figures on management's statements

## Underperformance (cont.)



#### Low portfolio rotation contributed to lackluster sales growth





Source: Company and Peers' Publications, McKinsey & Company, Nielsen, Bain & Company, BREQ's Estimates

1. Equivalent to the estimated sales from acquired/divested companies as a % of Avg. Sales (17-21); Nestle and Unilever figures were disclosed by the management

ll. Company

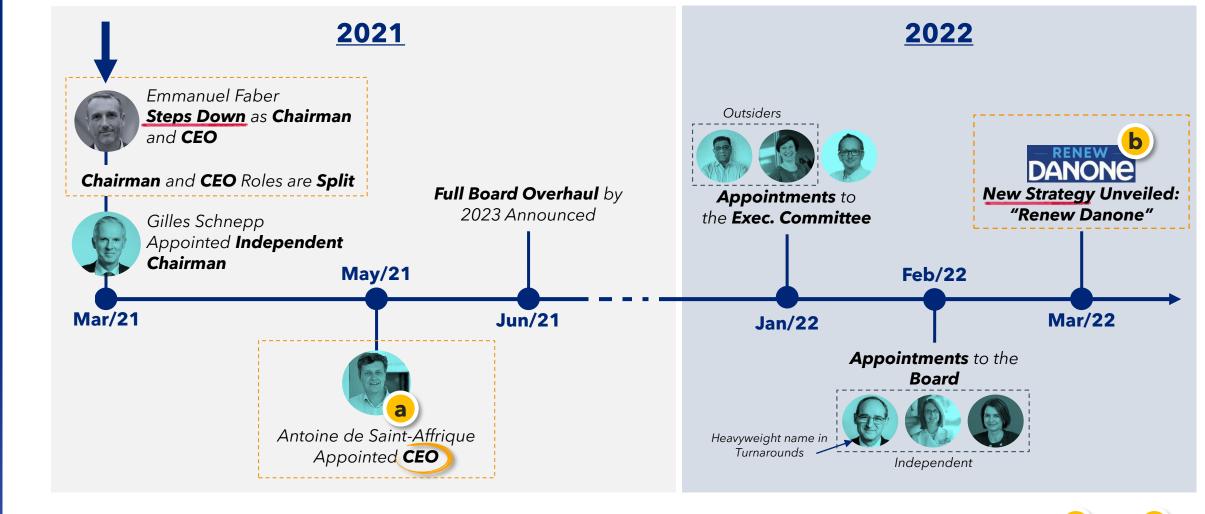
III.Turnaround

**IV.Valuation & Return** 

## **III** Turnaround Timeline



Danone's poor performance resulted in the **removal** of its **former CEO and Chairman**, Emmanuel Faber



... the Turnaround depends on the success of **a** and **b** 

## III New CEO



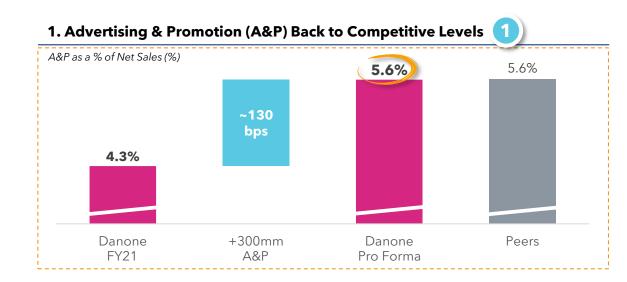
a) The turnaround **depends on the new CEO's ability** to successfully carry out the company's strategy

	Avg. Like-for-Like Sales Growth	EBIT Margin Chg.	ROIC Chg.	Avg. TSR
	<u>2016-19</u> <u>2016-20</u>	<u>2016-19</u> <u>2016-20</u>	<u>2016-19</u> <u>2016-20</u>	<u>2016-19</u> <u>2016-20</u>
Antoine de Saint-Afrique		     	     	I     
	<u>3.5%</u> <u>3.3%</u>	<u>2.2 р.р 1.0 р.р</u>	<u> 3.0 р.р</u> <u>0.8 р.р</u>	<u>19.7%</u> <u>15.3%</u>
<ul> <li>30+ Years in operating roles at Unilever</li> <li>CEO of Barry Callebaut from 2016-20:</li> <li>Focus on sustainable accretive growth</li> </ul>	L		         	
<ul> <li>Financial background</li> <li>CEO of Danone from 2015-20:</li> </ul>	<u>2.2%</u> <u>1.9%</u>	<u>1.4 р.р</u> <u>0.3 р.р</u>	<u>-0.9 p.p</u> <u>-2.1 p.p</u>	<u>6.9%</u> <u>-0.1%</u>

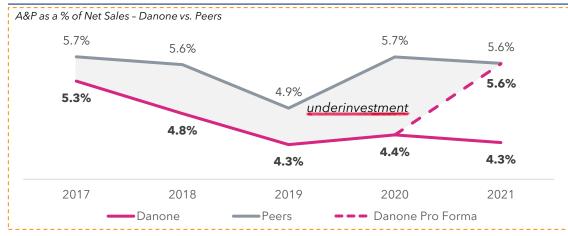
... the new CEO has good track record and seems qualified

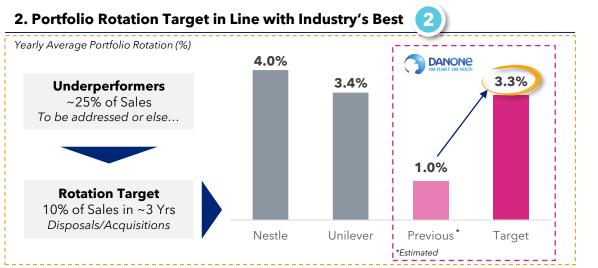
## **New Strategy: Renew Danone**

The turnaround **depends on the new strategy's capacity** to address the company's core reasons for underperformance

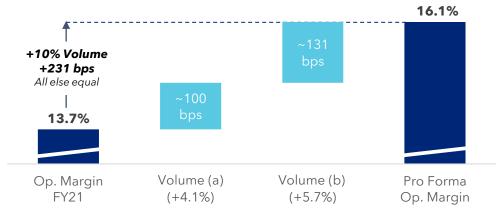


#### 3. A&P Increases Could Have a Delayed / Limited Effect





#### 4. Operating Margin Upside from Focus on Growing Volume



Recurring Operating Margin (%)

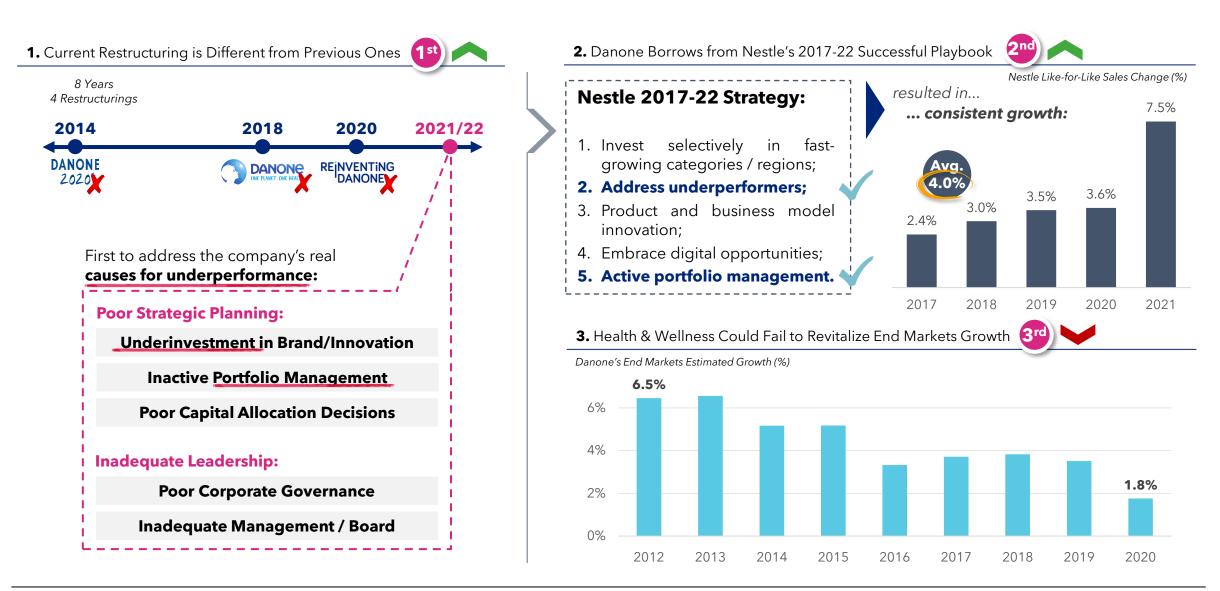
b

# ll. Company



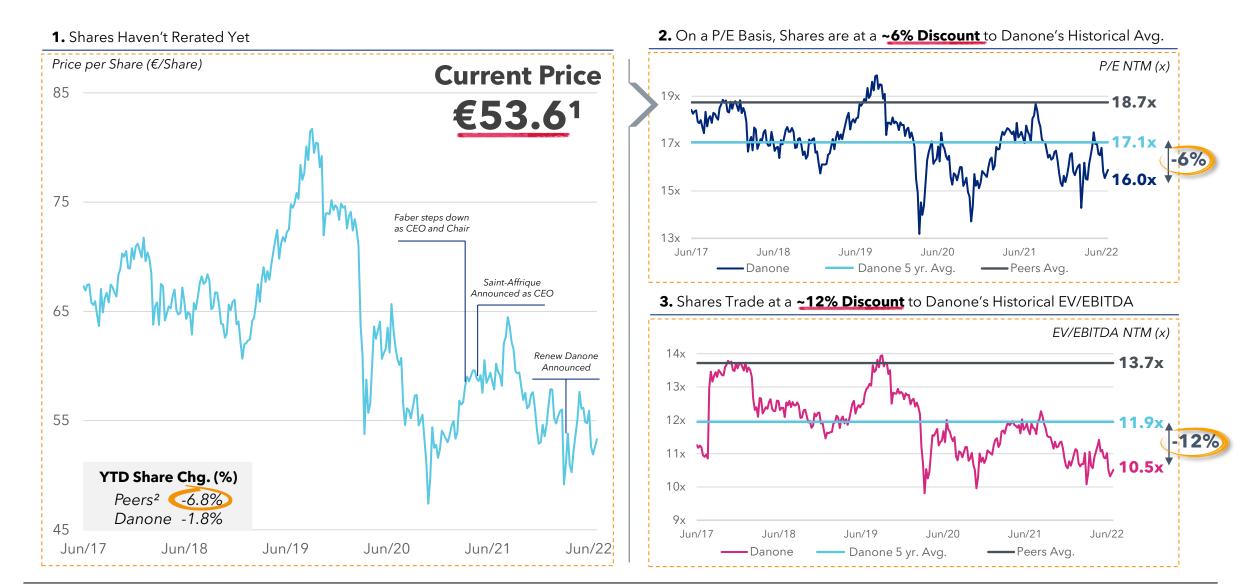


#### The turnaround has **potential to be successful**. There are two main factors contributing to it





#### Danone's shares are **trading at a discount** relative to 5-year average multiples



Source: Bloomberg, Bloomberg Consensus

1. Closing price as of Jul 08, 2022

2. MSCI Europe Consumer Staples Index

Industry

-

Company

=

III.Turnaround

**IV.Valuation & Return** 

## **Scenarios**



Base Case scenario indicates an expected Total Shareholder Return in ~5 years of 60%, or 8.9% per year

Projections 2022-27	Base Case	Bear Case	Bull Case
Total Shareholder Return (~5 yrs.)	59.9% (8.9%)/ year)	29.5% (4.8% / year)	102.5% (13.7% / year)
Organic Sales Growth y-o-y (%)	3.2%	2.5%	3.9%
Danone Growth / Market Growth (%)	In line with the market	-25% below the market	+30% <u>above</u> the market
EBIT Margin FY2027 (%)	14.8%	13.4%	16.8%
<b>1.</b> Projected Organic Sales Growth (S	%) a	2. Projected Recurring EBIT Margin	n (%) <b>b</b>
4.0% 3.0% 2.0%		16.0% 14.0% 12.0%	
3.0%		14.0%	2024 2025 2026 2027



#### Base Case yearly Total Shareholder Return (TSR) is **80 bps above the benchmark**

**1.** Base Case Yearly TSR is 80 bps Above the Benchmark

2. Excess Returns Don't Compensate the Risks

#### Investment at €54/Share and exit at €78.4/Share in Dec/27 Valuation - Dec/27 € / Share P/E **EV/EBITDA** High Impact Simple Average €78.4 16.2x 10.0x **Main Downside** DCF(a) € 79.2 16.4x 10.1x P/E(b) € 74.1 15.3x 9.5x **Risks:** EV/EBITDA (c) € 82.0 16.9x 10.4x Execution 4 Avg. Return / Year (%) 8.9% **2** Inflation 80 bps 8.1% **3** Competition 6 4 Megatrends Low High Probability Probability **5** Core Categories 6 Supply Chain Low Impact TSR Excess Return Benchmark<sup>1</sup> Base Case

## Rating: Neutral Why not now?

### I Industry

**42%** of revenues facing **Headwinds** 

Health & Wellness (H&W) Market:

**5.1% CAGR** 2020-25e

US\$1.2 tn 2025e

**39%** of Danone's revenues with high exposure to **H&W** 

### II Company

-20% (2017-21) in Advertising & Promotion (A&P) expenses

Mkt. Share Losses in **59%** of Sales

**5.2%** (2017-21) in **Portfolio Rotation** 

### III Turnaround

New CEO

~20% p.a in Shareholder Return at previous company

New Strategy +29% in A&P 10% Portfolio Rotation target (3 yrs)

## IV Valuation & Return

Expected **Total Shareholder Return** (5 Years):

**59.9% total, 8.9% / year** Jul/2022-Dec/27

Excess Return: **80 bps** 

Returns don't compensate the risks

# Thank You! 08A





# Appendix

- <u>Valuation</u>
- <u>Projections</u>
- <u>Fase 1</u>
- <u>Fase 2</u>
- <u>Whitewave</u>
- <u>Aldi</u>
- <u>Others</u>





# Valuation



# DANONE ONE PLANET. ONE HEALTH



#### Assuming an **investment at €54 / Share** and **exit price of €78.4 / Share** in **Dec/27**

Valuation - Dec/27	€ / Share	P/E	EV/EBITDA
Simple Average	<u>€ 78.4</u>	16,2x	10,0x
DCF (a)	€ 79,2	16,4x	10,1x
P/E (b)	€ 74,1	15,3x	9,5x
EV/EBITDA (c)	€ 82,0	16,9x	10,4x

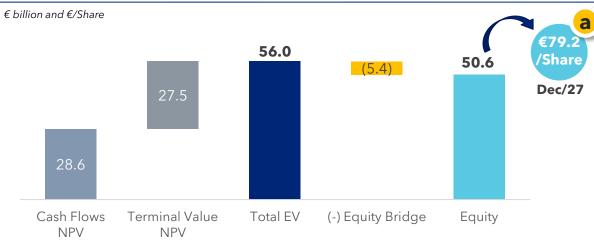
WACC	8.9%		
Target Equity (%)	85%		
Target Debt (%)	15%		
Cost of Equity	10.0%	Post tax cost of debt	2.9%
Risk free rate	3.3%	Cost of debt	4.0%
Equity risk premium	7.0%	Tax rate	27.5%
Multiplier beta	0.95		

#### 2. Multiples Analysis - December/27

		Next Twelve Months (NTM)	
		P/E	EV/EBITDA
MSCI EU Staples <sup>1</sup>	x	18.0x	12.3x
Danone Discount / Staples	%	- 1	5.0%
Danone Multiple	X	15.3x	10.4x



#### **1.** DCF Analysis - December/27

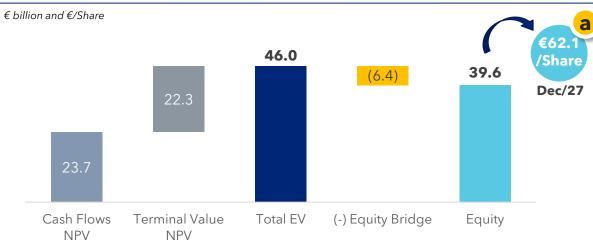




Assuming an **investment at €54 / Share** and **exit price of €62.2 / Share** in **Dec/27** 

Valuation - Dec/27	€ / Share	P/E	EV/EBITDA
Simple Average	<u>€ 62,2</u>	15,0x	9,4x
DCF (a)	€ 62,1	15,0x	9,4x
P/E (b)	€ 59,6	14,4x	9,1x
EV/EBITDA (c)	€ 65,0	15,7x	9,8x

#### **1.** DCF Analysis - December/27



#### 2. Multiples Analysis - December/27

		Next Twelve P/E	Months (NTM) EV/EBITDA
MSCI EU Staples <sup>1</sup>	Х	18.0x	12.3x
Danone Discount / Staples	%	-20	.0%
Danone Multiple	X	14.4x	9.8x
Equity	€bn	38.1	41.5
		€59.6 b /Share	€65.0 C /Share
		Dec/27	Dec/27

## Expected Return - Bear Case



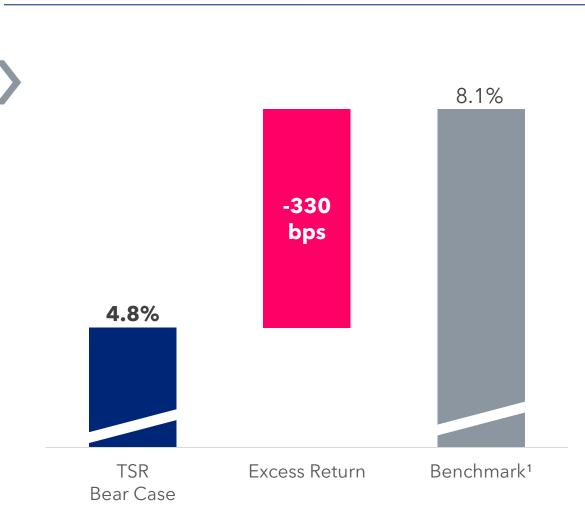
#### **1.** Bear Case Assumptions

Total Shareholder Return (TSR)	%
Accumulated (5 years)	29,5%
Per Year	4,8%
	VS.
Benchmark <sup>1</sup> / Year	8,1%

Assumptions	Investment	Exit
Date	Jul/22	Dec/27
Price	€ 54,0	€ 62,2

Valuation - Dec/27	€ / Share	P/E	EV/EBITDA
Simple Average	€ 62,2	15,0x	9,4x
DCF (a)	€ 62,1	15,0x	9,4x
P/E (b)	€ 59,6	14,4x	9,1x
EV/EBITDA (c)	€ 65,0	15,7x	9,8x

#### 2. Bear Case Return



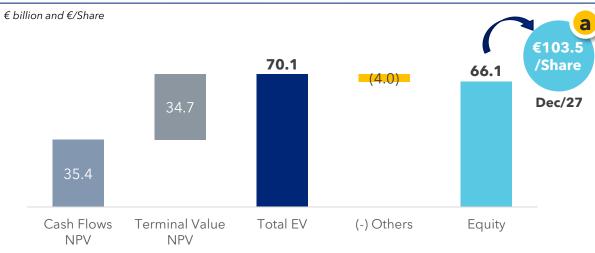




#### Assuming an **investment at €54 / Share** and **exit price of €101.2 / Share** in **Dec/27**

Valuation - Dec/27	€ / Share	P/E	EV/EBITDA
Simple Average	€ <u>101.2</u>	17,3x	10,6x
DCF (a)	€ 103,5	17,7x	10,8x
P/E (b)	€ 94,6	16,2x	10,0x
EV/EBITDA (c)	€ 105,6	18,1x	11,0x

#### **1.** DCF Analysis - December/27



#### 2. Multiples Analysis - December/27

			Months (NTM)
		P/E	EV/EBITDA
MSCI EU Staples <sup>1</sup>	Х	18.0x	12.3x
Danone Discount / Staples	%	-10	0.0%
Danone Multiple	X	16.2x	11.0x
Equity	€ bn	60.4	67.4
		€94.6 b	€105.6 C
		/Share	/Share
		Dec/27	Dec/27

## Expected Return - Bull Case 🐖



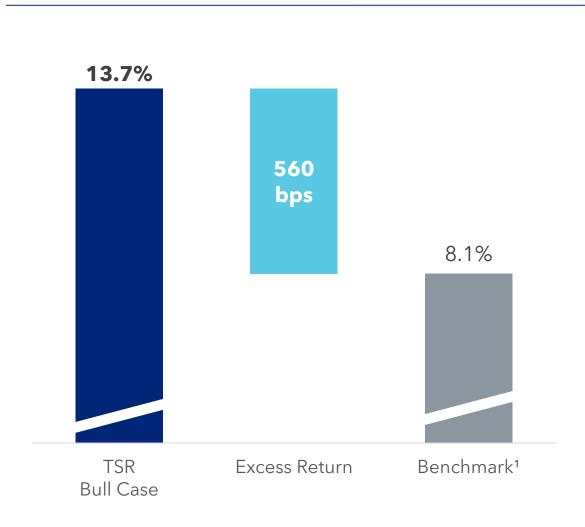
#### 1. Bull Case Assumptions

Total Shareholder Return (TSR)	%
Accumulated (5 years)	102,5%
Per Year	13,7%
	VS.
Benchmark <sup>1</sup> / Year	8,1%
Premium / Discount	560 bps

Assumptions	Investment	Exit
Date	Jul/22	Dec/27
Price	€ 54,0	€ 101,2

Valuation - Dec/27	€ / Share	P/E	EV/EBITDA
Simple Average	€ 101,2	17,3x	10,6x
DCF (a)	€ 103,5	17,7x	10,8x
P/E (b)	€ 94,6	16,2x	10,0x
EV/EBITDA (c)	€ 105,6	18,1x	11,0x

#### 2. Bull Case Return



# Projections

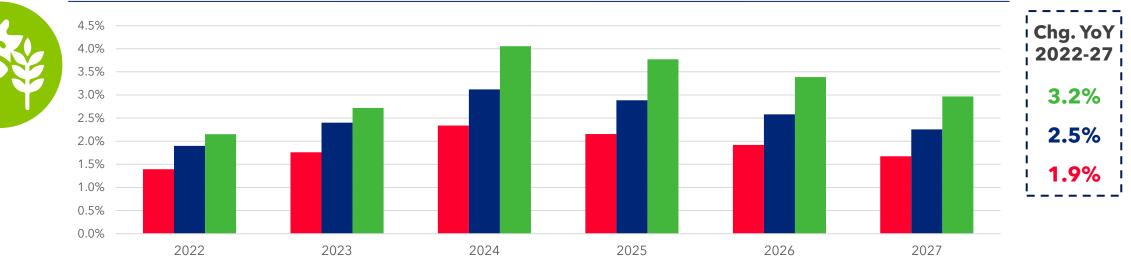


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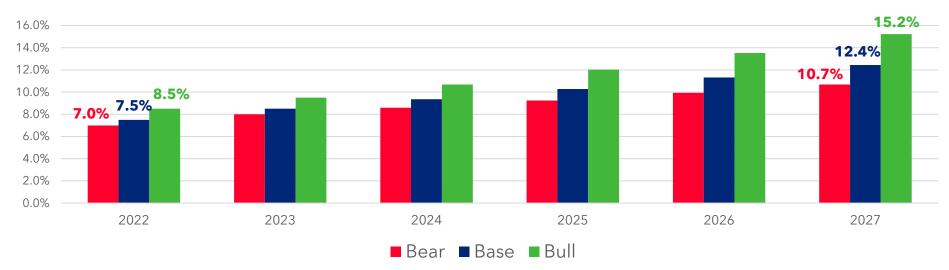
## **Dairy (EDP) Projections**



**1.** Organic Sales Growth (%)

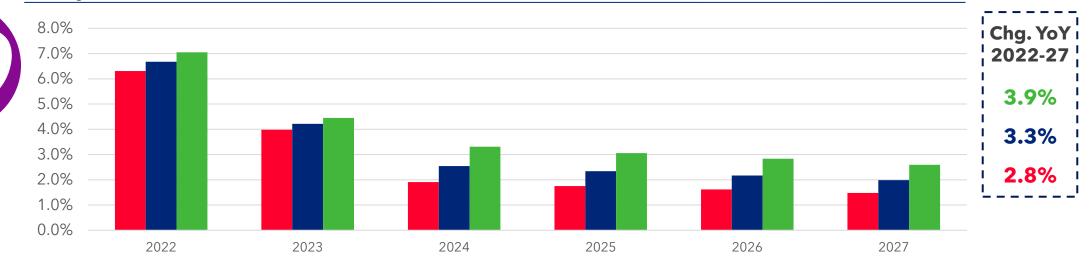




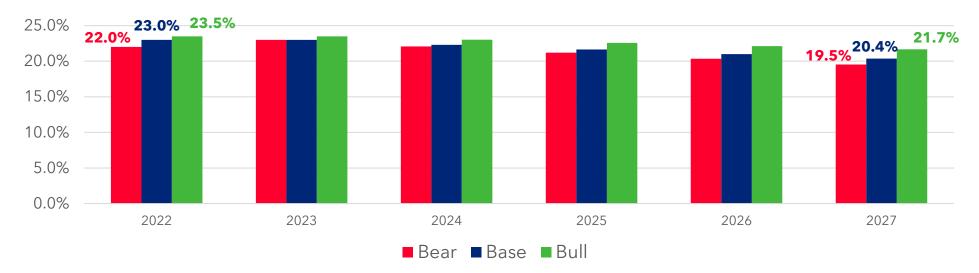




#### **1.** Organic Sales Growth (%)



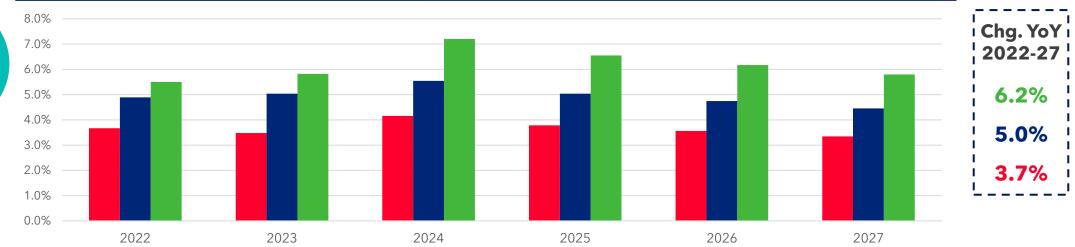
#### 2. EBIT Margin (%)

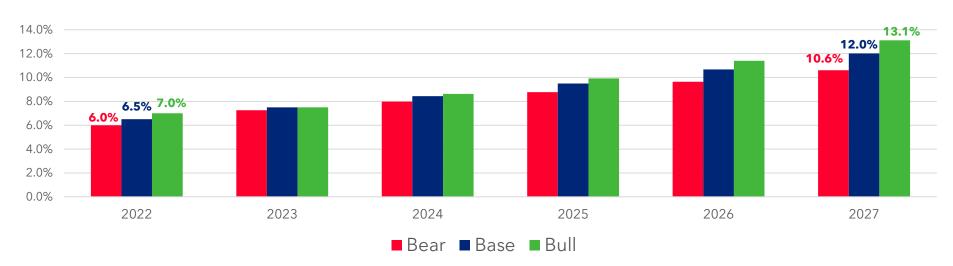


## Waters Projections





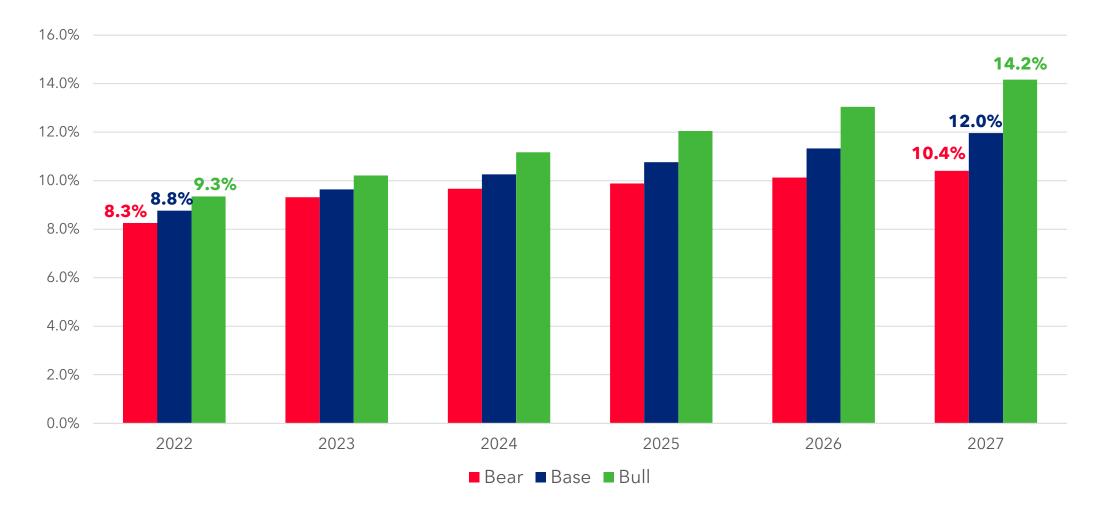




#### 2. EBIT Margin (%)



#### 1. Return on Invested Capital - ROIC (%)



# Fase 1

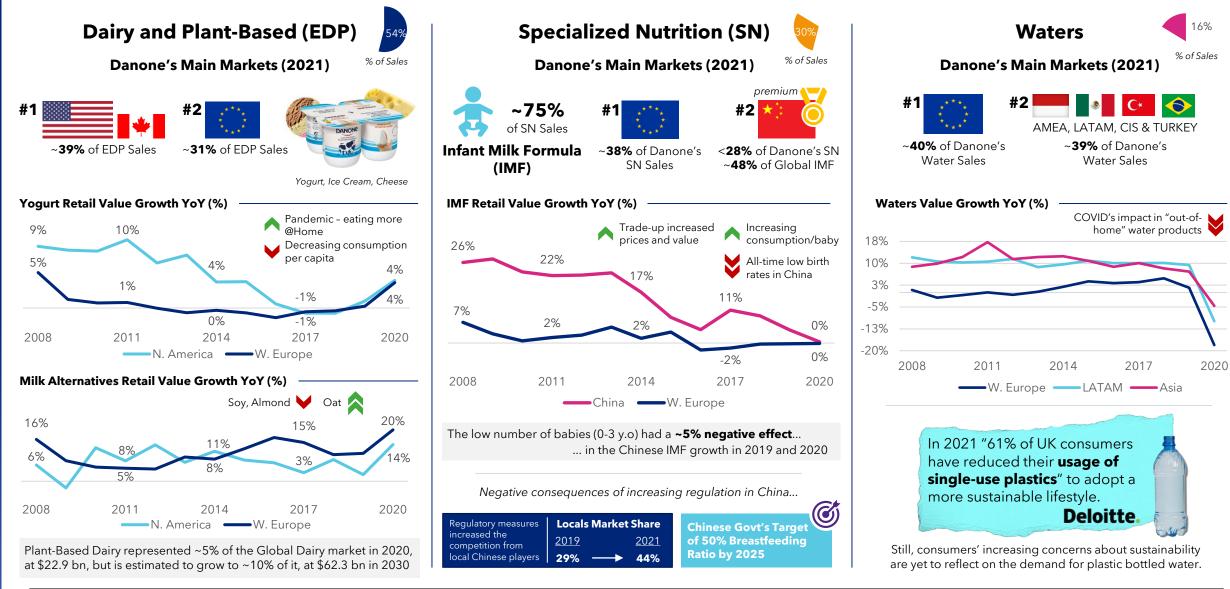


# DANONE ONE PLANET. ONE HEALTH

## Industry Overview



Part of Danone's underperformance can be attributed to unfavorable category dynamics in its end markets rather than execution alone



Source: Company Publications, Euromonitor, Nielsen, Bloomberg Intelligence, OECD, FAO, The Good Food Institute, a2 Milk Company Publications, JP Morgan Research, Deloitte

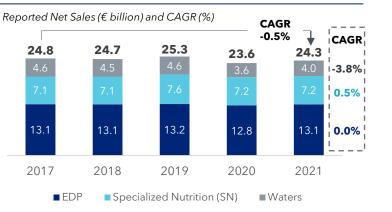
which have more volatile currencies

2017



#### Weak organic sales growth, below end markets growth, resulted in market share losses

#### **1.** Sales had a Slight Decline Between 2017-21

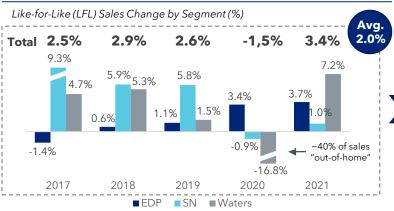


Apart from weak Like-for-Like (LFL) sales growth, FX was the main

reason for poor top line performance, with a negative impact of ~€3.2

**bn** on the period. Danone has a strong presence in Emerging Markets,

2. In a LFL Basis, Average Growth was Still Low at 2.0%



Waters and SN were heavily impacted by the pandemic due to their high exposure to "out-of-home" formats and the Chinese market, respectively. Revenue growth sped up in EDP due to increased consumption of Yogurt and Dairy alternatives during the pandemic

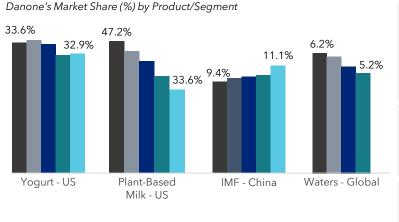
#### 3. Danone's Growth Remains Below End Markets'

Like-for-Like (LFL) Sales Change vs 2012-20 End Markets Estimated Growth (%)



Even before the pandemic, Danone was showing lackluster growth, partially due to the **decelerating end markets**, but also to its **inability to grow in line with them** 

#### 4. Resulting in Market Share Losses in Some of its Main Categories



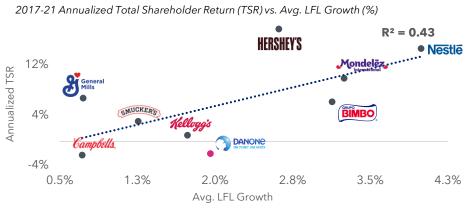
■2018 ■2019 ■2020 ■2021

- Danone is losing share in the US Yogurt market to Chobani, which is using aggressive marketing campaigns and more product innovations...
- ...with steeper share losses in W. European Yogurt markets;
- In the US Plant-Based market, share erosion comes from small players offering mainly Oat-based products;
  Danone over-indexes to Almond and Soy formats.
- In the Chinese IMF market, Danone has managed to hold ground against local players, while other international competitors have lost share;
- Backed by a strong online presence, an increasing offering in China Labels, and premiumization of its leading brands.

 In the Waters segment, Danone and the other 2 main global players have seen share erosion in the last years, mainly to smaller/regional players;

Share erosion has been greatest in Asian countries.

#### 5. Disappointing Growth led to Disappointing Returns



Lower revenue growth explains part of Danone's poor share performance. Peers like Nestle are exposed to higher growth categories, like Pet Food and Coffee, contributing to organic sales growth

All of Danone's 2017 figures have been restated for IFRS 15

Source: Company and Peers' Publications, Euromonitor, BREQ's Estimates, IRI Worldwide, Bloomberg, Nielsen, JP Morgan Research, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

32

**Top Line** 

## **Operational Performance**



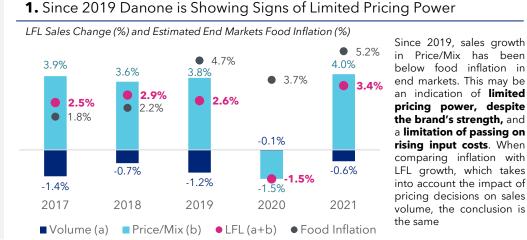
#### Danone's limited pricing power keeps it from passing on rising input costs, squeezing its margins

"Pricing power is one of the **key attributes of a quality compounder** (...) **Strong brands** are a wellknown source of pricing power";

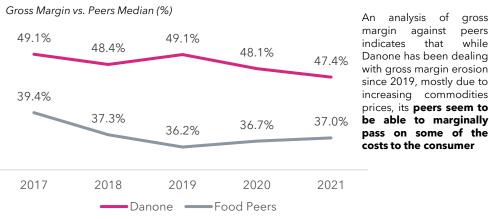
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"In our view, a company has basic pricing power if it has the **ability to price to** recover input cost inflation."

Morgan Stanley

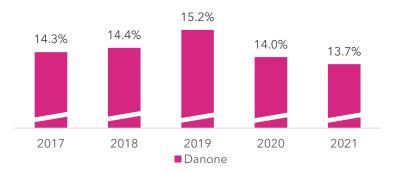


**2.** Resulting in Gross Margin Erosion due to Rising Input Costs



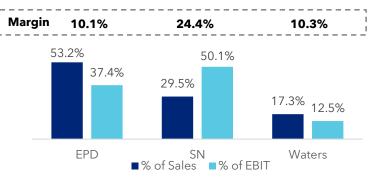
#### 3. Pressured Operating Margins Despite Savings

Recurring Operating Margin vs. Peers Median (%)



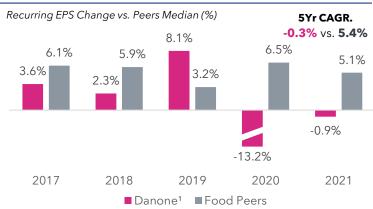
#### 4. Segment Mix Partially Explains Margin Below Peers

2017-21 Avg. Operating Margin (%) and Share of Sales and EBIT (%)



#### Segment mix also helps to explain margin below peers. **~70% of** revenues come from segments with low margins - EDP and Waters (~8.4% and 10.2% industry peers op. margins, respectively)

#### 5. The Main EPS Detractor was Currency Depreciation



Despite the effect of inflation on margins, the main detractor of Recurring EPS was currency depreciation, which also strongly impacted top line. **FX** had an impact of approximately 17% of EPS decrease, from 2017-21

Initiatives to increase operational efficiencies and reduce spending, focused on COGS and SG&A, delivered an estimated recurring operating margin **gain of ~1,380 bps** between 2017-21, vs. inflation's estimated **impact of ~1,540 bps** (net loss of ~160 bps)

All of Danone's 2017 figures have been restated for IFRS 15

Source: Company and Peers' Publications, Statista, OECD, FAOSTAT, Bloomberg, BREQ's Estimates,

1. Danone's 2017 EPS Growth was adjusted to exclude the effect of the Whitewave acquisiton

4

## Capital Allocation



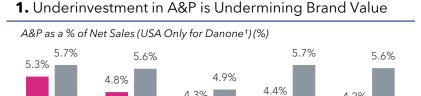
#### Underinvestment in Advertising & Promotion (A&P) and insufficient portfolio rotation are the main reasons behind poor top line

growth and low pricing power

"Advertising & Promotions spend is the real 'CapEx' of Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), fuelling future growth and creating barriers to entry (...) Spending more on A&P correlates with **faster organic sales growth**."

Morgan Stanley

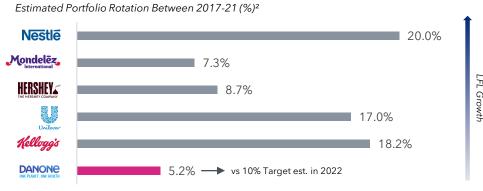
"Consumer goods companies that are frequent acquirers outperform their peers, with twice the sales growth rate, 1.8 times profit growth, and 1.2 times total shareholder return (TSR) growth than the industry average" BAIN & COMPANY (4)



2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	Danon	e ∎Food	Peers	
	CapEx		Sales (5 Yr Avg R&D	) A&P
Danone	3,9%	1	,4%	4,6%
Peers	3.9%	1	.1%	5,5%

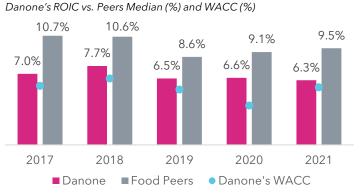
Danone has reduced the level of investment in A&P (expense in the P&L), moving away from its peers and undermining brand value. This contributes to reduced sales growth, loss of market share and lower pricing power

#### 2. The Lack of Portfolio Rotation Contributed to Stagnant Growth



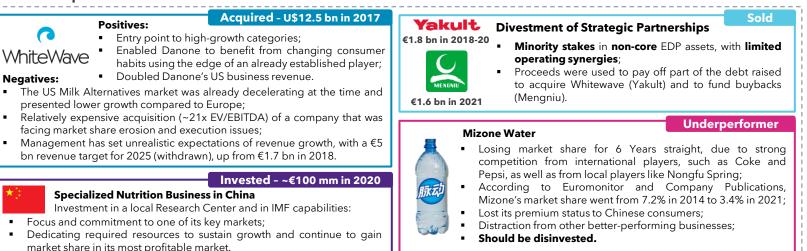
Danone has done very little in terms of pro-active portfolio management, "rotating" only ~5% of its portfolio between 2017-21 (ex-Whitewave). The lack of bolt-on acquisitions and strategic disposals contributed to stagnant growth, while players such as Nestle and Unilever used them to boost top line growth

#### 3. Resulting in Minimal Value Creation



Inappropriate capital allocation decisions contributed to return on capital barely covering the company's cost of capital, resulting in minimal value creation

#### **Review of Capital Allocation Decisions**



Source: Morgan Stanley, Bain & Company, Company and Peers' Publications, Statista, BREQ's Estimates, Bloomberg

1. Danone's 2020-21 figures were estimated based on management's statements

2. Equivalent to the estimated sales from acquired/divested companies as a % of Danone's Avg. Sales (17-21); Nestle and Unilever figures were disclosed by the management

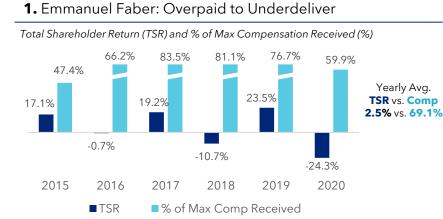


#### Poor corporate governance and misalignment of interests between management and investors led to the mismanagement of Danone

"Leadership's priorities were misguided. (...) executive incentives put in place by the board are inadequate drivers of operational performance."

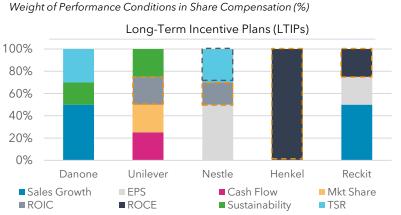




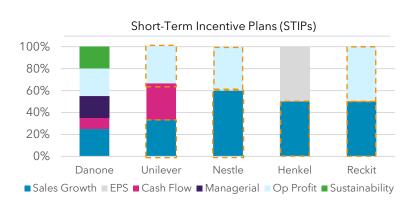


Danone's compensation structure enabled Emmanuel Faber to receive an average of **69% of his maximum variable compensation** in the years he was CEO, while shareholders had an **average TSR of only 2.5%** 

#### 3. The Compensation Structure Still Needs to Incorporate Return on Capital



The long-term compensation structure of key European Food & HPC peers highlights how return on capital (ROIC or ROCE) is a priority in other companies. Although also important, TSR is less frequent, used only at Nestle



Danone's short-term compensation is more in line with its peers. LFL sales growth and operating profit are prevalent among large European companies in the sector.

#### 2. Compensation wasn't Based on Relevant Metrics

Weight of Performance Conditions in Share Compensation (%)

	Group Performance Shares (GPS) - Issue Year				
	2013-15	2016	2017	2018-20	2021
Sales Growth	67%	50%	50%	50%	50%
FCF	-	-	50%	30%	-
Environmental	-	-	-	20%	20%
Op. Margin	33%	50%	-	-	-
TSR		-		-	30%
GPS Granted to Faber					

Most of Faber's variable compensation (granted between 2013-17) was dependent on the achievement of performance metrics that did not prioritize shareholder return nor the strategic allocation of capital. Total Shareholder Return (TSR) was only added as a condition to Group Performance Shares (GPS) in 2021.

#### In Conclusion...

- Danone's weak organic sales growth can be attributed to two main causes:
- High exposure to slowing markets and/or markets that were heavily impacted by the pandemic (External);
- Growth below its end markets' growth, resulting in loss of market share (Internal);
- The company shows signs of limited pricing power, observed by the difficulty in passing on input price increases to customers. This has resulted in pressure on gross and operating margin;
- Danone's underperformance is directly linked to capital allocation decisions:
- Reduction in brand investments (A&P expenses). This contributes directly to market share loss and pricing power decline;
- The company doesn't proactively manage its portfolio, with low asset rotation, and prioritizes large and complex acquisitions (Whitewave);
- The previous management's decisions were not aligned with the company's best interests and that of its shareholders;
- This was partly due to the inadequate incentive structure of the company's management



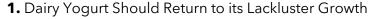


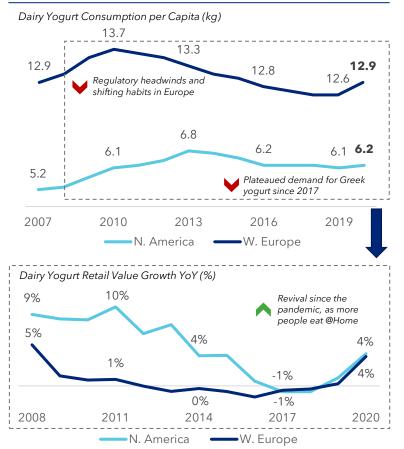




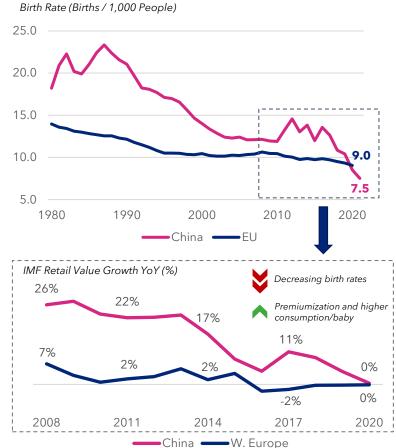
Structural decline in core category's growth has been a key driver of top-line weakness in recent years. We estimate ~58% of revenues should face secular headwinds, such as Traditional Yogurt and Infant Milk Formula (IMF)

**2.** IMF's Remarkable Years are in the Past



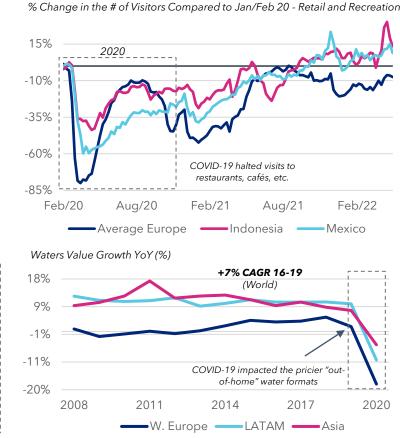


Prospects could be positive for Dairy Yogurt from 21 onwards if eating @Home habits remain. In our view, dairy yogurt growth will return to pre-pandemic levels, as nondairy varieties should benefit the most from a possible yogurt revival



With birth rates at all time lows and consumption / baby ~stable, future growth in China's IMF market should come from premiumization, but at a much slower pace than historical levels

# **3.** Waters' Growth Should Resume Post-COVID



Waters was one of the fastest growing categories, mostly led by volume in Emerging Markets, and premiumization in Developed Markets. We believe it should resume its high growth trajectory as the pandemic eases, and see no major structural headwind

# **Industry Overview**



Lower market growth forces players to compete for market share in order to grow. We see most of Danone's markets as highly competitive

**1.** Most of Danone's Markets are Highly Competitive

in China:

Feihe);

### **Essential Dairy &** Plant-Based (EDP)

54% of 2021 Sales

### Yogurt

3

#### Mature/Consolidated:

- US market divided among ~5 big players and high private label market share in Europe;
- Plant-Based Highly **Competitive :**
- Still a concentrated market, but top 2 players lost ~17 p.p in 5 yrs. and new entrants gained ~16 p.p;

### Specialized Nutrition (SN)

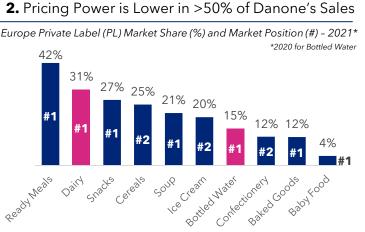
#### 30% of 2021 Sales Competitive Global Infant Milk Formula

- **Highly Competitive:** Market: Increasing competition - Competitive market (top) local players gaining 3 < 20% share) with share from internationals increasing competition from local players; Chinese market moving • Low barriers to entry: towards consolidation
- brand loyalty, weaker (by local players, such as except for premium segments and non still waters where brand • High barriers to entry: value is higher;

Waters

16% of 2021 Sales

regulation, high brand loyalty, high R&D costs;



Danone may have difficulty in passing on rising input costs in 2022. Higher PL share and/or absolute position results in lower pricing **power** for brands, as consumers can tradedown more easily

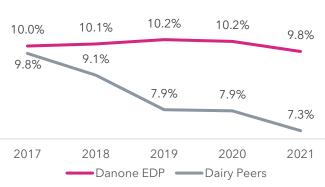
9.0%

8.9%

2021

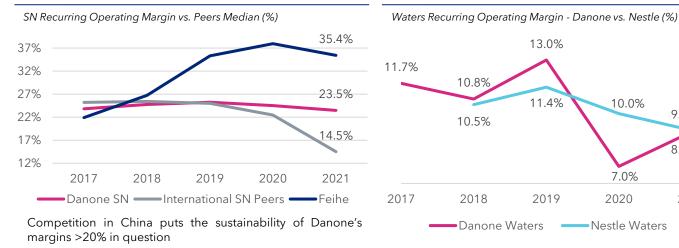
# **3.** Margins Have Eroded in the Dairy Industry

EDP Recurring Operating Margin vs. Peers Median (%)



Inflation and commodity prices shrunk peers' operating margins. Product mix also impacted profitability

# **4.** International Players are Losing in China



# **5.** Margins are Still Below Pre-COVID Levels

6. Danone Offers Low Exposure to DTC Opportunities

	Category	U\$ / Kg	U\$ 000 / m³	Recurrence	Temp Control
.	Infant Milk Formula	40.1	15.0	Medium	No
Danone	Yogurt	8.1	2.4	Low	Yes
	Coffee Creamer	2.9	1.6	Low	No
	Plant Based Milk	1.5	1.2	Low	Yes
	Bottled Water	1.2	0.6	Medium	No
rs	Coffee Pods	60.6	5.8	High	No
Others	Meat Alternatives	16.0	5.6	Low	Yes
	Frozen Meals	8.3	2.8	Low	Yes
	Facial Cosmetics	694.5	104.5	Medium	No
HPC	Male Shaving	452.4	16.7	High	No
-	Deodorant	70.2	18.7	High	No

Direct-to-Consumer (DTC) offers (i) margin upside (harvesting retailers margin) and (ii) consumer behavior data. Most FMCGs have high distribution costs due to products bulkiness and temperature control, offseting DTC benefits. We believe Danone offers low upside to DTC



# **Consumer Megatrends** in **Health & Wellness** and **Sustainable Living** (Environmental & Social causes) could (i) help to offset headwinds in core categories while (ii) offering upside from adjacencies

# 1. COVID-19 Boosted Personal and Environmental Health

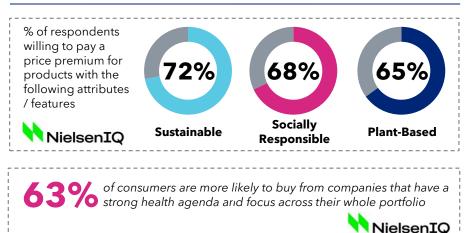
#### % of Respondents

III.Industry Overview

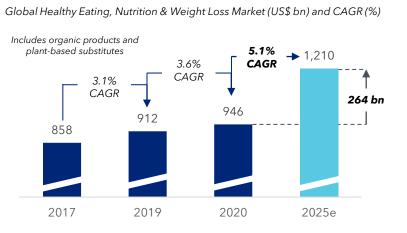




# **4.** Consumers Put their Money Where Their Mouth Is



# 2. Creating a Huge Opportunity in Healthy FMCGs



## 3. Accelerating Sustainable Living Trends

September 2021

66% "of global consumers agree that environmental issues are having an adverse impact on their current and future health"

> "of global consumers say that environmental health and how their choices impact the planet is importante to them"

"consumers feel that companies have a big role to play in the availability and access of healthy food for all" NielsenIQ

5. Danone is Uniquely Positioned to Capture These Trends



These trends could benefit Danone by (i) helping to offset lower growth and higher competitive pressure in Danone's 3 core categories if the company can explore growth pockets within them and (ii) provide upside from adjacencies in other Health & Wellness and Sustainable Living categories. For the company to benefit from these trends in a competitive and consistent fashion, they need to:

**1.Invest in its Brand/Identity**, through advertising and innovation (rather than solely relying on its identity);

**2.Manage the portfolio** in order to be better positioned to capture these opportunities;

Source: New Hope Network, Massey University, Global Wellness Institute, Nielsen IQ, Company Publications, Access to Nutrition Initiative

1. Environmental health refers to aspects of human health (including quality of life) that are determined by physical, chemical, biological, social and psychosocial factors in the environment

# **Consumer Staples 101** 3



The main asset of any Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG) company is its brand/brands portfolio. Managing and investing in them in the right way is the **key to success**, and it will be no different for Danone...

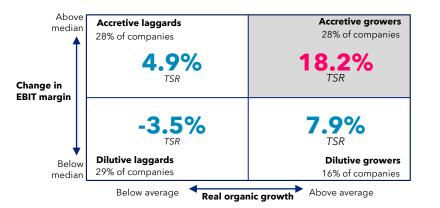
programmatic

**1.** Profitable Growth is the Main Driver of CPG Returns

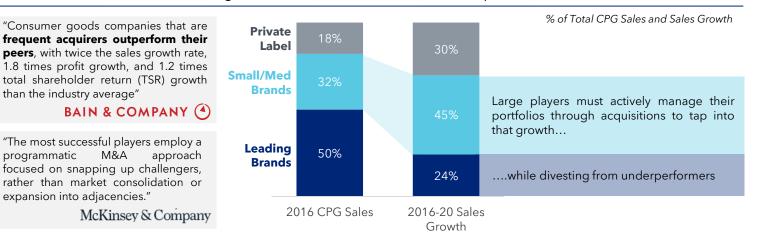
Avg. Total Shareholder Return (TSR) - 2016-19 (%) and % of Companies

III.Industry Overview

40



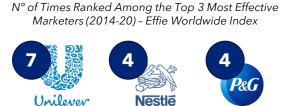
2. Active Portfolio Rotation/Management is at the Heart of Consistent Superior Growth



# 3. Consistency is Key in Advertising - Effective Marketers Deliver in a Systematic Way

CPG Share of Advertising Spend by Media (%) and Avg. Consumer Time LAUNCHES MEAN LAUNCH COMPANY Using Media - US (%) SALES (U\$ mm Consumer Staples Winners "(...) invest in 'Pull' marketing P&G 22 30.7 strategies, principally using 60.5% 60.0% **innovation** and media to create <u>i</u> brand loyalty and awareness. 2 12 26,5 'Push' tactics that focus on Vestle promotion are far less durable 27.0% 24.9% ĽORÉAL 8 (...)" 3 16.7 Morgan Stanley 10.9% 10.0% 1.4%<sup>2.0%</sup> 7 19,7 Radio Others ΤV Print Digital of Trade Promotions REVION 7 9,7 5 don't Break Even Media Time Ad Spend 67% . . . Nielsen Effective spending in advertising leads to higher returns on NA ODANONE 26,0 investment (ROI) ranks the most successful brand launches

Companies ranked as the most effective marketers (below) also delivered consistent successful launches in 2020 (right)



Top 5 companies in IRI's 2020 Product Pacesetters Survey, which

C			NA C. I		NP I IZ I			/ 11 * 1
Sources	: McKinsey & Compan	y, Bain & Company	, Morgan Stanley	Investment Management,	, Nielsen, Kantar,	elvlarketer	, Effie Worldwide, IRI W	orldwide

# 4. To be Consistent Players Need to Spend in the Right Way and in the Right Place

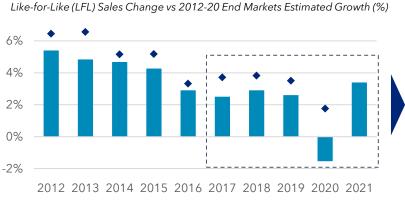
4

# Company Overview



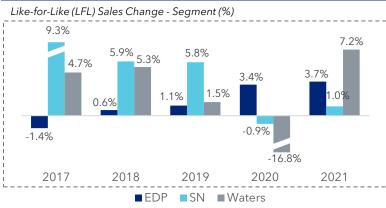
We believe EDP will benefit the most from Health & Wellness (H&W) and Sustainable Living (SL) trends. Post-covid growth is an early promising signs of this.

## **1.** Vulnerability to End Markets Growth is a Major Risk



Danone Danone's End Markets

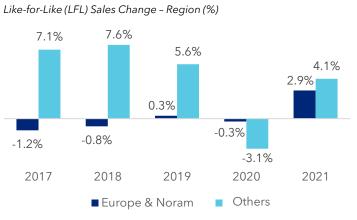
## 2. Growth Profile Switched to EDP / Waters Post-Covid



Plant-Based saw strong growth since 2020 (15% LFL in 20) as H&W and SL trends went mainstream

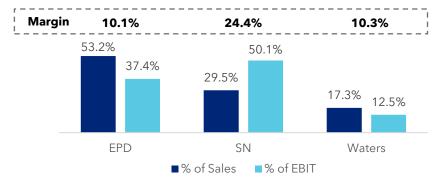
2020-21 Avg. Operating Margin (%) and Share of Sales and EBIT (%)

# **3.** Developed Markets were a Major Drag on Growth

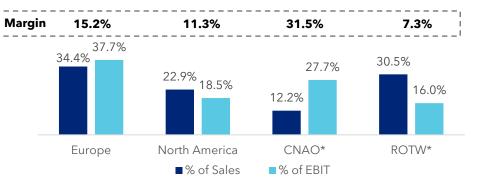


# 4. Profits are Highly Concentrated in SN and China

2017-21 Avg. Operating Margin (%) and Share of Sales and EBIT (%)



5. Strong Presence in Emerging Markets Increases FX Risk



FX depreciation washed away a big chunk of revenue growth between 2017-21

We believe the greatest exposures to  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{H}\&W}\xspace$  and SL are in EDP, SN and Waters, in that order

#### Our "Turnaround Story" heavily relies on the new strategy's / management's ability to (i) reduce vulnerability from end markets growth (i.e gain share), (ii) restore growth and profitability in EDP, helping to mitigate dependence on China IMF.

This will define whether Danone is a cyclical company or a compounder.

Wee see the dependence of profits in SN as an increasing risk as competition gets tougher in China

All of Danone's 2017 figures have been restated for IFRS 15 Source: Euromonitor, IRI Worldwide, BREQ's Estimates, Company Publications \*CNAO: China, North Asia & Oceania; ROTW: Rest of the World

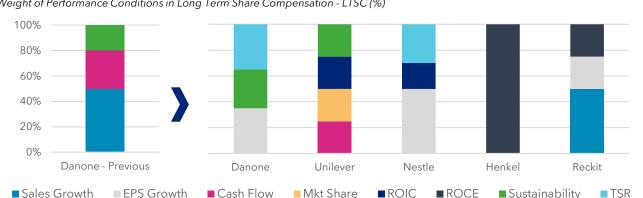


Inadequate incentives and poor Corporate Governance were major enablers of Danone's poor performance. These problems were the first ones to be fixed. Corporate Governance has improved materially

**1.** The Roles of CEO and Chairman were Split and an Independent Chairman was Appointed



# **3.** Incentives are Better Aligned to the Company's Needs and More in Line with Peers



The change in metrics represents an **improvement in the compensation structure**, addressing more pressing issues at Danone. In our view, the LTSC still lacks a ROIC/ROCE metric, currently only present in Danone's shortterm variable compensation.

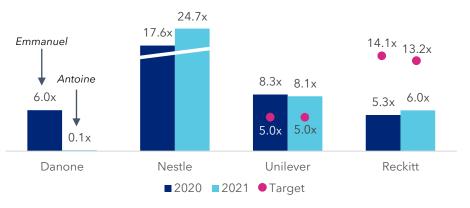
2. The Rest of the Board is Also Heading Towards Independence

Board members with varying degrees of involvement with the company further objective hindered an evaluation of the management. Most have left the Board, with the remainder to leave in 2023 and to be replaced by independent members



4. Shareholding Should Help Monitor the New CEO's Skin in the Game

Market Value of Shares Owned by the CEO as a Multiple of Fixed Compensation (x)



This indicator should be **closely monitored** to assess the new CEO's alignment with shareholders

IV.Company Overview

Weight of Performance Conditions in Long Term Share Compensation - LTSC (%)

# IV.Company Overview

# **Board of Directors and Executive Committee**



The Management and Board are at better shape than before. We believe the new CEO has what it takes to turn the company around

# **Board of Directors** | 12 Members

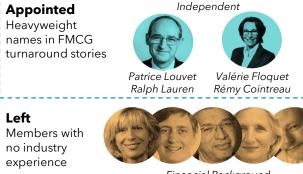
One main pushback investors shared was the Board's inexperience...

"(...) only a couple of the company's 14 board members had industry experience, making it near impossible for the board to challenge the CEO's strategies and economic outcomes."

ARTISAN PARTNERS

... this problem has been somewhat addressed

The # of Members with relevant FMCG experience increased, and the mix (independent vs. current/former employee) improved:



Financial Background

# **Chairman** | Gilles Schnepp

- No experience in the FMCG industry;
- Former CEO of Legrand (electronic components) between 2006-18;
- Delivering high Total Shareholder Return (TSR) (avg. ~14% p.a) in the period.

The current chair is a major improvement and has great track record, but lacks industry experience



We believe the current Board is appropriate. The improvements are already significant, but there is room for more. Some improvements may be visible as early as 2023 - all members appointed prior to 2022 (ex-Chair and CEO) will be out by then

# **Executive Committee** | 16 Members

The new CEO is an **excellent choice**: he is a good fit and has the experience needed to turn Danone around

# **CEO** | Antoine de Saint-Affrique



- · Has operational background, unlike his predecessor:
- Successful career at Unilever...
- ...and as Barry Callebaut's CEO (2015-21), delivering impressive results:

Left

- · Sequential operating margin and ROIC improvement, before a hard-hit by the pandemic...
- Still achieved an avg. TSR of ~16% p.a.

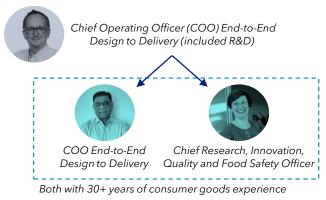
His experience in implementing the SMART Growth strategy at Barry Callebaut may prove useful:

Sustainable growth Margin accretive Accelerated growth in Gourmet & Specialties and Emerging Markets Return on Capital and greater focus on free cash flow Talent & Team

SMART resulted in greater capital allocation efficiency and improved ROIC (which was 50% of LT incentives), something missing from Danone's previous management

#### Antoine already has implemented positive changes to the management's structure:

Split roles, creating a dedicated officer for Research and Innovation, in line with FMCG peers:



- All other executives have extensive experience in operational roles (ex-CFO), mainly in Sales and Marketing;
- Most have 15+ years at Danone, and/or previous experience in other global FMCG companies;
- Many served across different Danone divisions and zones:
- · Management team is highly **qualified** and seems to be able to execute the new CEO's strategy

# 4 Strategy: Renew Danone

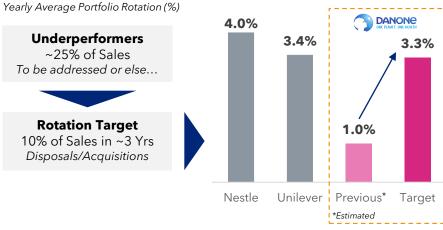


"Renew Danone", the company's new strategy, provides an honest assessment of the company's core problems, as well as **clear paths** to tackle them:

### Key positives in Renew Danone:

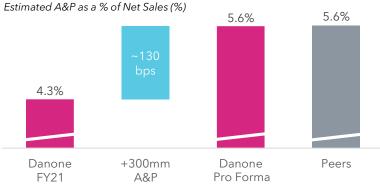
- Consumer Staples 101: the new strategy is simple and realistic;
- Borrows from strategies that have been successful in other FMCG companies;
- Different in many ways from previous restructurings...
- ... Addresses, for the first time, core problems that have been overlooked for many years...
- ... Whilst indicating a clear path to tackling them...
- ... Such as actively managing and investing in the company's portfolio of brands:

# 1. Proactive Portfolio Management and Rotation



## 4.3%

# 2. Brand Investment Back to Competitive Levels



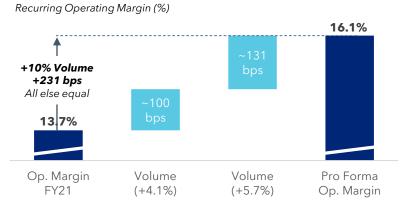
One of Renew Danone's most important changes, along with proactive portfolio management/rotation

# **3.** Fixing Current Categories and Geographies



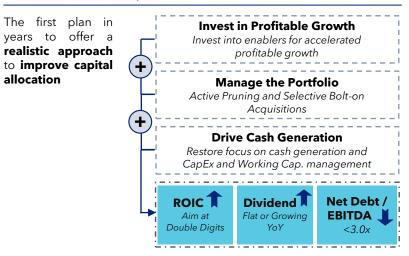
Focus on current portfolio before fully venturing into new markets. We believe current categories have high to mid exposure in H&W and SL trends

# 4. Balanced Growth Mix, with Greater Focus on Volume



We estimate a 100bps gain in margins from restoring volumes to 2017 levels and 230bps from a 10% increase, due to higher asset turnover

# 5. Define Clear Capital Allocation Priorities



We are **optimistic** about the new strategy. We believe it is the first one with **real turnaround potential** if properly implemented by the management

2. First to Acknowledge Causes for Underperformance

**1.** Renew Danone is Different from Previous Restructurings



# 4. Danone Borrows from Nestle's 2017-22 Successful Playbook 5. Nestle is Present in the Fastest Growing Categories



## 3. Current Categories Still Pose a Risk



Despite tailwinds from H&W and SL trends, if core markets growth deteriorate further/stagnate it could limit Danone's growth potential and the effectiviness of Renew Danone

# **6.** Resulting in Consistent Organic Growth



Source: Company and Nestle Publications, BREQ's Estimates, IRI Worldwide, Euromonitor

# Whitewave







Sold

Vega

**Earthbound** 

ORGANIC

HORIZON

Underperformer

Farm

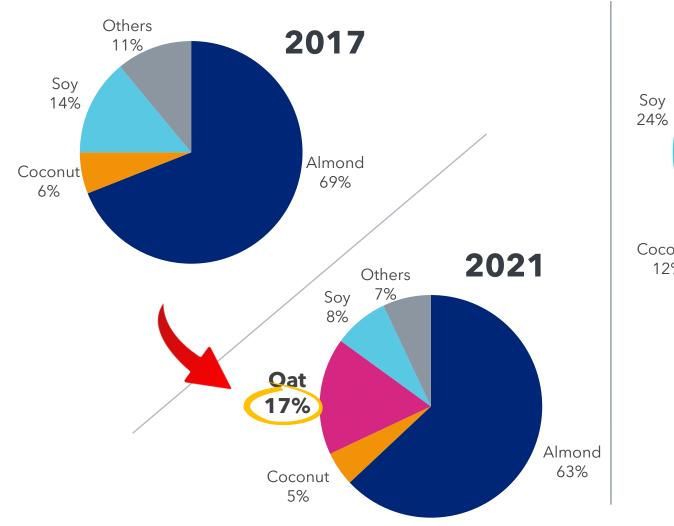
Transaction Summary				
<b>Acquisition Price</b>	US\$12.5 bn / €11.3 bn EV			
Premium	24% premium vs. 30-day avg. price			
2016 EV/EBITDA	21.2x EV/EBITDA			
2015 Net Sales	US\$3.9 bn			



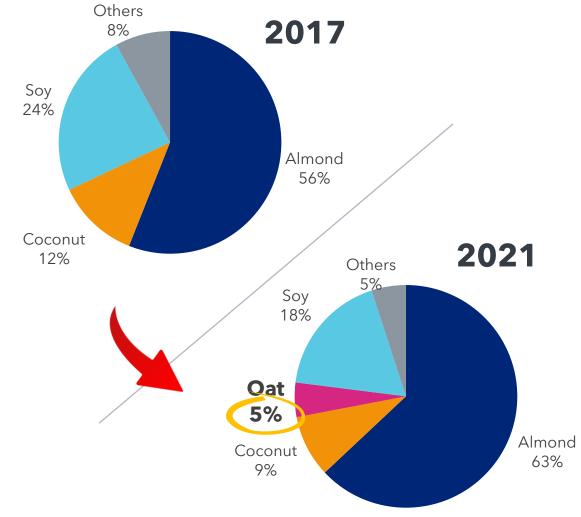
Withdrawn by new the management

**1. US Milk Alternatives Market** - Sales by Format









Source: JP Morgan Research, Nielsen





# DANONE ONE PLANET. ONE HEALTH





Danone has limited presence in Europe's 2nd largest retailer (2% of products). Private Label is the majority of products on display (53%) and costs almost half (45% of discount) of other brands

**Private Label Discount:** (Private Label Price / Brand Price) **Pvt Label vs. All Brands 45%** of Discount Pvt Label vs. Danone **37%** of Discount Share of Products: (# of Products as % of Total) Private Label 53% Other Brands 46% DANO 2%



Retailer: Aldi Location: Munich, Germany Dairy Aisle

# Others

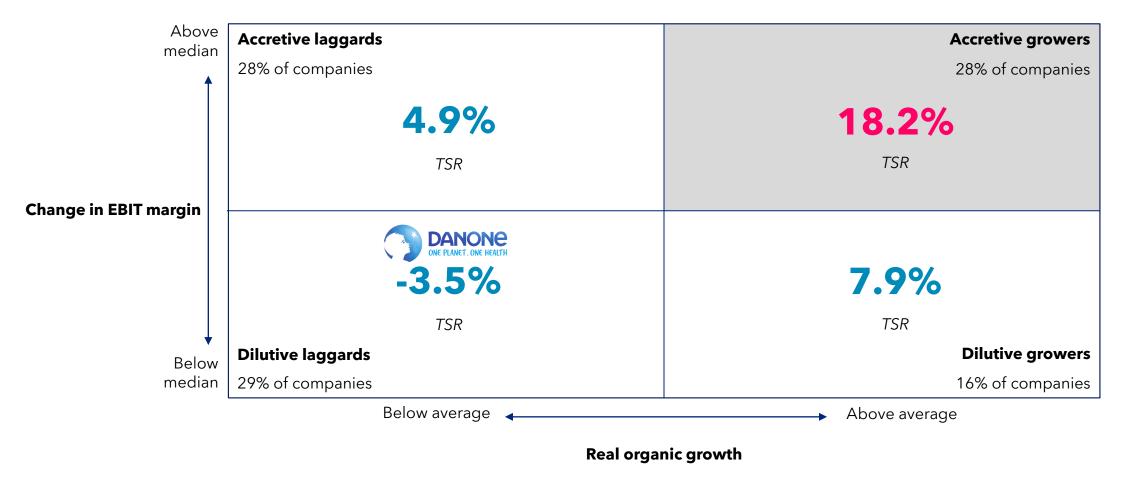


# DANONE ONE PLANET. ONE HEALTH



## **1.** Profitable Growth is the Main Driver of CPG Returns

Avg. Total Shareholder Return (TSR) - 2016-19 (%) and % of Companies



52



# **Health and Wellness**

Attributes that promote healthful living should stay central to innovation strategies. In addition to plantbased, attributes and claims around low/no sugar, lower calories, digestive health and lifestyle (low carb/keto, gluten free) continue to show momentum among (New Product Pacesetters) NPP. And protein from all sources continues to hit the mark, with three of the top 10 and 41 of the top 100 food and beverage Pacesetters offering protein benefits.

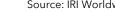
NEW PRODUCT PACESETTERS 2021



# **Sustainability**

Continued trends in sustainability indicate not only a broadening of attributes, such as carbon footprint and water conservation, but also that sustainability is deeply rooted as a consumer expectation. Innovators must recognize the value of sustainability and how it contributes to consumers' overall impression of a product, a brand, the manufacturer and the retailer.





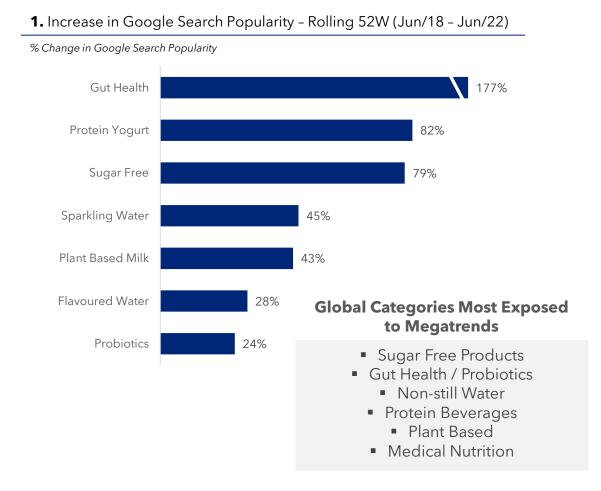
53







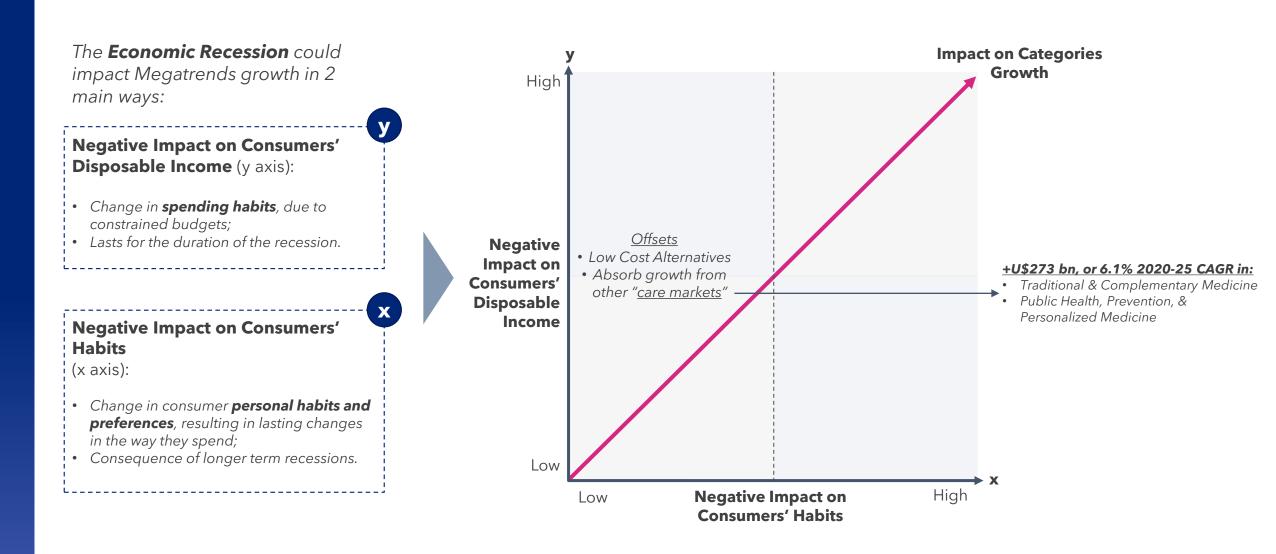
+3.9%













# **PORTFOLIO ROTATION ~10% OF NET SALES**

# ACTIVE PRUNING OF THE PORTFOLIO

Selected disposals building on a holistic review of the portfolio

**Key criteria:** fit with strategy, growth and margin prospects, value creation

# BOLT-ON ACQUISITIONS AND SEED INVESTMENTS

Value creative, contributing to mid-term guidance

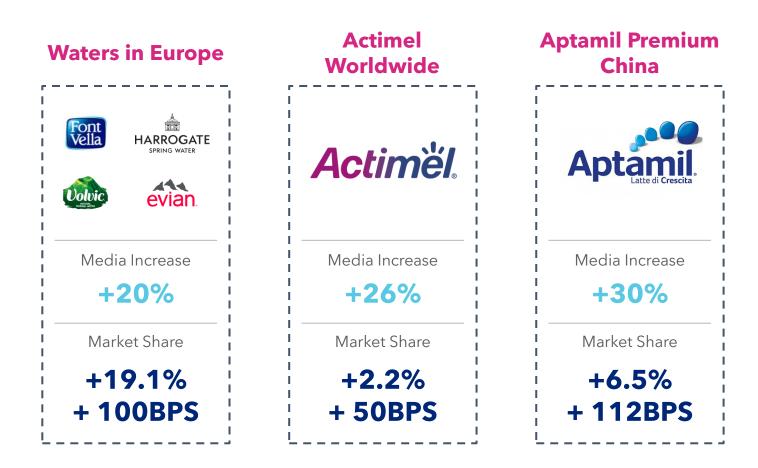
**Key criteria:** strengthen market positions, bring market access, add new capabilities, technologies or brand assets



#### **AT COMPANY LEVEL AT COUNTRY LEVEL** More agile and selective resource allocation to winning mixes and DRIVE THE **BOOST THE** FIX THE channels CORE WINNERS **UNDERPERFORMERS** Media effectiveness tracker ~ 55% ~ 25% ~ 20% of revenues of revenues of revenues Step up quality of content, leveraging global platforms for local execution Fair Pay as **Over-**Improving our working /non-working allocation support you go A&P ratio



**1.** Selective Reinvestments in 2021 Drove and Growth and Share Gains





# **Execution Risk**

Failure to adequately translate the strategy from high-level ambition to specific actions the organization must take to make that ambition a reality. Failure to appropriately adapt the strategy when conditions change.

b

Failure to put in place the organizational capabilities required to sustain the strategy after it is enacted.

