

BARCLAYS AND UNICEF JOIN FORCES TO PROTECT YOUNG ADULTS IN SOUTH AFRICA FROM HIV/AIDS

10 November 2005 - Cape Town, South Africa. Barclays today announces that it is donating over £350,000 to UNICEF, to educate over 1.5 million children on how to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS. The money will go to UNICEF's Girls Education Movement (GEM) programme and will reach young people in three of South Africa's poorest provinces – Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Limpopo. More than half South Africa's student population lives in these three provinces.

Barclays' investment into the GEM programme supports UNICEF's work to *prevent infection amongst adolescents and young people* – one of the four key priorities identified in UNICEF's new global children and AIDS campaign. GEM focuses on providing girls with practical life skills as a means to empowering them in challenging situations particularly with regard to HIV prevention. HIV and AIDS continues to be one of the biggest challenges faced by South Africa today with an estimated 6 million South Africans infected with HIV, the largest number of any individuals living with the virus in a single country.

The monies have been raised by Barclays through the European leg of Miles Ahead, a five month expedition from Canary Wharf to Cape Town, which has raised over £1million to benefit community projects in Africa and culminated in Cape Town today. Of the £1million raised £350,000 will go to the GEM programme in South Africa and a further £150,000 will go to fund other UNICEF girls education project throughout the African continent. The remaining £500,000 will benefit a large number of different charities in Africa.

David Roberts, chief executive Barclays International Retail & Commercial banking, says: "Barclays is well aware of the importance of the issue of HIV/AIDS from both a humanitarian and economic standpoint and we are delighted to be a part of UNICEF's campaign to fight the impact of the virus. The GEM programme tackles HIV/AIDS at the important prevention stage by ensuring equal access for education for girls and providing important life skills."

Mr Macharia Kamau, UNICEF representative in South Africa added: "Girls and young women here in South Africa are the daughters of a new democracy and the most vulnerable to HIV and AIDS. It's time we equip and strengthen their skills to turn the tide against HIV and AIDS through prevention and through programmes that recognise their value to society. By educating and creating supportive environments for all children, especially girls, we will have a strong chance to survive this epidemic."

Barclays has a major presence in South Africa having made the largest ever direct foreign investment in the country with its acquisition of Absa the leading retail bank in South Africa. Barclays has in place one of Africa's longest running and most successful programmes to educate, treat and protect the rights of employees living with HIV/AIDS. Equal access to education ties in with Barclays practice to address equal opportunities for diversity wherever it operates, especially with regard to the representation of woman and minorities. The bank has a Global Diversity Council to ensure common practice on equality and diversity throughout its businesses.

GEM will tackle the spread of the virus at grass roots level and there is a wealth of research on the correlation between Girls Education and HIV/AIDS. Research shows that a good, basic education ranks among the most effective and cost effective means of HIV prevention.

If all children received a complete primary education around 700,000 cases of HIV in young adults could be prevented each year – seven million in a decade*

For more information on UNICEF's work in South Africa

www.unicef.org/southafrica

For more information on GEM

www.ungei.org

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* Global Campaign for Education, (2004)

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