

Greece Donates E30,000 to Swazi Children

Mbabane, 25 May, 2007 -- Aristidis Sandis, the Ambassador of Greece, was in Swaziland on Friday to present UNICEF with a donation of 30,000 Euros from the Government of Greece.

This is the second donation in the same amount that UNICEF has received from the country.

"UNICEF is grateful for the continued support of the Government and people of Greece," said Jama Gulaid, country representative for UNICEF. "UNICEF will apply these funds to programmes that will benefit needy children around the country."

Funding received from Greece in 2006 was applied to programme areas for vulnerable children, including:

- **Prevention efforts for HIV and AIDS**

A children's theatre programme was facilitated in all *tinkhundla* to spark discussions and dialogues with children on HIV prevention and issues of abuse.

- **Violence Against Children**

Children were sensitized on issues of abuse through drama and debates that focused on stopping violence against children.

- **Children's Right to Participate**

Puppet theatre and children's clubs gave children a voice and forum for discussion and open dialogue with other children and with adults.

"The word 'philanthropist' is a Greek word," said Ambassador Sandis. "It means 'friend of man'. We are aware of the needs of children in Swaziland and are proud to come once again with financial assistance for children."

This year's support from the Greek government is again earmarked for programmes for vulnerable children, including Child Health Days at Neighbourhood Care Points. Child Health Days cater to orphaned and vulnerable children at NCPs to improve their access to health care and nutrition.

"We appreciate the efforts and cooperation between UNICEF and the Swazi Government," said Ambassador Sandis. "We are committed to assisting Swazi children in the future and hope our support will be even greater."

About UNICEF

UNICEF is on the ground in 155 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments.

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