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UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 25 August 2003

Programme No.867

Length: 3'30"

UNICEF SUPPORTS AIDS ORPHANS IN SWAZILAND

VIDEO

SISTERS WALKING TO SCHOOL
(17.5")

CITY SCENES/DISSOLVE TO
CHILDREN (26")

AUDIO

NARRATION

Like most children in Africa, the Mabuza sisters walk to school. Recently, their parents died of AIDS. Now they live with their aunt who has four children of her own in the town of Ludzibini in the Hho Hho region in northern Swaziland.

With more than thirty percent of its entire population infected, this small landlocked kingdom in Southern Africa is one of the most affected countries in the world by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Entire families are destroyed and tens of thousands of children are left parentless says Jabu Dlamini, National Coordinator for Community Action on the Rights of Children.

DLAMINI:

JABU DLAMINI ON CAMERA
(15.5")

"It has done a lot of damage. It is stressing a lot of families because we are talking these days that the orphans are about 45,000 right now, and the rate is expected to grow by 10,000 every year."

NARRATION

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (25")

In partnership with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and a number of NGOs, the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, established Community Action for Child Rights. The programme involves local communities in locating, identifying and protecting orphans and other abandoned and vulnerable children. UNICEF's Representative in Swaziland is Alan Brody.

BRODY:

ALAN BRODY ON CAMERA (23")

"Traditionally, Swaziland had no orphans. They said, 'we don't have orphans', because every child was taken in by the extended family. It's not working now. The extended family is breaking down and the number of orphans is expanding simply too rapidly. So we are trying to say we must find ways in which communities can make that response."

NARRATION

SCHOL/CLASSROOM (15")

This school was established by the local community. More than a hundred orphans of different ages attend classes. Here, they are

taught the national curriculum and this teacher is a community volunteer.

CHILDREN EATING LUNCH (16")

Born in poverty and with no parents left to take care of them, the children are provided with a nutritious daily meal every day donated by the community. Local women volunteer their time to prepare and serve the food to the orphans.

SCHOOL EXTENSION (15.5")

The number of AIDS orphans in Swaziland is steadily on the rise. More school space is urgently needed. Consequently, this local community is building an extension to the village school to accommodate the new orphan students.

BRODY:

ALAN BRODY ON CAMERA (13.5")

"Since the year 2000 the number of orphans in Swaziland has doubled from 20,000 to 40,000. By the year 2010, the way things are going, we will have 110,000-120,000 orphans."

NARRATION

TRADITIONAL DANCES (23")

With less than one million people, and with so many adults dying of HIV/AIDS, Swaziland can't afford to lose its children. With assistance from international organizations like UNICEF and the active involvement of the local communities,

Swaziland hopes to save and protect its younger generation.

LOGO (20")

This report was prepared by Kamil Taha for the United Nations.