



Background Information

PARTNERSHIP FC BARCELONA AND UNICEF

- In September of 2006 the FC Barcelona Foundation and FC Barcelona joined forces with UNICEF in establishing a global partnership for five years.
- The partnership is centred on support for programmes for the protection and care of the most vulnerable children, particularly those affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS.
- FC Barcelona offered to UNICEF the opportunity to use its logo and emblem in the front of the FC Barcelona football jersey. This is the first placement in the Club's 107 years of history.
- UNICEF agreed to grant this right to FC Barcelona as a way to further promote the cause for children. They are also committed to actively participating in the promotion and diffusion of the global alliance between the two institutions for the next five years.
- FC Barcelona through its Foundation also showed its commitment to improve the life of vulnerable children around the world by making available to UNICEF an amount of 1.5 million euros per year
- FC Barcelona and UNICEF devoted 100% of the funds from the first year of the partnership to support children in Swaziland whose lives have been affected or made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS.
- There are currently more than 625 NCPs, supporting more than 33000 children on a daily basis and the number will increase in the next few years.
- Education and sports programs will be strengthened to provide better protection and support for orphans and vulnerable children.
- This programme will also raise public awareness to limit the spread of Aids.

BACKGROUND ON SWAZILAND

- In the Kingdom of Swaziland, a small landlocked country in Southern Africa, two thirds of the population live in poverty and in rural areas. It is deeply affected by drought, which started in 2001, and it has become a recurrent phenomenon in all regions of the country deepening poverty and vulnerability. However, the real emergency, countrywide, is rooted in the world's most severe HIV and AIDS epidemic.
- HIV prevalence among pregnant women grew to 42.6 percent in 2004 and dropped to 39.2 percent in 2006. More than 200,000 people are living with HIV (2004) out of the country's population of 1.1 million, and more than 4,000 infections occur annually in infants.
- Under-five mortality, estimated by the UN at 90 deaths per thousand in 1997, is presently estimated at 156, while life expectancy has declined to 37 years from an estimated 57 years a decade ago.



- Approximately 40 percent of children are stunted, and 12 percent are malnourished. Rural access to safe water, measured at 41 percent in 2000 (MICS), has seen little progress in coverage since the 1980s.
- As AIDS decimates a generation in the 20-49 year old age group, extended family social safety nets are being stretched to the breaking point. In some families only the vulnerable elderly and the children are left alive. The number of orphans in the country has increased from an estimated 12,000 in 1999 to about 70,000 in 2005. Still other children are left in the care of grandparents or other rural relatives who are ill, abusive, or themselves vulnerable, while parents seek urban employment.
- The impact of the epidemic has not yet peaked, and the results for children are ominous - expanding school drop-out; deteriorating nutritional status; breakdown of non-formal family and community institutions; and signs of social breakdown in the form of violence, rape, abuse, and abandonment of infants.

HIV/AIDS PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY THE UNICEF-FC BARCELONA ALLIANCE:

- The HIV/AIDS programme supported by this global alliance in Swaziland started in February 2007, and its aim is to support the country in the fight against HIV/AIDS, specially in four main areas: Primary Prevention, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission, Paediatric Treatment and protection, and the care and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS.
- The programme in Swaziland will strengthen these components but also includes and will also have an education, access to safe water and a sport component
- The first year donation will support programmes in Swaziland aimed at
 - increasing access to voluntary early diagnosis,
 - scaling up prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child,
 - increasing the number of children who have access to antiretroviral treatment,
 - preventing HIV infection among youth and adolescents, especially girls,
 - providing care and support for orphans and other children made vulnerable by the pandemic,
 - increase access to education and sports activities,
 - improve birth registration at clinics and
 - installation of safe water and sanitation facilities at schools.
- In response to the crisis of the ever increasing number of orphans, UNICEF in Swaziland has taken an innovative initiative to care for vulnerable children: the neighbourhood care points. These centres are created within the communities allowing children to remain close to their roots and the areas where they were raised.

FIRST RESULTS OF THE UNICEF-FC BARCELONA PARTNERSHIP

- Through the partnership, Swaziland Ministry of Health has acquired laboratory equipment for testing blood samples of children below 18 months of age and make them available early diagnosis for HIV and early treatment. Before acquiring this equipment which cost around 40.000 euros, the country relied entirely on South Africa. This lack of diagnostic capabilities leads to delays in the initiation of medical interventions for children who are HIV positive.
- The UNICEF-FC Barcelona alliance have launched with local implementing partners (NGOs, communities and Ministry of Health) a strategy of community mobilization to improve uptake of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission services. Training of laboratory staff on use of equipment for HIV diagnosis has also been completed.
- Drilling of boreholes has been completed in the 17 target schools and process has been accelerated due to the current drought. The number of beneficiaries will be over 5,000 children. In addition, 170 sanitation units are being assembled locally. Sanitation work is underway and to enhance the impact of the water services, 140 persons (teachers, parents and community leaders) trained on operational management of the boreholes, hygiene and sanitation, and prevention of water-borne diseases
- The Birth Registration drive has reached 75% of the target communities for this year (45 of the 60 communities). The number of children reached today is over 11,000. Children without birth certificates have difficulties accessing social services (e.g. bursaries for the poor children to attend schools), or for inheritance claims if parents die.
- In the area of protection of orphans and vulnerable children, 23 new Neighborhood Care Points¹ have been established benefiting over 1,000 children. Also, 885 care givers in the Neighborhood Care Points have been trained. Psycho-social support activities have been introduced in at these centres. Early education materials have also been provided for orphans and vulnerable children in 100 NCPs.
- 5,000 school children are benefiting from the Lifeskills Education and sports and sports activities in 68 schools.

LIFE STORY

Nkambeni, Swaziland – slogans like “Swaziland is a nation at war against HIV/AIDS” and “AIDS is everybody’s business” are raising a much needed awareness about the seriousness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in this tiny; land locked kingdom nestled between Mozambique and South Africa. National Emergency Response Council on HIV & AIDS whose mandate is to co-ordinate and facilitate the national multi sectoral response to HIV and AIDS has been working closely with NGOs and UN agencies in the fight against this epidemic.

¹ Neighbourhood Care Points is an innovative answer for the protection of orphans and vulnerable children in Swaziland. It is like a home away from home where children receive psycho – social support, nutrition, non-formal education and basic health care. Additionally, it makes orphaned and vulnerable children visible by creating awareness about their needs among community members, service providers, national leaders, civil society and international donors.

Meet the family/children – Celani Sifundza is the eldest in a family of three and he is a boy aged 15 years, he has a younger brother named Menzi aged 12 years old and the last born is a girl named Thandekile who is 11 years old.

Realizing the right to education – Celani is doing grade 5 and unfortunately he is repeating this class (balancing the role of single handedly raising his siblings and academic duties might have contributed to his dismal performance in class). Menzi (second born) is doing grade 4 and Thandekile is the last born in this family and doing the same grade as Menzi. Last year Menzi excelled in class and got position 6 and her sister Thandekile got position 9 in a class of 42 pupils. They both go to Mangedla primary school. The reason these two are in the same grade is because Menzi started school a year later than normal, probably due to financial constraints. Presently all three children are beneficiaries of the government school grant for OVC.

Having a delayed start with their education – In an ideal world the eldest boy, 14 year old Celani would be doing form 2 (second year of secondary education). And the second born, the 12 year old Menzi would be doing grade 6 (one year from completing his primary education). The last born and the only girl in the family of two other boys, whose name is Thandekile aged 11 years would be doing grade 5. In a nutshell all the children are behind with their school years, Thandekile is one year behind, Menzi is two grades behind and Celani is 3 grades behind. However when one takes into account the academic performance of the two little ones it evokes a ray of hope.

Children's likes – Celani's favorite subject is English. His favourite colour is blue. He said he likes cows because they are very helpful by providing cow dung used as organic fertilizer. He wishes to become a doctor so that he can help the sick. Menzi's favourite subject is mathematics and his favourite colour is brown. His most preferred animal/pet is a dog. This is because he feels that dogs provide good security at the house. He dreams of one day becoming a teacher. Thandekile's favourite subject is English and her favourite colour is red. Her most preferred pet is a cat. According to her, her love for cats is because of the good work they do in catching mice.

Orphanhood – In 2003, these three children lost their mother and in 2005 the father passed away. The children said due to food shortages even on the neighbours food basket the only meals they are guaranteed off are the ones they receive at the Neighbourhood Care Point because the Neighbourhood Care Point open throughout the year yet when schools close so does the school feeding program at the school.

Circles of support within the community – The Neighbourhood Care Point has become a key entry point for basic service delivery where children from less fortunate backgrounds gather. In these centres (usually a point or make shift structure) the children are ideally meant to receive love, care, and support in the form of a guaranteed warm meal on a daily basis, Psychosocial Support, Early Childhood Development, information about children's rights, basic facts on HIV/AIDS and counselling (child talk). In these Neighbourhood Care Points the children also access free basic health services (deworming, immunization, vitamin A, growth monitoring and treatment of minor ailments) once a year via the (Child Health days)². On Sundays the children go to church to receive strength from a higher being / God. The

² (1 – 2 weeks) period whereby nurse from government clinics and hospitals visit all NCPs in the country to treat OVC free of charge, UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare



situation about food distribution is the same as in the case below because these two households are within the same community.

Kind neighbours – School uniform is a must for every child who attends formal primary school and the neighbours have been very helpful in this regard. When one boy finished his primary education he gave his school uniform to Celani. And one kind hearted neighbour bought the school uniforms for Menzi and Thandekile.