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PRESS RELEASE

USAID renovates the 100th primary school

The American people, through the USAID Primary Education Project (PEP), have helped to renovate 100 schools across Macedonia. U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia Philip Reeker and Minister of Education and Science Nikola Todorov visited Strasho Pindzur Primary School in the municipality of Karbinci to celebrate this major milestone for the relationship between Macedonia and the United States.

By the end of 2011, over 120 schools will have been renovated, nearly one-third of the total number of primary schools in Macedonia. These renovation projects are realized in partnership with the local municipalities and the school communities.

"A safe and beautiful building is just one aspect of a good school. The most important thing is what happens inside the school," said U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia, Philip Reeker. "This is why the U.S. Embassy is working with the Ministry of Education and Science, updating curriculum in all schools and training teachers to ensure you have the best possible education and can gain the skills that will lead to satisfying careers."

The renovation component of the Primary Education Project supports both the creation of better learning environments and the decentralization process that transfers responsibility for school facilities to municipal governments. Local management of school facilities leads to greater accountability and a commitment to improving quality and conditions within the community and by the community.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

PEP works with all public primary schools in Macedonia to improve the quality of instruction and increase students' employment skills. Special focus is given to increasing the access to and use of information technology, and to improving the quality of math and science education.

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.