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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21st, 2010

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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Assists Center and Karposh Municipalities to Renovate School Buildings

Primary schools "Kiril i Metodij" in Center and "Vojdan Cernodrinski" in Karposh celebrated the successful completion of renovation projects with ribbon-cutting ceremonies on October 21st. These are two of over 100 schools which have been renovated across Macedonia with assistance from the USAID Primary Education Project.

"Safety and comfort are only part of what makes a good school," said Mrs. Solveig Reeker at the Kiril i Metodij Primary School. "To advance, communities, government, teachers, parents, and students need to continue working together to ensure that each and every child receives a quality education."

"The American people, through USAID, are helping to update the curricula and lesson plans to ensure that students will have the best possible education and can build the skills that will lead to satisfying careers," said John Surface, U.S. Embassy Assistant Public Affairs Officer, at the Vojdan Cernodrinski Primary School.

The renovation component of the Primary Education Project supports the creation of better learning environments and decentralization of the responsibility for school facilities to municipal governments. The project also works to increase access to and use of information technology and to improve the quality of math and science education in Macedonian primary schools.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The Primary Education Project, implemented by the Academy for Educational Development (AED), works with all public primary schools in Macedonia. The project seeks to improve the quality of instruction and increase student employment skills. The overall goal of the USAID Education Program is to strengthen education in Macedonia and to support decentralization efforts as Macedonia seeks entrance to the European Union.

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>.