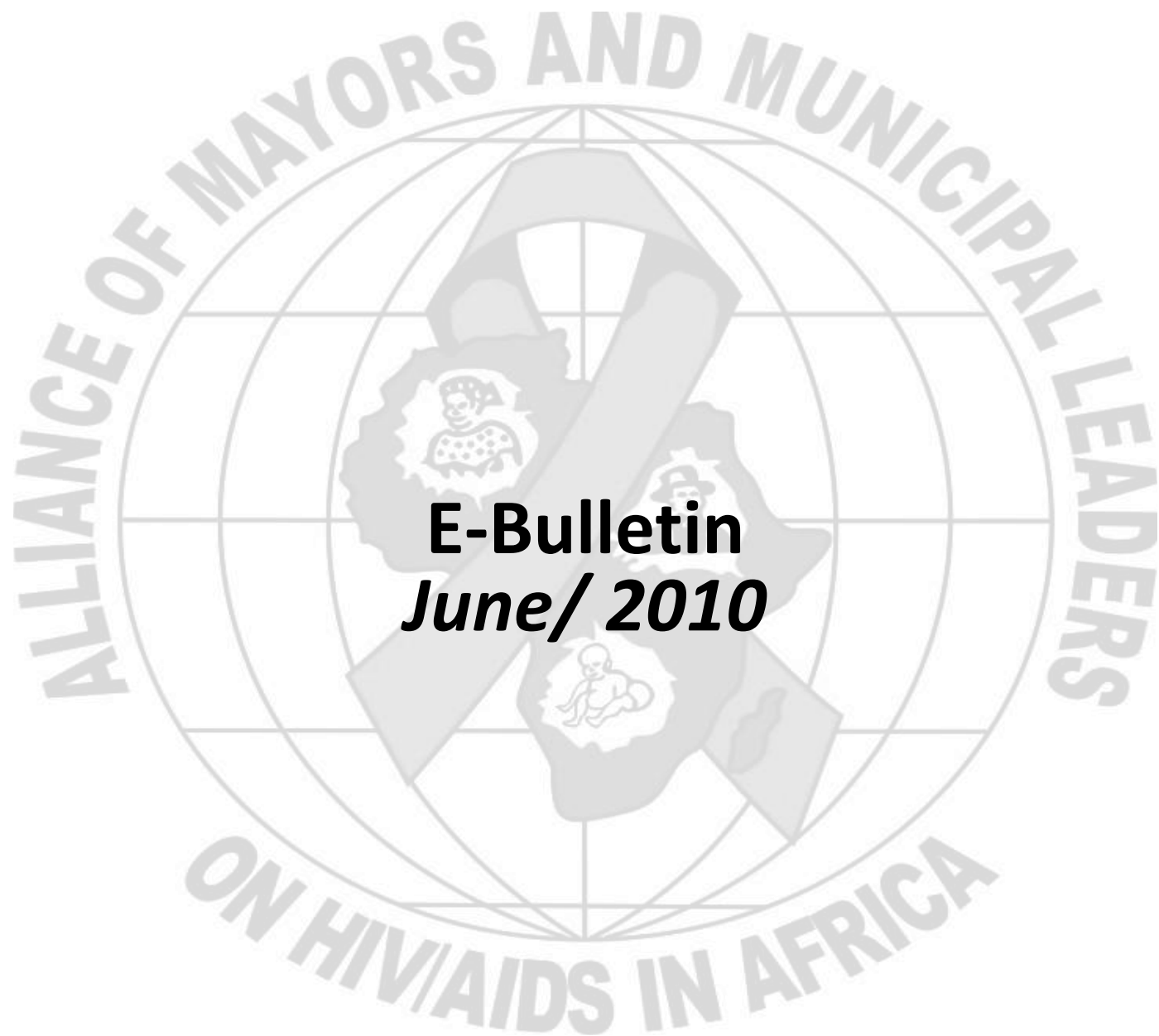




ALLIANCE OF MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL LEADERS ON HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA



E-Bulletin
June/ 2010



Welcome Note from the Editor



*Alice Mwanaumo Simushi,
The Alliance Communications Manager*

Dear Alliance Members,

Welcome to our latest edition of the E-Bulletin.

I am happy to announce that The Secretariat has a new Communications Assistant, who is an intern from the University of Namibia. Claudia Moono joined us earlier this month and is already a vital part of our team. You can read more about her in this edition.

Next month, our communications team will introduce a new series called Gender. Inspiration for these series was drawn from the topic of gender as one of our organizational focus areas. We hope to regularly feature this series, depending on the feedback and support we receive from you.

The subject of feedback and support is a sour one this month but on an encouraging note, communication will be addressed at our Annual Meeting this August and we will put our heads together and find solutions.

For now, enjoy the June E-Bulletin.

Best wishes from Namibia,

Alice.

Person of the Month: Claudia Moono



Name: Claudia Plmpa Moono

Role: Communications Assistant (Intern)

Location: Windhoek, Namibia

What keeps you motivated to work for The Alliance?

I feel motivated to work for The Alliance for various reasons. One of the most important ones is knowing that as a communications assistant, I am playing a contributing role in addressing issues of great importance to our society; such as HIV/AIDS and gender inequality.

From your point of view, what are the main challenges The Alliance has to face?

In my point of view, one of the greatest challenges The Alliance has to face in the fight against HIV/AIDS is the issue of stigma against people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA).

I feel that society has not taken an extra step to show compassion for PLWHA. This can be attributed to ignorance about the HIV/AIDS virus and low levels of education.

If The Alliance wants to be successful what do we need to focus on?

I believe that one of the ways in which The Alliance can be successful is through build the capacity of local authorities to address the challenges of young people.

Where can we typically meet you if you are not at work?

I am mostly at home, relaxing, surfing the internet or watching my favourite channel, Zone Reality.

The Alliance Secretariat

The Disabled Disgruntled over Lack of Seats in Football Stadia

As football mania sweeps across the continent,



The Disabled protest outside The South African Football Association on 25th March, 2010.

Source: www.News24.com

Various minority groups are less than happy about how they are being represented. On 25th March, 2010, a group of disabled protesters gathered

outside the South African Football Association house to express their anger over the lack of accessibility to stadia.

The protesters felt that there had been a lack of consultation with them by the football organizers.

According to published reports, Ari Seirlis, the executive of South African Disability Alliance, stated, "I don't believe they have taken the disability seriously and I really believe that the LOC [Local Organizing Committee]owe all South Africans, people with disability and people to become people with disability, the opportunity to look at our stadiums and say: 'We can go there. We were there. We can participate. We can hold our own Paralympics in these stadia.' Right now we can't. They're just big monstrosities. We're sitting on the edge. We can't get in."

AMICAALL Chapters articles

Namibia

AMICAALL NAMIBIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE MTPIII

The National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS or Medium Term Plan III was supposed to have been concluded in 2009. However, the new National Strategic Plan which is supposed to be in use thereafter is not yet finalized and as such, stakeholders have agreed to still use the MTPIII until the NSF is finalized.

In the MTPIII, AMICAALL as the lead agency for HIV responses in Local Authorities has been given obligations to oversee the HIV response in Local Authorities according to their mandate and as part of their contribution to the National HIV/AIDS response.

With tremendous support from Local Authorities, donors, stakeholders and partners, AMICAALL Namibia has contributed to the achievement of the MTPIII as follows:

Capacity Development – Leadership

Under the MTPIII, Namibia realized that leadership can play an effective role in the response to HIV/AIDS. AMICAALL followed suit in ensuring that sustainable leadership commitment is achieved by initiating a training that only targets local authority leadership (politicians and strategic managers)

In 2009 trainings were conducted for leaders from 16 Local Authorities in this regard.

AMICAALL has also acted with MRLGHRD, Regional Councils and other partners to involve and train traditional leadership using the community capacity enhancement methodology. Traditional Leadership from the Caprivi region has been engaged in a number of such trainings.

Policy and Law Reform

In partnership and with technical assistance from the AIDS Law Unit (ALU) of the legal Assistance Centre (LAC), AMICAALL Namibia has undertaken training for local authorities on policy development. LAC also assisted in reviewing existing policies developed by LAs and aligned them to the National HIV/AIDS policy. To date, 24 LAs have drafted or approved their HIV/AIDS policies and are using them to guide their HIV responses.

Social Mobilization and Awareness

As part of partnership support, AMICAALL Namibia has trained twenty information officers from the Ministry of Information and Communication

Technology. The ministry is the lead agency of this sector under the MTPIII. The officers were trained in social mobilization using community capacity enhancement. These in turn are expected to support their regional offices to facilitate effective social mobilization in communities which involves those concerned and targeted. The training in this methodology was welcomed by the Ministry as it encourages active participation and ensures involvement of communities in identifying and addressing issues affecting them.

Establish, Strengthen and Support Communities into Taking Action to Respond to HIV/AIDS

Since 2007, AMICAALL Namibia has been conducting social mobilization of communities using community conversations. By the end of 2009, twenty-five communities in twenty-five LAs were involved in community conversations where issues of prevention, care, support, treatment, orphans and other social development issues affecting the communities, were discussed. Stigma and discrimination, adherence to treatment, and vulnerability were among the topics covered.)

A number of Local Authorities implementing CCE have supported their communities in implementing community interventions and programmes.

Oshakati and Eenhana LAs have donated a gardening project. Katima Mulilo, Ongwediva, Ondangwa, Oshakati, Rundu, Witvlei, Gobabis and Oshikuku actively provide logistics, staff support and other support as may be requested for community conversations.

Workplace Programmes

This has been one of AMICAALL's areas of emphasis in the local authorities and several trainings have taken place targeting politicians, managers and staff on the implementation of work place programmes.

Out of fifty-four LAs:

- a) Twenty-five have appointed full time or part time focal persons.
- b) Thirty are budgeting for HIV activities.
- c) Twenty-four work with policies
- d) 80% have received training on the implementation of workplace programmes,
- e) Fifteen are on council agenda and are actively planning and budgeting for HIV/AIDS activities.
- f) Five have integrated HIV/AIDS in the job descriptions of the HIV/AIDS Focal Persons.
- g) Some have appointed Councilors as part of their political commitment to oversee HIV programmes.

Swaziland

HIV AIDS Funding to NGOs in AFRICA – A Swazi View

Unlike other countries, Swaziland has a small pool of donors in the area of HIV/AIDS. This is due to the fact that Swaziland is classified as a lower middle income generating country, therefore making it difficult to qualify for grants that other countries receive.

Major funders in the country are the Global Fund, The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the United Nations system. Other funding comes from the Swazi Government; especially support for Anti Retroviral Drugs.

As a result of this small donor environment, there is difficulty for Non Governmental Organizations in getting funding and hence many Civil Society Organizations are struggling to access funding for administrative and management activities. This further compromises their capacity to absorb funds available for program activities such as training and management, resulting in a poor execution and delivery of HIV prevention and impact mitigation efforts. Meanwhile, NGOs are trying to figure out how to improve access to resources for institutional development and support, with the hope that the willingness of the Global Fund to support community institutional strengthening will help address this concern in particular.

Furthermore, most available funds are invested in Impact Mitigation, to the detriment of Prevention. There is strong belief that there would be remarkable achievement if more funding would be directed to prevention efforts so as to limit the devastating impact of the virus. As a result, efforts are being made to protect investment in prevention activities.

There is also the issue that the country is viewed as not being democratic and under these circumstances, cannot manage resources well. This has contributed immensely on the limited resources that donors pump into the country even though government has shown commitment in curbing the HIV scourge. It remains an issue that will affect the country for some time.

It would be beneficial if the Alliance was positioned in such a way that it would pull resources together and pump into countries. In this way, countries with economic and political issues, like Swaziland, affecting prevention and impact mitigation efforts can access funding without being hindered by these issues.

News from The Secretariat

On 8th July, 2010, The Alliance delegation comprising Mayor of Windhoek City Council, His Worship Matheus SHIKONGO, Ayanda Nabe and Catherine Bodkin met First Lady of Namibia, Madam Penehupifo Pohamba, at State House in Windhoek to:

-Brief the First Lady about The Alliance Network and AMICAALL programmes in Namibia.

- Discuss the possibility of the Alliance getting an invitation through the Office of the First Lady to the Civil Society Summit scheduled to be held in Uganda in July 2010.

-Identify areas of possible collaboration between The Alliance and The Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA).

-Discuss possible resource mobilization opportunities through OAFLA.

Conclusions drawn were that:

- The AMICAAL Namibia will be invited to make input to the presentation of the First Lady that will be made at the OAFLA meeting in Kampala.

- In principle, the partnership with AMICAALL Namibia was approved and the necessary follow up will be made with The OAFLA Secretariat about a strategic partnership between The Alliance and OAFLA.

Notices

Claudia Moono

The Alliance Secretariat got a new team member. Claudia Moono is our new Communications Assistant. Please join us in welcoming Claudia and learn more about her:

Her Background

Born in 1985 in Mazabuka, Zambia, Claudia Moono is the last born of six children and describes her family as humble and religious.

Her father, Derrick Moono, spent most of his life lecturing in engineering and her mother, Alice, is a nutritionist by profession.

“My family and I have lived in many places around the world, such as Egypt, Belgium, and Zambia and finally, we settled in Namibia.” Claudia says.

Claudia is currently in her final year at the University of Namibia, and is majoring in Media Studies and Industrial Psychology.

Her Interests

Claudia says, “I am a curious person by nature. Through my great interpersonal skills I have managed to learn seven languages and I love learning new things every day.”

Claudia says she always tries to make the best out of all situations. “I have a very positive outlook to life. I always see the glass half full instead of half empty. I love setting goals for myself; they keep me on track and focused. Sometimes I can be a bit too hard on myself, but that’s just part of who I am.”

Her Views on Contemporary Social Issues

“One of the major social issues at hand is HIV/AIDS. I believe that the best way to deal with this



pandemic is to eradicate stigma against people living with HIV AIDS (PLWHA). That way, we can share experiences and best practices with one another and educate one another on the dangers of HIV/AIDS. In the long run, this cohesion will save millions of lives and prolong thousands more.”

Her Future

“I want to achieve a lot. I guess that’s every person’s dream, but one step at a time will do. As the saying by Herb Caen goes, “A man begins cutting his wisdom teeth the first time he bites off more than he can chew.’

End on a light note... something to think about

"I've never known an office environment yet that didn't run smoothly without great comradeship, acceptance of others, or a willingness to pitch in when times are demanding."

-Byron Pulsifer-



**THE ALLIANCE OF MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL
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