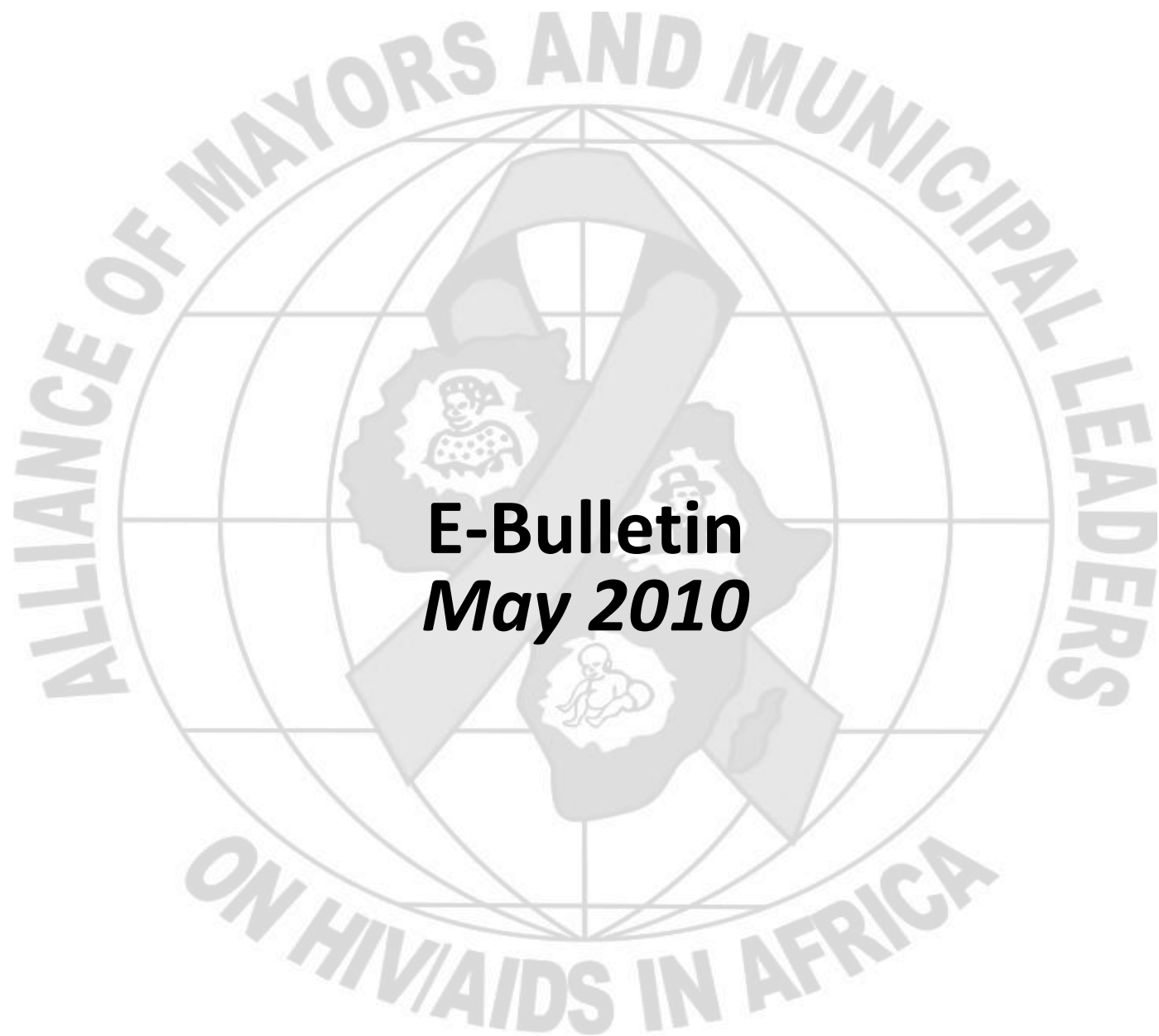




ALLIANCE OF MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL LEADERS ON HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA



Welcome Note from the Editor



Alice Mwanaumo Simushi,
The Alliance Communications Manager

Dear Alliance Members,

On behalf of The Alliance Secretariat, I would like to commend former Communications Manager, Eva-Maria Koesters for a job well-done. When she was with us, she was more than an invaluable asset to our organization. She was also a friend and a warm presence in the minds and hearts of the Alliance members who had the pleasure of working or corresponding with her. As her mentee, I can proudly say, "We thank you Eva. We thank you for everything."

This being my first month as editor, I find myself experiencing a mixture of apprehension and excitement. This is in large part due to current challenges in The Alliance's communications efforts. I am, however, optimistic that a positive turn-around is already beckoning us.

This month, several of our chapters have made great efforts in recognizing the importance of communication within an organization. It is my sincere hope that chapters whose full support we have not received will step up and join the platform of knowledge sharing, networking, and corporate efficiency that communication advocates.

May is a special month throughout Africa. This is the month chosen to celebrate our independence as a continent. On May 25th, we remember the struggles of our ancestors who fought and shed tears for our freedom from colonial suppression. As we celebrate, it is

also important that we place our wine glasses aside for a moment and question if we are truly free. Are we free from poverty? Are we free from HIV/AIDS? Are we free from an earth that has turned its back on us-through global warming, environmental and natural disasters that are in large part a result of our own carelessness?

These questions should bring to mind the Millennium Development Goals, which world leaders had hoped to attain by the year 2015. With five years left for the set targets and goals to materialize, the sobering fact is that progress made so far has not been exemplary. You can read more on the Millennium Development Goals in our brief review.

To remind ourselves how much more needs to be accomplished before we, in Africa, can truly attain freedom, let us take the initiative to spread our work as The Alliance to as many vulnerable groups as we can. You will realize after reading the Osire Refugee Camp Article; a little can go a long way.

I look forward to your input, feedback, and support in our upcoming publications and communications efforts.

Have a memorable Africa Freedom Month!

Best regards from Namibia,
Alice

Person of the Month



AMICAALL Tanzania
National Coordinator, Cyprian Paul Magere

Names: Cyprian Paul Magere



Role: I, as the National Coordinator, support the AMICAALL Tanzania Programme in coordination, operations and implementation of its activities.

Location: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

What keeps you motivated to work for the Alliance?

There are several reasons that keep me motivated; such as:

- Working in close collaboration with government, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and private sectors for supporting community members at local level.
- Sharing of information and lessons from communities - at local, national and regional level with alliance members and other development stakeholders.
- The use of norms of good governance; for example: transparency and participatory approaches in establishment, implementation and review of community based interventions. These interventions include the rights based approach, opportunities and obstacles for development, gender and social inclusion.

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

There are several challenges, such as insufficient resources to support community based interventions and to strengthen country secretariat offices such as Tanzania and others.

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

We need to establish mechanisms for resource mobilization and enable information sharing among regular stakeholders and Alliance members.

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

At home: Kijitonyama Drive in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam.

The Alliance Secretariat- Articles

A Review of the Millennium Development Goals

In September, 2000, world leaders gathered at the United Nations headquarters in New York, and tabled a declaration called the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The declaration illustrated worldwide nations' commitment to a global partnership to reduce poverty and achieve a group of time-bound targets. This declaration is commonly known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and was set to be achieved by the year 2015.

The Millennium Development Goals comprise of eight goals. These are to:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global Partnership for development

Most relevant to our organization is the sixth goal, which is to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases. This goal has three targets, the first which is to have halted by 2015 and began to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. According to www.un.org, “Most countries are struggling to meet the Goal 6 targets of achieving universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS by 2010 and of halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. International funding for anti-HIV/AIDS programmes in low and middle-income countries reached \$10 billion in 2007 – a tenfold increase in less than a decade. Yet, this sum falls short of the \$18 billion in assistance required annually to combat AIDS.”

These statistics are worrisome, especially in lieu of current hesitation by international donors to fund HIV/AIDS related organizations. Without renewed local, regional and international effort and support, this goal, not to mention the other seven, will not be met.

Networking with Osire Refugee Camp

On 20th April, 2010, a team of four staff members from The Alliance Secretariat broke off away their office routine and took a day trip out of Windhoek, Namibia. The team comprised Ayanda Nabe (Executive Secretary), Terry Parker (Regional Advisor), Katy Bodkin (Resource Mobilization Manager), Eva-Maria Koesters (then Communications Manager) and Alice Mwanauo Simushi (then Communications Assistant). Destination? Osire Refugee Camp, situated approximately 220 kilometers northeast of Windhoek.

Although the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been present in the Republic of Namibia since 1990, Osire Refugee Camp was only established in 1992 by the

government of Namibia. Namibia hosts about 6,000 refugees with the majority from Angola while the rest are from countries such as The Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

In a meeting with UNHCR representatives David Banda and Jennifer Kandjii, various topics were discussed. One was the issue of integration of the refugees into Namibian society. This integration is difficult because of existing policies that keep the refugees from freely moving around; only short-term permits are granted for them to leave the camp. What, however, is being encouraged is the resettlement of the refugees in their native countries. According to Kanji, the Angolan government, for instance, is working hand in hand with the UNHCR to ensure that returning refugees are provided temporary care and security until they are able to support themselves.



A fully functioning Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) room at the Osire Health Centre

Another topic that was discussed was that of HIV/AIDS in the camp. Owing largely to the small number and general immobility of the population, HIV/AIDS in the camp is not rampant. During a guided tour around the camp, the team was shown the health center; a fully stocked facility, complete with HIV/AIDS testing services and Antiretroviral therapy medication.

The camp also has a primary and secondary school which is complemented by a fully stocked library. Camp Administrator, Dr. Paulus Haikali stated, “Our

school is doing very well. It has produced some of the best exam results in the region. And it is interesting that some of our teachers and other qualified professionals such as doctors are actually refugees themselves.”



Osire Primary school students; excited to be done with classes for the day.

The camp also boasts a market area complete with structures such as barbershops and grocery stores. Apart from the food supplies they receive from donor bodies like the World Food Programme (WFP), the residents of Osire Settlement also rely on subsistence farming for their livelihood. In this regard, the settlement boasts a large millet field.

After the trip, and in a letter to Haikali, Nabe stated: “We were very impressed with the work that is being done in the facility and are positive that you are heading into the right direction with your engagement. We learned a great deal which is directly related to our work in management of human settlements and the challenges being faced. The learning from the visit has enabled us to explore areas of possible collaboration between UNHCR in Osire and The Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/ Aids in Africa. We look forward engaging in further dialogue in this regard.”

News from The Secretariat

1. Meeting with The World Bank

On 5th May, 2010, The Alliance delegation comprising Ayanda Nabe, Terry Parker, and Kenneth Mwansa met World Bank staff: Adele Hosken, Kate Kuper, Dr. Patrick Osewe, and Subethri Naidoo in Pretoria, South Africa to:

- ❖ learn about the programmes that The World Bank is supporting
- ❖ share with The World Bank the work of The Alliance
- ❖ identify areas of cooperation and explore possible resourcing opportunities

The conclusion of this meeting was that possible cooperation between the Alliance and The World Bank will be further explored.

2. The Alliance Planning Meeting

On 6th April, 2010, The Alliance held a Planning Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. This meeting was attended by Mayor Ayebi Gilbert Manouan (The Alliance Coordinator-Chairman), Mayor Peter Muwanga (1st Deputy Coordinator), Mayor Amie Atoine Assouh (2nd Deputy Coordinator), Ayanda Nabe (The Alliance Executive Secretary), Terry Parker (Technical Advisor to The Alliance-Commonwealth Support), Fisho Mwale (Technical Standing Committee Chairman), and Kenneth Mwansa (Technical Standing Committee Member- Representative of National Coordinators).

The outcomes from the meeting were that The Alliance’s Statutory and Constitutional Annual Meeting will be held in South Africa between the last week of July 2010 and first week August 2010; depending on the availability of accommodation.

authorities of Karasburg, Berseba, and Keetmanshoop were visited in March.

3. Meeting with The UCLGA

A technical meeting with The United Cities and Local Government of Africa (UCLGA) was also held on 7th May 2010, in Tshwane, South Africa. This meeting was attended by Ayanda Nabe (The Alliance Executive Secretary), Kenneth Mwansa (Technical Standing Committee Member), Terry Parker (Technical advisor to The Alliance) who met UCLGA members Charles Patsika (UCLGA Programme Manager) and Samuel Kaninda (UCLGA Project Officer).

Discussion centered on a draft work plan resulting from a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between The Alliance and the UCLGA that was signed in 2008. The draft document was accepted by The UCLGA and it was agreed that further consultations would be held with the political structures of UCLGA and finalized at The Alliance CC Meeting due to be held in the coming months.

AMICAALL Chapters articles

Namibia

Community Capacity Enhancement (CCE) Regional Supervisory Field Visit: Karas Region

The CCE program is community-driven through the facilitation of community conversations (CC). It is aimed at encouraging communities to address community concerns, particularly HIV/AIDS at the local level. The Ministry of Regional, Local Government, Housing and Rural Development (MRLGHRD), in collaboration with AMICAALL with financial support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), are implementing a Community Capacity Enhancement (CCE) Programme. As part of this programme, the local



Community Conversations (CC) being held in the Karas Region. Although the CCE programme is up and running, challenges are being faced. There is a high need of support from the national, regional and local level for this program to run efficiently and effectively.

The Regional Coordinator, Ms. Menesia Keister welcomed the team and briefed them on the program's progress and further reported on the challenges. The coordinator seemed dissatisfied with the CCE program's progress in the region since she felt there is little support from the Regional Council, especially on transport availability for the times when she wants to monitor the program as part of her coordination.

She further emphasized that little support from head office, AMICAAL, is provided her. This is due to the fact that ever since the implementation of this CCE, no visit had ever been conducted by the National CCE coordinator to the Karas Region. Although the program has made significant progress in terms of conversations held, support is still needed from AMICAAL.

Discussion Forum

How can international donors and development partners get convinced that

funding HIV/AIDS programmes remains a crucial need in Africa?

“Funding for international development programmes in general is becoming tighter and more competitive these days. New development needs continue to emerge; high profile ones such as climate change, which further stretch the available resources. The reality is that donors now want to see more tangible outcomes and impacts resulting from their investments. This can be challenging when working in the governance and developmental dimensions of HIV/AIDS, particularly in the short term. Also where there are so many players in the field - any reduction in HIV/AIDS infection rates, for instance, could be attributable to many different interventions. There is little doubt that HIV/AIDS continues to be a development challenge in Africa, donors do realise that, but they must be convinced to maintain support to this priority by continuing to see concrete, positive outcomes. It is important for organisations such as AMICAALL to document achievements and maintain effective working relationships with donors, in order to generate and sustain support. Donors are more likely to support causes and organisations that have a strong track record of achievement.”

-Terry Parker, Commonwealth Regional Advisor-

“The theme seems to be self explanatory, though many answers may focus on approaches to be used like lobbying and advocacy, resource mobilization and so on. If we can use the term ‘What’, instead of ‘How’, we can bring forth many issues including success stories (from each country), learning experiences and challenges (reasons for further support) for convincing external (international) donors to

support HIV and AIDS interventions in developing countries particularly in Africa. For example, “What lessons within AMICAALL operations could convince international donors to more funding of HIV/AIDS in Africa?”

-Cyprian Mugare, AMICAALL Tanzania National Coordinator-

On the Calendar

- The HIV Prevention Research Unit, Medical Research Council and the Centre for HIV/AIDS Networking are hosting a discussion forum on the topic **‘Getting Up-to-Date on Children and HIV: Same Old Story – Or a New Story?’** on 25 May 2010 in Durban. For more information, email Stewart Kilburn: stewartk@hiv911.org.za
- The African Men for Sexual Health and Rights, Behind the Mask, Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya, Gender Dynamix, HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies (New York), Hivos, Human Sciences Research Council, Humure, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Oxfam and United Nations Development Programme are hosting an **International Conference on African Same-Sex-Sexualities and Gender Diversity** from 13-16 February 2011 in Pretoria.

(Sourced from www.ngopulse.org issue no 221 19 May, 2010)



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

“Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them- every day begins the task anew. “

- Saint Francis de Sales, 1567-1622-



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