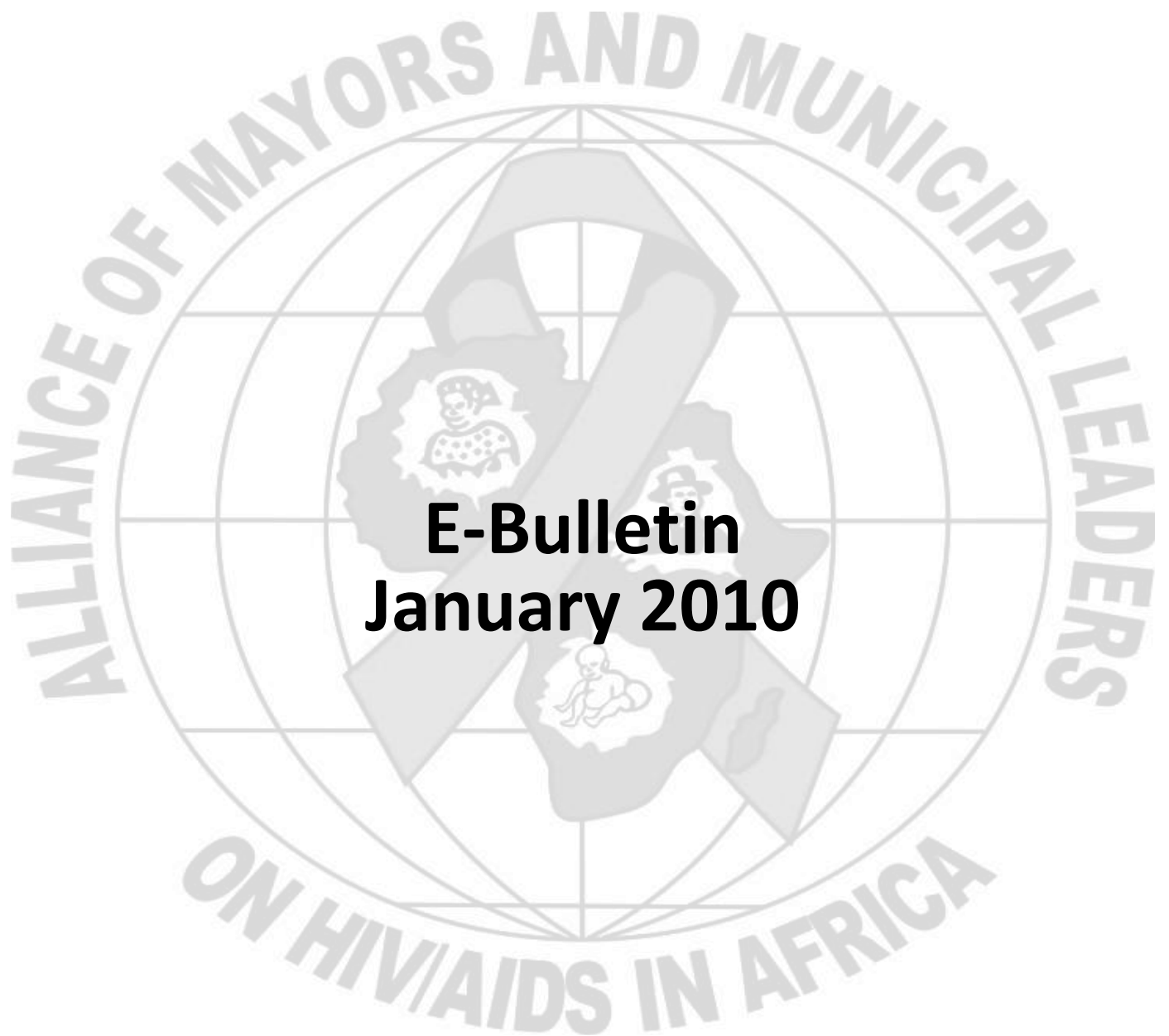




ALLIANCE OF MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL LEADERS ON HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA



E-Bulletin January 2010



Welcome Note from the desk of The Alliance Executive Secretary

Greetings of the New Year!

I hope that you all enjoyed the Festive Season and have returned with rejuvenated strength!

Welcome to 2010! This year comes with some positive changes at the Secretariat.

In the past year, effort was put on resource mobilization and meetings with potential donors have been scheduled for the first quarter of 2010. We aim to access some of the funds for both The Secretariat's programmes and those of the chapters. This year is the last year of the Alliance enjoying financial support from The Dutch Government. The Secretariat is aware that some chapters will be parting ways with some of the biggest local donors and we are committed to give support in mobilizing resources.

As part of the resource mobilization efforts, the Communications Unit will be embarking on developing the 2010 Annual Report and members are requested to make timeous submissions. In April, we will launch the new Alliance website and the Alliance Communications Handbook which will be useful not only to The Secretariat but to the members, too.

Efforts are being made to ensure the continuity of the Communication and Resource Mobilization Programmes. The Secretariat is in the process of identifying interns from the local university.

Other programmes as stated in the Strategic Plan will also be executed in 2010.

The Secretariat depends on the support of its members and I would like to thank you once more for the support that you have shown over the years and wish you strengths to transcend all challenges and move to greater heights in your work in 2010!

Ayanda NABE

AMICALL Secretariat - New Series



Person of the Month

Name: Ayanda Nabe

Role: Executive Secretary, Alliance Secretariat

Location: Windhoek, Namibia

What keeps you motivated to work for The Alliance?

My biggest motivation is to make a contribution to local government and to developmental work on HIV/ Aids in Africa. There's a big need in both areas and I'm very happy to work in this challenging environment. Besides that one of my objectives that really motivate me is the continuous improvement of The Alliance's way of working.

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

For The Alliance Secretariat one constant challenge is our resource mobilization. We need to acquire resources to fulfill our mandate of coordinating The Alliance Network.

Another constant challenge is communication: There will always be room for improved communication as it is a good tool for marketing the organization and the work that we do. Communication contributes a lot to resource mobilization.

Regarding our chapters, there are concerns with human capacity/office staffing: on the one hand we have member countries where only one person runs the chapter and in other cases there are temporary staff members or volunteers who are at times supported by volunteers These volunteers do a great job but the challenge is sustainability of the programme after the term of engagement with the volunteers come to an end.

The Alliance Network as a whole has to face challenges as well: As a donor dependent organization, our donor's financial situation has of course a big impact on our activities. The impacts of the dwindling donor funding has an impact on the existing staff members.

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

To be successful we need to focus on the good governance/management of our network's programs. From my point of view a good management includes amongst others things, strengthening the relationship with the local government associations on local level. And, as mentioned before, we can never put enough emphasis on resource mobilization in terms of skilled staff and financial resources.

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

As I work far away from home, I usually spend my vacation with my family. I'm happy whenever I can be with my family.

AMICAALL Cameroon

Municipal HIV/ AIDS Teams Establishment and Capacity Building Workshop



Effective training and networking opportunities: The workshop participants consisting of the Mayor, the AMICAALL Team and Municipal HIV Teams.

From 28 September to 1 October 2009, councils of Dschang, Bafoussam I, Bangangté, Bamendjou, Babadjou, Banwa, Ndemdeng, Foumban, Bangou and Bassamba in the Western Region were trained to utilize sensitization kits on key HIV/ AIDS services and strategies. The information kits focus on financial empowerment for women in order to meet the challenges of HIV/AIDS in their localities.

The purpose of the workshop was to build capacity of Municipal HIV/ AIDS Teams in Regional Councils regarding the implementation of HIV/ AIDS prevention activities on local level. It was also specifically about adjusting, finalizing and validating the generic document of the HIV/ AIDS information and sensitization kit. In addition the participants discussed the training of a hundred people designated within the ten councils of the Western Region to utilize the HIV/ AIDS information and sensitization kits and training on women empowerment. The development of an HIV/AIDS sensitization plan of action was also part of the agenda.

The team received detailed explanation on the utilization of the information and sensitization kit and on various opportunities to create income-generating programs to allow women to be financially independent. In addition the participants were trained on communication techniques and peer education as well as on their role as Municipal HIV/ AIDS Teams within the Council.

At the end of the workshop, participants developed plans of action for their respective councils, which they will submit to their Mayors. Their concern as underlined by Lumière Fominka, leader of a youth association of the Council of Dschang, is the involvement of Mayors in the fight through better financial support for the implementation of various planned activities.

Participation of The Alliance/ AMICAALL in the UN HIV/AIDS Joint Team Retreat

A retreat of the United Nations HIV/ AIDS Joint Team was held in the presence of the Permanent Secretary of the National AIDS Committee (CNLS) in Bertoua in early December 2009.

The purpose of the retreat was to assess the activities in 2009 and to plan the next steps for 2010. Another focus was on strengthening the coordination of the United Nations (UN) HIV interventions. The participants discussed effective responses to concerns of programs' and projects' beneficiaries on the ground.

The Alliance was invited as an implementing partner of UNDP within the framework of its support to the government on local response to HIV/ Aids.

The Alliance informed other UN agencies about the UN HIV/ AIDS Joint Team's activities: the sensitization of communities regarding HIV, advocacy for better care for people living with HIV, as well as the reduction of the vulnerability of women and AIDS orphans.

During the retreat, The Alliance presented its activities implemented in 2009 and its prospects for the New Year.

At the end of the retreat, a joint work plan for the UN HIV/ Aids Joint Team for the year 2010, including activities of AMICAALL Cameroon, was developed.



From Left to Right: Mr. Kembou (WHO), Mr. Chimi (AMICAALL), Ms. Nyemeck (UNAIDS), Dr. Olingua (UNHCR), Ms. Hiol (UNESCO), Dr. Elat (CNLS), Mr. Mballa (WFP), Dr. Sakho (UNAIDS), Dr. Mayer (UNDP), Dr. Condé (UNHCR) and other representatives of UNFPA, UNHCR and WFP

AMICAALL Mali

As every year by end of December AMICAALL Mali launched the "Week for local councillors against HIV/AIDS". The ceremony was chaired by the First Deputy Mayor of Bamako District. Present at the launch were representatives from municipal teams from the district and the region of Kayes, representatives of the High Council as well as representatives of traditional speakers. Overall the Alliance invited adults and youths from six communities. The objectives of this week are to allow local councillors to address as many people as possible to help alleviate the spread of HIV. Another objective is to encourage young people to know their status to be aware of the wide spread of HIV and Aids.



Participants were encouraged to improve the information flow on HIV/ Aids in local communities.

AMICAALL Namibia

October and November 2009 Workplace Programme Activities

In October 2009, AMICAALL Namibia conducted refresher trainings for local authorities of Oshakati, Ongwediva, Ondangwa, Helao Nafidi and Eenhana. Leadership training was attended by mayors, councillors and managers while the peer educators' training was attended by local authorities' officials.

The capacity building trainings for leadership were carried out to enhance leadership commitment and involvement in work place and community HIV/ AIDS programmes. Peer educators’ trainings are carried out to increase local authorities’ officials’ knowledge and confidence in recognizing the impact of HIV/ AIDS in the workplace, the risks and vulnerability of staff members.

Scale up

During November 2009, AMICAALL managed to scale up to three new local authorities: Berseba, Tses and Karasburg. Out of the 54 local authorities, AMICAALL Namibia managed so far to cover 46 local authorities and is assisting them with workplace programmes between 2007 and 2009.

Future Plans

Hans Shingenge, the workplace programme manager, commented that although local authorities have established structures for implementation and gave necessary support to the programme, there is a high need to establish regional trainers to guarantee the program’s sustainability. The regional trainers in all Namibian regions need to be capacitated to provide training and support to local authorities for an effective and efficient HIV/ AIDS response. AMICAALL Namibia is currently working closely with the potential donor ‘C-Change’ to realize the establishment of regional trainers. The regional trainers will consist of local authorities’ HIV/ AIDS focal persons, Community Liaison Officers from Regional Councils and stakeholders.

Achievements

AMICAALL capacity building programmes achieved the following results in local authorities:

- Major support from the Association of Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN), the Namibia Association of Local Authorities Officers (NALAO), the Namibia Mayors Forum, as well as the Namibia Village Council Forum.
- Committed councillors and managers involved in HIV/AIDS programme
- HIV/ AIDS is a standing point on councils’ agendas
- Formulation of HIV/AIDS policies

- Allocation of HIV/AIDS budgets
- Establishment of HIV/AIDS or Wellness Committees
- Recruitment/Nomination of HIV/AIDS Focal Persons
- Development of HIV/AIDS work plan



Local authorities from Berseba, Tses and Karasburg were trained by AMICAALL Namibia in November 2009

AMICAALL Uganda

Initiation of HIV Counseling and Testing

AMICAALL Uganda supported three Ugandan universities and an HCT service provider to conduct HIV Counseling and Testing for students. Initiating the service at the campuses has enabled many students to access HCT services as it was close to where they are every day. In addition, students felt free to confide in partners working outside than going to University medical centers where they are known. To date a total number of 1,273 students have accessed VCT services in the three universities.



Kyambogo University students accessing HIV Counseling organized by AMICAALL Uganda

Edutainment at Ugandan Universities



Youth friendly campaigns involving popular Ugandan musicians in Kyambogo University and Mbarara University of Science and Technology

Three Ugandan universities have been supported to conduct youth friendly HIV campaigns involving role models and celebrities in Uganda. The campaigns are an excellent mass mobilization strategy to reach students with information about HIV as well as giving HIV messages through edutainment (educational entertainment via music, dance and drama).

Popular musicians including Michael Ross and Henry Tigan have participated in these campaigns. In addition public dialogue sessions were held with key note speakers like Busingye Kabumba, a renowned human rights lawyer from Makerere University, Tom Kitaka Kimbukutu from the Ugandan Human Rights Commission and Dr. Opolot Ali from the Islamic University in Uganda. The speakers facilitated a university public dialogue on “Universal Access and Human Rights” as part of 2009 World AIDS Day campaigns. Information on human rights and access to HIV/ AIDS services were discussed between students and lectures. Over 2,320 students were involved in the dialogue sessions.

AMICAALL Uganda’s key activities in 2009

AMICAALL Uganda Chapter was launched in November 2000 as part of the global network of the Alliance. Today all 110 urban authorities in Uganda are members of the Alliance/ AMICAALL Uganda.

The major goal of AMICAALL Uganda is to promote actions to limit the spread of HIV and alleviating the social and economic impact of the epidemic on urban and periurban communities in Uganda. Since its launch, AMICAALL Uganda has made significant contribution to the national response. It has successfully mobilized countrywide urban leaders to effectively participate and lead the local response to the epidemic in urban authorities under the HIV/AIDS decentralized response in the country.

AMICAALL Uganda’s mandate and objective is to strengthen capacity of Urban Local Governments to mainstream HIV/ AIDS in their development plans. For this reason AMICAALL Uganda set out to support urban leadership and private sector partnership to enhance HIV/AIDS response in Urban Local Governments in 2009.

Urban councils and private sector institutions develop HIV/ AIDS workplace policies

AMICAALL Uganda in cooperation with UNDP supported three urban councils and three private sector institutions to develop HIV/ AIDS workplace policies for their respective institutions.

The supported urban councils are Mbarara Municipality, Soroti Municipality and Mukono Town Council while the supported private sector institutions are the Islamic University in Uganda, Uganda Christian University and Lake View Hotel in Mbarara.

The development of the workplace policies was a consultative process involving HIV/ AIDS key players in urban councils and other stakeholders. The workplace policies focus on how to raise awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS, the provision of care and support, equal treatment and anti-discrimination measures.

Advocacy and behavior change strategy on HIV/ AIDS for urban Local Governments

In partnership with the Ugandan Ministry of Local Government, the Uganda AIDS Commission, and Ireland Aid, AMICAALL Uganda has developed an advocacy and behavior change communication strategy addressing issues specifically targeted on urban authorities. The strategy has been developed in the context of other national frameworks like the National HIV Strategic Plan, Health HIV/ AIDS Sector Plan and the National Condom Guidelines and has been widely disseminated to all key stakeholders. The strategy is expected to guide behavioral change communication and advocacy for HIV/ AIDS response at local level where prevalence remains highest in the country. The strategy is critical in facilitating implementations of AMICAALL Uganda whose major role is to advocate for enhanced HIV/ AIDS response via urban leadership. The strategy will promote issues on information and knowledge sharing on HIV/ AIDS.

AMICAALL Uganda develops a revised Strategic Plan and Resource Mobilization Strategy

AMICAALL Uganda with support from UNDP and UNAIDS revised its 5 Year Strategic Plan (2006 - 2010) to realign its objectives within the current National Strategic Plan's goal of achieving universal access of HIV/ AIDS prevention, care, treatment and social support. The AMICAALL revised strategic plan (2009/10 – 2011/12) focuses on intensifying HIV prevention in urban local governments and runs for a period of three years.

These are the key strategic areas of action in the revised strategic plan:

- Enhanced advocacy, sustained leadership and commitment for HIV/ AIDS response at various levels of urban local governments
- Technical capacity building of urban local governments and communities to plan and manage HIV/ AIDS response at urban local level
- Improve coordination and networking of a multi-sectoral response to HIV/ AIDS at the urban local level
- Review the HIV/ AIDS situation in the urban authorities

- Share experiences and best practices in HIV/ AIDS interventions
- Plan and agree on priorities and strategic direction for the coming year
- Dissemination of the advocacy and behavioral change communication strategy on HIV/ AIDS in urban local governments
- Support urban community interventions for most at risk populations and other vulnerable groups
- Strengthen organizational capacity of the Alliance for effective programme development, resource mobilization and sustenance.

As part of the implementation of the revised strategic plan, a resource mobilization strategy was developed to support the new strategy. Funding will be solicited from various donor agencies to support key strategic areas of action within the revised strategic plan. The revised strategic plan and the resource mobilization strategy are expected to guide HIV/ AIDS intervention in the urban local governments in the country for the next three years.

AMICAALL Uganda Annual General Assembly

On 18th December 2009 AMICAALL Uganda hold its Annual General Assembly as part of its strategy to fight HIV/ AIDS. The meeting brought together over 220 urban leaders (Mayors and Town Clerks) from all urban authorities in the country. The assembly is also used as a platform to bring together key HIV/ AIDS players to share their experiences with the urban leadership. Among the key objectives of the annual general assembly were the following:

- Review the HIV/ AIDS situation in the urban authorities
- Share experiences and best practices in HIV/ AIDS interventions
- Plan and agree on priorities and strategic direction for 2010
- Dissemination of the advocacy and behavioral change communication strategy on HIV/ AIDS in urban local governments

During the annual general assembly urban councils and mayors who had done well in HIV/ AIDS programs were honored. The respective mayors were identified and recognized by the Alliance Executive Council as having

local initiatives and programs which have sustained the AMICAALL activities even without financial support. In addition the Alliance Executive Council recognized the UNDP Resident Representative as a key person to have contributed to lifting HIV/AIDS fight in the urban areas of the country.

As a conclusion, the general assembly agreed on the following recommendations:

- The Alliance Executive Council focuses on resource mobilization during 2010
- An annual Urban leadership AIDS forum has to be held every year to strengthen advocacy, leadership and commitment
- HIV/ AIDS programs have to be integrated in other existing government programs as a strategy to harness existing resources in the urban councils and scale up the response

On the Calendar

- Until February 28th, 2010: [The Red Ribbon Award 2010](#) is waiting for your application: Twenty-five NGOs will be selected and invited to attend the International AIDS Conference in Vienna – Nominate now!
- 18-23 July 2010, Vienna, Austria: [International AIDS Conference](#) is the premier gathering for those working in the field of HIV
- 25-28 March 2010, Yaoundé, Cameroon: [International Conference on ICT for Africa](#), this event will bring together a fine mix of practitioners and academicians in the area of ICTs for sustainable development.

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

“Alive, we live in the same house or under the same roof. Dead, we rest in the same tomb.”

This Malagasy proverb favors unity, solidarity and community life and their consequences such as hospitality and sharing. It emphasizes unity but does not exclude diversity in all its forms. The proverb not only applies to the nuclear family, but also to the extended family and beyond.



**THE ALLIANCE OF MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL
LEADERS ON HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA
(THE ALLIANCE)**

P. O. Box 60401

Katutura, WINDHOEK

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Tel: + 264 61 226 377 or + 264 61 224 730

Fax: + 264 61 227 890

www.amicaall.org

Ayanda Nabe

Executive Secretary

exec.secretary@amicaall.org.na

Eva-Maria Koesters

Communications Manager

communications@amicaall.org.na