



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

Vol. 1, Issue 5, December 2001

## EDITORIAL



Cllr Matheus Shikongo  
Mayor of the City of Windhoek, Namibia

### CONCERTED EFFORTS NEEDED

Namibia, like any other country in the sub-region and the world at large is faced with the increasing threat of the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The extent of the epidemic represents an increasing danger to development for many countries in the sub-Saharan region. In our country and our capital city, Windhoek, the impact of HIV/AIDS is affecting the economically active population groups and increasingly so the women and children. The illness is such that it can no longer be considered a mere health problem, but it reveals its character as a social, cultural, and economic problem.

Similar to the cross-sectoral relevance of gender issues and structural reform, a cross-sectoral approach to HIV/AIDS is important in combating the disease.

As Mayor of the City of Windhoek and a member of the Co-ordinating Committee of the Alliance of Mayors, I am pleased to inform you that the City Council of Windhoek has a draft HIV/AIDS policy which deals with issues relating to job access, testing confidentiality and protection of confidentiality in workplace recruitment. Council has Community Development Officers who help in the dissemination of HIV/AIDS information to the population of our city. We also have an occupational health and safety plan which deals with all health related issues, including HIV/AIDS. A project proposal for the

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## NAMIBIA LAUNCHES ITS CHAPTER OF THE ALLIANCE OF MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL LEADERS ON HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA

The Republic of Namibia became the 18<sup>th</sup> country to join the Alliance at a spectacular launch held in the capital city, Windhoek, on 23 November, 2001.

A large crowd witnessed the event which commenced with a procession led by the Namibia Defense Force Band, along the main street, Independence Avenue, to the open-air launch venue, Zoo Park. Mayors from 44 local authorities in Namibia were joined by international

participants from South Africa, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, Mozambique and Swaziland at this special event.

The Association for Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN) Declaration on HIV/AIDS was presented by ALAN President, Dr. Helen Nkandi-Shiimi. The declaration was endorsed unanimously by all Mayors and Municipal Leaders in Namibia, who in unison committed to begin work immediately on their

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Signing of the ALAN Declaration on HIV/AIDS. From left to right: Cllr Dr. Helen Nkandi-Shiimi, President of the Association for Local Authorities in Namibia; Mr. Ismael Namubeb, Chief Administrative Officer, Association for Local Authorities in Namibia; and Cllr Joe Auala, Deputy Mayor, City of Windhoek.

## ALAN DECLARATION ON HIV/AIDS: Local Crisis-Local Action a Must

**W**e, the Mayors and Municipal Leaders of local authorities of the Republic of Namibia, having taken cognisance of the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the significant impact on our cities, towns and villages, and local authorities in Namibia, under the auspices of the Association for Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN) join our government and other Local Authorities in Africa and launch the Namibian Chapter of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa.

*Considering* that local government, as an integral part of the national structure of governance, is the level of government closest to the people and, therefore, well placed to respond to the many challenges posed by HIV/AIDS.

*Honouring* the resolution during the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Congress of the Association for Local Authorities in Namibia, calling for a commitment to address the implications of HIV/AIDS on our cities, towns and villages.

*Welcoming* the commitments of African Heads of States or Governments, at the Organisation of African Unity Special Summit in April 2001, particularly their pledge to allocate at least 15 percent of their annual national budgets for the improvement of the health sector to help address the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

*Recognising and supporting* the commitment made by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Sam Shafiqhuna Nuyoma and the Namibian Government to promote multisectoral action on HIV/AIDS in Namibia.

*Recognising* the ABIDJAN DECLARATION of Mayors and Municipal Leaders of Africa of 9<sup>th</sup> December 1997, proclaimed in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on the

occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on STDs/AIDS in Africa.

*Recognising and Appreciating* the commitments and actions taken by African local authorities, continental and Namibian NGOs and other organisations to promote awareness of the socio-economic effect of HIV/AIDS on our societies and support measures to minimise its impact.

*Recognising* the establishment of the Alliance Continental Secretariat in Windhoek, Namibia and contributions made by both the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the City of Windhoek and our support to the Alliance Secretariat.

*Expressing* deep concern about the increase in orphans, street children, widows/widowers in our Cities, Towns and Villages, acknowledge the impact on sustainable urban development.

*Acknowledging* that poverty, in all of its manifestations, contributes to the spread of HIV/AIDS; local authorities are deeply concerned that HIV/AIDS is compounding poverty, reversing development gains and compromising the future development of our country.

*Recognising* that the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is an essential element in an effective response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, including in the areas of prevention, care, support and treatment, and that it reduces vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and prevents stigma and related discrimination against people living with or at risk of HIV/AIDS.

*Convinced* of the need for all Local Councils in Namibia to develop and implement policies and strategies appropriate to the specific HIV/AIDS related social, economic, developmental, cultural, human

rights and health dimensions in our communities.

*Taking* into account all Global, Continental, National and Local initiatives, we thus affirm our commitment and resolve as the Namibian Chapter of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa to the Alliance of Mayors Initiative on Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL) strategy and to the Abidjan Declaration.

As local governments of the Republic of Namibia we hereby commit to the following actions:

- Inclusion of strategies and resources to address the implications of HIV/AIDS for cities, towns and villages in our municipal management and service delivery agendas;
- In particular, develop and implement strategies and financing plans for combating HIV/AIDS that address the epidemic in forthright terms; confront stigma, silence and denial; address gender and age-based dimensions of the epidemic; eliminate discrimination and marginalisation; involve partnerships with civil society and with the business sector and the full participation of people living with HIV/AIDS, those in vulnerable groups and people mostly at risk, particularly women and young people; fully promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to the highest attainable standard of health; integrate a gender perspective; and address risk, vulnerability, prevention, care, treatment and support and reduction of the impact of the epidemic;
- Encourage all partners in the field of HIV/AIDS and development in our communities to collaborate with us in this initiative;
- Develop appropriate strategies and programmes to raise awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS on socio-economic development in our

Cities, Towns and Villages and to promote prevention, care, treatment and support as the mainstay of our response;

- Support the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS (Medium Plan II) and the activities and programmes of the National AIDS Committee, the National AIDS Coordination Programme and Regional and District AIDS Committees;
- Encourage all stakeholders to work with us in partnership towards one purpose by harnessing both human and financial resources for effective implementation of our respective programmes and efforts;
- Support the continental Secretariat of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa in the same spirit as that shown by our Government and the City of Windhoek;
- Foster stronger collaboration and the development of innovative partnerships between the public and private sectors, and encourage United Nations Agencies to work closely with the Mayors and their

local authorities, in order to establish an enabling environment and strengthen mechanisms that involve the private sector, civil society partners, people living with HIV/AIDS and communities in the fight against HIV/AIDS;

- Call for action to protect young people; identify and mobilize local capacity for prevention, care and support; and provide leadership and commitment in establishing a supportive environment that makes prevention, care and support possible;
- Commit to the establishment of municipal committees for HIV/AIDS, STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) and alcohol and drug abuse in order to raise awareness, build local capacity, disseminate information and encourage a multi-sectoral approach to this crisis;

In endorsing the above we, the leaders of local governments of Namibia, hereby sign this declaration in Windhoek on 30 October 2001;

#### Association for Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN)

Cllr Helen Nkandi-Shiimi, President

Windhoek City Council  
Swakopmund Municipality  
Keetmanshoop Municipality  
Okahandja Municipality  
Henties Bay Municipality  
Karasburg Municipality  
Otavi Municipality  
Outjo Municipality  
Arandis Town Council  
Oshakati Town Council  
Ondangwa Town Council  
Okakarara Town Council  
Khorixas Town Council  
Rundu Town Council  
Aranos Village Council  
Bethanie Village Council  
Uis Village Council  
Maltahohe Council  
Witvlei Village Council  
Gibeon Village Council

Walvis Bay Municipality  
Tsumeb Municipality  
Mariental Municipality  
Otjiwarongo Municipality  
Karibib Municipality  
Gobabis Municipality  
Omaruru Municipality  
Usakos Municipality  
Katima Mulilo Council  
Opuwo Town Council  
Ongwediva Town Council  
Otavi Town Council  
Rehoboth Town Council  
Eenhana Town Council  
Aroab Village Council  
Koes Village Council  
Leonardville Council  
Tses Village Council  
Outapi Village Council  
Gochas Village Council

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building of an HIV/AIDS Centre to offer several services has already been drafted.

Needless to say that all local governments in Namibia have committed to join the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS. The launch of the Namibia Chapter of the Alliance is scheduled for 23 November 2001. This action will definitely link Namibian Local Authorities with other African states who are already members of the Alliance.

Namibia, and Windhoek in particular, is pleased to be the host to the Continental Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS Secretariat, which will be launched later this year or early next year. The opening of this office is a testimony which underlines the City's commitment to concerted efforts to fight the spread of the epidemic.

November 16, 2001

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local AMICAALL programmes.

The Government of Namibia also expressed its support to the Namibian Chapter, with Minister for Regional and Local Government and Housing, Hon. Dr. Nickey Nyambo expressing his line Ministry's appreciation for the proactive sectoral response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic by local authorities.

The Patron of the Namibian Chapter, Minister for Health and Social Services, Hon. Dr. Libertina Amathila, formally launched the Chapter with a message of hope and inspiration. (Full details of the Launch will appear in the next issue.)

The formal launch was preceded by a Preparatory Workshop held again in Windhoek on October 30, 2001. The Workshop was arranged by the Association for Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN). The purpose was to orientate all Mayors and Municipal Leaders on the Alliance and the AMICAALL Strategy, and most importantly, to agree on and endorse the ALAN Declaration on HIV/AIDS, which is to be the foundation of the local authority HIV/AIDS response.

## AMICAALL SWAZILAND WINS COMMONWEALTH AWARD FOR ACTION ON HIV/AIDS

The AMICAALL Swaziland Programme was recently recognised as a winner of the 2001 Commonwealth Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS under the Policy Advocacy Category and Government subgroup. The programme – Alliance of Mayors Initiative on Community Action Against AIDS at the Local Level, or AMICAALL – puts people, not the virus, at the centre of the response to HIV/AIDS. Through a system of Municipal Teams and a national coordination structure, the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme, which has been included in the Swaziland Strategic Plan 2000-2005, has institutionalized participatory processes and systems for community-based responses at the local level. It has created a mechanism for channeling local-level concerns into national policy making. Additionally, it has successfully forged partnerships for implementation and resource mobilisation with a range of local, national, and international actors and is a pilot for the sub-region.

The Commonwealth Awards honour exemplary work activities on HIV/AIDS. Held in Melbourne, Australia on October 4, 2001, the Awards were organised by the Para55 Group (of the 1999 Commonwealth Heads of Government Durban Communiqué), the Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Business Council. Commonwealth leaders expressed grave concern over the devastating social and economic impact of HIV/AIDS, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and pledged to personally lead the fight against HIV/AIDS within their countries and internationally. This commitment is particularly relevant given that nearly 60% of people living with HIV/AIDS live in the

Commonwealth, and half of all AIDS deaths have been in Commonwealth member countries. They emphasise the multi-sectoral nature of the HIV/AIDS problem, involving civil society organisations, governments, businesses and the media, in the three areas of work – prevention, comprehensive care and policy and advocacy. At the Awards presentation ceremony, Commonwealth Medical Association Representative Marianne Haslegrave commented that *'HIV/AIDS is a problem which affects all parts of society, and all parts of society have a part to play in combating it. To emphasise this fact, the winners have been chosen from all sectors of society; from governments, business, the media and civil society.'*

A total of 68 nominations from 26 countries across the Commonwealth were received for the 12 Awards presented. Nominations were assessed on how well a project promoted well-being and positive living for people living with HIV/AIDS, how it used knowledge gained to influence practice, how it involved the community, whether it adopted a multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary approach, and whether the project was sustainable and could be replicated.

Another Award winner was Uganda President Yoweri Museveni for his personal commitment and

leadership in addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic and making his country an example for the rest of Africa. Other winners came from India, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom.

Commenting on the Award, Ms. Mina Mauerstein-Bail, Director of the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, said: *'AMICAALL is helping to translate the vision of the International Partnership Against AIDS in Africa, launched by the Secretary General of the UN, into concrete actions on the ground. This Award is fitting recognition of the relevance of the AMICAALL strategy as an effective multi-sectoral response to the many developmental challenges posed by HIV/AIDS, particularly in the African continent. In Swaziland it is clear that the commitments of Paragraph 55 of the Durban Communiqué are being implemented practically, and with the personal engagement of His Majesty, King Mswati III and the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland.'*

For more information on AMICAALL contact:  
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More information on the Commonwealth Awards can be found at:  
www.commonwealthfoundation.com

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## AMICAALL Swaziland Launched in August 2001

To the hills of Piggs Peak—far way from the hustle and bustle of Swaziland's main cities - they came looking for hope and knowledge. Over 80 people, from all eleven municipalities, many government agencies, NGOs, several other countries, and TV and press, arrived at the Piggs Peak Protea Hotel, August 15-17. The event was the Start-up Workshop of the Alliance of Mayors Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL) National Programme in Swaziland.

Given the gravity of the situation in Swaziland (an estimated 22% of adults or 140,000 of its 980,000 population are living with the virus), this was more than just a workshop. The opening ceremonies drew United Nations representatives, international guests, the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, and also the Prime Minister.

In his address, the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Swaziland, Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, welcomed and stressed the significance of the presence of representatives from all local authorities at the start of "an enthusiastic and worthy new initiative in the fight to defeat HIV/AIDS - AMICAALL". Acknowledging that "AIDS is more than just a health issue," he underlined AMICAALL's multisectoral approach, its focus on people and the fact that it promotes dialogue and partnership. Having reiterated his own commitment to support action on HIV/AIDS and invited that of the workshop participants, the Prime Minister, in closing, threw out a challenge to the audience regarding their upcoming work with AMICAALL: "The continent will be watching, and we must create a worthy model for others to emulate."

A message of hope concluded the opening ceremonies. This came from the real life experience of Uganda. Dr. John Mugisa, Kampala City Council Divisional Medical Officer, described how his country is successfully battling the HIV/AIDS epidemic. From HIV prevalence rates of over 20% in the early 1990s, Uganda has steadily reduced this to a 6.2% overall rate as of June 2001. Among the reasons for this drastic reduction are strong political will and sustained commitment, high level of awareness of HIV/AIDS, coupled with behaviour change (e.g., increased condom use), and increased demand for voluntary counselling and testing. A tone of hope and engagement was thus set for the workshop session.

The Swaziland National Association of Local Authorities (SNALA) and Local Authority Managers Association of Swaziland (LAMAS) organized the Start-up Workshop with key assistance from

the UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme, UNDP, and UNAIDS. LAMAS and SNALA received a four-year, \$1.06 million grant from the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and are responsible for implementation of the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme.

Designed to support communities and strengthen partnerships between municipalities and community groups and organizations, the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme seeks to enhance the capacities of these groups to create effective community based responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Programme activities include skill building, policy dialogue, microgrants, training of trainers, monitoring and evaluation, and sharing of lessons learned. The principle at the centre of the programme is that of partnership. As the HIV/AIDS epidemic affects society in its broadest context, AMICAALL Swaziland programme partners are



AMICAALL Swaziland Start-up Workshop.

From left to right: Mr. Mbuso Dlamini, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development; Hon. Albert Shabangu, Minister for Housing and Urban Development; Rt. Hon. Dr. Sibusiso Dlamini, Prime Minister of Swaziland; Hon. Dr. Phetsile Dlamini, Minister for Health and Social Welfare; and Ms. Elizabeth Lwanga, UN Resident Coordinator, Swaziland

representative of all sections of society, including government, NGOs, CBOs, civil society, private sector and international agencies.

Bringing together representatives of the local authorities and their various programme partners, the main objectives of the Start-up Workshop were to develop a better understanding of the AMICAALL strategy and processes; to clarify, together, the roles and responsibilities of the AMICAALL Swaziland programme partners and stakeholders and to review the work-plan implementation; and to start municipalities on the process of designing local action plans. General briefings and presentations alternated with intensive work in smaller groups which gave participants an opportunity to analyse the impact of HIV/AIDS in their communities and acquire some of the tools for developing their own local action plans.

The Start-up Workshop, with high-level support and the strong participation of local authorities, achieved a consensus for urgent action, for the earliest involvement of youth and religious leaders, and for the adoption of a bottom-up approach. In addition, it provided input for the newly appointed National Coordinator and, in fruitful exchanges between the Ugandan and Namibian delegations and their Swaziland counterparts, brought forth a number of ideas to facilitate the sharing of information, materials and best practices. Participants left the workshop with a new sense of hope and purpose, in the knowledge that they had taken a significant step forward in the work of the AMICAALL Swaziland programme which they had just begun.

For more information on AMICAALL Swaziland Programme, contact Rudolph Maziya, AMICAALL Swaziland National Coordinator, e-mail: [rudolph.maziya@undp.org](mailto:rudolph.maziya@undp.org)

## Voices of Hope Manzini Youth Care Choir

The Manzini Youth Care Choir, comprised of orphans and former street kids from all corners of Swaziland, thoroughly captivated the audience at the opening ceremony of the AMICAALL Swaziland Start-up Workshop held in August.

Dressed in distinctive traditional attire, the choir entertained a large assembly of dignitaries including the Prime Minister of Swaziland, two Cabinet Ministers and a host of guests, with a variety of contemporary and traditional numbers.

However, this group of talented youngsters is but one tangible illustration of the exceptional contribution the Manzini Youth Care Centre, a partner in the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme, is making to the social development of Swaziland, a country seriously affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Manzini Youth Care is a non-governmental organisation which provides opportunities for children and young adults who face situations of risk and vulnerability, either from their home environment or from living on the streets, to reintegrate into the community.

Recalling the story of the development of Manzini Youth Care the Director, Father Larry McDonnell, recounted that the organisation had its origins in 1978, with its first home being in the disused morgue of the Catholic Hospital.

Since then, thousands of children have experienced an environment of affection instead of beating, respect instead of abuse, support instead of fear, together with a quality education, a real home and a good meal.

The children whom Manzini Youth Care assists are either referred by other NGO's, health and social workers or are simply picked up from the streets and offered an alternative. They receive training on how to live a disciplined day – a far cry from the freedom of the streets – but a more secure and welcome option.

When the children first arrive, they are often afraid and sensitive, as most have come from quite horrific backgrounds. There is a formal transition programme where they are gradually introduced to a new atmosphere of respect and understanding of adults as people who are not just there to beat and



Manzini Youth Care Choir performing at the Swaziland Start-up Workshop.



Father Larry McDonnell with the children of Manzini Youth Care Centre.

abuse them. They have the opportunity to move to more formal education – Manzini Youth Care has its own school which offers ‘alternative schooling’ which is geared to the particular circumstances and needs of the children. The school also offers a ‘fast track’ graduation from Primary to High school for those who have potential which up to now has been inhibited.

Over 140 children from the Manzini MHT/Telluride AIDS Benefit sponsored project also attend the School. The Manzini Rotary Club has recently joined in as a partner and has established a feeding scheme for these children; an idea proposed by the community itself and involving the community in its implementation.

The children without homes are provided with accommodation in communal houses, together with a House Mother and Father. Staff are trained in these roles to be there, listen and be the mother and father to children who for whatever reason have never had such consideration.

There are several formal, recreational and other diversionary activities employed to build the discipline, self esteem, confidence and attitude the children need – to consider themselves as true children of God. These include football, the choir and involvement in income

generating activities. For example, during the season the children move around town and collect seeds from fruits, either discarded in the streets or fallen from trees. The children plant these seeds in pots, nurture them until they grow to small trees, and then they are marketed. Over 10,000 fruit trees are sold each year, yielding approx. \$8,000 towards the costs of operating the facility – a truly innovative concept.

*‘Street kids are created by poverty and the combination of abuse, violence and fear. Most of the children we care for are orphans, some AIDS related orphans, but all without a home in both the physical and emotional sense. We are not always successful, some kids go back to the streets looking for more freedom, but they eventually come back.*

*We are aware of the label of institutionalization, and make sure that those who have a parental home go there during holidays in order to maintain the family structure which is an important part of Swazi culture.’* - says Father McDonnell.

*‘The choir teaches self-respect, confidence, and builds self esteem and dignity – it helps to provide a bridge from the streets to the community. It shows the children that they can achieve something – they only want to be appreciated and earn some dignity.’*

The choir, which comprises 25 children, is guided by choirmaster Cedric Masebula, who himself is a former street kid. Cedric has stayed with MYC and is a House Father. Although having no formal training, Cedric has used his natural talent, and that of his charges, to create a choir that is an inspiration and of world class quality.

The choir is in a new phase of its development, particularly in view of their recent notoriety, which has motivated everyone to greater achievement. They have improved their self image and have discarded the idea of uniform for their

performances, opting instead for traditional Swazi attire, which is universally understood.

Looking to the future, Father McDonnell has identified several projects that need to be carried out in the light of the ever-increasing numbers needing care.

*‘We need funding for a properly trained research team on the streets to find out what really is happening. The team needs to meet the kids who come in from the rural areas, find out who they are, where they come from and what they really want – we need to know this from the kids themselves.*

*There is also a great need for more physical structures – real homes with properly trained staff who can offer the environment the kids crave.*

*My aim is that Manzini Youth Care will be financially self sufficient. We are working towards this goal with several income generating projects – Eswatini Kitchen, which exports locally made jams and preserves to eight countries is very successful, and we are about to embark on an initiative to produce and market Swazi Juice – fresh local orange juice. All profits go to the projects we have underway and planned.’*

The AMICAALL Swaziland Programme, the City of Manzini and the community they serve are all very proud and appreciative of the work of Manzini Youth Care, particularly the MYC Choir – true voices of hope.

For information on how you can help, please contact:

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## PRICewaterhouseCOOPERS/ AMICAALL PARTNERSHIP

The AMICAALL Swaziland project has recently benefited extensively from a ground breaking private sector partnership with the global professional services firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Through the facilitation of the UN Office of Project Services (UNOPS) and the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, AMICAALL Swaziland was chosen as one of three social programmes throughout the world to participate as a 'project partner' in PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) 'Ulysses Programme'.

The PwC Ulysses Programme is designed to create, harness and release global leadership potential within the Company in order to make a positive impact on their clients and communities, within the worldwide socio-economic environment.

The objectives of the Ulysses Programme are based on a corporate policy of social responsibility and the creation of a diversified organisational culture within PwC, focusing on the key components of leadership, cultural diversity and sustainability.

A team of three senior personnel from PwC offices worldwide arrived in Swaziland on July 7 and departed September 2. The team comprised -

**Christof Menzies**, Partner, Global Risk Management Solutions from PwC Germany.

**Alessandro Parrini**, Senior Manager, Transaction Services from PwC Italy.

**Daniel Jimenez**, Senior Manager, International Assignment Solutions from PwC Mexico.

Each team member brought to the Project extensive experience and skills in accounting, auditing, computing, taxation and financial management.

The partnership with AMICAALL Swaziland involved the development

of strong, flexible funding mechanisms and financial systems for various grant and donor funds to ensure transparency, accountability, compliance and sustainability. The assignment also involved building local capacity and skills transfer of the systems and mechanisms developed, together with assistance with financial staff recruitment and related issues.

The technical assistance was particularly timely, as the AMICAALL Swaziland Project had just received a substantial grant from the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and a financial and administrative procedures manual had to be developed. A small grant funding mechanism at the municipal level was also required in order to provide diverse donors with the assurance that funds contributed for action on

HIV/AIDS at local level were properly accounted for.

The PwC Team worked side by side with a Swazi Counterpart Group to share ideas on technical aspects and transfer skills. All tasks were completed in a highly professional manner.

The Team also had the opportunity to be part of the community-based projects AMICAALL Swaziland is implementing and to carry out work within vulnerable communities and with people living with HIV/AIDS.

The PwC team quickly developed an affinity with AMICAALL, and showed everyone that social programmes and accountability can work hand in hand. They displayed the human face of the profession, as evidenced by a presentation they delivered at the AMICAALL



From left to right: Hon. Albert Shabangu, Minister of Housing and Urban development; Christof Menzies; Alessandro Parrini; and Daniel Jimenez of the PwC.

Swaziland Start Up Workshop in August, where they made the following observations –

Apply diligent financial procedures when dealing with AMICAALL funds – ensure traceability, accountability and auditability of all transactions under the AMICAALL umbrella. But, do not let the financial procedures handcuff you – the people on the ground require your flexibility and judgement to help as and where needed. Above all, the accounting system is merely a tool and must not detract from the real objectives of AMICAALL – to build local capacity to empower communities to enhance development and counter the effects of the epidemic.

Speaking on behalf of the Team, Christof Menzies related his experiences from a personal perspective:

“I am deeply grateful to all the people with whom I had the pleasure of working. Not only for having developed such an important initiative, but also for the way the PwC team was welcomed and fully integrated from day one. I am deeply moved by what I experienced in

Swaziland and I am also very proud of PwC for engaging in such important partnerships. This is very much a two-way learning experience and I take many insights back to my work place. I am convinced that AMICAALL presents a tremendous opportunity for Swaziland to counter the effects of the epidemic and I am thankful to be part of this project. There is a lot of work ahead and the energy and commitment of the people I met convinces me that a difference can be made – I wish the people of Swaziland all the very best.”

The President of the Local Authorities Managers Association, which is responsible for the ACBF Grant implementation, Mr. Benedict Gamedze, remarked:

“As a multisectoral, community-based response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the AMICAALL programme is dependent on very strong partnerships, both local and external, and resource mobilization for its success. Whilst the programme is aimed at helping people living with HIV/AIDS and their communities better cope with its adverse destabilizing effects, emphasis is placed on

building the necessary local capacity to achieve this. This is where the resource mobilisation and partnerships come in.

The AMICAALL Swaziland Programme has benefited significantly from these partnerships one of which is the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) partnership.

We remain ever grateful to the wonderful work done by Alessandro, Christof and Daniel. They were also great guys to have around on a personal level”

Speaking on behalf of the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, the Director, Ms. Mina Mauerstein-Bail, summed up –

“The PwC partnership is a tangible demonstration of the call by the United Nations Secretary-General for the participation of the private sector in the response to the HIV/AIDS. I hope that this contribution will be an example to other companies who have so much to offer to the community based HIV/AIDS initiatives that need this type of support. Our appreciation to PricewaterhouseCoopers for the contribution they have made to AMICAALL is gratefully acknowledged.”

## THE TRINIDAD EXPERIENCE

*An account of the 10th International Conference for People Living with HIV/AIDS, Trinidad, 27-31 October 2001*

The Conference was organized jointly by the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+), The Caribbean Regional Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (CRN+), and Community Action Resource, Trinidad (CARE). Its aim was to raise awareness of the needs and rights of people living with HIV/AIDS; develop partnerships between their communities and with

governments and business; and strengthen their existing networks. “The challenge for the global movement of people living with HIV is to translate the truth of local responses into the reality of national and global ones”, said Dr. Piot of UNAIDS during the press conference.

The UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme sponsored five persons living with HIV/AIDS (two from

Swaziland, three from Namibia) to participate in the Conference. Ms Alberthina Nyatsi and Mr Kenneth Matsebula, members of the Swaziland AIDS Support Organization (SASO) write:

*Travelling through London and the USA and then Port of Spain, Trinidad was overwhelming, a dream come true, despite the visa problems encountered in the USA -*

*a torrid time of being escorted to and fro, under vigilant eyes, until we were finally allowed to proceed.*

*This was a good conference to attend, for it was an eye-opener. It was informative, full of experiences from all over the world and people from all walks of life. We were able to network with other friends doing different projects in all parts of the world.*

*We also learnt many helpful lessons: how to respect peoples' sexual preferences; how to use the survival kit with other women; how to work with funders: use their language, know their motivations, demonstrate our confidence, have a track record...; about the vital importance of nutrition; about leadership and how to involve every member in a support group and to accept our differences; about coping mechanisms and effective communication with children...*

*Now and again we felt bad as we remembered the people in Swaziland who are dying because of both hunger and lack of medication, a double tragedy indeed. But also it was great to realize that we were not alone in the fight against HIV/AIDS and that gives us hope and encourages us to live longer. Sharing experiences with other participants was so emotional ... the conference was expertly organized to provide ice-breakers which brought immense relief.*

*This experience will stimulate us as we provide support to the AMICAALL programme. We also plan: to start a project of teaching HIV positive women to cope, using the survival kit and other tools from the Conference; to actively support and motivate people to go for voluntary testing and counselling; and more...*

*This was indeed a wonderful conference and we thank our sponsor UN-AMICAALL for sending us there.*

## **LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS: Strengthening the sister cities network and combating HIV/AIDS throughout Africa**

*A message from Tim Honey, executive director of Sister Cities International*

**S**ister Cities International (SCI) is grateful for the opportunity to address the mayors associated with AMICAALL, all of whom serve as an amazing example of the work that can be done when HIV/AIDS is tackled at the local level. We at SCI have long believed that localized, people-to-people partnerships can and do make a difference, and we admire AMICAALL's dedication and commitment to this approach. As SCI embarks on two new initiatives aimed at both combating HIV/AIDS and strengthening the network of sister city partnerships undertaken throughout Africa and other underserved regions, we know that AMICAALL will lend experience, insight and guidance in the cause.

As noted above, one of our major goals in the near future is to expand and utilize the U.S.-Africa sister cities network to build innovative and sustainable community-based initiatives to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS throughout the continent. While meeting the immediate need of fighting HIV/AIDS, sister city partnerships will also serve to promote long-term, sustainable solutions and encourage grassroots mobilization and leadership, especially focused on women and girls. We are delighted to work with AMICAALL to develop this initiative, helping create unique solutions that truly answer local concerns.

SCI's goal to increase its involvement in HIV/AIDS programs is strongly linked to another SCI initiative, "Sister Cities United for International Peace and Friendship."

Developed following September 11, the project focuses on expanding and sustaining sister city partnerships in previously underserved regions, including the Middle East, Africa and the former Soviet Union, realizing that by increasing communication and people-to-people relationships in these regions, we will also be helping to build bridges of peace and development throughout the world.

Of the 1,500 international communities partnered with U.S. cities through SCI, only about 70 are located in Africa. One of our major goals in the "Sister Cities United" project is to double the number of sister cities partnerships in Africa, strengthening the relationship between the United States and your own region of the world. The initiative will allow cities throughout Africa to benefit not only from HIV/AIDS-focused projects, but other sister city partnerships focused on economic development, tourism, public safety and cultural exchange, as well.

SCI hopes that AMICAALL and all of its associates will join with us in our mission to spread peace, health and prosperity around the globe. If you do not have an American sister city, or if you would like to become an international member of SCI, please contact Justine Morgan at [jmorgan@sister-cities.org](mailto:jmorgan@sister-cities.org). SCI also welcomes all of you to attend our annual conference in Toledo, Ohio, in July 2002. Contact Deanita Holland at [dholland@sister-cities.org](mailto:dholland@sister-cities.org) to learn more about the opportunities.

We look forward to working with AMICAALL to fight HIV/AIDS and bring our two regions closer in the process. We believe that together we can build a more just and peaceful world.

## Leadership commitments

The UNAIDS Global Framework on HIV/AIDS proposes commitments together with a set of essential actions through which leaders and policy-makers at global, regional, national and community level can mobilise their societies to more fully respond to the epidemic. Achievement of the overarching aim of the global response requires leadership commitments:

1. To ensure an extraordinary response to the epidemic, which includes the full engagement of top-level leaders to achieve measurable goals and targets.
2. To reduce the stigma associated with HIV and AIDS and to protect human rights through personal and political advocacy and the promotion of policies that prevent discrimination and intolerance.
3. To affirm and strengthen the capacity of communities to respond to the epidemic.
4. To protect children and young people from the epidemic and its impact, especially orphans.
5. To meet the HIV/AIDS-related needs of girls and young women and to minimize the circumstances that disadvantage women with respect to HIV/AIDS.
6. To protect those at greatest risk of HIV/AIDS, including sex workers and their clients, injecting drug users and their sexual partners, men who have sex with men, refugees and internally displaced people, and persons separated from their families due to work or conflict.
7. To ensure the provision of care and support to individuals, households and communities affected by HIV/AIDS.
8. To promote the full participation of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in the response to the epidemic.
9. To actively support the development of partnerships required to address the epidemic - in particular, those required to improve access to essential information, services and commodities.
10. To intensify efforts in socio-cultural, biomedical and operations research to accelerate access to prevention and care technologies, to improve our understanding of factors which influence the epidemic, and enhance actions to address it.
11. To strengthen human resource and institutional capacities required to support service providers engaged in the response to the epidemic - in particular, those in the education, health, judicial and social welfare sectors.
12. To develop enabling policies, legislation and programmes which address individual and societal vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and mitigate its socio-economic impacts.

*The UNAIDS Global Framework on HIV/AIDS  
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)  
2001*

## Alliance Activities: 2000-2001 Highlights

### May 2000

- The Alliance holds second General Assembly during the Africities 2000 meeting in Windhoek, Namibia, during a Special Session on HIV/AIDS. Government of Namibia offers to host the Alliance Secretariat.

### November 2000

- National Chapter of the Alliance of Mayors in Cote d'Ivoire holds training workshops for 36 inter-sectoral municipal teams, to design local action plans.
- South Africa launches its National Chapter of the Alliance in Durban, raising awareness at local and national levels about the necessity to expand multisectoral responses to the HIV epidemic.
- Uganda launches the National Chapter of the Alliance in Kampala. The event is attended by twenty-six urban leaders who sign the Kampala Declaration of commitment and dedication to reduce the spread and impact of the epidemic.

### April 2001

- The UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme is set up with support from UNAIDS. This Programme works closely with the International Partnership Against AIDS in Africa (IPAA) and is providing support to the Alliance and National AMICAALL Programmes.
- Through the facilitation of the UN Office of Project Services (UNOPS) and the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, AMICAALL Swaziland is chosen as one of three social programmes throughout the world to participate as a 'project partner' in PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) 'Ulysses Programme'.

### May 2001

- Coordinating Committee of the Alliance meets in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. A resource mobilisation plan is drafted; Alliance Statutes are revised to reflect the establishment of the Secretariat in Windhoek, Namibia; Committee provides inputs for UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme annual workplan. – *Report of the meeting available upon request.*
- The Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa and the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme participate in the parallel event meeting of mayors to share perspectives and lessons during the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC) in Brussels, Belgium.

- The Mayor of Ouagadougou, Mr. Simon Compaore offers to host a roundtable discussion on local government and community based responses to HIV/AIDS during the XII International Conference on AIDS and STDs in Africa in December 2001 in Burkina Faso, and also use this opportunity to initiate steps to launch Burkina Faso Chapter of the Alliance.

- The Alliance Coordinator and the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme Director meet with the Mayor of Mayenne, the President of the Alliance of Mayors in Rhone-Alps, to explore cooperation.

### June 2001

- Alliance representatives participate in Habitat +5 Conference in New York, where they present the Alliance and AMICAALL strategy.
- AMICAALL Swaziland receives a four-year, \$1.06 million grant from the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) based in Harare, Zimbabwe.
- Hosting agreement for the Alliance Secretariat finalized. Government of Namibia makes a generous offer to provide furnished office space for 10 years, support staff, and other material support.

### July 2001

- The Director of the UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme meets with Turner Fund, Washington, D.C.; Sister Cities, Washington, D.C.; Enterprise Works, Washington, D.C.; Staff of International Relations Committee of the US Congress; and Africare, to share information on the Alliance/AMICAALL and explore collaboration.

### July-September 2001

- The PricewaterhouseCoopers Ulysses Programme team of three senior personnel work with the National AMICAALL Programme in Swaziland to develop financial and management expertise for setting up local funding mechanism to address HIV/AIDS.

### August 2001

- AMICAALL Swaziland Programme is officially launched at the Start-up workshop held in Piggs Peak. The Right Honourable Prime Minister of Swaziland, Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini, delivering the keynote address at the Opening Ceremony, refers to the launch of the Swaziland AMICAALL Programme as an historic event, and reconfirms the need for local authority involvement. – *Report of the workshop available upon request.*

- Sister Cities International, Washington, D.C. engages in promoting twinning relationships with African cities.
- "For hope we live" video, featuring the Manzini Youth Care Choir, filmed in Swaziland.

#### September 2001

- Alliance representatives participate in the Great Lakes HIV/AIDS Conference in Kampala, Uganda.
- UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme holds a briefing session with the WHO/Italy to explore care and support programme collaboration with the Alliance, within the framework of IPAA.
- French version of the "AMICAALL initiatives: African mayors take the lead" video produced by the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme.
- UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme presents a discussion paper on sharing lessons on AMICAALL and community based responses for UNAIDS sponsored meeting in Eastern Europe.

#### October 2001

- Director of the UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme briefs the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on Alliance/AMICAALL. IFRC expresses strong interest in partnership with the Alliance/UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme.
- The AMICAALL Swaziland Programme is named a winner of the 2001 Commonwealth Award for Action on HIV/AIDS under the Policy Advocacy Category and Government subgroup.
- UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme holds its first retreat in Geneva to review progress and next steps. Staff from UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNDP, World Bank and WHO also participate in the meeting.

- Information on Alliance/AMICAALL is shared with Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship.

- Joint World Bank/UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme mission to Uganda to explore linkages with AMICAALL Uganda and the Multisectoral AIDS Program (MAP).

- Preparatory meeting for the Namibia Chapter of the Alliance launch held in Windhoek with Namibian Mayors.

#### November 2001

- USAID grant is approved for the Alliance Secretariat in Namibia.

- Namibia Chapter of the Alliance officially launched in Windhoek, Namibia. Mayors from countries in the sub-region participate in the launch, with view to promote South-South cooperation.

- UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme launches Canada initiative to facilitate creation of city-to-city/community-to-community twinning projects between selected Ugandan and Canadian cities.

- UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme participates in European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA) International Human Rights Conference in Rustenburg, South Africa. Theme of the meeting is Parliament and the AIDS Budget: Resources for Community Empowerment.

#### December 2001

- Alliance and UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme hold roundtable on local governments and community based responses; a meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Alliance; and meeting with the mayors in Burkina Faso.

## How to contact the Alliance

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## Notebook

The UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme held its first retreat 8 – 10 October 2001 in Geneva. The overall goal of the retreat was to bring together the UN -AMICAALL Partnership Programme core team members, National AMICAALL Coordinators, the Alliance and other partners to review and prioritise activities, roles and responsibilities for the next year. Staff from UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNDP, World Bank and WHO also participated in the meeting.

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UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) have agreed to foster collaboration at all levels to get maximum synergy. The IFRC will advise the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in countries where Alliance/AMICAALL is active to engage with Alliance representatives to explore areas where collaboration will be initiated.

## How to join the Alliance

I, the undersigned: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

want to become a member of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa, and subscribe to the Newsletter.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form to the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa Secretariat, P.O. Box 60401, Katutura, Windhoek, Namibia

## Upcoming events

- 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Home and Community Care for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 17-20 December 2001. Website: <http://www.hiv2001.com/index2.htm>

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty, Huy, Belgium, 10-12 April 2002. Theme of the Forum is "Cities-Women Partnerships Against Poverty". For more information, please contact the Forum Secretariat, e-mail: [forum@huy.be](mailto:forum@huy.be)

- Knowledge and Commitment for Action, XIV International AIDS Conference, Barcelona, Spain, July 7-12, 2002. Website: [http://www.aids2002.com/IE\\_home.asp](http://www.aids2002.com/IE_home.asp)