



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

TURNING POLICY INTO ACTION

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EDITORIAL

By Mayor Abdel Kader Sidibe, Bamako III Mali



Honorable Abdel Kader Sidibe,
Mayor Bamako III, Mali

The Alliance: A call for decentralized action on HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is more than a medical issue; it is an obstacle to development. It is ravaging the socially and economically productive members of our societies and compromising social and economic progress. The HIV/AIDS epidemic constitutes a challenge for all of humanity.

When one person is infected with HIV, it is his/her entire circle of family and friends that is also affected – emotionally, socially and economically. This is why each of us must feel concerned. To respond to HIV/AIDS effectively, everyone must be committed.

In Mali, high level political commitment has been mobilised. A national HIV/AIDS strategy has been developed. This strategy is based on the following principles: every sector must be involved; people living with HIV/AIDS must be involved; actions must be decentralized; the focus must be on expanding an effective local response to the epidemic. The strategy calls for the active involvement of local government authorities, through regional and local HIV/AIDS committees. A new institutional framework has been created to manage the evolution of the response to HIV/AIDS in Mali: the National AIDS Programme.

In order to respond to this new mandate, Malian mayors and municipal leaders came together and launched a Malian chapter of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders in HIV/AIDS in Africa in March 2002. The Malian Alliance needs to be supported to enable it to further this noble cause: limiting the spread and reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS.

To move from advocacy to action, the Malian chapter of the Alliance organized a symposium in October 2003 with mayors and municipal leaders to launch the process of assessing needs and priorities, gaps

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ALLIANCE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVENES AT AFRICITIES, 2003

The Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa convened a General Assembly on December 4, 2003 at the Africities Summit in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Members from the following countries were present at the General Assembly: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

One outcome of the General Assembly was the election of the Alliance Officer bearers. The new team elected to lead the Alliance:

Coordinator: Lord Mayor Salim Kassim Kisauji, Tanga, Tanzania

First Deputy Coordinator: Mayor Zénabou Drabo, Bogodogo, Burkina Faso

Second Deputy Coordinator: Mayor Boyd Mooka Muuka, Mongu, Zambia

The Former Coordinator of the Alliance, Mr. Ernesto Mobio, was named an Honorary Member for his outstanding contribution to the Alliance during its formative years. Mr. Fisho Mwale, co-founder of the Alliance and former Deputy Coordinator, was welcomed as a co-opted member of the Coordinating Committee.

A revised constitution of the Alliance was adopted at the General Assembly. The revision includes a provision which creates a Technical Standing Committee to assist the Alliance Coordinating Committee. This new committee, composed of representatives of Alliance and partners, will provide guidance and technical direction for programme activities as well assist with resource mobilisation.

Another key action by the General Assembly was the adoption of an Alliance membership fees structure. These fees would contribute approxi-

mately 60% of the current Secretariat annual operating costs and are viewed as a reflection of the commitment of members to the overall goals and activities of the Alliance.

Membership of the Alliance was confirmed for the following national associations – Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities which provides for collaboration in the following areas:

- Carrying out research and documentation of best practices
- Conducting knowledge-sharing workshops
- Developing tools (for impact assessment, planning, community mobilisation and mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into municipal development projects)
- Contributing to policy development
- Piloting projects in selected municipalities in support of learning by doing
- Providing technical support on programme development
- Supporting institutional capacity building and
- Advocacy for AMICAALL programmes and projects.



(left to right) Former Coordinator of the Alliance, Mr. Ernesto Mobio and newly elected Coordinator of the Alliance, Lord Mayor Salim Kassim Kisauji

ALLIANCE IN ACTION

LAUNCH OF THE MALAWI CHAPTER OF THE ALLIANCE

Under the patronage of the Malawi Local Government Association (MALGA), the Malawi Chapter of the Alliance was officially launched in the City of Blantyre on 8th November 2003. One of the biggest launches in the history of the Alliance, the event began with a traditional "march of commitment" by mayors, councillors, government officials, partners, community members, along with school children from Blantyre. Led by the local government leaders of Malawi and guest of honour, Hon. Henry Midian, Deputy Minister for Local Government and District Administration, over 300 people marched four kilometres from Limbe to Bangwe.

The launch ceremony included speeches by local dignitaries and representatives of the regional Alliance, UNDP, the African Union of Local Authorities and the Malawi National AIDS Commission. The presentations were interspersed by entertainment, drama and poetry by the Umodzi Drama Group, Warlords Youth Organisation, school children and testimonies by local speakers - all containing strong messages on HIV/AIDS. The MALGA Declaration on HIV/AIDS, as adopted by all 44 Assemblies (or local authorities) in Malawi, was presented by the Secretary General of MALGA.

The seeds of this launch began when representatives of the Blantyre City and Zomba Municipal Assemblies participated in the Namibia Chapter launch in November 2001. The city of Blantyre, led by Chief Executive Officer Mrs Sophie Kalimba along with her team, and the support of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors, incorporated launch activities as part of their HIV/AIDS City Consultation programme. They have worked to develop the commitment of local political leaders to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic with support of partners, such as UN-HABITAT Urban Management Programme, Municipal Development Partnership, SAFAIDS and UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme.

The Blantyre initiative inspired other local authorities in Malawi to organise and support the launch of a National Chapter of the Alliance, guided by MALGA. To ensure all local authorities understood the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS, the role of local government and

the Alliance and AMICAALL, MALGA held a one-day preparatory workshop before the launch. It was attended by over 100 mayors, chairpersons, town clerks and other municipal officials from 44 local authorities.

The Alliance Secretariat was represented at the preparatory workshop and launch by its Executive Secretary, Mrs. Fikile Mthembu, and its Programme/Administrative Officer, Terry Parker. Also in attendance was the National Coordinator AMICAALL/Namibia, Mrs Moderatha Shaduka. Special guest Mr. Charles Katiza, Secretary-General of the African Union of Local Authorities, also participated in the launch.



Youth participants at the launch of the Malawi chapter of the Alliance

MALGA DECLARATION ON HIV/AIDS

We, Mayors and Chairpersons of City, Municipal, Town and District Assemblies in Malawi having:

- a) recognised that HIV/AIDS is a national disaster;
- b) realised the negative impact HIV/AIDS has on the development of local authorities and communities;
- c) recognised the importance of the greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS within the Assemblies and amidst our communities;
- d) realised that HIV/AIDS impacts adversely on communities, in particular on women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups;

- e) acknowledge that HIV/AIDS impacts adversely on our own Assemblies, in particular the personnel and ability to effectively deliver services;
- f) realised that HIV/AIDS adversely affects the communities we serve, who also provide the human capital and other resources to the Assemblies: and,
- g) acknowledge that HIV/AIDS weakens the local economy, households and has a negative impact on the quality of life of every individual.

NOW THEREFORE, RESOLVE INDIVIDUALLY AND SEVERALLY THAT AS MEMBERS OF THE MALAWI LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ASSOCIATION (MALGA) WE ARE COMMITTED to address HIV/AIDS in our Assemblies by mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into all our programmes and activities.

WE ALSO RESOLVE to work in partnership with government, civil societies, non-governmental organisations, religious organisations, private sector, NAPHAM and development partners.

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to join with fellow Mayors/Chairpersons in Africa by joining the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Signed at Blantyre this Seventh day of November, 2003.

THE ALLIANCE OF MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL LEADERS ON HIV/AIDS IN MALI DEVELOPS A PLAN OF ACTION TO CONFRONT HIV/AIDS

In September/October 2003, the Malian chapter of the Alliance launched a planning process with mayors and municipal leaders from six municipalities: Bamako Commune V, Banamba, Mopti, Nioro, Segou, Sikasso. Activities included a review of the scope of the epidemic in these cities and towns, identification of priorities and the development of a short-term and longer-term plan of action.

The national HIV prevalence rate at 1.7% is still relatively low. However, in some urban areas the rate goes up to 4.5%. It is estimated that there are currently 105,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in Mali. However, if steps are not taken to halt the epidemic, the number of people living with HIV are projected to reach

close to 500,000 by the year 2010 with life expectancy reduced by 6 years.

The National AIDS Strategy for Mali calls for greater decentralization of HIV/AIDS activities and services. Malian mayors have started to mobilize around HIV/AIDS in their cities and towns. Local government authorities will need ongoing support to strengthen their institutional capacity to integrate HIV/AIDS into municipal agendas.

The Malian Alliance of Mayors is receiving support from the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, UNDP Mali and UNAIDS. Following the launch of planning activities and the development of an AMICAALL plan of action, steps have been

taken by the Alliance and its partners to identify additional resources that can be used to initiate a series of actions, initially in six sites that would result in enhanced capacity at the municipal level to expand services and support programmes at the local level.

Efforts are also being made to coordinate with a range of partners in Mali. This includes working with UNDP, UNAIDS, UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS, bilateral agencies, NGOs, the World Bank, etc. Through a city to city cooperation agreement with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the regional Alliance, a number of areas for possible collaboration in support of AMICAALL Mali have also been identified.

EXPANDING HOME BASED CARE IN SWAZILAND

The AMICAALL Swaziland Programme is organized at the national, the municipal and the community levels, and is currently working in all eleven municipalities in Swaziland. On the national level, mayors and chairpersons from cities, town councils and town boards, as well as technical partners, provide management support, direction and coordination and facilitate the implementation of programme activities.

At the municipal level, Municipal HIV Teams, whose members are drawn from local government and civil society groups, facilitate coordination of municipality based HIV/AIDS services.

At the community level, the Programme works with urban based grass-roots communities, using community participation methodologies to identify priorities.

One such priority is home based care. The formal health care system in Swaziland is overwhelmed. Due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, there are more people in need of care than the number of available hospital beds or available professional health workers. Patients, still in need of facility based-care, are often discharged to family members who are usually not technically and economically prepared to provide the required care.

The AMICAALL Swaziland Programme has developed a "home based care" initiative to fill some of these gaps in home care.

Locally based community volunteers are recruited and trained in home care for chronic diseases including HIV and AIDS. Care providers receive uniforms, care kits and a monthly stipend. The volunteers are supervised by team leaders who are recruited amongst the retired nurses residing within each community.

The home based care initiative will cover all eleven municipalities in the country including the seventy-two micro-communities.

AMICAALL SWAZILAND UPDATE

In 2001 the AMICAALL Programme in Swaziland was launched with funding support from the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), which was facilitated by UN APP and UNDP.

Since its inception, AMICAALL Swaziland has built consensus on the need for a local government HIV/AIDS response that is an integral part of the national strategy. It has established essential programme mechanisms and systems countrywide, covering all municipalities and all levels of government and has mobilised a variety of resources, human and financial, from a range of partners. It has also formed new and innovative partnerships through city-to-city and community-to-community co-operation. More fundamentally, the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme is stimulating a critical conceptual shift (in the country and beyond) about the nature of effective, sus-

tainable responses to the epidemic and its impact.

The AMICAALL Swaziland Programme seeks to build the capacities of municipalities and urban communities to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It also promotes home-grown, community-based responses and self determination through community participation and the provision of technical and financial support. Programme activity areas include: institutional development, advocacy, resource mobilisation, tools development, skills development, community mobilisation, information sharing, community projects and monitoring and evaluation.

The first year of implementation was focused on advocacy and the development of the Programme. **The second year** focused on the technical capacity development of municipalities and urban communities to mount local responses. And

now the **third year** is focused on service development. This includes voluntary counselling and testing, community and home care, community-based feeding schemes, community mobilisation for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV infection, HIV/AIDS education integrated into recreation activities, community-based condom distribution and community-based behaviour change communication.

A growing number of international organizations are supporting the work of AMICAALL Swaziland, these include: ACBF, Global Fund on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, European Union, AIDS FONDS Foundation/, STOP AIDS NOW! Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), United Nations Organisations, US Conference of Mayors, Sister Cities International - Forth Worth, Telluride AIDS Benefit, PricewaterHouseCoopers and the Coca-Cola Foundation.

THE MANZINI EXPERIENCE

Manzini is the largest urban centre in Swaziland and has developed a multi-sectoral city action plan on HIV/AIDS, which reflects the particular nature of the local epidemic.

The Manzini City Council formed a Trust, which functions as the policy, coordination and legal structure for the management of the city's HIV/AIDS Programme of Action. The Trust includes representatives of the City Council, the Law Society, the Institute of Accountants, the Medical and Dental Society, the Council of Churches, the Federation of Employees, the Swazi Business Community, the Coordinating

Assembly of NGOs, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and PLWHA.

Programme implementation is facilitated by the Municipal HIV/AIDS Team (MHT), which works with each community-based organisation and governmental agency providing HIV/AIDS services within the city in order to develop an integrated, multi-sectoral response, to identify and address gaps in service delivery and reduce the possibility of duplication. The MHT explicitly encourages the involvement of PLWHA and others most affected by the epidemic.

Services provided in Manzini include free legal aid and counselling (Swaziland AIDS Support Organisation), psychological support including grief counselling (Swaziland National Association for Mental Health), HIV testing (AIDS Information Centre and Family Life Association of Swaziland). Social welfare services are provided by the staff of the City Council and all services are coordinated and supported by the Hlanganani Help Centre.

In recognition of its innovative and integrated approach, the City of Manzini received the 2000 Africities award for the best municipal response to HIV/AIDS.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AMICAALL SWAZILAND: AWARDS CEREMONY

On 31 January 2004, the Executive Council of AMICAALL Swaziland hosted an awards ceremony to honor a number of individuals for their contribution to the development of AMICAALL in Swaziland. The awards ceremony included statements by the new Prime Minister, The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Chairperson of the Executive Council of AMICAALL Swaziland. In attendance were cabinet members, foreign envoys, representatives of the UN, members of the business community and representatives of non-governmental organizations. Ms. Mina Mauerstein-Bail spoke on behalf of the awardees via video. Honors were conferred under two categories namely leadership and distinguished service. Recipients included the following persons:

LEADERSHIP AWARD (HONORARY MEMBERS)

Ms Fikile Mthembu,
Former Municipality of Manzini

Mr. Benedict Gamedze:
Former President of LAMAS

Ms. Elizabeth Lwanga, UNDP representative and UN Resident Coordinator, Swaziland

Ms. Mina Mauerstein-Bail, Director, UN-AMICAALL Partnership Programme

Mr. Terry Parker, Former Town clerk, Municipality of Manzini

Mr. Alfred Mndebele,
Former Assistant Representative, UNDP

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Senator A. Khoza:
Former Deputy Prime Minister

Hon. Min Stella Lukhele:
Former Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives.

Former Hon. Min Dr. Phetsile Dlamini: Ministry of Tourism and Communication

Mr. Mbuso C. Dlamini: Principal Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

Former Clr. Mr. Vulindlela Msibi:
Former Councilor, Mankayane Town Board and former President, SNALA

Former Clr. Israel Myeni: Vuvulane Town Board

Ms. Quenneth Masuku:
Former Acting Director, Urban Government, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Honnie Dlamini: Chairperson, Swaziland AIDS support organization

Ms. Thandi Nhlengethwa:
Executive Director, AIDS Information and Support Centre

Mrs. E. Mndebele:
Former Program Manager, Rural Health Motivators program, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Mr. Gideon Mhlongo:
Former Town Clerk, Municipality of Mbabane.

Mr. Thulani Mkhaliphi:
Former Town Clerk, Siteki Town Council

Mr. Sibusiso Nxumalo:
Former Town Clerk, Ngwenya Town Board

Former Clr. Sandile Kunene:
Lavumisa Town Board

Clr. Edward Mncina:
Piggs Peak Town Council

Clr. Jabulane Nxumalo: Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Mbabane and Former Secretary General of SNALA

Clr. Ray Nsibande,
Ezulwini Town Board
Clr. Sifo Bhembe,
Municipality of Mbabane.

Clr. Willies Shabangu,
Vuvulane Town Board.

Clr. Njabu Gwebu,
Municipality of Manzini

Clr. Hezekial Siyaya,
Hlatikhulu Town Board

Clr. D. Tembe,
Nhlangano Town Council

Ms. Khosi Shabalala,
Medical Technician, Mankayane Government Hospital

Dr. Teresa Lesikel, Former WHO Resident Representative in Swaziland

Ms. Gcinile Buthelezi, Public Health Nurse, Mbabane Municipality

Ms. Gugu Mpapane,
Town Clerk, Piggs Peak Council

Mr. Sunboy Fakudze, Reporter,
Times of Swaziland

Ms. Bongwiwe Zwane, Reporter,
Swazi Mayor,

AMICAALL SWAZILAND AWARDS CEREMONY 31ST JANUARY '04

VOTE OF THANKS ON BEHALF OF ALL AWARDEES

by **Mina Mauerstein-Bail**

Honorable members of government, distinguished representatives of the international community and civil society, colleagues and friends, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me first say thank you so very much. I feel very humbled and honored by this recognition.

There is an African proverb that says, "it takes a whole village to raise a child". And similarly it takes many people willing and ready to work together to find solutions to the complex challenges posed by HIV/AIDS.

The contributions of those being acknowledged today were made possible because of the collective courage and commitment of many people...in Swaziland and in other parts of the world.

The launch of AMICAALL in Swaziland was made possible because in Swaziland, individuals, mayors and local government leaders, government and international partners were willing to open doors to new possibilities and to explore the question of "how can we as a country, as a people, work together and move forward"?

Yes, HIV/AIDS is a complex phenomenon. It raises many difficult issues and questions...about individual and societal rights and responsibilities...about relationships between men and women...about inclusion and exclusion...about the ways in

which individuals and institutions relate to one another.

By moving the focus from the virus to people and communities, by facilitating solidarity between institutions of government, national and local, and communities, and by promoting partnerships across institutions, communities and countries, AMICAALL is helping to build solidarity in hope and in action.

We do not really know how much we can do unless we stand up and decide to try. And that is what happened in Swaziland. Courageous and committed people decided to stand up and try to make a difference.

Today AMICAALL Swaziland is a community of people and institutions with a purpose, with a vision and the inspiration to confront HIV/AIDS throughout the country.

Through a growing number of partnerships, public and private, additional resources are being mobilized to expand services at the local level. A good start has been made and we must ensure that these efforts are expanded and strengthened.

It has been said before but I think it bears repeating...No matter where we come from, we are basically the same human beings. We have the same basic human needs. We share the same world. And together we must find solutions to the suffering around us.

For me it has been a great privilege to have been given an opportunity to make a contribution to what you are striving to achieve here in Swaziland. I know that it is not easy. I know that every day there are new challenges. But every day also brings new opportunities and renewed hope that challenges can and will be overcome.

On behalf of all the 2004 awardees, I want to thank the Executive Council of AMICAALL Swaziland for recognizing our collective contributions to the establishment of a local response to HIV/AIDS in Swaziland.

Ms. Mina Mauerstein-Bail
Director

UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme



Director of the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme,
Ms. Mina Mauerstein-Bail

"FROM ADVOCACY TO ACTION: AMICAALL Swaziland Case study" is available online at the AMICAALL website:
<http://www.amicaall.org/publications/casestudy/swaziland.pdf>

AMICAALL PROGRAMMES SUPPORT WORLD BANK MARKETPLACE

The AMICAALL Namibia and Swaziland Programmes worked with local government authorities, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) to support the preparation of six project ideas to the World Bank Sponsored Regional Marketplace Competition with the theme 'HIV/AIDS: Turning Ideas Into Action.' This competition is open to five Southern African countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. Two-page proposal outlines were due at the end of February 2004. From those, a select number of organisations will be asked to submit full proposals in April. Finalists

chosen from this second round will then be invited to South Africa in June for a Country Innovation Day and grants, up to US\$20,000, given to the award winners. (More information on the South African Development Marketplace competition can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.worldbank.org/afr/za/>)

With support from the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme, the following project ideas were submitted: working with women's 'net ball' teams to disseminate HIV/AIDS education and prevention messages; involving young people in door-to-door community education on HIV/AIDS; and supporting a high school

club to promote HIV/AIDS among youth using videos. A CD rental shop, to generate income and assure sustainability of this initiative, is part of the overall design of this project idea.

The AMICAALL Namibia Programme worked with local authorities and NGOs on proposals which focus on: at-risk orphans and vulnerable children, a youth-focused Peer Education Project which uses drama and art; and supporting a community "Hope Centre" to undertake much needed activities, such as HIV/AIDS education and awareness campaigns, orphan and vulnerable children support, home-based care, counseling and volunteer training.

UPDATE ON ALLIANCE/ AMICAALL PROGRAMME IN BURKINA FASO

With funding from the National AIDS Programme in Burkina Faso, a series of HIV/AIDS workshops have been organized in January/February 2004 by the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Burkina Faso for members of Municipal HIV/AIDS Teams in 30 municipalities. These workshops have

focused on making available accurate and relevant information on HIV/AIDS and helping municipal HIV/AIDS teams develop the skills to speak opening and accurately about the epidemic. Members of the Alliance Executive Committee have also benefitted from additional training in planning, management and evalua-

tion related to HIV/AIDS programmes and services. Thus far the National AIDS Programme in Burkina has made available about US\$50,000 to support the activities of the Alliance/AMICAALL in Burkina Faso. Follow up activities will include a focus on orphans and vulnerable young people.

CITY OF WINDHOEK (NAMIBIA) AND LOCAL NGO COLLABORATE ON HIV/AIDS SERVICE DIRECTORY

The City of Windhoek and the Namibia Network of AIDS Service Organisations (NANASO) are working together to prepare a city HIV/AIDS directory that will be distributed to the public. The Directory includes the City of Windhoek HIV/AIDS policy, a municipal profile, a city map, basic facts on HIV/AIDS and a listing of HIV/AIDS services available in the city.

A forward by the Mayor of Windhoek calls attention to the challenges of HIV/AIDS and the role that local government can play, in collaboration with civil society, in the overall response to the epidemic. It is planned that the Directory will be officially launched together with the City of Windhoek's HIV/AIDS policy and a special HIV/AIDS Website at the end of April 2004.

Support for the Directory has been provided by UN APP and USAID, and developed in collaboration with the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa. National AMICAALL programmes are working with a number of other cities to prepare similar directories.

SOUTH AFRICA: WORKSHOP ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT APPROACHES TO HIV/AIDS

This workshop, sponsored by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) in partnership with the Department of Health and Education Training Unit (ETU), and in collaboration with the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa, was held in Bramfontein, South Africa in November 2003, and is part of ongoing support for the development of the AMICAALL South Africa Programme.

The workshop brought together stakeholders from the national government, civil society groups, municipalities and donor agencies with the objective of developing common approaches to tackling HIV/AIDS at the local level. Presentations were made by six municipalities which are actively engaged in expanding HIV/AIDS services and programmes. They shared information and experiences on local responses to the epidemic. The presenta-

tions covered such issues as: prevention, awareness and education; care, support and treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS; support for orphans and vulnerable children, and; coordination and management of HIV/AIDS at municipal levels. A list of recommendations was drawn up to encourage a more coherent approach to supporting municipal initiatives.

COUNTRY PROFILE: UGANDA

“Recognizing the impact of HIV/AIDS on cities and municipalities and its link to local governance, African Mayors have over the past years become more visible and pragmatic in finding ways of responding to the challenges of HIV/AIDS in their respective communities. The launching of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa in 1998 provided a landmark for urban leadership on HIV/AIDS in Africa. A real revolution in practices among the African Mayors is clearly underway through the Alliance of Mayor’s Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL).



Dr. John Mugisa, National Coordinator AMICAALL Uganda

The Uganda Chapter of the Alliance was launched in November 2000 as part of the national strategy to scale up HIV/AIDS response in urban authorities in the country. Eighty (80) municipalities and towns have joined and fully support the Alliance. With support of UNDP and UN APP, AMICAALL Uganda was launched and is involved in developing and implementing multi-sectoral responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic aimed at preventing the spread of HIV and reducing its social and economic impact on urban and peri-urban communities in the country”

John Mugisa, National Coordinator, AMICAALL Uganda Programme.

PROFILE OF UGANDA

Population (millions):	24.02*
Percentage urban population:	14.2
Annual population growth rate (%):	3.4
Orphans (millions):	2***
HIV prevalence rate (%):	5*
Life expectancy at birth:	41.9
Annual income per capita (US\$):	320*
Poverty rate (%):	40.8
Adult literacy rate (%):	67.1

Data Source, unless otherwise indicated: UN Human Development Report, 2002

* UNAIDS

** Jinja Municipal Council

*** Uganda AIDS Commission

CITY TO CITY COOPERATION ON HIV/AIDS: WINNIPEG, CANADA AND KAMPALA, UGANDA

In December 2003, a delegation from Winnipeg, Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) visited Kampala. This mission provided an opportunity for partners in Winnipeg and Kampala to get to know each other and define the goals, purpose and overall results of a capacity building project on municipal responses to HIV/AIDS that Winnipeg and Kampala will implement together.

“The international community is galvanized regarding the need to tackle HIV/AIDS”, noted Ursula Stelman, Director of Community Services Department, City of Winnipeg. She went on to note that “HIV/AIDS is central and interconnected to every other system in the African society and, therefore, must

be tackled in systemic, structural, cultural and spiritual dimensions, affecting financial systems, governance systems, safety nets and educational systems”.

Although Uganda has made excellent progress in reducing HIV prevalence, many challenges remain. Cities such as Kampala, with a population of 1.2 million people, face daily challenges. The profound and interconnected problems of poverty and HIV/AIDS, coupled with inadequate resources in the portfolios of health, education and social services are severely stretching the available services.

Potential areas for city to city and community to community cooperation were

explored during this visit. These include: better integration of services across departments and sectors coupled with better training and support for local government staff, NGO partners and community volunteers, coupled with strengthened referral systems; expanded public/private cooperation to support specific public projects like libraries, recreation facilities, schools and orphan support projects. Such alternative approaches to service delivery have been developed in the City of Winnipeg and this expertise can be shared with Kampala.

Specific areas for cooperation will be developed over the coming months.

SOROTI MUNICIPALITY ASSISTS ORPHANS & VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE

Editor’s Note: This is part of an on-going series of reports which will highlight municipal-level HIV/AIDS related projects and services being developed with support from National AMICAALL Programmes, in collaboration with the Alliance Secretariat and the UN AMICALL Partnership Programme (UN APP). We welcome ideas for future articles.

BACKGROUND: AMICAALL PROGRAMME IN UGANDA

With support from the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, UNDP Uganda and the active engagement of Ugandan mayors and municipal leaders, the National AMICAALL Programme was launched in Feb. 2001. A plan of action was developed

and activities initiated in 10 pilot sites.

AMICAALL activities include the development of 10 community-response project proposals (5 municipalities and 5 divisions of Kampala), setting up of municipal HIV/AIDS teams, development of a city-to-city cooperation between Kampala and Winnipeg, Canada which is



His Worship Michael George Egunyu, Mayor Soroti Municipal Council

being supported by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and UN APP; development of city-to-city cooperation between Jinja and Macon, Georgia, USA, which is also being supported by UN APP and the US conference of AMICAALL Uganda

is supporting a range of capacity building activities at municipal level and is helping to mobilize additional resources to expand services at the local level.

The Alliance of Mayors (Secretariat), UN APP, UNDP, UNAIDS, and USAID have all contributed resources to the AMICAALL Programme in Uganda.

SOROTI MUNICIPALITY

Located in northeast Uganda, Soroti is the third largest municipality in country. Most people farm for food and income. The population is estimated at 115,000 people, which includes internally displaced people from the nearby regions plagued by combat. Antenatal HIV prevalence data (1999) indicates a 5% infection rate. The overall infection rate has been reduced by about half of what it was in the early 1990s.

A 2002 housing and population census found that 52% of the population was between the ages of 15-45. This is the most economically active segment of the population and also the most vulnerable to HIV infection. Being dependent on labor-intensive agriculture, means HIV infection can threaten livelihoods through reduction of

“With the support from the government and our partners like AMICAALL, USAID (AIM Project), we are trying our level best to support those in greatest need...such as orphaned children. As Mayors, since we are closest to the people, we need to understand and appreciate the problems and difficulties of the local people and respond to their priorities”.

- His Worship Michael George Egunyu, Mayor Soroti Municipal Council, Uganda

labor and diversion of household activities to care for those who are sick.

In Uganda, there are an estimated 2 million children who have lost one or both of their parents to AIDS, according to the Uganda AIDS Commission. These orphaned children have become of increasing concern for local leaders in Soroti. Although exact numbers are not known, a local clinic serves between 300-350 children who have lost either one or both parents, a month. With support of the Mayor, and other local leaders, the municipality has initiated an Education and Socio-Economic Support Project to Children Orphaned by AIDS. Through advocacy efforts of the National AMICAALL Programme, the Municipality received US\$30,000 grant for this project from the USAID-funded AIDS Integrated Model (AIM) district programme. The achievements to date include:

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND MATERIAL SUPPORT

- Eighty orphaned and vulnerable children were identified and received vocational training in carpentry, joinery, mechanics and tailoring.
- These 80 children also received blankets and start-up tool kits.

- One hundred orphaned and vulnerable were identified and received school uniforms.

MONITORING AND COORDINATION

- Computer procured for records and data management of HIV-related activities in the Municipality;
- Municipal AIDS Task Force comprised of local government and non-governmental service providers set up and meets regularly to assess local responses to HIV/AIDS, identify gaps and coordinate actions;
- One hundred twenty Parish Development Committees were given training as community HIV/AIDS volunteers to expand outreach at Parish levels;

EXPANDING SUPPORT AND PREVENTION SERVICES

- Forty-eight senior primary school teachers received counseling training to assist orphaned and vulnerable children.
- Forty-eight bar owners and workers were trained as HIV/AIDS resource persons for their respective work places.

Together with the Municipality, this project is being implemented in collaboration with many other local-level organisations in Soroti, such as the Teso AIDS Project, Teso Islamic Development Organisation, and various church groups. The Municipality anticipates expanding these activities and is trying to identify additional resources.

PROFILE OF SOROTI

Location: Eastern Uganda, 2,500 feet above sea level, covering an area of 2,662.5 sq km

Soroti district is comprised of:

- One municipal council - Soroti Municipality
- Three counties: Kasilo, Serere and Soroti;
- 17 sub-counties including three divisions of the municipality,
- 67 parishes and
- 517 villages.

Municipal services: Health services (Curative & preventive), financial services, education, works including water supply, road construction & maintenance, garbage collection, community welfare and social services

Industries & manufacturing: Cotton gin- nery, steel works, dairy and wood

Municipal annual budget: Local revenue US \$ 213,145, Central Government grant US \$ 1,187,574

Population:	325,522
Females:	166,683
Males:	156,839
Annual population growth:	2.2%
HIV Prevalence Rate (%):	5
Orphans:	9,600
Poverty rate (%):	63

Sources : Soroti District Web Portal (www.soroti.go.ug), 2004

ALLIANCE IN ACTION: PARTNERSHIPS

US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS' VISIT TO AFRICA

The US Conference of Mayors and the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa organised a visit by nine US mayors to four African nations - Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Uganda in September 2003. The visit was part of a city-to-city co-operation initiative to expand HIV/AIDS-related services and programmes in urban and peri-urban areas. The specific objectives of this trip were to: assess the impact of HIV/AIDS in the cities of these nations; experience how African Mayors are responding; identify where the gaps in services exist; and determine how city-to-city co-operation between US and African cities and Mayors can be mutually beneficial in confronting HIV/AIDS.

Led by the president of the US Conference of Mayors, James A. Garner, Mayor of Hempstead, NY, it was the largest mission undertaken in the 71-year history of the organisation. This visit followed up initial meetings of US and African mayors at the second International Conference of Mayors meeting in Denver, Colorado in June 2003. "We are committed to this cause and know that this mission will be another significant step towards furthering our partnership with African mayors," noted Mayor Garner. A detailed co-operation plan is being developed.

This trip was facilitated by the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme (UN APP) in collaboration with the

US Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Support was also provided by the private sector: Coca Cola Company, Motorola, Altria and Iridium.



(from left) Her Worship Elizabeth Kautz, Mayor of Burnsville Minnesota, His Worship John Ssebaana Kizito, Mayor of Kampala, His Worship Victor Ashe, Mayor of Knoxville Tennessee and His Worship Jack Ellis, Mayor of Macon Georgia]

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS AND THE ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), a multinational accounting, financial and business advisory company, is committed to building successful partnerships with civil society and developing a new generation of talented, culturally-sensitive global leaders.

In 2001 PwC, launched its in-house Ulysses program, which is an initiative that seeks public or civil society partners who can provide culturally rich and technically challenging projects for PwC senior staff. Through the facilitation of the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, the Alliance was chosen by PwC to participate in this initiative. This partnership, which commenced in 2001 with the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme, is on-going with the Alliance having already participated in two cycles of the Program.

In 2003, AMICAALL Namibia was honored to be one of four programs chosen worldwide to participate in the Ulysses Program. During July and August 2003, a PwC team worked with six Namibia local authorities (Aranos, Gochas, Stampriet, Maltahohe, Otjiwarongo and Enhana) and community stakeholders

to develop guidelines, training materials and manuals on subjects, such as impact assessment, budget preparation and reporting. The overall goal was to enhance accountability, transparency and strengthen local authority capacity to develop and manage - in collaboration with civil society organizations and communities - effective community-based responses to HIV/AIDS. These guidelines are available to all the local authorities in Namibia and can be adapted in other countries.

"It was one of the greatest experiences of my life ... [people] talked about their HIV/AIDS actions and shared with us their concerns and dreams. I went home with cherished memories, unforgettable impressions and new perspectives" said Klaas van den Berg, a PwC Partner, Utrecht, Netherlands, following his two month stay in Namibia. For PwC team members this experience has formed them as global leaders and has built leadership within the company; leadership that promotes diversity, creates a relationship with civil society organizations and strengthens PwC's involvement in local communi-

ties. Having witnessed the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on severely affected communities, the team members did not just use their expertise to solve a business problem, but rather to focus on developing tools and systems to better respond to the socio-economic crisis through a process that involves local stakeholders.

"My experience in Namibia has profoundly impacted me as an individual ... I have learnt that leadership is not a title, it's a lifelong journey. What would give me the greatest satisfaction is to bear back from the communities we visited and worked with. I hope these stories are filled with success of community-based projects that help the people effected by HIV/AIDS. I look forward to the day I can return to Namibia to see these successes firsthand" said Tahir Ayub, PwC Partner, Vancouver, Canada.

The end result of this partnership between the Alliance and PwC has been a win-win situation. In addition, it is an excellent example of a private sector contribution to the HIV/AIDS response in Africa.

ALLIANCE AND FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES SIGN A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

The Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa signed a formal cooperative agreement framework with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) during the Africities Summit in December 2003. At a brief ceremony held during the Alliance General Assembly, Mr. Ernest N’Koumo Mobio, Coordinator of the Alliance and Mr. Ducharme, President of the Federation and Mayor of Gatineau, signed the agreement.

The framework promotes collaboration between African and Canadian local authorities in responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the local level and establishes a cooperation

link between the Alliance and FCM. Activities will be undertaken in selected countries, working with AMICAALL programmes, to develop and scale up local-level multi-sectoral responses to HIV/AIDS. The cooperative agreement, and activities between the Alliance and FCM, are being facilitated by the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme.

Mr. Ducharme spoke briefly during the ceremony and explained that FCM is the national voice of local government in Canada with over 1000 members and

deals with a range of policy and programme issues. With funding from the Canadian International Development Agency, FCM, during the last 15 years, has worked in 12 African countries on issues such as good governance, poverty reduction, municipal management, service delivery and environmental sustainability. FCM has already initiated HIV/AIDS activities with partners in Botswana and Uganda.

Mr Mobio acknowledged the importance of this collaboration and said this agreement will give Alliance

members encouragement and will strengthen solidarity amongst cities and towns in the north and the south.



Mr. Ernest N’Koumo Mobio, Former Coordinator of the Alliance and Mr. Ducharme, President of the Federation and Mayor of Gatineau

ASSOCIATION OF LOCALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS AGAINST AIDS (ELCS) IN FRANCE INCREASES SUPPORT TO ALLIANCE

The President of the Association of Locally Elected Officials against AIDS in France (ELCS), Mr. Jean Luc Romero, recently presented the Alliance with a second grant to support the Alliance Secretariat. ELCS was created by local offi-

cially elected officials in France who are committed to confronting a decline in knowledge about HIV/AIDS in the country’s population. With strong support from President Jacques Chirac, ELCS is working with the national government for

better access to treatment in poor countries. ELCS has extended its activities overseas and is now supporting activities in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, Côte d’Ivoire, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Senegal and South Africa.

ALLIANCE IN ACTION: CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS

AFRICITIES 2003 SPECIAL SESSION ON HIV/AIDS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Mr. Fiso Mwale, co-founder of the Alliance and former Deputy Coordinator and Former Coordinator of the Alliance, Mr. Ernesto Mobio at Africities 2003 Special Session on HIV/AIDS and Local Government

UNAIDS Director of Country and Regional Support, Mr. Michel Sidibe, warned that “The price of maintaining a business-as-usual approach is failure. In the vast majority of countries in sub-Saharan Africa, we are failing to slow this epidemic down. In 2003, the region suffered more than 3 million new HIV infections and about 2.3 million AIDS deaths. Nearly 30 million people are living with the virus.” This was part of his impassioned presentation at the Special Session on HIV/AIDS at the Africities Summit in Yaoundé, Cameroon, December 4, 2003.

This half-day Special Session, organised by the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS and the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, was entitled “Decentralising Responses to HIV/AIDS and Building Foundations for Scaling Up: Progress and Constraint.” Mr. Sidibe focused on the growing ‘implementation gap’ which, in very simple terms, is the difference between planning and action. “It is relatively easy to make a plan to fight AIDS. It is much harder to implement, monitor and improve it,” he said.

This Special Session, through a series of panels, explored what local governments are doing in their cities

and communities to respond to HIV/AIDS and the challenges they face. Representatives from the Alliance, local government, local government associations (from the North and South), academia, UNAIDS, NGOs and donors shared their views on: the implications of urbanisation and decentralisation on local government, how to bridge the implementation gap, innovative partnerships and city-to-city cooperation efforts and what the Alliance of Mayors’ Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL) has been achieving.

Professor Babacar Kanté, Supreme Court Justice in Senegal and Legal Advisor to the Alliance, provided the context and an overview of the current situation. He said there is a clear trend toward urbanisation, with a projected 70% of the African population living in urban areas by 2020. Since the early 1990s, there has also been the trend toward decentralisation of government—which began as HIV/AIDS really took hold on the continent. In essence, HIV/AIDS has created an opportunity for local authorities he said, because “effective decentralisation of national HIV/AIDS plans and strategies would enhance the implementation and scaling up of responses to HIV/AIDS.” Prof. Kanté argued that “locally-elected leaders and local authorities have a critical role to play in expanding the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and filling the existing gaps between national plans and policies, and services that reach people and communities.”

In developing the local government response to HIV/AIDS, Dr. Kevin Kelly, Director of the Centre for AIDS Development, Research and Education in South Africa, said that issues of coordination and integration are crucial. Local governments face both internal and external challenges as they confront HIV/AIDS. Dr. Kelly recommended that “different government departments must work together to implement a multi-sectoral response to HIV/

AIDS,” but often “the structures and mechanisms are not really there for doing this.” For external coordination he said that local authorities “must do better at coordination and working with outside partners to acquire additional resources. Many funders are looking for this kind of cooperation and multi-partner proposals.”

Local governments are moving forward to meet the challenges of responding to HIV/AIDS as evidenced by the update on the Alliance and AMICAALL activities. Ms. Fikile Mthembu, Alliance Executive Secretary, said 10 countries have now launched National Chapters of the Alliance and have initiated AMICAALL activities. The Alliance is working with the US Conference of Mayors, Association of Netherlands Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to promote and expand city-to-city cooperation around HIV/AIDS. Foundations—such as African Capacity Building Foundation, AIDSFONDS and STOP AIDS NOW!—are supporting AMICAALL activities through innovative approaches to funding and partnership. One exciting new project is kills, Opportunities, and Self reliance (SOS), a youth development and vocational training initiative, that is being piloted in three sites in Namibia with a technical partner, Organisation for Educational Research and Technical Training (ORT). Ms. Mthembu concluded by saying, “a start has been made and much has been accomplished in a relatively short period of time with limited resources. Achievements to date must be built upon and collective efforts expanded.”

Mr. Rudolph Maziya, National Coordinator, AMICAALL Swaziland Programme also gave an update. He said that the first year of implementation focused on institutional development and advocacy; the second year on technical capacity development for municipalities and grassroots urban communities to mount local responses; and now in the third year,

on service development. For the latter, this includes voluntary counseling and testing, community and home care, community-based feeding schemes, community mobilisation for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV infection, HIV/AIDS education integrated into recreation activities, community-based condom distribution and community-based behavior change communication.

The Special Session also prominently featured presentations from various development partners.

Ms. Nina Shuler, Urban Poverty Specialist at the World Bank, described collaborating with the Alliance, UN APP and other partners, on producing a Local Government Handbook on HIV/AIDS, which is available at: www.worldbank.org/urban/hivaids. Other speakers included: Mayor, C.

Jack Ellis of Macon, Georgia and US Conference of Mayors; Mr. Jean Luc Romeo, Association of Locally Elected Officials Against AIDS in France; Ms. José Pauw, STOP AIDS NOW! (Netherlands) and Ms. Barbara Emanuel, City of Toronto.

For more information, a report on the Special Session is available via the Internet at: www.amicaall.org.

AFRICA UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES (AULA) CONFERENCE CALLS FOR MORE SUPPORT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CONFRONT HIV/AIDS

The Alliance, with support from UN APP and USAID, organised a special session on HIV/AIDS and local government at the African Union of Local Authorities Conference, held in Bloemfontein, South Africa, in October.

Emerging lessons were shared on the involvement of local government in confronting HIV/AIDS in their cities and towns. The Conference provided an opportunity for the Alliance, and its partners, to advocate for integrat-

ing HIV/AIDS into municipal development agendas; expanding partnerships with civil society organisations; and expanding opportunities for local economic development.

11TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS, UGANDA

During the 11th International Conference of People Living with HIV/AIDS, held in Uganda in October, a meeting on AMICAALL was organised by the Ugandan Chairman of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS, Mr. John Ssebaana Kitzito (Mayor of Kampala). In attendance were representatives of UNAIDS, the Ministry of Health, AIDS Service Organisations, AMICAALL

Uganda, other partners and the National Guidance and Empowerment Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda. For the latter, the representative was Major Rubaramira Ruranga who was also the Conference Chairman. This meeting provided an opportunity to share information on AMICAALL Uganda: progress and constraints and elicit feedback from representatives of People Living with HIV/

AIDS. While progress is being made, in many districts, local authorities had not yet internalized the challenges of HIV/AIDS. Stigma is still a big problem and as a result many People Living with HIV/AIDS are not open about their status and do not seek help. It was noted that local authorities are now beginning to take responsibility and demonstrate 'positive leadership' - the broad theme of the Conference.

UNAIDS/NABCOA PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILISATION MEETING IN NAMIBIA

The UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme participated in the regional Private Sector Mobilisation Meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia, 11 to 13 November 2003. The meeting brought together representatives of the Business Coalitions Against AIDS from Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia,

South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia. The meeting was coordinated by UNAIDS and the Namibia Business Coalition on AIDS (NABCOA), and also attended by UN and World Bank representatives from Geneva, Indonesia, Tanzania and Kenya. Following the presentation on AMICAALL, participants

recognised the synergies between the objectives of AMICAALL and the Business Coalitions. They identified the need to work more closely with Mayors, local authorities and AMICAALL Chapters, and encouraged them to contact their national Business Coalitions and establish meaningful collaborations.

ALLIANCE AND UN APP HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2003

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

- UN APP and the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) launched a partnership to mobilise technical and financial resources to expand community-based, HIV/AIDS-related services and programmes and promote city-to-city cooperation between cities in the US and Africa. In February, UN APP and CDC undertook a mission to Namibia, Swaziland and Uganda to meet with AMICAALL Programme partners, along with national and local stakeholders, and initiate in-country preparations for city-to-city cooperation.
- UN APP organised, and Alliance Secretariat hosted, a retreat in Windhoek, Namibia in February. It brought together national AMICAALL Coordinators and Focal Points from nine countries and representatives from the Alliance Secretariat, Alliance Coordinating Committee, UN APP, UNAIDS, World Bank and other development agencies. The retreat provided an opportunity to share information, review progress, identify constraints and agree on priorities for the 2003-2004 workplans.
- The Alliance Coordinating Committee convened in Windhoek, Namibia in February to review the Secretariat operations, partnership development, resource mobilisation as well as preparations for the next Alliance General Assembly at the Africities Summit in Yaoundé, Cameroon, December 2003.
- Under grant agreement with Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG)/AIDSFONDS/STOP AIDS NOW!, activities were launched at the beginning of the year for development of a Multi-Purpose Centre in Otjiwarongo, Namibia.

MARCH-APRIL

- A programme development mission was undertaken during March and April to map out the way forward for the AMICAALL Programme in Tanzania. It followed up on a consultative workshop that was held in October 2002. From this mission, a draft plan of action was developed and shared at a meeting of mayors and other key stakeholders.
- The AMICAALL Swaziland National Coordinator presented a paper on service delivery through partnerships (based on his Programme's experience), at the Commonwealth Local Government Conference meeting in Tshwane, South Africa in March.
- An UN APP Associate participated in a USAID development and cities training course in Washington D.C. USA in March. The UN APP presentation addressed the HIV/AIDS epidemic, urban development and local governance and shared information on what Mayors and Municipal Leaders are doing to address HIV/AIDS at the municipal level in Africa and other regions.
- Organisation for Educational Resources and Technical Training International Co-operation (ORT IC) and UNAPP developed a conceptual framework for a job skills/vocational training programme which targets orphans and vulnerable children. UN APP and ORT IC have partnered on this initiative and are working in collaboration with the private sector. A three-city pilot programme is under preparation in Namibia.
- AMICAALL Swaziland, in collaboration with other implementing partners, received support from the European Union to fund voluntary,

counselling and testing centres in a number of cities and towns.

- UNAPP participated in the Southern Africa Development Regional Governance (SADC) Institute for Democracy in South Africa AIDS Forum in Cape Town in April. The Forum brought together representatives from SADC countries and provided an opportunity to discuss good governance as it relates to regional and national responses to HIV/AIDS. An UN APP Associate presented on the challenges and opportunities faced by local authorities in responding to HIV/AIDS.
- E-Bulletin, Issue No. 3
- Alliance Newsletter, Vol. 2 Issue 1

MAY-JUNE

- The Association of Netherlands Municipalities (in collaboration with AIDSFONDS and STOP AIDS NOW! Foundation) signed an agreement with the City of Mbabane, Swaziland as part of a city-to-city cooperation initiative promoted by UN APP and the Alliance. Initial activities focus on expanding HIV prevention among youth through peer education training and south-to-south exchange of experiences.
- The Association of Local Government Authorities of Kenya, (ALGAK) with support from UN APP, UNDP, USAID, the National Government and other partners, organised a Local Authority Policy and Dialogue Forum on HIV/AIDS in Nairobi in May. At the ALGAK Annual Meeting, held after the Forum, a resolution was endorsed urging the launch of a National Chapter of the Alliance in Kenya and calling for the greater involvement of local government

authorities in the national response to HIV/AIDS.

- UN APP and World Bank undertook a joint mission in May to Benin to identify ways and means of supporting mayors and municipal leaders to become more actively engaged in confronting HIV/AIDS in their cities and towns. A short-term plan of action was developed outlining actions to be taken over the coming year. Activities include support for launching a National Chapter of the Alliance in Benin as well as undertaking preparatory work in a number of cities and towns.
- The Malawi Local Government Association (MALGA) hosted a meeting in May which initiated a process to support the involvement of local government authorities in efforts to address HIV/AIDS. One outcome of this meeting was a commitment by MALGA to launch a National Chapter of the Alliance by the end of 2003.
- The US Conference of Mayors extended an invitation to the Alliance and UN APP to attend its annual meeting which was held in conjunction with the 2nd International Conference of Mayors in Denver, Colorado in June. The Alliance was represented by mayors from Namibia, Uganda and Swaziland and the Deputy Coordinator; UN APP was represented by its Director. The Denver meetings provided an opportunity for the Alliance and UN APP to share information on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa, the work of the Alliance and AMICAALL and to explore opportunities for partnership and city-to-city collaboration between mayors and cities in the US and Africa. A series of meetings were also organised to prepare for the visit of US Mayors to Africa within the framework of a city-to-city cooperation initiative

being supported by US CDC and UN APP.

- UN APP sponsored a presentation by Major Rubaramira Ruranga on 'Living with HIV/AIDS' at the Institute of Local Government Management in South Africa annual conference in June. The presentation aimed to sensitise local government authorities and leaders of the importance of creating a more enabling environment for people living with HIV/AIDS. Major Ruranga serves in the Ugandan army and is the Co-ordinator of National Guidance and Empowerment Network of People living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda.
- E-Bulletin Issue No. 4

JULY - AUGUST

- AMICAALL Namibia was one of four programmes chosen worldwide to participate in the 2003 PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Ulysses initiative. A PwC team worked during July and August with six local authorities in Namibia (Aranos, Gochas, Stampriet, Maltahohe, Otjiwarongo and Eenhana) and community stakeholders to develop guidelines, training materials and manuals to enhance accountability and transparency and strengthen local authority capacity to better manage HIV/AIDS-related, community-based services. These materials covered a range of subjects, such as impact assessment, budget preparation and reporting.
- The Alliance was invited to address the International Conference on Women in Local Government, held in Bloemfontein, South Africa, August 2003. Alliance representatives shared information and documentation on local government's role in the response to HIV/AIDS. They also highlighted the importance of ensuring that the planning, design

and delivery of HIV/AIDS-related services respond to the different experiences of men and women in terms of vulnerability and impact.

- UN APP participated in a workshop organised by the South African Local Government Association in July. An UN APP Associate gave a presentation on the Alliance and AMICAALL activities. The meeting contributed to sensitisation of local authority representatives and planning the next steps for AMICAALL activities in the selected pilot municipalities.
- The World Bank approved a US\$500,000 Institutional Development Fund grant for the Alliance Secretariat. This grant will support national programme development and institutional strengthening of the Secretariat; activities will begin in early 2004. UN APP was instrumental in securing this grant.

- E-Bulletin Issue No. 5

- Newsletter Vol. 2, Issue 2

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

- Collaborating with UNAIDS and cosponsors, national and local government agencies, bilateral agencies and NGOs, UN APP facilitated a series of meetings and a workshop in Mali, during September/October, with local government leaders and their development partners on the role and contribution of local government to the national response to HIV/AIDS. A plan of action is being developed.
- The US Conference of Mayors in September led the largest delegation of US Mayors, in the history of the Conference, to four countries in Africa—Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Uganda—as part of an initiative to promote city-to-city cooperation to confront HIV/AIDS.

This visit was facilitated by a wide range of partners, including: CDC, US Government, Alliance, UN APP, national AMICAALL programmes, national and local government authorities in Africa, Coca Cola Company, Motorola and other private sector partners.

- The Alliance and UN APP have developed an ongoing collaboration with the World Bank. An example of this collaboration is the publication of "Local Government Responses to HIV/AIDS: A Handbook" which was launched at the International Conference on AIDS and STDs in Nairobi, Kenya in September.
- The Alliance, with support from UN APP and USAID, organised a special session on HIV/AIDS and local government at the African Union of Local Authorities Conference, in Bloemfontein, South Africa in October. Emerging lessons on the involvement of local government in confronting HIV/AIDS in their cities and towns were shared. The Conference provided an opportunity for the Alliance, and its partners, to advocate for integrating HIV/AIDS into municipal development agendas; expanding partnerships with civil society organisations; and expanding opportunities for local economic development.
- The Alliance secured a grant of US\$60,000 from UNDP and the National Planning Commission in Namibia for preparation of a municipal impact assessment tool.
- During the 11th International Conference of People Living with HIV/AIDS, held in Uganda in October, a meeting was organised by the Ugandan Chairman of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS, John Ssebaana Kizito, (Mayor of Kampala). Those attending included: representatives of UNAIDS, the

Ministry of Health, The AIDS Service Organisation, AMICAALL Uganda, other partners and the National Guidance and Empowerment Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda. For the latter, the representative was Major Rubaramira Ruranga who was also the Conference Chairman. This meeting provided an opportunity to share information on AMICAALL Uganda: progress and constraints and elicit feedback from representatives of People Living with HIV/AIDS. While progress is being made, it was noted that in many districts, local authorities had not yet internalised the challenges of HIV/AIDS. Stigma is still a big problem and as a result many people living with HIV/AIDS are not open about their status and do not seek help.

- The Namdeb Joint Venture Mining Company provided a US\$17,500 contribution to the Otjiwarongo Multi-Purpose Centre to support its work. Namdeb learned about the Centre through the UNAIDS-sponsored 'Namibia Business Partners Menu.' The Centre is the result of a coordinated effort by local government, NGOs and community groups, together with support from the National AMICAALL programme and international partners.
- The Executive Committee of Fort Worth (Texas) Sister Cities International unanimously recommended Mbabane, the capital of Swaziland, as its seventh sister city. During the summer of 2003, a delegation from Fort Worth Sister Cities International visited Mbabane to see firsthand the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Education, leadership and exchange programmes are being developed between the two cities which address challenges arising from the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The AMICAALL Swaziland Programme is helping to develop this city-to-city cooperation.
- E-Bulletin Issue 6

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

- The Malawian National Chapter of the Alliance was launched in November in Blantyre by the Local Government Association. The Alliance and UN APP provided support for preparatory activities, including sensitisation workshops with mayors, municipal leaders and other stakeholders in the country. Next steps include development of an AMICAALL Programme in Malawi.
- UN APP participated in the Regional Private Sector Mobilisation Meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia in November. The meeting brought together representatives of the Business Coalitions Against AIDS from Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia. The meeting was coordinated by UNAIDS and the Namibia Business Coalition on AIDS (NABCOA), and also attended by UN and World Bank representatives from Geneva, Indonesia, Tanzania and Kenya. Following the presentation on AMICAALL, participants recognised the synergies between the objectives of AMICAALL and Business Coalitions. They identified the need to work more closely with mayors, local authorities and AMICAALL chapters, and encourage them to contact their national Business Coalitions and establish meaningful collaborations.
- The AMICAALL Swaziland Programme represented the Alliance and UN APP at a South African Local Authority Association-sponsored workshop in Johannesburg in November. The event was organised with the South African Department of Health and the Education and Training Unit. The workshop is part of ongoing development of the AMICAALL South Africa Programme. The workshop targeted individuals who are directly involved in municipal HIV/AIDS work.

- The Alliance, represented by its Coordinator, Ernest N’Koumo Mobio, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, represented by its President, Mayor Yves Ducharme, signed a formal cooperation framework during the Alliance General Assembly at the Africities Summit in Yaoundé, Cameroon in December. The framework promotes collaboration between African and Canadian local authorities in responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the local level and improving the quality of life of their citizens. Activities will be undertaken in selected countries with facilitation by UN APP.
 - A delegation from the city of Winnipeg in Canada travelled to Kampala, Uganda in December. They met with the Mayor of Kampala along with representatives from the City Council, AMICAALL Uganda, Uganda AIDS Commission, Uganda Local Government Association, Ministry of Local Government, NGOs, CBOs and other key partners in the country. Their visit also coincided with the Uganda Alliance Annual Meeting which brought together mayors and local government leaders from all over the country. By attending this meeting, FCM representatives had an opportunity to interact with many Ugandan mayors and better understand the challenges they are facing. A plan of action for city-to-city cooperation between Winnipeg and Kampala is being developed under the larger cooperation between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Alliance. UN APP is also supporting these efforts.
 - At the Africities Summit in Yaoundé, Cameroon in December, the Alliance and UN APP organised a Special Session on HIV/AIDS and Local Government which examined progress and constraints to decentralising responses to HIV/AIDS and building foundations for scaling up.
- Panel presentations covered a range of issues on the implications of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on local government: urbanisation and decentralisation; how to bridge the “implementation gap” (e.g., capacity development and allocation of resources); multi-stakeholder collaboration; and city-to-city cooperation. There was also an update on Alliance and AMICAALL activities. The Session included presentations by representatives of the World Bank, US Conference of Mayors, USAID, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Association of Locally Elected Officials against AIDS in France, STOP AIDS NOW! (Netherlands), Centre for AIDS Research Development and Education (South Africa) and others. A report on the Special Session is available at: www.amicaall.org.
- The President of the Association of Locally Elected Officials Against AIDS in France participated in the Special Session on HIV/AIDS and Local Government organised by the Alliance and UN APP, during the Africities Summit, in Yaoundé, Cameroon in December. He presented to the Alliance a second grant from the Association to support the Alliance Secretariat.
 - Two Coordinating Committee Meetings of the Alliance were held during the Africities Summit in December. These meetings provided an opportunity to assess progress at country level, review Secretariat operations, including financial matters, and agree on priorities for 2004.
 - The General Assembly of the Alliance met in Yaoundé, Cameroon on 4th December 2003. The meeting was opened by the Minister of State responsible for local government in Cameroon, the UN Resident Coordinator in Cameroon and the Alliance Coordinator. This General Assembly adopted the revised Constitution of the Alliance, approved a proposal on membership fees, adopted a proposal to set up a Standing Technical Committee, held elections of office bearers and conferred honorary and co-opted memberships. Mayor Salim Kassim Kisauji from Tanga, Tanzania was elected as Alliance Coordinator. Mrs. Zénabou Drabo, Mayor of Bogodogo, Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, continues as First Deputy Coordinator and Mr. Boyd Mooka Muuka, Mayor of Mongu, Zambia, was elected as Second Deputy Coordinator. Mr. Ernest N’Koumo Mobio, Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire, first Coordinator of the Alliance, was given Honorary Membership. Alliance co-founder, Mr. Fisho Mwale, former Mayor of Lusaka, Zambia, was approved as a Co-opted Member of the Coordinating Committee.
 - The General Assembly of AMICAALL Uganda was held in Kampala December 14 to 16, attended by Mayors, or their representatives, from each local authority in Uganda. The newly elected Coordinator of the Alliance, Mayor Salim Kisauji, attended the Assembly, together with representatives of the AMICAALL Programmes in Swaziland and Tanzania and the Alliance Secretariat. A strategic plan for the AMICAALL Programme was developed as part of the meeting, together with information exchange and bonding with various AMICAALL partners.
 - A case study on the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme has been produced. It documents the development and implementation of the AMICAALL Programme in Swaziland, including achievements and emerging lessons. The case study is available on the AMICAALL website: www.amicaall.org
 - E-Bulletin Issue 7 and 8

WORLD AIDS CAMPAIGN 2004: WOMEN, GIRLS HIV AND AIDS

In 1997, recognizing the need for year-round campaign activity for HIV and AIDS, UNAIDS launched the first year-long World AIDS Campaign. The World AIDS Campaign has helped influence the international agenda around HIV and AIDS but due to its global nature and, to some degree, its close association with UN agencies the Campaign has sometimes failed to achieve its full potential at a national and local level. UNAIDS now seeks to change that through an increased emphasis on the role of civil society – in particular through the stronger leadership and involvement of HIV and AIDS-related NGOs at national level. The year 2004 sees the campaign entering an exciting transition phase. At the same time as delivering a thematic focus on Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS it is moving to bolster the role of civil society by shifting the governance of the Campaign from UNAIDS to NGOs.

WHY FOCUS ON WOMEN?

Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to HIV infection and to the impact

of AIDS. Around half of all people living with HIV in the world are female.

Globally, young women and girls are more susceptible to HIV than men and boys. With studies showing they can be 2.5 times more likely to be HIV-infected as their male counterparts. In sub-Saharan Africa, girls and young women are twice as likely to be HIV infected as young men, with up to six times the infection rate of their male peers in parts of the sub-region.

Women are twice as likely as men to contract HIV from a single act of unprotected sex, but they remain dependent on male cooperation to protect themselves from infection. In addition, all over the world women are expected to take the lead in domestic work and provide care to family members. HIV and AIDS have significantly increased the burden of care for many women. Poverty and poor public services have also combined with AIDS to turn the burden for women into a crisis with far-reaching social, health and economic consequences.

The World AIDS campaign seeks to raise awareness about, and help address the many issues affecting women and girls around HIV and AIDS.

- Women play a central role in development
- Gender dynamics play a pivotal role in driving the epidemic
- Women are more vulnerable to HIV infection than men
- In worst-hit regions more than 50% of infections are among women and girls
- Stigma and discrimination – based on existing inequalities – continue to drive the epidemic
- Women are an inspiration, providing strength and hope to all

- Excerpt Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS
- World AIDS Campaign 2004 Strategy Document
(www.unaids.org)

(continued from page 1)

and opportunities in cities and towns and developing a plan of action. We are grateful for the support that was provided by the UN AMICAALL Partnership

Programme, UNDP Mali and UNAIDS Mali. We believe we are becoming better equipped to build on the commitment of local leaders and are hopeful

that in the near future we will be able to better serve our people and that collectively we will overcome this epidemic.

Coordinating Committee:

Coordinator: Honorable Salim Kassim Kisauji, Lord Mayor of Tanga, Tanzania

First Deputy: Mayor Mme. Zénabou Drabo, Bogodogo, Burkina Faso

Second Deputy: Mayor Boyd Mooka Muuka, Mongu, Zambia

Contributors:

Anna Marie Dremmer: UN APP Consultant

Babarcar Kante:

Honorable Abdel Kader Sidibe, Mayor Bamako III, Mali

John Mugisa: National Coordinator, AMICAALL Uganda

Margo Kelly, UNAPP Consultant

Mina Mauerstein-Bail, UNAPP, Director

Rudolph Maziya, National Coordinator, AMICAALL Swaziland, Swaziland

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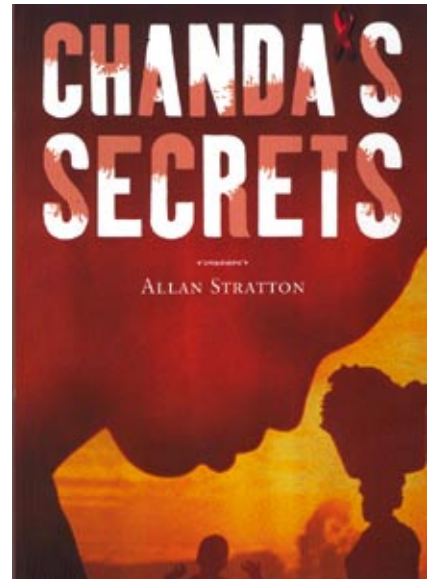
This issue of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders Newsletter has been prepared with the support of the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, Geneva.

NOTE BOOK

CHANDA'S SECRET – BY ALLAN STRATTON

What is it like to be caught in the eye of the HIV/AIDS storm and struggle to keep your family, your friends, and your community together? This is Chanda's world - she is only sixteen.

"Chanda's Secrets is a novel with the lilt of Africa in its language and the urgency of adolescent struggle in every paragraph. When AIDS isn't just a faraway acronym, but a sinister, invisible poison that threatens to steal your family, creep into your nightmares, break your heart, and darken your future, how do you learn to grow up with love and courage? That's one of Chanda's secrets. This powerful story hits home with its harsh truths, its pain, and its hard-won hopefulness. No-one can read Chanda's Secrets and remain untouched by the young people who are caught in the AIDS pandemic and still battling to make sense of their lives."



- Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa

Proceeds from the sale of Chanda's Secrets will be used to support organizations working to better the lives of Africans living with HIV/AIDS.

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CONDOLENCES

While attending the Africities Summit and Alliance meetings in Yaoundé, Cameroon, Mayor of Windhoek, Matheus K. Shikongo, learned about the untimely death of his son. The Alliance and UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme extend their sincere condolences to Mayor Shikongo and his family—our thoughts and prayers are with you.

HOW TO CONTACT THE ALLIANCE

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UPCOMING EVENTS

World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP)

Rome 31st March – 02 April '04

International Union of Local Authorities (IULA)

Paris 02 – 05 May '04

The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial

Global 16th May '04

XV International AIDS Conference in Thailand

Thailand 11 – 16 July '04

ALLIANCE NEW LEADERSHIP

Coordinator: Lord Mayor Salim Kassim
Kisautji, Tanga, Tanzania

First Deputy: Mayor Zénabou Drabo,
Bogodogo, Burkina Faso

Second Deputy: Mayor Boyd Mooka
Muuka, Mongu, Zambia

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Mayor Abdel Kader Sidibe, Bamako District III, Mali
- Governor Amondji Pierre Djedji, District of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
- Mayor John Ssebaana Kizito, Kampala, Uganda

- Mayor George Katole-Milner, Zomba, Malawi
- Mayor Rehabeam Katjijova, Gobabis, Namibia
- Mayor Matheus Shikongo, Windhoek, Namibia
- Mr Fisho Mwale, Lusaka, Zambia (Coopted)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name of City/ Municipality: _____

Country: _____ Name of Mayor/ _____

Representative: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

The City/Municipality/Town of wishes to become a member of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa, and subscribe to the Newsletter.

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

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www.amicaall.org