



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

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## EDITORIAL

Cllr. Joe Kotony Akech



**His Worship the Mayor,  
City Council of Nairobi, Kenya**

The month of June, specifically the 12<sup>th</sup> day, was special in the calendar of local authorities in Kenya. It was the day on which, under the umbrella of their organization, the Association of Local Government Authorities of Kenya (ALGAK), they were "born" into the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS, making them the 11<sup>th</sup> member in Africa.

There were many invited guests who witnessed the launch of the Alliance Kenya programme. They included the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government, who was the chief guest, representatives from the National AIDS Control Council, NGOs and others from the international community.

Although the pomp and ceremony that marked the launch of Kenya's programme has remained memorable the commitment the local authority leaders made on that day will make a permanent mark in Kenya's history. In a signed declaration leaders from local authorities endorsed what their Full Council meetings had already agreed upon earlier on: to address HIV/AIDS in their councils by mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into all their programmes and activities; to work in partnership with government ministries, civil society, religious organizations, persons living with HIV/AIDS, development partners and to join other mayors in the rest of Africa by joining the Alliance and agreeing to launch AMICAALL in Kenya.

The greatest challenge that we now face is to translate our commitment into activities and projects in all of Kenya's local authorities. Our advantage, however, is in the fact that other AMICAALL programmes were launched before our own. We, therefore, have experiences to learn from and by doing so avoid mistakes that many programmes get into when implementation starts.

As I appeal to all local authority leaders in Kenya to keep focused on the commitments they have made regarding the reduction of HIV/AIDS I also ask our counterparts in other Alliance Chapters to share their most important lessons with us. That would be the surest strategy of making us "walk" before we "crawl", and the response to HIV/AIDS is just about that.

## LAUNCH OF THE KENYA CHAPTER OF THE ALLIANCE

Under the patronage of the Association of Local Government Authorities of Kenya (ALGAK), the Kenya Chapter of the Alliance was officially launched in the city of Nairobi on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2004.



Local authority representatives from Nairobi City, Mombasa, Kisumu, Eldoret and Kitui Municipalities; Nyeri, Moyale, Kwale, Teso, Malava and Nyamache Counties formally endorsing the Declaration on behalf of all the local authorities in Kenya.

This historic event began with the traditional walk of commitment by Mayors, Chairpersons, professional officers and partners. The three-kilometre walk, which was led by the Guest of Honour, The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government Mr. Zachary Ogongo, and followed by the Kenya Police Band, began at the Nairobi City Hall and concluded at the venue of the launch ceremony, the Kenyatta International Conference Centre.

The official Ceremony commenced before a crowd of 250 people comprised of local authority officials and guests. The programme included presentations by local and visiting dignitaries, such as the Secretary-General of ALGAK, Mr. Augustine Odipo, the Chairperson of ALGAK and Former Mayor of Nairobi, Cllr. Joe Akech, the Chair of the ALGAK HIV/AIDS Committee, Cllr. Josiah Magut, a representative from the National AIDS Control Council, Mr. Joshua Ng'elu, the Executive Director of the National Empowerment and Guidance Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda, Major Rubaramira Ruranga, the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Dr. Isaac Chivore and the Coordinator of the Alliance Lord Mayor Salim Kisauji.

The ALGAK Declaration on HIV/AIDS, which was adopted by all 175 Councils in Kenya, was presented by Cllr. Magut. The represented local authorities (Nairobi City, Mombasa, Kisumu, Eldoret and Kitui municipalities, Nyeri, Moyale, Kwale, Teso, Malava and Nyamache Counties) formally endorsed the Declaration on behalf of all the local authorities, after which they received Alliance Membership Certificates from the Alliance Coordinator and the Guest of Honour, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government.

The ceremony culminated in the keynote address and formal launch by the Guest of Honour, Permanent Secretary Zachary Ogongo. In his address, Mr Ogongo congratulated the Mayors on the initiative taken. He called attention to the importance of local government's involvement in the response to HIV/AIDS at the community level and endorsed the AMICAALL programme as a vehicle to achieving this. Mr Ogongo also emphasised the need for workplace policies and programmes in Councils, the protection of human rights, provision of voluntary counselling and testing facilities and condoms within municipal clinics. The Permanent Secretary stated that HIV/AIDS was everyone's burden and there is a need to put a face to the epidemic and treat those infected with compassion. He concluded his address by underlining the support of the Ministry of Local Government to AMICAALL Kenya and officially declaring the Kenya Chapter of the Alliance launched. *continued on page 9*



Local Authority representatives awarded the Alliance Membership Certificates from the Guest of Honour, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government.

## ALGAK DECLARATION ON HIV/AIDS

“We the local authority leaders, Mayors and Chairmen of Cities, Municipalities, Town Councils and County Councils in Kenya do resolve as follows:

- That having recognised that HIV/AIDS is a National Disaster;
- Having realised the negative impact of HIV/AIDS on the development of local authorities;
- Further realising that HIV/AIDS impacts adversely in particular on women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups;
- Also recognise the importance of the greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS within the councils and amidst our communities;

- Acknowledging that HIV/AIDS impacts adversely on our own Councils/Organizations, in particular the personnel and the ability to effectively deliver services;
- Further realizing that HIV/AIDS adversely affects the communities we serve, who provide both the human capital and other resources to the Councils;
- Further acknowledging 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 ALGAK WE ARE COMMITTED TO** addressing HIV/AIDS in our Councils by mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into all our programmes and activities.

**WE RESOLVE** to work in partnership with government departments/ministries, civil societies, religious organizations, private sector, local communities, People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA), and development partners.

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

## AMICAALL ZAMBIA PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE LUSAKA CITY COUNCIL

A Meeting of the AMICAALL Zambia Programme Steering Committee (PSC) was held on 25 March 2004 at the Lusaka City Council. The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Boyd Mooka Muuka, and included representatives from UNDP, the World Bank, The National AIDS Council, the Local Government Association of Zambia and UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme (UN APP). The Committee welcomed the newly appointed National Coordinator of the AMICAALL Zambia Programme, Mr. Kenneth Mwansa.

The Committee adopted a process for implementing the AMICAALL Zambia programme at the local authority level. This process, developed by the AMICAALL Zambia PSC, includes the following stages:

- Full Council decides to initiate their local government/community response to HIV/AIDS.
- Council identifies an HIV/AIDS Focal Person (ideally Planning Director).
- Local Authority HIV/AIDS Task Team formed (process as per Handbook on Local Government HIV/AIDS Response).

- Response activities undertaken including mainstreaming, workplace and community responses.
- HIV/AIDS stakeholder, status and rapid impact assessment undertaken
- Participatory HIV/AIDS action planning and prioritizing undertaken.
- Workplace and Community Action Plan on Responses to HIV/AIDS adopted by Council.
- Project proposals developed based on workplace and community action plans.
- Local government implements HIV/AIDS-response programmes/projects and compliance monitoring.

In developing this process, AMICAALL Zambia PSC took into account existing and proposed HIV/AIDS coordination structures at District Level (e.g. District AIDS Task Force, District Commissioner’s Office, United Nations Volunteers programme) and decided that to achieve effective implementation the local authority HIV/AIDS programme must harmonize with these structures and programmes. It decided against imple-

menting the process in all 72 local authorities at the same time. Instead, a phased programme was agreed, with the 10 Councils represented on the PSC being the first phase, as well as city councils Lusaka, Kitwe and Livingstone as they had already embarked on HIV/AIDS projects.

Programme start-up workshops, involving the Mayor, Principal Officer and Planning Director of each of the participating local authorities, together with key actors at district level and national stakeholders, are being planned. The purpose of this is to ensure harmonization of AMICAALL activities with existing structures; ensure full understanding of the implementation process; and have agreement on the way forward by all stakeholders. The outcomes of the start-up workshops will inform the development of the AMICAALL Zambia Programme national framework and plan of action.

## SWAZILAND: HOLISTIC APPROACH TO COMBATING HIV/AIDS

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An HIV/AIDS testing and counselling centre, that will be the template for other such facilities in Swaziland's urban areas, opened this week in the centrally located town of Manzini.



King Mswati of Swaziland at the opening of the Lamvelase Help Center in Manzini, Swaziland

"This is a holistic centre offering many services - that reflects the holistic approach needed for living with HIV/AIDS: counselling, blood testing, nutrition, exercise and all-round physical and mental health, with the added expertise of legal and other kinds," said Rudolph Maziya, national director of the Alliance of Mayors Initiative for Community Action at the Local Level (AMICAALL).

The mayors and municipal authorities of the country's nine towns coordinate their activities through AMICAALL, which has a local representative in each town.

King Mswati dedicated the facility last week, naming it 'Lamvelase Help Centre' in remem-

brance of his great-grandmother.

Swaziland has the highest prevalence rate of HIV in the world, with nearly 40 percent of adults infected with the virus. Although a recent survey showed a decline in HIV infections among teenagers, the health ministry's latest sero-surveillance study showed that Manzini has the worst AIDS problem in the country.

"This is the 'Hub of Swaziland', where all the roads and bus routes convene, so there is a lot of people movement and spread of HIV - the Matsapha Industrial Estate is just west of town, and you find there workers' compounds and temporary workers, who are at risk of contracting HIV. Sex workers are also here," said Pholile Dlamini, who is employed by Manzini City Council as a consultant on AIDS programmes.

Health workers are watching closely to see if Swazis will overcome their fear of being identified as being HIV positive in a country where stigma runs high.

"People want to be tested to see if they are HIV positive or negative and get over that anxiety, but they won't go to AIDS centres because others will see them go in and the gossip will spread that they have AIDS," said Hannie Dlamini, president of the Swaziland AIDS Support Centre in Mbabane.

"This has inhibited the wider use of anti-

retroviral drugs, because a blood test is required to get them. Some people who suspect they have HIV are purchasing ARVs on the black market rather than get them for free at AIDS centres, because they fear someone might recognise them," Dlamini said.

The Manzini coordinator of AMICAALL, Gugu Dlamini agreed: "For you to achieve good health, you have to deal with the stigma. That is easier said than done, but people are realising that. Already, people are coming here before the doors are officially open."



Mayor of Ezulwini and AMICAALL Swaziland Executive Council Chair Person, Ms. Nokothisa Mthembu, at the opening of the Lamvelase Help Center in Manzini, Swaziland

## AMICAALL SWAZILAND SELECTED AS GOOD PRACTICE BY UN-HABITAT

In September 2004, the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme was selected as a "Good Practice" by UN-HABITAT and the Dubai Municipality. This was part of the 2004 Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment. Since 1996, over 2100 good and best practices, from 140 countries, have been compiled by UN-HABITAT. Those chosen as good and best practices are deemed to have lessons or experiences that could be used by others.

The AMICAALL Swaziland Programme Dubai Award nomination was made by the Swaziland Ministry of Housing and Urban Development in the public, private and

community partnerships category. The Ministry stated that before the AMICAALL Programme, municipalities were not participating in the national response to HIV/AIDS because of a lack of institutional, technical and financial capacities. Moreover, residents were not mobilised for action on HIV/AIDS and did not have access to basic HIV/AIDS services.

The Ministry applauded what has been accomplished in a short period of time. In just three years, the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme has become a major player in the response to HIV/AIDS in the country. Today there is increased awareness of

HIV/AIDS among local government officials, and enhanced capacity to scale up community-based services and support systems. Municipal HIV/AIDS Teams have been formed, along with Community AIDS Action Committee in wards, to better identify priorities and coordinate the response at the local level. Funding has also increased and community services are being developed, such as home-based care, voluntary counseling and testing centers, HIV prevention services targeting young people, feeding centers and other support services targeting vulnerable households.

## AMICAALL UGANDA RECEIVES FUNDING SUPPORT FROM THE GLOBAL FUND

The AMICAALL Uganda Programme received funding support from the Global Fund for a proposal on mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). The grant provides economic assistance to OVC and affected households by way of micro loans and vocational training. The support will go towards assisting 200 orphans in select municipalities: Kampala, Jinja, Soroti, Fort Portal, Iganga, Kamuli, Hoima, Busia and Kisoro.

Through consultative meetings, the AMICAALL Uganda Programme has identified key stakeholders to work with the OVC and has conducted sensitization meetings on the plight of the OVC and their need for care and support. Training workshops were held with the selected stakeholders and affected households on micro-loan management. Then, in consultation with the local Council, they developed a local criteria for administering micro-loan

programmes to the OVC households.

The way forward includes the disbursement of micro-loan grants to one hundred OVC households and monitoring the micro-loan programmes. In addition, the AMICAALL Uganda Programme will identify and work with local artisans and small-scale businesses with the capacity to offer vocational training and apprenticeships to 100 OVC.

## KITGUM TOWN COUNCIL PROJECT: ADDRESSING HIV/AIDS IN A CONFLICT-RIDDEN ENVIRONMENT

The town of Kitgum is located in Northern Uganda, an area that has been plagued by a prolonged insurgency. As a result, Kitgum's population has tripled to 150,000, as people have migrated to the city for security reasons and socio-economic survival. About 40% of the population is comprised of youth.

In addition to the loss of lives and increased numbers of displaced persons, the insurgency in Kitgum has fueled the spread of HIV/AIDS. The HIV/AIDS prevalence is estimated at 30% based on locally collected data. Young women living in displaced persons camps are especially vulnerable to sexual abuse and HIV infection. Others, who are wid-

owed or orphaned, are often forced into sexual activities in exchange for shelter or food to survive.

The Kitgum Town Council has seen the grave need to respond to the local HIV/AIDS situation. In collaboration with the AMICAALL Uganda Programme, the Town Council has developed a project to jumpstart the HIV/AIDS response. The project, targeting 300 People Living with HIV/AIDS and 50 orphaned children, will increase community awareness of the plight of People Living with HIV/AIDS and child-headed families, increase services to vulnerable groups, such as expanded counseling services to households and improve local management and

coordination systems for municipal-lead HIV/AIDS activities. In addition, these activities will also enhance involvement of political and civil society organisations in the local response to HIV/AIDS.

The Kitgum Town Council is working with the AMICAALL Uganda Programme and the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme to secure the needed resources to undertake these activities. The project will be implemented by the Town Council in collaboration with a range of local stakeholders, including People Living with HIV/AIDS, NGOs, CBOs and the private sector.

## MUNICIPAL LEVEL HIV/AIDS IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING TOOL

A coalition of partners - Alliance Secretariat, AMICAALL Namibia, Local Authorities in Namibia, Ministry of Planning, Namibia, Social Impact Assessment and Policy Analysis Corporation (SIAPAC), UNDP and UN APP - have been working together to develop and test out a municipal level HIV/AIDS Impact Assessment and Planning Toolkit in four municipalities

in Namibia. The overall objective of this activity is to develop a toolkit to guide local authorities in carrying out impact assessments of HIV/AIDS on municipal personnel and communities served by the municipality and to develop reality-based plans for implementation. The draft toolkit, which is now available, is being shared with a wide range of organisations and stakeholders to solicit

feedback. During the development and testing of the toolkit in Namibia, it was found that the data to fully assess impact at local level are not readily available or in some cases simply not available. This is a constraint that needs to be addressed and an issue which the Alliance is raising with government and international development agencies in the hope that steps can be taken to address this gap.

## LAUNCH OF WINDHOEK HIV/AIDS SERVICE DIRECTORY

The first of the AMICAALL-sponsored HIV/AIDS Municipal Service Directories was launched in Windhoek, Namibia on 30 April 2004.

Before an audience of 100 stakeholders, representing the Government of Namibia, local authorities, civil society organisations, private sector and other partners, the City of Windhoek HIV/AIDS Service Directory was officially launched by the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Richard Kamwi.

The Deputy Mayor of the City of Windhoek, Cllr. Joseph Auala, presided over the launch ceremony and provided some background on the Directory.

Cllr. Auala said this initiative had its foundation in the launch of the Namibia Chapter of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa in November 2001. At this launch, all local authorities in Namibia committed to including responses to HIV/AIDS in their municipal service delivery agendas. The City of Windhoek did not take this declaration lightly – having targeted the problems of HIV/AIDS in the munic-

ipality's strategic planning for the city. The City's recently adopted HIV/AIDS policy is included in the Directory.

Deputy Minister Kamwi stated that the launch of the City of Windhoek HIV/AIDS Service Directory symbolises two of the key values of the Alliance and the City's response to HIV/AIDS – leadership and partnership.

Throughout Africa, Mayors, local leaders and local authorities, who are well placed to respond to the affects of HIV/AIDS in their communities as local government is the level of government closest to the people, are making a difference. African Mayors and Local Government Authorities are demonstrating both the political will and the social responsibility to protect and promote the health and quality of life of their citizens and communities.

The Deputy Minister said that determining how best to approach the epidemic is a challenge which faces countries, communities and individuals around the world. AIDS affects us all and we must all work together to find solutions – which we can do. He hoped that this

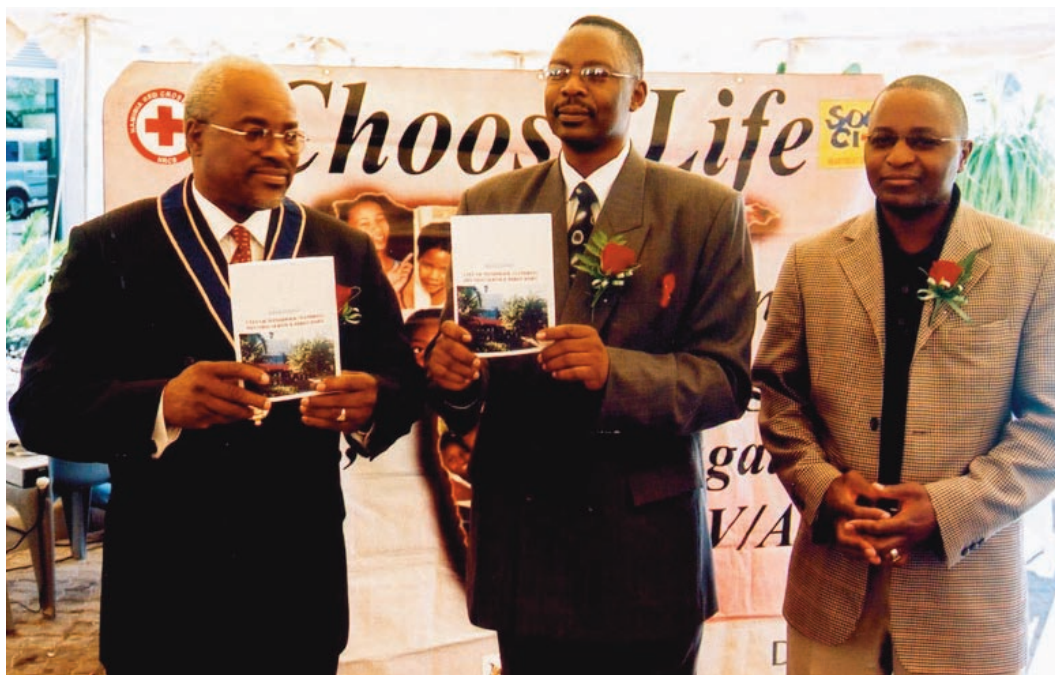
initiative will contribute to achieving this elusive goal and encouraged other cities and regions in Namibia to take similar initiatives in the interests of the citizens they serve.

This initiative could not have been achieved without the active participation of many partners. The Namibia Network of AIDS Service Organisations (NANASO) was instrumental producing the Directory, having won a competitive tender from the city. NANASO is the umbrella body representing all the civil society and non-governmental organisations involved in HIV/AIDS-response activities in Namibia.

Gratitude and appreciation were also expressed to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), US Centers for Disease Control and UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme for their generous financial support to this project. Also mentioned were the AMICAALL Namibia Programme and Alliance Secretariat for facilitating and providing technical advice.

The Directory is a good example of how city government is working with HIV/AIDS service organisations to provide authoritative information on what services are available to the general public in a user-friendly way.

Ten thousand copies of the Directory have been produced and are available at the City's Customer Care Centres, community facilities, businesses and NGOs. The Directory will soon be available on the City of Windhoek website and the information will be regularly updated.



Deputy Mayor Joseph Auala, left, Deputy Minister of Health Richard Kamwi, middle, and the City Strategic Executive for Economic Development, Tourism and Recreation, Hafeni Nghinamwaami, pictured at the launch of the HIV/AIDS Policy Declaration and HIV/AIDS Services Directory.

## OUT OF AFRICA: THE EXPERIENCE OF THREE PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS PROFESSIONALS IN UGANDA

On Sunday, July 4, 2004, Sophie Cockayne and Jrgen Haglund and myself, Andrew O'Callaghan, set out on a journey that would change our lives. As the three of us, all employees of the professional services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), boarded the flight from London to Entebbe, Uganda, little did we know the impact the next two months would have on us.

Through the facilitation of the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme (UN APP), we spent two months working with the AMICAALL Uganda Programme in the cities of Jinja and Kamuli in Uganda. Working with the National Co-ordinator, Dr. John Mugisa, our goal was to assist the AMICAALL Programme develop a coordination mechanism for groups working on HIV/AIDS in these two urban areas. The groups were broken into three categories - non-governmental organisations (NGOs), faith-based organisations (FBOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs). Our objective was clear: help build a framework to better coordinate the work of these groups in Jinja and Kamuli. This turned out to be not so easy.

### *The Importance of Listening*

The work we undertook first involved

meeting the various groups working in the two areas. Our most important lesson from the start was not to underestimate the importance of listening. We met many groups who have given everything to battle HIV/AIDS in their local area. The commitment and determination of those in CBOs is staggering - most of the work on the ground is being done by local groups of volunteers. The scale of the task facing these people is enormous - the reports tell us there are over 1.7 million AIDS orphans in Uganda alone. The volunteers, many of them HIV positive themselves, are the last line between hope and despair for so many people. Listening to these people truly was a humbling experience.

### *Bringing it All Together*

Having completed our discussions, our next task was to help build a coordination mechanism. Our role was to facilitate constructive dialogue between the different groups in order to build a model that everyone was comfortable with. After much dialogue, the local groups in Jinja and Kamuli produced very similar coordination frameworks. All agreed that the key success factor was regular communication - all recognised the need for the AMICAALL Programme to

facilitate effective reporting and dialogue at a local level.

Our final task was to help produce an HIV/AIDS Service Providers Directory for Jinja and for Kamuli. We achieved this thanks to great support from our PwC colleagues in Kampala and key stakeholders in each of the municipalities. Thanks to PwC Kampala, 150 copies of each service directory were produced and presented to the Mayors and local AMICAALL co-ordinators in Jinja and Kamuli. Everyone involved promised to ensure the directories will be updated each year and will live on as a reminder of the challenges we overcame together.



PwC Australia Representative, Ms. Sophie Cockayne, with the female members of the Jinja HIV/AIDS Local Area Action Team

As our project drew to a close, we reflected on the fact that we had met so many wonderful people in Uganda. It was sad, and very difficult, to leave. However, the question that has stayed with us now that we are back in PwC in Australia, Sweden and Ireland is not 'how did the project go' but 'long term, what impact will the project have on us?' It seems that question is going to take a long time to answer.



PwC Representatives Andrew O'Callaghan and Jrgen Haglund with members of Kamuli HIV/AIDS Local Area Action Team

## WINNIEPEG/KAMPALA CITY-TO-CITY INITIATIVE, JUNE 2004

In December 2003, a delegation from the City of Winnipeg visited Kampala, Uganda as part of a city-to-city initiative on local responses to HIV/AIDS. In June 2004, a delegation from the City of Kampala, including Dr. John Mugisa, the AMICAALL Uganda National Coordinator, traveled to Winnipeg to further develop the initiative. Supported by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme (UN APP), this initiative has been successful in connecting community members from the two cities, initiating community support and extending the benefits of the partnerships



to other parts of their communities. For example, the University of Makerere (Kampala) and the University of Manitoba (Winnipeg) have developed a Memorandum of Understanding to engage in research and student exchanges around HIV/AIDS issues.

(From left to right) First row: Ursula Stelman, Director of Community Services Winnipeg City and Partnership Programme Coordinator; His Worship John Ssebaana Kizito, Mayor of Kampala; Dr. Messach Mubiru, Director of District Health Services, Kampala; Cllr. Monnie Lubega, Chairperson Public Health and Environment Committee, Kampala City. Second row: Mr. Stelman, Winnipeg Community; Mr. Kewaza Muwonge, Deputy Town Clerk of Kampala and Partnership Programme Coordinator; Dr. Mina Nakawuka, District HIV/AIDS Programme Coordinator, Kampala; Dr. Sam Luboga, Associate Dean Makerere University; Dr. John Mugisa, AMICAALL National Coordinator. Last row: Ms. Josie Fernandes, Project Officer, Winnipeg City

## OPEC DEVELOPMENT FUND PROVIDES CO-FINANCING TO SUPPORT ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE YOUTH IN NAMIBIA

The OPEC Development Fund, supporting the international campaign to confront HIV/AIDS, is assisting a Skills, Opportunities, Self-reliance (SOS) initiative in Namibia. SOS, which aims to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on young people, is being implemented with support from the AMICAALL Namibia Programme, UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme (UN APP) and the Organisation for Educational

Resources and Technical Training Cooperation (ORT IC). On 11th May 2004, the OPEC Fund signed an agreement with UN APP to co-fund SOS activities in three municipalities –Otjiwarongo, Rehoboth and Windhoek. The funds will be used to assist orphans and vulnerable young people in attaining technical skills and experience to enable them to lead productive lives. The initiative includes vocational training, youth development

programmes, upgrading facilities and documenting and sharing lessons.



Mina Mauerstein-Bail, Director UN APP, Suleiman J. Al-Harbish, Director General OPEC Fund

## WORLD URBAN FORUM

During the September 2004 World Urban Forum, a networking session on “good governance in an environment of HIV/AIDS” was presented by the Alliance, UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme (UN APP) and UN Habitat. This networking session, moderated by Ms. Mina Mauerstein-Bail, Director of UN APP, examined the challenges faced by and opportunities available to local government institutions and partners in effectively combating HIV/AIDS.

Presentations were made on a range of issues such as: coordination in a context of decentralization by Mayor Nokuthula Mthembu, Swaziland; orphan care as a challenge to the local response to HIV/AIDS, Ms. Florence Muli-Musiime, UN Habitat; community participation and capacity building in the Blantyre City Assembly, Dr. Lycester Bandawe, Blantyre City Assembly, Malawi; knowledge sharing to mainstream HIV/AIDS in South African cities, Ms. Ntombini Marrengane,

South African Cities Network; local authority HIV/AIDS impact assessment and participatory planning in Namibia and AMICAALL toolkit, Mr. Rudolph Mouton, SIAPAC, Namibia; and a handbook for local government responses to HIV/AIDS, Ms. Nina Schuler, World Bank. A report on this networking session will be prepared and shared via the AMICAALL website ([www.amicaall.org](http://www.amicaall.org)) and other channels of communication.



(From left to right) Mr. Rudolph Mouton, SIAPAC Namibia, Ms. Ntombini Marrengane, South African Cities Network, Dr. Lycester Bandawe, Blantyre City Assembly, Malawi, Mina Mauerstein-Bail, UN APP, Mayor Nokuthula Mthembu, Swaziland, Ms. Florence Muli-Musiime, UN Habitat and Ms. Nina Schuler, World Bank.

## AMICAALL PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP, DAR ES SALAAM

The third AMICAALL Programme Development Workshop took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from September 7-9, 2004. The main objective of the workshop was to review all AMICAALL country programme activities to date, share experiences and lessons learned at the country level, and identify bottlenecks with a view to better understand challenges of scaling up and agree on key strategic

directions for the future. Workshop outcomes also informed the development of the Alliance/AMICAALL strategic plan for 2005-2008. Workshop participants included representatives of national AIDS programmes/Commissions, local government partners from 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, World Bank, UNAIDS, UNDP, NGO and bilateral organizations, members of the Alliance Coordinating

Committee and Coordinators of national AMICAALL programmes. The Alliance expresses its thanks to the World Bank for providing support for this workshop and appreciates the efforts of the Alliance Secretariat and UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme for their efforts to ensure a successful workshop. Thanks also to all the participants who worked very hard to ensure a useful outcome.



Participants of the Programme Development Workshop including the UN APP Director, AMICAALL Programme National Coordinators, Members of the Alliance Coordinating Committee and Technical Standing Committee, UN representatives, and local and international partners.

## THE ALLIANCE TECHNICAL STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING, DAR ES SALAAM



Members of the Technical Standing Committee: (from left to right) Rudolph Maziya, AMICAALL Swaziland Coordinator, Mr Alfred Mndzebele, Alliance Secretariat Administrative Manager, Fikile Mthembu, Alliance Executive Secretary, Marcia Glen, USAID, Jose Pauw, Stop AIDS Now! Fisho Mwale, Alliance Co-Founder, Terry Parker, Former Alliance Secretariat Administrative Manager, Mina Mauerstein-Bail, UN APP Director and Didum, World Bank Representative.

The Alliance Technical Standing Committee (TSC), established in December 2003 to provide technical oversight and guidance to the Alliance and AMICAALL, convened its first meeting September 6, 2004 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The TSC reviewed the current Alliance workplan, future strategic directions paper, and financial resources,

including resource mobilisation activities. A strategic directions paper for 2005 - 2008 was endorsed, taking into account the comments and suggestions of the TSC. Members include representatives from: the Alliance Coordinating Committee, National AMICAALL Coordinator network, UN, bilateral and NGO partners.

## THE ALLIANCE COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING, DAR ES SALAAM

After the Technical Standing Committee (TSC) meeting and the AMICAALL Programme Development Workshop, the Alliance Coordinating Committee met in Dar es Salaam September 10-11, 2004. The Coordinating Committee was opened by the Tanzanian Minister of Regional Administration and Local Government, and included statements from the Head of the Tanzanian Commission on AIDS (TACAIDS),

UNAIDS speaking on behalf of the UN system, the Alliance Coordinator and the Executive Secretary of the Alliance. One day was devoted to a strategic planning exercise, which built on the outcomes and recommendations from the TSC and the Programme Development Workshop. The Coordinating Committee, together with technical staff from national AMICAALL programmes, undertook an analysis of "strengths, weaknesses, oppor-

tunities and threats" (SWOT) which provided useful inputs for the review of the Alliance strategic directions for the period 2005-2008. The Coordinating Committee reviewed the progress of UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, the Secretariat, and the National AMICAALL Programmes. The Committee also reviewed the decisions made at their last meeting in December 2003.

## FAREWELL TO TERRY PARKER AND WELCOME TO ALFRED MNDZEBELE

The Alliance is greatly indebted to Mr. Terry Parker who helped set up the Secretariat in late 2001 and worked as the Administrative Manager from January 2002 until September 2004. During the past three years, Mr. Parker also worked as an Associate for the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme (UN APP) providing technical support to AMICAALL country programmes in east and southern Africa. His work included extensive travel and collaboration with local partners in Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Mr. Parker was a tireless advocate of the Alliance. He was dedicated to transforming the vision of the Alliance into a reality in many places, participating in sensitisation workshops, national programme launches, programming missions, proposal writing and other needed support.

Hailing from Australia, Mr. Parker has worked for the past 27 years in various positions in and related to local government in his native country, and the last ten years in Southern Africa. Prior to his work with the Alliance, Mr. Parker was the Town Clerk/CEO of the City of Manzini in Swaziland for four years and was the first Director of Urban Government in the Swaziland Ministry of Housing and Urban Development from 1993-1996. His work in Australia included nine years as a Chief Executive in a local authority and two years as a Council Clerk in a remote aboriginal community.

Mr. Parker's involvement with the Alliance and AMICAALL began when he was working as the Town Clerk in Manzini. He was instrumental in preparing and organizing the launch of the Alliance in Swaziland, setting up the Municipal HIV/AIDS Team in Manzini and supporting the start up of the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme. He worked closely with the then mayor of Manzini, Ms. Fikile Mthembu, who is currently Executive Secretary of the Alliance.

Colleagues at UN APP, who worked closely with Mr. Parker, are especially appreciative of his role in the development of the Alliance and AMICAALL country activities. UN APP Director, Ms. Mina Mauerstein-Bail commented, "Terry's first-hand knowledge of local government and tireless work on behalf of the Alliance made a huge contribution to the expansion and success of the Alliance and AMICAALL activities. He set up excellent management and financial systems at the Secretariat and established the Alliance as a reputable international NGO, garnering grants from the Government of Netherlands and World Bank. We wish Terry well, but he certainly will be missed." At a farewell to Terry organized during the September meeting of the Alliance Coordinating Committee, held in Dar-Es-Salaam, members of the Coordinating Committee and other colleagues, expressed their thanks and gratitude to Terry for his outstanding contribution to the work of the Alliance. Alliance Coordinator, Salim Kissauji, thanked Terry for his

"grace under pressure" and his "strong sense of duty and dedication to his work".

Mr. Parker is departing Namibia to move closer to his native Australia and his family. He has taken a position in the Regional Local Government Capacity Building Program in Fiji. Mr. Alfred Mndzebele, from Swaziland, is taking over as the Administrative Manager at the Alliance Secretariat and as an UN APP Associate.

Mr. Mndzebele comes with solid and varied experience in social and economic development, governance, monitoring and evaluation. He has worked with the UN and NGO sector. Alfred was also instrumental in the early development of AMICAALL Swaziland. The Alliance is pleased to welcome Alfred and wishes him all success in his new functions.



(from left to right) Mr Alfred Mndzebele, incumbent Administrative Manager of the Alliance Secretariat with Mr. Terry Parker former Administrative Manager of the Alliance Secretariat.

*continued from page 1*

This historic event was the culmination of an initiative which began with the Forum on HIV/AIDS Policy and Advocacy Dialogue for Local Authorities held in May 2003, supported by the Kenya National AIDS Control Council, UNDP, Kenya AIDS NGO Consortium, USAID Policy Project and UN AMICAALL

Partnership Programme. The Forum provided information on the various dimensions of local HIV/AIDS responses, and as a result several recommendations were made, including the ALGAK Declaration on HIV/AIDS. Integrated in the Declaration was a commitment to join the Alliance and to establish an

AMICAALL Programme.

The Kenya Chapter is the second largest to join the Alliance. A total of 175 local authorities in Kenya committed to join the Alliance by unanimously embracing the ALGAK Declaration on HIV/AIDS.

### Coordinating Committee:

Coordinator: Mayor Salim Kassim Kisauji, Tanga  
First Deputy Co-coordinator: Mayor Zenabou Drabo, Ouagadougou

### Contributors:

Andrew O'Callaghan, PriceWaterhouse Coopers, Ireland  
Margo Kelly, UNAPP Consultant  
Mina Mauerstein-Bail, UNAPP, Director

Terry Parker, Alliance Secretariat, Acting Administrator, Windhoek, Namibia

**Production:** Sheba Okwenje

**Design:** ATAR Roto Presse

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

## UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCLG) CONGRESS - PARIS 2-5 MAY 2004

The UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme (UN APP) was invited by UCLG to organise a panel on HIV/AIDS and Local Government. Funding for the panel was generously provided by STOP AIDS NOW! and VNG International. Presentations were made by mayors and local government leaders from Africa, Latin America, Netherlands, France and the US. Recommendations from the panel called for greater support to local government to confront HIV/AIDS in cities, towns and villages, the expansion of

city-to-city cooperation and strengthening decentralised responses to the epidemic. The theme of the 2004 UCLG Congress was "Cities, Local Governments: The Future of Development". The Congress consisted of three high-level plenary sessions and fifteen workshops on issues such as city diplomacy, the multicultural city, women in local government, financing local government and local strategies to tackle HIV/AIDS. UCLG brings together the global networks of its three founding members - the International Union

of Local Authorities, founded in 1913, the World Federation of United Cities, founded in 1957, and Metropolis, founded in 1984. Representing over half the world's population, the UCLG city and association members are present in over 120 countries. During the closing session, Elisabeth Gateau, Secretary General of UCLG, noted that this was the first time that HIV/AIDS was included on the agenda of this Congress. More information on the Congress can be found at: [www.cities-localgovernments.org](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org)

## WORLD ALLIANCE OF CITIES AGAINST POVERTY (WACAP)

The Alliance was invited to make a presentation at the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) Conference held in March of this year, in Rome, Italy. WACAP is an international information exchange network and provides a forum for sharing best practices on municipal poverty reduction policies and programmes. This year the Conference focused on the contribution of cities to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Alliance

was represented by His Worship J. Ssebana Kizito, Mayor of Kampala and a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa. He cautioned that in Africa it will not be possible to achieve the MDGs without turning the tide on HIV/AIDS. He called for international solidarity to mount a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS and said it was time to move from setting goals and developing strate-

gies to putting in place operational systems to support services that reach people and communities. He shared examples of innovative actions being taken by local governments, mayors and municipal leaders to expand HIV/AIDS related services and programmes at the local level and encouraged more local governments and local government associations to join the Alliance and to do more and better in confronting HIV/AIDS in their cities and towns.

## XV INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE BANGKOK 11-16 JULY 2004

### THE VISION



The XV International AIDS Conference links community and science to galvanize the world's response to HIV/AIDS through increased commitment, leadership and accountability.

**Commitment:** Over the years, knowledge gained from basic, clinical and social research has been critical in its contribution to greatly increasing the life expectancy and quality of life of affected and infected persons. Moreover, prevention efforts have succeeded in reducing the rate of new infections in

many populations around the world, though there is still much work to be done. As a result, it is now clearer than ever that progress in the fight against this pandemic will depend not only on scientific developments, educational programs and community support, but on a commitment to act globally.

**Leadership:** At the highest political levels, the magnitude and impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic is falling out of focus as the world responds to terrorism, war and a poor economy. The funding for many HIV/AIDS programs have shifted with the focus. To counter this, the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS) Declaration of Commitment secured a global commitment from world leaders to enhance and intensify national, regional and international efforts to combat HIV/AIDS in a comprehensive manner. The leaders of the world will report on their country's progress and participate in the Conference debates and deliberations.

**Accountability:** Twenty years of promises, and still the pandemic continues to escalate in many parts of the world, particularly among poor and vulnerable populations. Access to new diagnostic and therapeutic strategies is available to only an extremely small percentage of at-risk and affected people. The authors of the UNGASS Declaration of Commitment need to be asked what happened to the pledges. What goals have the 189 countries met? What have developing countries and their partners done to scale-up successful community-based programs? What new drugs have pharmaceutical companies brought within the reach of the millions who need them? What progress has been made since the Barcelona Conference in 2002? Bringing the question of accountability forward will stimulate all into action.

Statement taken from the official XV AIDS Conference website: [www.AIDS2004.org](http://www.AIDS2004.org)

## BRIDGING THE HIV/AIDS IMPLEMENTATION GAP

**M. Mauerstein-Bail**, UN-AMICAALL  
Partnership Programme/Geneva, Switzerland

### Summary

The growing implementation gap between HIV/AIDS planning and action must be bridged to enable scaling up of current responses to the epidemic. Local government, working with civil society, can play a critical role in bridging this gap. Increasing decentralisation and urbanisation have meant that local governments in Africa are assuming more development responsibilities. The Alliance of Mayors' Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL) is an example of how local governments, mayors and municipal leaders, in partnership with civil society, are mobilising support for decentralised action on HIV/AIDS. Sufficient investment is needed at municipal levels to build and enhance local government capacity, including management systems for expanding and sustaining community-based HIV/AIDS services and programmes.

### Introduction

Despite the proliferation of national HIV/AIDS strategies, central coordination mechanisms and increased funding in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), there is still a huge 'implementation gap.' This can be defined as the difference between planning and resources that exist at the national level compared to management systems, human resources capacity and services available at the local government and community levels. As the epidemic continues to rage on in SSA, with 30 million now infected with the virus and over 2

million deaths in 2003 according to UNAIDS, bridging this implementation gap will be critical to reversing the tide of the epidemic and mitigating its impact on vulnerable groups, such as children and youth orphaned by AIDS.

### Building Capacity

In the last few years, there has been a growing international consensus about the gravity and need for addressing HIV/AIDS as part of an overall development agenda. For example, the Millennium Development Goals, a collective framework for international action, specifically targets reversing the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Furthermore, it is evident that the epidemic is interrelated with other development issues, such as poverty, gender, equity and economic growth.

At the same time, increasing resources (though still inadequate) are being provided to SSA, and other resource poor, countries through initiatives such as the United Nations Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the United States Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Resources are being targeted to critical areas, such as prevention, care and support, treatment and reducing the impact on those most vulnerable. The need to build capacity, especially at the local level, to implement such programmes and activities, is critical. Without this, the implementation gap will continue to widen.

### The Role of Local Government

The public sector, specifically local government, has a key role to play in the response to HIV/AIDS and, until recently, has been largely neglected by national governments and development agencies. Increasing trends of decentralisation and urbanisation have meant that local governments in Africa are assuming more development responsibilities. There is a need for countries to move from national goals and strategies to systems and services that reach people and communities. For this to happen, local-level capacity to manage and support scale up and expansion of services is needed.

Mobilising and supporting a local government/community-based response to HIV/AIDS is proving to be a successful means to bridging this implementation gap. The Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa, a network of local government authorities, mayors and municipal leaders, is building local leadership, capacity and systems at the local level, working in partnership with central governments, civil society and the private sector. The Alliance promotes actions that contribute to limiting the spread of HIV and alleviating the social and economic impact of the epidemic.

The Alliance of Mayors' Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at the Local Level (AMICAALL) was developed to translate the goals of the Alliance into concrete actions in cities, towns and villages. Through AMICAALL, local govern-

ment leaders, municipal authorities and civil society organisations promote local leadership and ownership and enhance local capacity to identify priorities, develop action plans and expand needed HIV/AIDS services. This is in the context of supporting national HIV/AIDS policies, programmes and decentralisation. Eleven countries have joined the Alliance and are implementing AMICAALL programmes.

In Namibia, the AMICAALL Programme is working with international development partners, the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, the Organisation for Educational Resources and Technology Training Cooperation (ORTTC) and local partners to implement a Skills, Opportunities, Self Reliance (SOS) youth development programme in three towns. SOS provides support for vocational training, youth development and community development. Through acquiring practical skills and other support, these vulnerable young people become better equipped to earn a living and contribute to society. With over 10 million children and young people orphaned by AIDS in SSA, and these numbers rapidly increasing, there is need for wide scale expansion of youth development initiatives such as SOS.

In Swaziland, the AMICAALL Programme has developed a home-based care initiative. Being one of the most heavily affected countries in the world, Swaziland's formal healthcare system is being overwhelmed by HIV/AIDS. Consequently, patients still in need of facility-based care are often discharged to family members who are unable to provide the required care. To fill this gap, the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme is working with retired nurses to train and supervise community volunteers who can provide this needed home-based care. This is an example of a local government-supported initiative that works in partnership and builds on community resources to bridge an identified gap in HIV/AIDS services.

### Challenges and Opportunities

Mayors and municipal leaders in the Alliance are seeing the need for innovative funding that moves away from old models that are vertical and driven by goals of external agencies. They are advocating for funding that is more flexible—so it can respond to needs at the local level. Resources are needed to help build capacity at the municipal level in order to be responsive to the realities and desires of the people and communities.

There is more funding for HIV/AIDS today. However, it will be important to monitor how funds are being used to encourage local action and operational collaboration between local government and civil society. Critical activities, identified by AMICAALL programmes, that need more resourcing include: scale up of existing local government HIV/AIDS initiatives, enhanced capacity at the local level to access

### QUOTES FROM THE XV INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE, BANGKOK 11-16 JULY 2004

1. "Without strong local ownership there is no chance - dealing with AIDS you cannot impose it from the outside." - *Peter Piot*
2. "What we all need is a strong and steady flow of resources to foster both existing and potential efforts" - *HIV/AIDS Alliance*
3. "Visibility and empowerment of people living with HIV/AIDS is absolutely required if HIV is to be defeated, because without seeing HIV it will be impossible to tackle. But people will get tested when the benefits of knowing their HIV status outweigh the negative aspects of that knowledge. Therefore, if a person believes or feels that she or he is going to be stigmatised at home, at work or in her or his community, why would she or he go for testing?" - *HDN Correspondents Team*

and use data for planning and priority setting, better monitoring and reporting systems to track progress, transparent and accountable management systems to support scaling up of coordinated local services and programs and enhanced capacity to access resources at local, national and international levels

### Lessons Learned

To bridge the implementation gap, more resources are needed to enhance capacity development and service delivery at the local level, which reflect local needs and realities. Factors which facilitate effective and sustained responses to HIV/AIDS at the local level include: 1) an enabling

policy environment, especially at the national level; 2) local government leadership and ownership and strong partnerships between local government and civil society organisations/community groups; 3) enhanced municipal management systems and human resources capacity; 4) mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS within the local government agenda; and 5) transparency of administrative and financial systems, coupled with effective monitoring and evaluation.

### Conclusion

Based on the AMICAALL experience in numerous countries, and increasing interest from development partners, the authors recommend

scaling up decentralised responses to HIV/AIDS which build the capacity of local authorities and civil society partners to develop, implement and sustain community-based HIV/AIDS programmes and services. Such efforts will require a more integrated approach to HIV/AIDS-related programming and funding, with additional resources being channeled to local development partners (e.g., local government and civil society organisations) in ways which promote collaboration, coordination and transparency.

This abstract was accepted in the Proceeding for IV International AIDS Conference that was held in Bangkok, Thailand in July 2004 and was subsequently published.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WORLD AIDS DAY

1st December 2004

<http://www.unaids.org/en/events/world+aids+day+2004.asp>

### United States Conference on AIDS 2004 (USCA)

Philadelphia, 21-24 October 2004

### 2ND AFRICAN YOUTH SUMMIT ON HIV/AIDS

Abuja, 1 – 6 November 2004

### 14th International Conference on AIDS/STIS in Africa (ICASA)

January, 2005

<http://www.icasa2005.org/>

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Alliance of Mayors Secretariat • P.O. Box 60401 Katutura, Windhoek, Namibia • TEL: (+264) 61 224730  
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## NOTEBOOK

### US Global AIDS Coordinator Discusses the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief at the 72nd Annual Conference of Mayors, June 2004

At the 72nd Annual Conference of Mayors, which took place in June 2004 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, Ambassador Randall Tobias, the US Global AIDS Coordinator was invited to make the opening remarks. Ambassador Tobias began his statement with an analogy of the loss resulting from HIV/AIDS: "Well, imagine waking up one morning, turning on the radio and hearing that twenty 747s around the world, each fully loaded with 400 passengers, had crashed, killing everyone aboard. Imagine what a devastating shock such a tragedy would be. Even if no one from your city was among the victims, imagine the grief there would be. Then imagine waking up the next morning and hearing that the exact same tragedy had happened again, and waking up the morning after that, and the morning after that – every day, infact and hearing that 20 jet airliners had crashed, leaving no survivors ... Believe it or not, that is the toll AIDS takes everyday around the world."

Ambassador Tobias commended the Mayors on the work they had done in the response to HIV/AIDS within their communities, and on the steps they were taking to become part of the global response to the epidemic. He emphasized that a successful response to HIV/AIDS must have many facets such as reducing stigma, making testing available and providing drugs, but it must also include strong leadership on the national level and community level.

[www.amicaall.org](http://www.amicaall.org)

The AMICAALL Ukraine Programme website has been launched, it can be accessed at: [www.amicaall.org/ukraine](http://www.amicaall.org/ukraine)