



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

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EDITORIAL



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co-founder of the
Alliance

Next year will mark the 10th anniversary of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa. It has been a challenging period and a race against time since the Alliance

was officially launched at the Affricities Summit, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in January 1998. During this period we have seen infection rates rise and poverty deepen. We have also witnessed the growing impact of the epidemic on the development process, along with the subsequent opportunity costs associated with increased spending on mitigating HIV and AIDS, as opposed to investment in education and sectors focused on uplifting the living standards of the poor in Africa. Growing numbers of orphans have assumed increased responsibilities as they struggle to survive and ensure the survival of their loved ones, from parenting their siblings, to engaging in various forms of income generating activities. The face of HIV and AIDS has also become increasingly young and feminine.

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STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

Stigma and discrimination have a negative impact on every aspect of the response to HIV—from prevention to care and treatment through to impact mitigation. Tackling HIV and AIDS-related stigma and discrimination is therefore critical to an effective response to the epidemic.

Stigma often leads to the discrimination of not only those living with HIV, but also their families. Discrimination against people living with HIV is a violation of human rights and can occur at a number of different levels including: political, economic, social, psychological and institutional.

Numerous factors contribute to the stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV and AIDS. A climate of ignorance and fear has pervaded the epidemic since its onset, fuelled, in particular, by a lack of understanding of the modes of HIV transmission. Stigma has also derived from the association of HIV with sex, disease and death, and with behaviours that may be illegal, forbidden or taboo, such as sex work, sex between men and injecting drug use. HIV infection has often been

perceived as a result of personal irresponsibility and consequently an affliction believed to bring shame upon the family or community.

"Could we not start to stigmatise the social conditions and the gender violence that makes people so vulnerable?"

Anonymous

HIV-related stigma and discrimination has proven to be one of the greatest barriers to dealing effectively with the epidemic, both in terms of treatment and in preventing the spread of HIV. Where stigma exists, people often prefer to ignore their possible HIV status, consequently risking faster disease progression and perhaps spreading the HIV virus to others.

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STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

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People living with HIV/AIDS who are open about their status can often find themselves denied entitlements such as health services and employment. All these factors contribute to increased inequalities and vulnerabilities within societies and they serve to reinforce and strengthen existing prejudices associated with gender, sexuality and race.

One of the first steps towards addressing fear, stigma and discrimination is to promote education and knowledge of HIV. It is also important to promote hope and to spread the message that people living with HIV can continue to contribute to society.

Local government authorities are well positioned to promote coordinated responses to HIV-related stigma and discrimination at the community level. They can also play an important role in facilitating greater cooperation between local government structures and non-

state actors, and in coordination and coherence of responses at the local level.

Steps are being taken by UNESCO and UN AMI-CAALL Partnership Programme, in collaboration with UNAIDS, UNDP, the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS, International Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination and other partners, to launch an initiative to identify and assess current efforts to promote coordinated responses to HIV-related stigma and discrimination at the local government and community levels. This initiative aims to identify gaps and provide opportunities to enhance efforts to address HIV-related fear, stigma and discrimination. Activities will initially focus on four cities in Africa. A mapping out exercise will build on an extensive body of knowledge and experience of HIV stigma and discrimination. It will also identify concrete ways and means by which to address HIV-related stigma and discrimination at municipal and community levels.

STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION: POINTS OF REFERENCE

UNAIDS:

<http://www.unaids.org>

UNAIDS: Stigma and Discrimination

http://www.unaids.org/en/Issues/Prevention_treatment/stigma.asp

UNAIDS / UNICEF: Protocol for the identification of discrimination against people living with HIV

One of the objectives of National AIDS Programmes (NAPs) is to reduce the personal and social impact of HIV infection, including discrimination against those living with or suspected of having HIV and AIDS. This Protocol seeks to further that objective by providing a tool for measuring arbitrary discrimination in a range of key areas in everyday life.

http://data.unaids.org/Publications/IRC-pub01/JC295-Protocol_en.pdf

The Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+): A toolkit for the reduction of HIV related Stigma

The IFRC, in collaboration with UNAIDS and GNP+, recently produced an electronic resource document, gathering multiple publications on stigma and discrimination. The double-CD-Rom provides information on how to use the Truth about Aids Campaign, and provides background documents on for example, harm reduction and HIV workplace programmes.

<http://www.gnpplus.net/cms/article.php?story=20051130181824308&query=workplace>

POLICY Project:

The POLICY Project's work in Africa is intended to strengthen and sustain family planning programs, improve maternal health, and prevent the spread and mitigate the effects of HIV and AIDS.

<http://www.policyproject.com/>

STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION: POINTS OF REFERENCE (*continued...*)

⚡ POLICY Project. Working Together Towards Greater Acceptance: National Consultative Workshop on HIV and AIDS Stigma
Department of Health, South Africa (October 2005)

This report summarizes the National Consultative Workshop on HIV and AIDS Stigma in South Africa. The aim of the workshop was to prevent the further spread of HIV and AIDS and mitigate its devastating impact on the South African population by devising a cohesive and achievable national response to HIV and AIDS-related stigma.

<http://www.policyproject.com/abstract.cfm/2760>

⚡ POLICY Project. Breaking the Cycle: Stigma, Discrimination, Internal Stigma, and HIV

Ken Morrison (January, 2006)

This paper reviews the present understanding of HIV-related stigma and discrimination as they relate to vulnerability and suggests approaches for stigma reduction. It explores and examines what constitutes HIV-related stigma and discrimination, what effects they have on behavior and HIV responses, and what we can do to reduce them.

http://www.policyproject.com/pubs/generalreport/Breaking_the_Cycle.pdf

⚡ POLICY Project. A Closer Look: The Internalization of Stigma Related to HIV

Pierre Brouard and Caroline Wills (January, 2006)

Internal stigma is the product of the internalization of shame, blame, hopelessness, guilt, and fear of discrimination associated with being HIV-positive. This document explores the difference between internal and external stigma, the contributing factors, and potential ways of addressing stigma, including indicators and steps to empowerment.

http://www.policyproject.com/pubs/generalreport/Internal_Stigma.pdf

⚡ POLICY Project. Can We Measure HIV/AIDS-Related Stigma and Discrimination? Current Knowledge About Quantifying Stigma in Developing Countries

Laura Nyblade and Kerry MacQuarrie (January 2006)

This report suggests ways to begin the process of quantitatively measuring HIV-related stigma in an effort to help practitioners, policymakers and donors evaluate their programmes.

<http://www.policyproject.com/pubs/generalreport/Measure%20HIV%20Stigma.pdf>

⚡ CHANGE Project. Understanding and Challenging HIV Stigma: A Toolkit for Action

A toolkit produced by the [AED CHANGE](#) project and the International Center for Research on Women gives community groups, educators and nongovernmental organizations in Africa ways to address HIV and AIDS-related stigma.

http://www.aidsalliance.org/custom_asp/publications/view.asp?publication_id=255 (english)

⚡ The International HIV/AIDS Alliance. Regional stigma training project

A Regional Stigma Training Project is being conducted by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in sub-Saharan Africa. The project aims to reduce stigma and discrimination to enhance the scaling up of and access to HIV prevention, treatment, care, and impact mitigation activities across national borders in the region.

<http://www.aidsalliance.org/sw45137.asp>

⚡ Eldis:

<http://www.eldis.org/hiv aids>

This is a development policy, practice and research website containing a resource guide with full-text articles on the impact of HIV and AIDS on issues regarding human rights, agrarian livelihoods, gender, etc.

Editorial (continued...)

Efforts to address the feminisation of the epidemic have fallen short. It is critical that steps be taken to review strategies and programmes to ensure that girls and women are protected and can better protect themselves. It is also important to ensure that men become more active partners, with women, to respond more effectively to this troubling pattern.

The past ten years have seen many changes and paradigm shifts in the HIV and AIDS landscape. The ability to face these “challenges of change” has enabled the Alliance/AMICAALL to gain recognition as an effective HIV/AIDS tool of local government and as an increasingly important stakeholder in the response to the epidemic in Africa. This recognition is further attested to by the numerous partnerships and cooperation agreements that the Alliance has entered into with multilateral and bilateral agencies, associations of local government, foundations, financial institutions, NGOs, the private sector and other institutions. An increasing number of national associations of local government in Africa have expressed their interest in joining the Alliance and setting up HIV and local governance programmes. Tribute must also be given to those who have parented the Alliance/AMICAALL and committed themselves to the success of this initiative from its inception up to the current day.

It is perhaps useful at this stage to remember the basic tenets of the Alliance. The Alliance is a political and technical network of mayors, municipal leaders and local government institutions throughout Africa, dedicated, in solidarity, to the promotion of effective, multi-sectoral responses to the epidemic at the local level. It is also intended to complement national AIDS policies and strategies. The Alliance is a non-governmental organization, spearheaded by local government leaders in Africa, working in partnership with civil society and numerous other organisations. Its guiding strategy reflects principles of inclusion, participation, partnership, accountability and gender sensitivity. Today, thirteen chapters of the Alliance have been set up in East, West, Central and Southern Africa, and over 200 municipalities have initiated action on AIDS at the local level.

The Alliance Secretariat facilitates advocacy, networking, information exchange, partnership development and targeted support to national AMICAALL programmes. The Technical Standing Committee, open to partners and donors, has been critical in providing technical support on programme direction to the Secretariat and a Coordinating Committee has been charged with the political and administrative oversight of the Alliance. The current work of the Alliance is guided by a Strategic Plan, to be reviewed in the coming year.

As the Alliance looks to the future, we are reminded of the fact that at the end of 2006, some 40 million people were living with HIV and AIDS, of which 30 million were in sub-Saharan Africa. If a cure for HIV were to be found today, the implications of the epidemic would still be felt for generations to come. One of the greatest dangers we face is complacency, coupled with resignation and the distraction of competing causes. We are also faced with other challenges such as global warming, persistent poverty and poor health systems. It is within this context that HIV must continue to be addressed as a priority, to ensure that steps are taken to address the social, economic and developmental devastation linked to the impact of HIV and AIDS. Existing resources must be better used and reach more and more people at the local level.

The expansion of the Alliance is a testimony to the leadership of local authorities in Africa and the increasing role they play in tackling HIV at the municipal and community levels. It is an ongoing challenge to ensure that municipalities and communities work together strategically and complement each others efforts.

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Editorial (*continued...*)

Another challenge faced by the Alliance/AMICAALL network is the issue of long term funding. Resource mobilisation has been successful at both national and regional levels, however, the funding is often of short-term duration. This, in turn has implications for the retention of human resources and thus, programme impact. Resource mobilization at both national and regional levels therefore remains an important challenge for the Alliance/AMICAALL network. The Alliance/AMICAALL cannot carry out resource mobilisation by itself and relies on the support of its partners. We are particularly pleased that a growing number of national and local governments as well as the local private sector have and are supporting the work of the Alliance/AMICAALL. We are also grateful for the support received from UN partners, the Government of the Netherlands, the World Bank, USAID and others. We hope to be able to expand our partnership development and resource mobilisation efforts in the future.

In conclusion, let me say that it has been a great honour to work with the Alliance/AMICAALL network and its many partners; those who have been there since we formally launched the Alliance in 1998, the permanent Secretariat in 2002 and those who will carry on the mantle of dedication, perseverance and humility to serve our communities. It is my hope that I will be there to celebrate the 20th anniversary with you and that at that time we will all be able to say that “we made a difference”.

“Any weakening of our efforts would jeopardize even the hard won gains of these past years...”

*Peter Piot,
Executive Director, UNAIDS
Abuja, 04 May 2006*

WOMEN AND HIV

« Feminisation of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic »

Measures to effectively address HIV and AIDS must take into account the issue of gender. According to UNAIDS (2006), HIV prevalence rates in sub-Saharan Africa are much higher for women than men, with nearly 60% of the adults infected being women. This disparity is even more noticeable among young females aged between 15-27 where



the risk of infection is 3 to 4 times higher among young women than among young men of the same age. These disparities reveal a "feminisation of the HIV epidemic". Programmes targeting women, however, must embrace men as partners to promote social structures that are more supportive of women.

Physiological differences make women more vulnerable than men to HIV infection. Women also face significant social and cultural challenges. These vary from country to country and region to region. Other factors which put women at risk include: lack of access to education and information, poverty, violence against

women, inequalities in property and inheritance rights and other social and economic inequalities. National governments and international development partners have committed themselves to addressing the issue of women and HIV more aggressively. However, much remains to be done, especially at the community level, to provide a more enabling legal, social and economic environment for women and girls.

Increasingly local authorities are taking up the challenges of HIV and AIDS and trying to ensure that HIV-related services are expanded in the communities they serve. Municipal level HIV action plans increasingly include specific actions on women and HIV. For example, AMICAALL Cameroon has developed a local toolkit on "Empowering Women to Con-

front HIV/AIDS" and community-based facilitators are being trained to use the toolkit as part of ongoing efforts to sensitize the entire community about HIV and in particular, women and HIV. In Côte d'Ivoire, the national AMICAALL programme has facilitated a workshop to support the development of municipal plans that integrate gender issues into HIV and AIDS programmes and AMICAALL Burkina Faso has organised a series of workshops on mother-to-child transmission.

"All AIDS strategies should pass the test: does this work for women?"

Dr. Peter Piot,
Executive Director
UNAIDS

Women and HIV/AIDS: Points of Reference

The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS

The UNAIDS-led Global Coalition on Women and AIDS was established in 2004 to respond to the increasing feminization of the AIDS epidemic and a growing concern that existing AIDS strategies did not adequately address women's needs.

A loose alliance of civil society groups, networks of women living with HIV, and United Nations agencies, the Coalition works at global and national levels to advocate for improved AIDS programming for women and girls. The Coalition website has a series of interesting publications and tools addressing issues relating to women and HIV.

<http://womenandaids.unaids.org/>

Gender and HIV/AIDS Electronic Library on CD-ROM

UNIFEM, with support from UNAIDS, has released a Gender and HIV and AIDS Electronic Library on CD-ROM that compiles resources from this Web Portal. It includes research and studies, training resources and tools, and multimedia advocacy materials on the gender dimensions of the HIV epidemic produced by a variety of organizations.

To obtain a copy, please send a request to unifem@genderandaids.org or go to <http://www.genderandhiv.org/>

Positive women monitoring change: A monitoring tool on access to care, treatment and support sexual and reproductive health and rights and violence against women created by and for HIV positive women - International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW)

This tool aims to explore the realities of HIV-positive women's lives, including young HIV positive women (aged 18-30), whose voices are consistently left unheard in decision making forums, and whose rights, concerns and needs both differ from those of older women and are usually overlooked. The tool intends to provide a platform for the voices of other marginalised women, such as disabled women and sex workers. Thus the first section of the tool looks at positive women's knowledge and awareness of rights and issues that concern them in the three areas mentioned above (ACTS, SRR and VAW), but also their lived experiences of putting or attempting to put that knowledge into practice, and the challenges that they face in doing so.

<http://www.icw.org/files/monitoringchangetool-designed.doc>

Gender and HIV/AIDS: Guidelines for Integrating a Gender Focus into NGO Work on HIV/AIDS

The first step for agencies planning to undertake work on HIV and AIDS in the community must be to train staff to enable them to work more sensitively and effectively at community level. This guide provides a framework for analysis to help identify links, and facilitate discussions, into gender relations and social/economic/political processes that increase the vulnerability of different community members to HIV and AIDS.

<http://www.acordinternational.org/index.php/articles/154>

SWAZILAND REACHES OUT TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS HIV and AIDS

Christmas and World AIDS Day in Matsapha Municipality



Mr. Rudolph Maziya,
AMICAALL Swaziland
Coordinator

World AIDS Day Celebrations

December 1st marked World AIDS Day, an event commemorated worldwide. AMICAALL Swaziland took part in commemorating this special day. The theme was STOP AIDS KEEP THE PROMISE. The event was held at the Mavuso Trade

Centre and approximately 500 people came to the AMICAALL Swaziland stand. Activities for the day included dissemination of information about the AMICAALL Programme and HIV and AIDS along with face painting for about 300 young school children between the ages of 6 and 18. People visiting the stand were encouraged to make promises that they would keep, such as taking steps to prevent HIV infection and ensuring they would not allow the spread of the deadly virus. The activity proved to be a success and a total of 119 people made promises.

Candles were also lit in the municipal office on a daily basis and prayers conducted every morning. Staff members and visitors to the office made use of a memory box in which they dropped their promises and pledges on how best to curb the epidemic. Three hundred cards, with the theme STOP AIDS KEEP THE PROMISE, were given out to the general public with the intention of renewing hope and commitment in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Many promised to be faithful to one partner. Other promises focused on positive living, knowing one's status by visiting voluntary counselling and testing centres, and educating others. As a grand finale to the World AIDS Day campaign, a charity dinner was held at Esibayeni Lodge in collaboration with JB, a Gospel artist. The speaker for the event was the Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Mabili Dlamini.

Christmas Party with Orphans and Vulnerable Youth

In early December 2006, 2400 children from 10 care points in the towns of Mbabane and Manzini, together with children from the Madonsa care point and Gigi's place situated at ka Khoza, attended a pre-Christmas party organised with the support of AMICAALL Swaziland and other groups. The children participated in drama activities and games including a treasure hunt, tug of war, egg races with water balloons, hoola hoop, jumping castle and face painting. The keynote speaker was Mr. Mabuza who represented the Manzini City Council. He thanked the organisations for hosting this activity and noted the sad fact that many homesteads are now headed by young children. He emphasised the importance of taking care of orphaned and vulnerable children as they are the country's future leaders.



Promoting Hope and Inclusion on Valentine's Day

A number of Valentine's Day activities were held on the 14 and 16 February 2007 at the Cheshire Homes (care centre), Matsapha prison and at Matsapha Town Board conference room. These activities focused on promoting hope, compassion and addressing fear and discrimination. Fruit baskets and roses were given to patients at Cheshire Home and inmates at Matsapha central prison. The motivational speaker was Pastor Mbingo who addressed 30 members of a support group of People Living with HIV and AIDS. The patients at Cheshire homes and Matsapha prison clinic expressed their thanks and joy for having not been discriminated against on Valentine's Day. They noted this activity was the first of its kind.

AMICAALL Swaziland reaches out to the public to address HIV/AIDS (*continued*)

Christmas and World AIDS Day in Matsapha Municipality

Christmas Carols by Candlelight

Matsapha Municipality also organised Christmas carols by candlelight on 13 December 2006 at a local shopping complex. The event mobilised community members to come together through song and remember that there is hope in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Vusi Nxumalo from Swaziland AIDS Support Organisation (SASO), the guest speaker for the occasion,

talked about HIV and living positively. The AMICAALL Swaziland National Coordinator, Rudolph Maziya, was present and acknowledged the important work being done by towns in tackling HIV and AIDS. The Matsapha Town Board chairperson, Bongane Shongwe, made a presentation on behalf of the Municipal HIV Team. The event was well attended and received.

AMICAALL Burkina Faso



Mr Amidou Kabore,
AMICAALL Burkina
Faso
Coordinator

AMICAALL Burkina Faso moved ahead on planning, sensitisation, data collection and dissemination activities, as well as continuing efforts to ensure more effective links and collaboration with national-level efforts and the National AIDS Council. In addition, a 2007 workplan has been developed building on past achievements. Efforts are underway to identify resources and partners to ensure its effective implementation.

Race of Hope

As part of ongoing efforts to reach out to populations, communities and the public at large, AMICAALL Burkina Faso, together with mayors and local authorities in the country, and in collaboration with the Mayor and City of Eperany in France and other partners, organised a "Race of Hope - a 1,200 kilometre bicycle race across 22 provinces in Burkina Faso over 20 days. This race took place in February. Women living with HIV fully participated in this race and helped to address issues of HIV and gender, discrimination and living positively with the virus

6th Session of National AIDS Council

On 16 March 2007, as part of ongoing efforts to promote coordination and collaboration, AMICAALL Burkina Faso participated in and contributed to the 6th Session of the National AIDS Council. A particular focus of the collaboration was on the challenges of insufficient funding at the local level.

Municipal Profiles and Service Directories

AMICAALL Burkina Faso has facilitated the updating of 15 municipal profiles and 15 HIV services directories in the following municipalities: Ouagadougou (five communes), Bobo Dioulasso (three communes), Boussé, Fasa N'Gourma, Kaya, Kombissiri, Manga, Toma and Ziniaré. This exercise provided an opportunity to verify existing information and review the National AIDS Strategy with specific reference to decentralisation of responsibilities. It was also a chance to gain feedback from both local government authorities and civil society organisations on efforts to promote greater coordination and collaboration amongst all local actors.

AMICAALL Burkina Faso

Preventing Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV

At the beginning of 2007 AMICAALL Burkina Faso organised workshops dealing with mother-to-child transmission in the municipalities of Boussé, Dafra, Do, Konsa, Manga, Nongr-Masson and Ziniaré. The objective of these workshops was to support government approved efforts to combat HIV through the improvement of prevention methods against mother-to-child transmission.

The main objectives of the workshops included: reaching out to at least 210 women of child bearing age; improving knowledge of mother-to-child transmission; and distributing and promoting the correct usage of female condoms.

Participants reached through the workshops were mainly women of child-bearing age between 19 and 58 years old, although some men also attended. Par-

ticipants also included people living with HIV (PLWH) in certain municipalities.

Other issues addressed included: general information on HIV and AIDS and STDs; modes of transmission from mother to child; care and support for mothers; how to avoid the transmission of HIV from mother to child; how to treat children infected with HIV; and primary prevention methods for seronegative women.

The workshops reached 280 women and 19 men. All participants gained knowledge on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and 299 female and male condoms were distributed.

AMICAALL Cameroon



Ms. Annie-Michèle Salla Nzie,
AMICAALL Cameroon
Coordinator

Bamendjou municipality has been building on earlier efforts including the mobilisation of local partners, the assessment of information on the local HIV response, and the development of a municipal plan on HIV. Steps are now being taken to launch a municipal HIV education campaign that hopes to reach 50 percent of the population in this region by the end of 2007. The Bemendjou Municipal HIV Team is also working, with the provincial technical group of the National AIDS Programme (western province), to organise a free voluntary counselling and testing day at the local market which attracts a large number of people.

AMICAALL Cameroon

Community Toolkit: « Empowering Women to Confront AIDS»

AMICAALL Cameroon, in collaboration with UNDP, UN APP and local partners, has facilitated the development of two community-based toolkits. These were reviewed during a workshop held in Bemendjou Municipality, 8-11 May, 2007, that was jointly organised and financed by the municipality, UNDP, and other partners.

The toolkits provide information on numerous issues including: HIV prevention, treatment and support; women and HIV; and resource management and mobilisation. The toolkits also provide practical information on topics such as funding and organisational development to help communities expand their efforts to tackle HIV. A group of facilitators received training on implementing the toolkits at the community level.

One of the toolkits entitled, [Empowering Women to Confront HIV/AIDS](#), is particularly relevant when considering issues faced by women with HIV and AIDS. The toolkit is intended to be used during community discussions and meetings involving women's associations. It provides communities with key information that can then be used to strengthen the capacity of women affected by HIV. It also provides information on methods by which to empower women including concrete information on legal issues; fundraising activities; methods of project presentation; and financial sources. These toolkits are available on the AMICAALL website: www.amicaall.org

AMICAALL Côte d'Ivoire

AMICAALL Côte d'Ivoire Support Development of Municipal Plans that Integrate Gender Issues and HIV Activities



Ms. Francisca Brou
Coordinator Interim
AMICAALL Côte
d'Ivoire

In order to facilitate carrying out the National Strategic Plan 2006-2010, to strengthen a decentralised response and to coordinate efforts to address HIV and AIDS at the community level, the Ministry of AIDS (MOA) will organise, in collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS, UNDP and UNAIDS, a **workshop to support the development of municipal plans that integrate gender issues into HIV/AIDS activities.**

and to provide them with the required tools for operational planning (mainly by Results-based Management) in order to improve the quality and impact of HIV interventions and to integrate issues of gender. The main objectives of the workshop are to: strengthen the involvement of municipal authorities in the fight against AIDS at the local level; provide local actors with information on HIV and AIDS and gender in order to facilitate their recognition in community development plans; facilitate carrying out the National Strategic Plan 2006-2010 by mayors and municipal leaders; provide communities with planning and results-based management tools; and formulate a draft community development plan, subject to results based management, integrating gender and HIV and AIDS.

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The overall aim of this workshop is to familiarise decentralised entities with a new intervention framework

(continued...)

The workshop will be held in Abidjan in July 2007 and will bring together mayors, members of the Municipal Information Units (MIU) on HIV/AIDS from 41 municipalities, facilitators of the Ivorian Coordinating Committee of the Alliance as well as experts from the Ministry of AIDS

(MOA), UNDP, UNAIDS, UNFPA and the Ministry of Family, Women and Children's Affairs. Preparation for this workshop was subject to the declaration of commitment of the Mayors of Côte d'Ivoire to address HIV and AIDS. This is available on the AMICAALL web-site www.amicaall.org.

AMICAALL Côte d'Ivoire

Expanding Municipal Responses to HIV

To enhance efforts to address HIV and AIDS at the municipal level, AMICAALL Côte d'Ivoire organised a workshop with mayors and local leaders on 13 March 2007. A number of organisations, with representation in Côte d'Ivoire, gave their support to this effort, including: UNDP, UNAIDS, UN Habitat, Family Health International, John Hopkins University and the University of Local Government in Côte d'Ivoire. The workshop provided an opportunity to reach out to 197 mayors and municipal leaders and share information about efforts to date. It also enabled those who attended to review the contribution of local authorities to achieving Millennium Development Goal Six (Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases) as it concerns HIV; to review and adopt the 2006-2010 Alliance Côte d'Ivoire Strategic Plan; and to promote the active engagement of more mayors and local authorities within the Alliance/AMICAALL network in the country.

The workshop was opened by Mr. Cheick Daniel Bamba, Minister of Local Government, accompanied by representatives of the Ministries of HIV/AIDS, State, Planning and Development, the Assembly of Districts and Departments in Côte d'Ivoire (ADDCI), Mayor Albert Francois Amichia, President of the Union of Cities and Municipalities of Côte d'Ivoire (UVICOCI). Also present were rep-

resentatives of international organisations, NGOs, and the private sector. In recognition of the key role that local government can play in response to HIV, and as part of a nation-wide effort, the participants agreed on specific key recommendations addressing challenges identified during the meeting. These focused on steps that should be taken to enhance efforts by local government to be more responsive to the challenges of HIV. They also recognised that for this to happen more effectively, increased support and collaboration at all levels – local, national, and international – is needed.

Specific recommendations included: encouraging all mayors to join the Alliance and play a leadership role on HIV and AIDS; enhancing the capacity of local authorities to respond to the challenge of HIV more effectively; addressing the lack of systematic data collection at the local level on HIV and indicators of change. In addition, there were recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the Ivorian Chapter of the Alliance, the Union of Ivorian Cities and Municipalities, central government, and partners at all levels. Following the workshop, 41 additional municipalities joined the Ivorian Alliance, bringing the total number to 81. There remain an additional 116 municipalities that have not yet formally joined the Alliance and taken on the challenge of HIV.



AMICAALL Kenya

Workshop to Enhance Local Capacity to Address HIV in Kitui County



Ms. Margaret Jobita,
AMICAALL Kenya
Coordinator

To enhance local capacity to respond to the HIV epidemic, AMICAALL Kenya and the Kitui County Council organised a workshop from 16-20 April 2007, in English and Kiswahili. The objective of the workshop was to share essential information on HIV and AIDS. Issues addressed included the impact of the epidemic at individual, family, community, and national levels; vulnerability of women to HIV; existing response strategies for prevention, care, treatment and support; and the roles and responsibilities of national and local governments. The workshop also provided an opportunity to update participants on the national AMICAALL programme and to explore ideas on how the county council can do more to tackle HIV and AIDS. Discussions focused on the following: HIV workplace policies; stigma and discrimination; the impact on women; orphans; cultural practices; partnerships and networking; resource mobilisation; and organisational development.

Nairobi City Council Launches HIV Workplace Programme

On Wednesday 18 March 2007, the Nairobi City Council launched its HIV workplace programme. Activities included a procession in the city of Nairobi. The Mayor of Nairobi, His Worship Dick Wathika, the Minister for Local Government, Hon. Musikari Kombo, Nairobi Town Clerk, Mr. John Gakuo, and AMICAALL National Coordinator, Ms. Margaret Jobita, were joined by hundreds of city employees and other groups to highlight the impact of HIV on municipal workforces and development. A tent was set up near the city hall to encourage and provide voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services.

A large number of city employees living with HIV spoke openly about their experiences, including the stigma and discrimination they have experienced. A study sponsored by the World Bank, a partner of AMICAALL, indicates that of the 13,300 city employees in Nairobi, approximately 3,000 are living with HIV and that every month, on average, four HIV-related deaths have been recorded among city employees during 2001-2005.

The impact of HIV on municipal services is considerable. Increasingly, local government authorities are recognising the need to set up HIV workplace programmes, provide support to employees who are living with HIV,

and address human and resource management implications of the epidemic on municipal activities. The Nairobi City Council has expressed a desire to mainstream HIV in its work and institute a municipal budget line to support HIV-related activities. Participants at the launch were informed that Mombassa City Council has also expressed its desire to launch an HIV workplace programme and to take steps to more effectively address HIV in its work.

The Minister of Local Government expressed his support for the vital work of AMICAALL Kenya, a local government initiative to enhance the capacities of local authorities to respond to HIV in collaboration with all local stakeholders. AMICAALL Kenya is also working to ensure that activities reflect local realities, communities' needs, and encourage more effective collaboration and coordination at all levels. Steps are also being taken to ensure that national level funding, via the National AIDS Commission, can be channelled to the local level and increase support and collaboration with municipalities and local government authorities. Efforts are also underway to enhance the ability of AMICAALL Kenya to respond to numerous requests from municipalities.

AMICAALL Mali

Municipal HIV Team in Tombouctou



Ms. Drabo Niangadou,
AMICAALL Mali
Coordinator

AMICAALL Mali facilitated the setting up and training of a Municipal HIV Team in Tombouctou, the city of 333 saints. This activity was undertaken with strong support and collaboration from the religious authorities, local government, and civil society organisations. Tombouctou has the distinction of having the lowest HIV prevalence rate in Mali at

0.8 percent. However, all local actors have recognised the importance of taking early action on AIDS as part of efforts to minimise the impact of the epidemic on their community. The Mayor of Tombouctou, Mr. Ousmane Halle, has called on all stakeholders in the town to take effective steps to address HIV. The national AMICAALL coordinator, Ms. Mah Drabo, together with resource persons from local NGOs (Action Mopti, DRAP, Wale, GZFB and AMAPROS), facilitated the workshop aimed at setting up and training the Tambouctou Municipal HIV Team. An important output of the workshop was a municipal HIV plan and its cost.



AMICAALL Mali is also assisting municipalities to access funding for their municipal HIV plans and recently took part in discussions with the National AIDS Council to explore ways and means of channelling funding through municipalities. Steps are currently being taken by the National AIDS Council to review existing funding procedures, to simplify them, and to ensure that municipalities will soon be able to access funding for decentralised action on AIDS.

The Mayor of Bamako, 703 mayors, 18 regional resource personnel, representatives from 12 municipal teams and female local counsellors took part in a day of advocacy.



National Coordinator, Ms. Drabo Niangadou, and the President of the Mali Alliance provide an explanation on the folders and how to use them



Local government participants attending HIV advocacy day in December, 2006

AMICAALL Namibia

Local Government and Communities Working Together

AMICAALL Namibia is developing a Community Capacity Enhancement (CCE) programme in collaboration with UNDP and numerous other groups. The focus of this initiative is on working with communities and municipal authorities to ensure that HIV and community concerns are considered in the planning, budgeting, and implementation of local government programmes. As part of CCE programme development, four regional consultative meetings were held in February 2007 with various community-level stakeholders.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Regional Local Government and Housing and Rural Development (MRLGHRD), AMICAALL Namibia organised the consultative meetings to discuss the CCE programme in four regions: Caprivi – a region with a high HIV prevalence and a cross border region; Erongo – a region with harbour towns; Kunene – a region with a low HIV prevalence; and Oshana – a commercial area. MRLGHRD regional offices and local authorities attended the meetings to discuss CCE.

Participants at the meetings were drawn from each region. They included representatives from: MRLGHRD, Ministry of Health and Social Services, Ministry of Agri-

culture, Ministry of Home Affairs, Namibian Association of Local Authority Officials, regional councils, Regional AIDS Coordinating Committees, municipal governments (e.g., mayors and councillors), NGOs, community-based organisations and faith-based organisations. The consultative meetings resulted in the selection of CCE pilot sites and the identification of a process for identifying the regional and community facilitators in each region.

The focus of CCE, as explained at the consultative meetings, is to facilitate better integration of community needs and realities. In particular, the focus is on efforts to scale up responses to the epidemic through community conversations, and subsequent input to local authorities for mainstreaming into local government operations. The CCE initiative and AMICAALL acknowledges that communities are not homogenous and thus try to promote a “safe space” where all members of the community (e.g., women, men, youth, people with disabilities, People Living with HIV, and people affected by HIV) can communicate openly about their challenges and identify strategies to overcome them. Through its collaboration with the CCE programme, and other AMICAALL activities, municipal leaders are ensuring that HIV is being addressed by local government in ways that are responsive to people and communities.

New National Coordinator

AMICAALL Namibia welcomes a new National Coordinator, Ms. Rachel Basirika.

AMICAALL Swaziland

Recreation Centre Launched in Piggs Peak

Approximately 200 people attended the launch of a recreational centre in Piggs Peak on 17 February 2007. The event took place at the Gobolondlo hall with the theme “Kicking HIV/AIDS Through Sports.” This was followed by a procession to the recreational site. Guests included: the Swaziland National Youth Centre Coordinator, Musa Dlamini, Piggs Peak Member of Parliament, Hlobisile Ndlovu, and representatives from the sports council and National AIDS Programme.

Private Sector Support to Activities Promoted by AMICAALL Swaziland

On 23 February 2007, the Swaziland Electricity Board gave 110,311 Euros to AMICAALL Swaziland for the completion of nine soup kitchens across four towns—Hlathikhulu, Ngwenya, Nhlanganano and Piggs Peak. Construction of the soup kitchens in these sites had halted due to lack of funds. The AMICAALL Swaziland resource mobilisation committee is thankful to the Swaziland Electricity Board for its generous support.

Enhancing the Capacity of AMICAALL Managers

Four Swazi AMICAALL Managers attended a Management and Administration course on HIV and AIDS in Africa in February 2007. This is part of an effort to enhance management and administrative skills to respond to the challenges of HIV, and fill a gap that has been identified. Following this one-month, mid-level training course, programme and project leaders should be better equipped to carry out their work.

AMICAALL Uganda

Local and District Councils Working Together



Dr. John B. Mugisa,
AMICAALL Uganda
Coordinator

AMICAALL Uganda is working to enhance collaboration between local and district councils through the establishment of Town Council AIDS Taskforces. The objective of these units is to ensure an effective and harmonised response to HIV and AIDS through work with all levels of the district. Three urban councils, Apac in the north and Kyenjo and Kagadi in the west, have been assisted to establish Town Council AIDS Taskforces. Members come from a diverse range of sectors and include key political and civil district leaders, civil society organisation representatives, and cultural leaders. Following the establishment of AIDS Taskforces two urban councils have drafted project proposals and enthusiasm for community HIV/AIDS initiatives has improved. Local and district councils increasingly recognise the importance of increased discussion and collaboration.

AMICAALL UGANDA has also participated in a joint monitoring exercise, held in Masinda and Lira District, conducted by the UNDP and The Ministry of Finance and Planning. As an implementing partner, AMICAALL Uganda participated in the exercise. The purpose was to assess the progress of programmes, identify challenges, and make recommendations for policy decisions.

ADVOCACY AND SHARING INFORMATION

Regional Workshop on HIV and AIDS and Gender

The Municipal Development Partnership for East and Southern Africa (MDP-ESA) organised a three-day regional workshop on HIV and AIDS and gender in Harare, Zimbabwe from 21-23 March 2007. Funding for the event was provided by the Federation for Canadian Municipalities (FCM). A review of the literature on women and HIV in seven countries was prepared for discussion

at the workshop. Invitees included the executive secretary of the Alliance Secretariat, the AMICAALL Coordinator in Kenya as well as representatives of local government associations from a number of countries including Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland and Tanzania and other organisations engaged in development activities in this sub-region.

Commonwealth Local Government Conference (CLGC) 2007: Delivering Development Through Local Leadership

The fourth Commonwealth Local Government Conference (CLGC) was hosted by the Government of New Zealand, 25-29 March 2007 and focused attention on the following issues: what is local leadership; how strategic local leadership can create strong communities and tackle poverty, HIV and AIDS and other issues; local government's leadership role in development and meet-

ing the Millenium Development Goals; and local government, conflict resolution and disaster management. Representatives of the Alliance, including mayors from Namibia and Swaziland, participated in the conference and shared experiences of the Alliance and AMICAALL on local governance and HIV.

For more information please see the Conference website: <http://www.clgc2007.org/>

City-to-City Cooperation

Twinning (city-to-city cooperation) is being promoted by the European Section of United Cities and Local Governments Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR). As part of this initiative, 18 cities and towns have submitted requests for twinning. These requests are from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Mali, and Namibia, which are part of the Alliance/ AMI-

CAALL network. Information and documentation on the Alliance/AMICAALL was also shared during a recent conference on twinning, organised by CEMR, 10-12 May, 2007. As part of ongoing efforts to enhance solidarity and cooperation among cities globally, CEMR is also advocating a greater focus on twinning and development cooperation.

ADVOCACY AND SHARING INFORMATION (*continued...*)**Building Capacities for Monitoring and Evaluating Decentralisation and Local Governance in West Africa**

The ECDPM (European Centre for Development Policy Management) is currently working to build capacities for monitoring and evaluating decentralisation and local governance in West Africa (2005-2007).

In June 2005, REDL, a Malian network of 12 development organisations working on local governance, and the Malian Ministry of Local Government and Territorial Administration in Mali, initiated a “process of capitalisation”. This process aims to: identify, document and

analyse approaches to building capacity with local actors for monitoring and evaluating democratic decentralisation and local governance in West Africa; facilitate a structured exchange of experiences and provide an opportunity for networking and learning about available approaches and tools; and encourage stakeholders to feed their experiences into the wider policy debate at the country, regional and international level.

For more information on ECDPM activities and to view the results of this process please see their website:

<http://www.ecdpm.org>

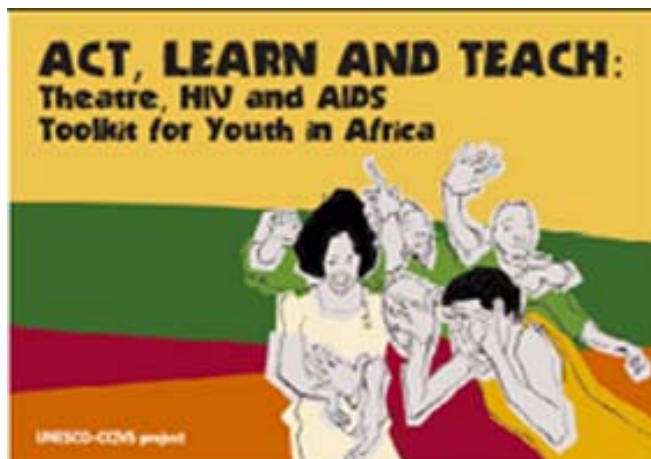
ELCS: The Association of Locally Elected Officials Against AIDS (France)

The Association of Locally Elected Officials Against AIDS was created in France in 1995 with the purpose of reminding Locally Elected Officials that they must be prepared to become activists in the fight against AIDS. By signing the ELCS declaration, Locally Elected Officials commit themselves to promote HIV prevention, as well as solidarity and fraternity with people living with. Today, more than 10'000 people have already signed the declaration and each year regional and departmental assemblies are organised in order to meet with those engage in combating AIDS from politi-

cal, non-governmental and medical organisations. The association regularly publishes a newsletter as well as a news bulletin on different initiatives being taken around the world to address AIDS. May's issue of the bulletin includes an article on AMICAALL which can be found on the AMICAALL website (in French) www.amicaall.org or on the association's site.

For more information please go to the following site: <http://www.elcs.fr>

PUBLICATIONS

ACT, LEARN and TEACH: Theatre, HIV and AIDS. Toolkit for Youth in Africa

UNESCO and the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) have developed and released a toolkit for youth in Africa on how to use theatre in HIV and AIDS education. *ACT, LEARN and TEACH: Theatre, HIV and AIDS* focuses on the involvement of the community in communication processes that are participatory, inclusive, and open to debate on priority issues in ways that resonate within their socio-cultural environment. The toolkit is designed for youth groups and uses interactive theatre as an effective way to encourage sustainable social change.

The Toolkit is available at:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001492/149283e.pdf>

***The Quest for Gender Equality in Burkina Faso*, by Scholastique Kompaoré and Brenda Gael McSweeney, with Jennifer Hilda Frisanco**

The authors of this paper went back to Burkina Faso in 2005 to the zones of the Project for Equal Access to Education to examine the legacy of Burkina Faso's multi-faceted UNESCO/UNDP Project for Equal Access of Women and Girls to Education, including various aspects of women's lives in villages that participated. They looked particularly into the impact of workload-lightening technologies, literacy, income-generating activities, the political voice of women, and access to education for girls. *The Quest for Gender Equality in Burkina Faso* outlines their conclusions and identifies topics for further investigation in the quest for gender equality and female empowerment in Burkina Faso.



The Toolkit is available at: [http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/](http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/file_download.php/798f2d933ba9df727d8188163a4fc6d2Gender+equality+in+Burkina+Faso.pdf)

[file_download.php/798f2d933ba9df727d8188163a4fc6d2Gender+equality+in+Burkina+Faso.pdf](http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/file_download.php/798f2d933ba9df727d8188163a4fc6d2Gender+equality+in+Burkina+Faso.pdf)

PUBLICATIONS (*continued...*)**Community-Based Responses Can Halt Violence Against Women**

A new study by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a co-sponsor of UNAIDS, shows that community-based responses aimed at halting violence against women can yield significant results. Ten case studies, from around the world, show how carefully targeted and planned efforts can actually reduce gender-based violence, according to UNFPA. These experiences may also be of interest to those engaged in addressing gender and HIV.

For more information, please refer to the UNFPA website:

<http://www.unfpa.org/publications/detail.cfm?ID=322>

Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS

The UN AIDS Policy Brief on *The Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV and AIDS* (GIPA) stresses the importance of recognising the rights and responsibilities of people living with HIV, including their right to self determination and participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives. In these efforts the GIPA principle aims to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the AIDS response.

The Policy Brief is available at:

http://data.unaids.org/pub/BriefingNote/2007/JC1299_Policy_Brief_GIPA.pdf

Practical Guidelines for Intensifying HIV Prevention

This new document by UNAIDS provides assistance to policy makers and planners in countries to strengthen their national HIV prevention response. *Practical Guidelines for Intensifying HIV Prevention* recognises that universal access is not only about sustaining and increasing access to antiretroviral treatment for those in need, but also to ensure that all people, particularly those most vulnerable to HIV, are able to prevent HIV infection so as to bring about a decrease in the number of new HIV infections.

The Manual is available at:

http://data.unaids.org/pub/Manual/2007/20070306_Prevention_Guidelines_Towards_Universal_Access_en.pdf

Guide to Budgeting for Managing HIV and AIDS in the Workplace

This document provides guidance on budgeting for HIV and AIDS in the workplace and complements the development of a workplace policy. The tool is designed for NGOs but is also helpful to a wider audience.

The Guide is available at:

www.stopaidsnow.nl/professionals

Ready, Steady, Go! Preventing HIV/AIDS in Young People

WHO, in conjunction with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNICEF have recently published *Preventing HIV and AIDS in young people: a systematic review of the evidence from developing countries*. WHO Technical Report Series, No 938.

This report provides evidence-based recommendations for policy-makers, programme managers and researchers to guide efforts towards meeting the UN goals on HIV/AIDS and young people. These goals aim to decrease prevalence and vulnerability; and to increase access to information, skills and services. This report provides a systematic review of the effectiveness of interventions provided: through schools, health services, mass media, communities, and to young people who are most vulnerable to HIV infection.

The report is available at:

http://www.who.int/child-adolescent-health/publications/ADH/ISBN_92_4_120938_0.htm

For more information, please refer to the UNAIDS website: <http://www.unaids.org/en/GetStarted/YoungPeople.asp>

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Women's Summit: Women's Leadership on HIV and AIDS

4-7 July 2007, Nairobi, Kenya

The World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), in partnership with the International Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (ICW), and other international organisations, will host the first ever global conference on women and AIDS. The summit will bring together 1500 women and men to develop strategies, skills and partnerships in response to the impact of AIDS on women. For more information: www.worldywca.info

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) 2nd World Congress,

29-31 October 2007, Jeju, Korea

The theme of the Congress is "Changing Cities are Driving our World". Key areas of focus will include: 'cities the future of humanity: addressing climate change; city diplomacy: local governments building peace; and '2015: a better world is possible. Local governments in a new global governance'. The year 2007 also marks the first time ever that over half of the world's population is living in urban areas.

For more information: www.cities-localgovernments.org

UCLGA: Southern Africa Regional Meeting

9-10 August 2007, Maseru, Lesotho

For more information: www.uclgafrica.org

AIDS Impact 2007 8th International Conference on Biopsychosocial Aspects of HIV Infection

1-4 July 2007, Marseilles, France

The AIDS Impact conference is specifically devoted to human and social sciences related to the HIV epidemic. The last conference, held in 2005 in Cape Town, South Africa, attracted more than 700 participants from all over the world. This conference provides an opportunity to give space to research in social sciences dealing with the HIV epidemic in developing countries. The focus of the AIDS Impact 2007 is on the creation of a network between the biological, psychological and social aspects of HIV by offering a platform where researchers, practitioners and users can engage in dialogue and debate. For more information: www.aidsimpact.com/2007/



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