



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

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EDITORIAL



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Coordinator of the Alliance

Now that a new year has begun I would like to reflect on the year that has just been and gone. This was essentially marked by the statutory meetings that took

place in December in Pretoria, South Africa. The meetings enabled members of the Alliance to meet and define priorities for new activities, as well as elect or re-elect representatives at the Coordinating and Permanent Technical Committee level.

On this note, let me begin by expressing my profound gratitude towards members of the General Assembly and the Coordinating Committee for the confidence they have placed in my humble person, and for offering me the opportunity to reaffirm my commitment and dedication as Coordinator of the Alliance.

In unity there is strength. I know that I can count on the commitment of all members of the Alliance. As a mayor, I understand the role that each one of us
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HIV & BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

The transmission of HIV is mediated by human behaviour, both individual and societal.

Numerous factors shape human behaviours. Sexual behaviour, the predominant mode of HIV transmission, is widely diverse and deeply embedded in individual desires,

social and cultural norms and values as well as being influenced by economic conditions. The same can also be said for behaviours related to transmission through injecting drug use and from mother to child or amongst men who have sex with men. It is now widely recognised that simply telling an individual that certain behaviours put them at risk is insufficient. A person must not only believe that they are at risk of infection but also feel that they have the ability to effect change and minimise this risk, along with the resources and support to enable them to do so.

Focusing on individual behaviours provides a degree of insight into why people behave in a certain way. It does not, however, tell the whole story. Instead, it has become increasingly evident that

efforts to tackle HIV must also take into consideration the varying social and cultural norms that influence behaviours. As human beings, our actions are greatly

influenced by those around us, by the society we live in and the behaviours deemed acceptable by that society. In many societies, women are made especially vulnerable to HIV infection through gender norms which make them susceptible to social and economic inequalities, and violence. Whilst preventative measures focused on encouraging condom use,

Anonymous

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HIV & BEHAVIOUR CHANGE (*continued*)

faithfulness or abstinence provide a useful message, they do not necessarily take into account the powerful influence of gender norms and the way in which these affect the realities of many women, as well as marginalized groups such as men who have sex with men. It is therefore important that efforts to tackle HIV encourage people to question, not only their own individual behaviours, but also the societal norms that influence these behaviours and prevent an effective response to HIV.

Local government authorities have an important role to play in confronting this challenge. They are responsible for service provision and can therefore seek to adapt services in order to confront and challenge negative behaviours that increase vulnerability to HIV. A study conducted to test the effectiveness of couple counselling in a prevention of mother-to-child pro-

gramme in Nairobi, for example, found that of 314 seropositive women enrolled, nevirapine use was reported by 88% of those who were couple counselled, and 45% of those whose partners were not present. Beyond service provision however, mayors and municipal leaders also serve as an entry point into the community. They can therefore work effectively with community members, local organizations and businesses to create a more enabling environment for both men and women. Through their capacity as public figures, at the forefront of communities, locally elected officials can influence societal norms and values, and have a strong understanding of local needs and realities. Consequently, they are in an ideal position to engage with communities and take sustainable action to challenge unhelpful social norms and values and promote positive behaviour change.

HIV & Behaviour Change: Programmes

🚫 Men as Partners

The Men as Partners program was established by EngenderHealth in 1996. The program works with men to play constructive roles in promoting gender equity and health in their families and communities. EngenderHealth works with individuals, communities, health care providers, and national health systems to: enhance men's awareness and support for their partners' reproductive health choices; increase men's access to comprehensive reproductive health services; mobilize men to take an active stand for gender equity and against gender-based violence.

<http://www.engenderhealth.org/our-work/gender/men-as-partners.php>

🚫 Soul City

Soul City is an HIV/AIDS communication intervention that reaches more than 16 million South Africans through drama and entertainment. It challenges social norms that promote men's right to sex and condone sexual violence and inter-generational sex. Through its multi-media and advocacy strategies Soul City Institute aims to create an enabling environment empowering audiences to make healthy choices, both as individuals and as communities.

<http://www.soulcity.org.za/>

🚫 Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones is a life skills training programme that uses transformative methods to address HIV and gender as well as broader community issues. The programme covers many aspects of life, including why we behave in the ways we do, how gender, generation and other issues influence this, and the ways in which we can change this behaviour. Stepping Stones has been used and adapted by many organisations to address a wide range of issues based on the experiences of the participants in that particular community. An evaluation of a Stepping Stones pilot study in four villages in Gambia found that publicly witnessed intimate partner violence completely stopped after the intervention and this was sustained three years later.

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

HIV & Behaviour Change: Points of Reference

Facilitating Sustainable Behaviour Change: A Guidebook for designing HIV programs. Bruce Parnell and Kim Benton, 1999

This guidebook suggests issues to consider when designing programs to facilitate behaviour change. It is written to help people who want to understand the HIV epidemic, consider how it relates to their own lives, and work out effective responses in their own settings.

http://www.burnet.edu.au/freestyler/gui/media/fsb_change.pdf

Guy to Guy Project: engaging young men in violence prevention and in sexual and reproductive health. Creating role models for young men can help address violence and sexual health issues. Instituto PROMUNDO, 2001

This case study presents the Institutes' experience in engaging young men as 'change agents' in gender-based violence prevention and the promotion of sexual and reproductive health. The change agents (or peer promoters) are young men from low income areas of Rio de Janeiro who reach other young men with educational materials, condoms, a lifestyle magazine and a play about reducing violence against women.

<http://www.promundo.org.br/materia/resources/files/download/CaseStudyGuytoGuy.pdf>

HIV/AIDS and communication for behaviour and social change: Programme experiences, examples, and the way forward. UNAIDS, 2001

Politics, gender and poverty: key factors in effective communication for HIV/AIDS. This UNAIDS report summarises the proceedings of a July 2000 workshop on communication for behaviour and social change. Workshop objectives were to: map out implementation strategies for HIV/AIDS communication programmes, strengthen links between existing programmes, and increase technical soundness.

http://data.unaids.org/Publications/IRC-pub02/JC627-KM117_en.pdf

Between men: HIV/STI prevention for men who have sex with men, Developing HIV prevention programmes for men who have sex with men. International HIV/AIDS Alliance, 2003

This booklet presents the main issues around HIV/STI prevention for NGOs and CBOs, either currently working with men who have sex with men, or who are considering doing so. The paper argues that to work with this key population successfully requires a context specific appreciation of who men who have sex with men are, the values they hold, and how they behave. This will facilitate an understanding of the specific vulnerabilities and risks they face and form the basis for designing appropriate HIV/STI prevention programmes with them.

http://synkronweb.aidsalliance.org/graphics/secretariat/publications/msm0803_between_men_Eng.pdf

Behavior Change Communication (BCC) handbooks. Family Health International, AIDSCAP, 2004

Changing attitudes, changing behaviour: practical advice for HIV prevention work and sexual health promotion. This series of nine handbooks from the AIDSCAP (AIDS Control and Prevention) project at Family Health International (FHI) provides practical guidance for those working in the field of HIV prevention and sexual health promotion. The handbooks introduce the concepts of Behavior Change Communication (BCC) and show how these concepts can be effectively used in the different aspects of HIV prevention work. BCC is an interactive process that involves working with a community to develop and deliver an appropriately tailored health promotion message.

<http://www.fhi.org/en/HIVAIDS/pub/guide/BCC+Handbooks/index.htm>

EDITORIAL (*continued...*)

has to play in preventing the spread and impact of HIV on our populations and societies.

In the past few years, governments and international partners have worked hard to increase resources to address HIV, and in particular to enable a growing number of people to access treatment. However, HIV continues to spread, as does the devastation it brings to women, men and children in Africa. Despite achievements to date, there remains a gap with respect to HIV prevention efforts, due in part to a lack of financial resources. It is vital that prevention efforts be supported by political commitment and in the context of a unified and decentralised effort, in order to support behaviour change at both the societal and individual levels.

Thanks to the commitment of members and partners, the Alliance can today act as an important link between various levels of intervention. It is a privileged partner of local government, both as a source of capacity development as well as for helping to give voice to local government around issues of HIV and development. Local government has a vital role to play, because it is in an ideal position to understand the needs and realities of the populations it serves. It is important that services provided by local governments are adapted to address the challenges of the HIV epidemic. Good local governance, is an indicator of being responsive to citizens.

Increasing our understanding and knowledge of the HIV epidemic enables us to identify priorities for action in collaboration with our partners. It is in this context that we have set as a priority actions to address inequalities between men and women and violence against women. Such efforts are vital for an effective and sustainable response to the HIV epidemic.

To underscore this commitment, the Alliance used the occasion of its General Assembly 2007 to adopt a Declaration on Violence Against Women and HIV. This declaration reflects an understanding that addressing violence against women cannot be separated from tackling harmful social and cultural norms. It is clear that locally elected officials have a role to play in challenging negative behaviours, supporting women and encouraging men and boys to become full partners in overcoming the challenges associated with violence against women and girls.

This declaration should not remain a piece of paper. The responsibility lies with all of us, members of the Alliance/AMICAALL network and our collaborating partners. We must ensure that this declaration is widely disseminated. Changing daily behaviours is a long term project, but by taking simple measures, adding to these, we can make a real difference. It is through our solidarity and increasing confidence that we will, together, achieve our goals.

Happy New Year for 2008.

HIV AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In November, 2007, the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa adopted a declaration to tackle violence against women and HIV, recognising that this is a major problem across the world both in terms of human rights, and public health. By adopting this declaration, the Alliance puts violence against women as a central priority, and encourages all municipal authorities to do the same.

The issue today appears particularly important. Indeed, figures show that women remain more vulnerable to HIV and that violence plays a vital role in this vulnerability. Studies conducted in a number of countries show that women who are, or have been subjected to violence during their lives are up to three times more likely to contract HIV. Violence can take various forms, from domestic violence, to violence in conflict situations, to lack of access to information and services. It can be physical, sexual and psychological. The links between violence and HIV are complex and often not completely understood. They can, however, be loosely described as follows : (1) direct transmission through sexual violence, namely forced or coercive sexual intercourse; (2) indirect transmission through sexual risk taking; women subjected to violence are more likely to take risks; (3) indirect transmission through an inability to negotiate condom use; (4) indirect transmission by partnering with riskier/older men; (5) violence as a consequence of being HIV positive which can act as a barrier to women seeking HIV testing and treatment.

As an entry point into the community, national AMICAALL programmes enable reflection on concrete ways and collective action through which to confront violence against women and HIV. They do not offer ready-made solutions, but instead encourage each local authority, and each partner, to evaluate the situation in their own community and adapt services provided accordingly. By developing and implementing these programmes the Alliance aims to promote change in a sustainable and effective manner whilst

encouraging all partners at the community level to do the same.

The number of services provided by local government is increasing and principle users of these services are often the women of the community. Far too often, however, these services are not adapted to deal with the daily problems faced by women, nor do they reduce the risk of violence against them. Simply listening to women's needs can be enough to begin to promote change, as some examples of new infrastructures have shown. Adequate lighting in streets, considering the positioning of water or sanitary points, community transport, or the construction of adequate housing can all help to make a difference.

"As long as violence against women continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development and peace"

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, 2006

Local authorities have a wide range of tools and means available. These

can take the form of education and sensitisation campaigns, improving care and treatment services, offering voluntary counselling and testing, and increasing the number of programmes targeting social norms and attitudes that can serve to strengthen or justify violence against women. In all instances, these programmes must also take into account men, as partners, and as part of the solution.

AMICAALL Uganda plans to publish the declaration on violence against women and HIV in a popular local newspaper "The Monitor" in order to insure the declaration reaches a wider audience, and to sensitise the population on this issue. The declaration has been shared with mayors throughout the network to encourage them to be more proactive in the field of violence against women and HIV.

The experience shows that change can, and must, take place on a variety of levels. It also shows that strategies must form a multi-sectoral, united effort involving development partners at the local, national and international level, and those responding to HIV at the community level, along side the national government.

Violence Against Women and HIV: Points of Reference

🚫 HIV/AIDS and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Literature Review

Harvard School of Public Health, 2006

This is a review of publications addressing aspects of the intersection between gender-based violence (GBV) and HIV. The literature review is organised into eight sub-sections: 1. Exploring the linkages: general and theoretical examinations of the intersection of GBV and HIV; 2. Interrogating and interpreting the associated risks of HIV/AIDS and GBV; 3. The role of men; 4. GBV and HIV testing and disclosure; 5. GBV as a risk factor for HIV; 6. HIV as a risk factor for GBV; 7. The increased susceptibility of sub-populations to the linked risks of HIV/AIDS and GBV; 8. Effective approaches for addressing the joint risk factors of GBV and HIV/AIDS. It is argued that there is a great need for more publications on grassroots work on these issues.

http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/pihhr/files/Final_Literature_Review.pdf

🚫 Ending Violence Against Women: From Words to Action. Study of the Secretary General

United Nations, 2006

The Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women was launched in the General Assembly on 9 October 2006. The study aims to highlight the persistence and unacceptability of all forms of violence against women in all parts of the world; strengthen the political commitment and joint efforts of all stakeholders to prevent and eliminate violence against women; and identify ways and means to ensure more sustained and effective implementation of State obligations to address all forms of violence against women, and to increase State accountability.

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/VAW_Study/VAWstudyE.pdf

🚫 WHO Global Study on Domestic Violence Against Women

World Health Organisation, 2005

This report by the World Health Organization presents a global perspective on domestic violence against women. Covering ten countries including Bangladesh, Peru, Namibia, Ethiopia and Tanzania, the document finds that violence against women is still widespread with far reaching health consequences. The report covers violence against women in both partner and non-partner experiences. It offers a set of fifteen recommendations to strengthen national commitment and action on violence against women.

http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/index.html

🚫 Stop Violence Against Women: Fight AIDS, Issue 2

The Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, 2005

This issue brief discusses violence against women as the cause and consequence of HIV. Several studies are cited that demonstrate the way in which HIV infected women are more likely to have experienced violence. This violence in turn compromises women's access to a range of critical health information and services, including testing and treatment. Actions to be taken by national governments and international partners are suggested.

<http://womenandaids.unaids.org/themes/docs/UNAIDS%20VAW%20Brief.pdf>

AMICAALL CAMEROON

Capacity Building Workshop for Mayors and Municipal Leaders



Mr. Narcis Chimi, AMICAALL Cameroon Coordinator

In December, 2007, a capacity building workshop took place in Bafoussam, Cameroon, for Mayors and Municipal Leaders in Cameroon under the theme 'Mayors – Leaders acting to tackle HIV/AIDS'. The workshop was financed by UNDP, led by the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV and the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), and facilitated by a UNDP consultant. Approximately 50 mayors and municipal leaders participated in eight sessions including various presentations and group work. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of mayors and municipal leaders to promote active and efficient leadership and in doing so, improve local responses to HIV and provide foundations for preparation of HIV action plans in participating municipalities. Group work enabled participants to commit

themselves in a concrete way by developing annual plans, incorporating specific actions based on the municipal budget. It also enabled participants to discuss numerous challenges and constraints that could affect their implementation.



Mayors take part in a relaxation session during the workshop

More information is available in the AMICAALL Cameroon Newsletter available at www.amicaall.org

Newsletter and Workshop for Socio-economic Empowerment of Women

In February, 2008, AMICAALL Cameroon published a newsletter providing information on activities that have taken place during October, 2007 to February, 2008.

During November 2007, a capacity building workshop was also organised for HIV resource persons of the urban community of Kongsambda on using the toolkits on key services to tackle HIV and socio-economic empowerment of women. This workshop, jointly financed by UN-AMICAALL, UNDP and the Urban Community of Kongsambda, enabled the community leaders to improve their knowledge and develop information tools on key HIV services available within the community, along with empowerment strategies for women. The workshop enabled information to be shared and ex-



Cameroon Newsletter

changed on HIV-related stigmatisation, discrimination and gender inequalities. In particular, it enabled participants to consider the impact of HIV on women, strategies to reduce this impact, revenue generating activities, development and financing of micro-projects. The urban community of Kongsambda also plans to develop profiles and directories on HIV-related services, along with a plan of action for the medium term.

More information is available in the AMICAALL Cameroon Newsletter available at www.amicaall.org



Workshop Participants

AMICAALL Côte d'Ivoire

Development of Plans to Integrate HIV and Gender

Mme Francisca Brou,
AMICAALL Côte d'Ivoire
Coordinator

Côte d'Ivoire Alliance Chapter 2006-2010 strategic

AMICAALL Côte d'Ivoire, organised, in collaboration with the Prime Ministers Office, Ministry for Planning and Development and the Ministry for HIV/AIDS, and with technical and financial support from UNDP, UNAIDS and UNICEF, a seminar to support the development of plans to integrate HIV and gender, a key objective of the

plan, and to strengthen a coordinated and decentralised response to HIV at the community level. The seminar, which took place at Grand-Basson from 9-12 October, 2007, enabled the development of two draft community plans, along with a three year community-based plan of action (2008-2010). It also provided an opportunity for locally elected officials to strengthen their capacity in areas of communication, social marketing, proposal writing and HIV-related programme management monitoring and evaluation.

Seminar to Improve Negotiation Skills

From 18-20 December, 2007, AMICAALL Côte d'Ivoire organised a seminar to improve Alliance members negotiation skills in order to mobilise resources and implement activities tackling HIV at the local level. Through a series of presentations, practical exercises, and sharing of experiences, the seminar aimed to: provide mayors and municipal leaders with

negotiation tools to mobilise funds in order to implement municipal/community based projects to address HIV; strengthen their knowledge on financial sources for HIV-related activities; share and optimise positive experiences of mobilising resources and financing projects to respond to HIV at a decentralised level.

AMICAALL Mali

Sharing and Learning Lessons

Mme Mah Drabo Niangadou,
AMICAALL Mali
Coordinator

AMICAALL Mali organised a review day of its activities in November, 2007. Various partners and stakeholders engaged in the response to HIV participated. The day enabled the Alliance chapter in Mali to review its programmes, achievements as well as shortcomings, and

propose actions to support future activities. The meeting also provided an opportunity for Municipal HIV/AIDS Teams to present their action plans and report on the progress of their efforts. In order to communicate their actions more effectively and regularly the Alliance intends to systematize such reviews, in collaboration notably with the National High Council Against AIDS, and other development partners.

AMICAALL Mali (*continued*)*Other Activities in November, 2007*

During November, 2007, AMICAALL Mali: participated in a day of advocacy on care for MSM (men who have sex with men) within the framework of the ARCAD sida project (Association for Communication Research, Home Care and Support for People Living with HIV or AIDS /Association de Recherche de Communication et d'Accompagnement à Domicile de Personnes Vivant avec le VIH-sida); participated in work-

shops to validate reports on resource data collection and national spending to tackle HIV and implement the 2006-2007 national strategic plan on AIDS; participated in a workshop on integrating HIV into local governance in Africa, organised by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in Botswana, in order to share AMICAALL experiences with other countries.

HIV Week

In December, 2007, for the third year running, the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV in Mali reaffirmed their commitment to tackling the HIV epidemic during the week of the 'locally elected official against HIV and AIDS.' This week is organised every year by locally elected officials and, as in previous years, communities played an important part in events.

Numerous presentations and sensitisation meetings were organised for the occasion in municipalities through the Association of Municipalities in Mali and the Municipal HIV/AIDS teams. The municipalities of Markala and Ségou, in particular, were central to these events.

Activities included local radio broadcasts, competitions organised by elected officials and municipal leaders, along with other sensitisation activities on voluntary testing and tackling stigma and discrimination.

In the village of Diamouna sensitisation on voluntary testing enabled 75 people, 22 men and 45 women, to be voluntarily tested and to understand that they needed to know their HIV status in order to take action. In the municipality of Segou, the municipal HIV

team organised, thanks to support from the NGO Walé and the support of the town hall, meetings to sensitise people on stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV. These meetings were addressed to those engaged in and committed to an effective HIV response, along with heads of households and community leaders, whose

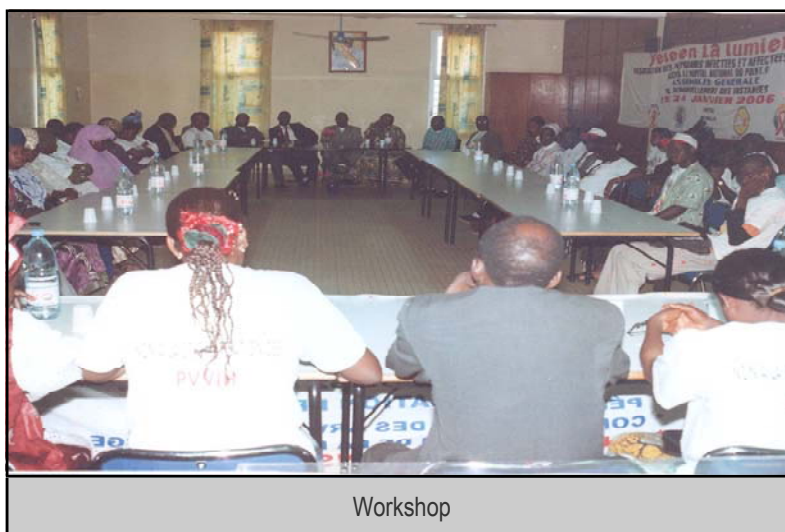
example helps to sensitise populations as a whole.

During the same period, AMICAALL Mali participated in workshops organised by the National AIDS Council to validate its operational framework.

AMICAALL Mali also assisted the setting up of

four new Municipal HIV/AIDS Teams in the district of Bamako. Each municipality has developed a municipal HIV plan of action. Furthermore, municipal HIV teams were put in place in four new municipalities of Bamako (Commune I, II, III, IV), along with six rural municipalities (Baroueli, Konobougou, Sakoïba, Touna, Pélen-gana et Siribala). Each municipality also prepared an action plan.

The month of December also enabled AMICAALL Mali to provide support to the General Assembly of People living with HIV at the Hospital of Point G.



Workshop

AMICAALL Swaziland

Gender and Community Mobilisation

Mr. Rudolph Maziya,
AMICAALL Swaziland
Coordinator

AMICAALL Swaziland brought out the second edition of their Newsletter, *Urban AIDS Response News*, in November, 2007. This edition focuses in particular on the ways in which gender roles and relations impact efforts to tackle HIV. It also provides a brief summary of

the steps AMICAALL Swaziland is taking to address these issues. In addition to this, the Newsletter provides an update on AMICAALL Swaziland activities from the latter part of 2007 alongside an interesting rundown on the vital role and function of social centres within Swaziland.

The newsletter is available online at www.amicaall.org in English and French. The previous edition is also available online at: www.amicaall.org

AMICAALL Uganda

HIV Training in Corporate Governance

Dr John Mugisa,
AMICAALL Uganda
Coordinator

AMICAALL UGANDA conducted three training workshops during November and December, 2007, on Corporate Governance from an HIV perspective. These were organised thanks to financial support from UNDP Uganda. The training workshops were officiated by the UNDP Resident Representative and the Deputy Resident Representative in charge of Pro-

grammes respectively. One hundred and three mayors and urban leaders attended, along with members of the AMICAALL Technical and Advisory Committee.

The overall objective of the training was to empower mayors/urban local leaders with appropriate knowledge and skills in corporate governance and enable them to execute their roles and responsibilities in

planning HIV responses at the local level. Training focused on: mainstreaming HIV, corporate governance concepts, principles and practices of good governance, corporate governance and development, team building, problem analysis, and the roles and responsibilities of urban leaders.

Recommendations made during the training sessions included: organising similar training for politicians' technical staff and religious leaders in local governments; putting in place laws to regulate the operation of video halls and discotheques along with laws to ensure owners of lodges, bars and other workplaces stock condoms for use by clients; ensuring HIV materials are translated into local languages; lobbying government to make funding available to urban local governments for HIV interventions; and establishing charity funds to mobilise financial resources for HIV activities.

AMICAALL Uganda (*continued*)*Participation in World AIDS Day Campaign*

AMICAALL Uganda Chapter joined numerous HIV stakeholders throughout the country to commemorate World AIDS Day, 2007, under the theme of “Leadership for accelerated prevention.” During this period AMICAALL Uganda developed and printed World AIDS Day information, education and communication (IEC) materials to be used as advocacy tools. These were disseminated to 10 urban councils, Kagadi, Busia, Kisoro, Bombo, Mayuge, Palisa, Kamuli, Mbale, Iganga and Kotido, in commemoration of a decentralised response to HIV on World AIDS Day. AMICAALL also supported 10

urban authorities to conduct radio sensitization programmes focusing on the 2007 World AIDS Day theme of leadership. In addition, AMICAALL attended the Uganda AIDS Commission World AIDS Day event at district level and fully participated in the exhibition 1st December, 2007, at Ggaba landing site. Materials exhibited included World AIDS Day brochures for 2007, posters, t-shirts, caps, stickers, a “Guide for Managing HIV/AIDS at Workplaces”, a “Guide for Project Proposal Writing”, the AMICAALL Programme Brochure and the AMICAALL Newsletter.

AMICAALL ZAMBIA

Institutional Cooperation Agreement with Cordaid

Mr. Kenneth Mwansa,
AMICAALL Zambia
Coordinator

AMICAALL Zambia has signed an institutional cooperation agreement with the Dutch NGO, Cordaid, in support of the implementation of a project on “local leadership development for good governance and enhanced community HIV-related service provision.”

Through this project, AMICAALL Zambia seeks to contribute to improved HIV-related service delivery, particularly to the poor and vulnerable, women, youths, children, the aged and people living with HIV. The project aims to enhance univer-

sal access to HIV-related services in the workplace and at community and household levels in the local authorities of Zambia. Activities will include sensitization workshops, establishment and training of workplace and community response committees, development of HIV-related service directories, and the provision of training for community leaders and stakeholders on proposal writing and project management skills to enable them to fill service gaps.

Cordaid has made available an initial contribution of 70,000 Euros for the project which will first focus on the three local authorities of Mongu, Kalomo and Luanshya in 2008.

AMICAALL: OTHER NEWS

Alliance Statutory Meetings

The Alliance statutory meetings took place in Pretoria, South Africa from 3-6 December, 2007. The General Assembly confirmed new members of the Coordinating Committee and Mayor Gilbert Ayebi Manouan as Coordinator of the Alliance.

Updated Version of AMICAALL Toolkit

An updated version of the AMICAALL toolkit is now available, thanks to support from UN APP and UNAIDS. Four new tools have been added for this edition. The additional tools are intended to assist in the process of conducting facilitated study tours and to address issues of HIV in the municipal workplace, gender, and stigma and discrimination.

The new revised AMICAALL toolkit is available online at: www.amicaall.org

ADVOCACY AND SHARING INFORMATION

United Cities and Local Governments 2nd World Triennial Congress*Jeju, Korea, October, 2007*

This meeting, entitled 'Changing Cities are driving our World', brought together over 2000 participants from more than 110 countries. In particular, sessions focused on protecting the environment, expanding local democracy and making the Millennium Development Goals a reality. Following the event, a [Declaration of Jeju](#) was published bringing together the main conclusions reached and announcing the next steps to ensure the voice of the sphere of government closest to the world's citizens is heard loud and clear on the world stage.

More information is available online at: www.cities-localgovernments.org

Second African Gender Forum and Award*Dakar, December 2007*

The African Gender Forum was organised by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), its Pan-African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and The Diasporan Touch, with the support of numerous other partners. The theme of the 2007 Forum was 'African Women and Migration'. The Forum brought together women from all walks of life on the continent, including those from remote areas of Africa, to discuss new strategies to mitigate and minimise the negative impact of migration on Africa's development. In particular, discussions focused on the following key areas: African women and migration; benefits of migration: what is the added value for Africa?; roles and responsibilities.

More information is available online at: www.fasngo.org

EU – Africa Summit, Heads of State and Government*Lisbon, December 2007*

Representatives from the 80 countries that comprise the EU-Africa partnership, as well as heads of the regional institutions from both continents took part in this Summit which sought to take into account the deep changes affecting Africa, Europe and the world during this period. The Summit provided an opportunity to discuss the following central themes: peace and security; democracy and human rights; trade, infrastructures and development; migrations, energy and climate change.

More information is available online at: www.eu2007.pt

PUBLICATIONS

Women and Men: Together for HIV/AIDS Prevention. Literacy, Gender and HIV/AIDS. UNESCO, Namtip Aksornkool, 2005

This publication presents the UNESCO-sponsored approach aimed at promoting gender and HIV/AIDS awareness and addressing the need for reading materials that incorporate real-life experiences of, and relationships between, men and women and what they can do to look after themselves and others. The paper discusses a series of hands-on workshops, supported by UNESCO, aimed at sensitising educators and professionals in health care and communication, law enforcement, the media, religion and counselling to gender concerns in seven countries in Southern Africa. During these workshops, UNESCO trained participants from diverse backgrounds to develop easy-to-read, easy-to-produce literacy materials through an interactive group process.

This publication is available online at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org>

Women's [HIV/AIDS] Treatment Literacy Toolkit: Empowering girls and women affected by HIV and AIDS. Southern Africa HIV/AIDS Information Dissemination Service, 2005

This toolkit aims to empower girls and women in communities to make informed decisions when accessing and demanding their rights to full participation in antiretroviral (ART) treatment programmes, strengthen their coping mechanisms in adhering to ART and be able to support the ongoing care of their counterparts. It comprises a number of separate PDF documents including information fact-sheets, illustrative stories and diagrams, posters, stickers and a treatment calendar.

This toolkit is available online at: www.saf aids.org.zw

Engaging Men and Boys to Achieve Gender Equality: How Can We Build on What We Have Learned? International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and Instituto Promundo, 2007

This publication provides a summary of the proceedings and recommendations of a seminar which took place in May, 2007, to discuss the importance of work-

ing with men and boys to promote healthy lifestyles among women and men, learn what is happening in the field with this approach, and develop a consensus on how to move forward. The seminar was co-hosted by ICRW and Instituto Promundo and sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization (WHO). Participants included influential decision makers who fund, implement or study programs on reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, and violence prevention.

This publication is available online at: www.icrw.org

Building Bridges to Mainstream Opportunities: Displaced Children and Orphans Fund Guidance on Funding Priorities and Parameters for Street Children Programming. Displaced Children and Orphans Fund of USAID, David James-Wilson, August, 2007

This new guidance document on programming for street children provides insights and practical ideas on using funds more effectively and appropriately. Particular attention is paid to: carefully analyzing the population of concern; targeting programmatic interventions effectively, keeping a focus on community and family reintegration, and tracking results, both short- and long-term.

The publication presents what has been learned in recent years from programs for street children, DCOF-funded and others, and provides a valuable perspective to donors and practitioners who are committed to addressing the needs of children on the street.

This publication is available online at: www.usaid.gov

Positive prevention: HIV prevention with people living with HIV. International HIV/AIDS Alliance, 2007

This guide is intended as a resource to help NGOs and HIV service providers working across the spectrum of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services to take steps towards integrating HIV prevention for, by and with people living with HIV.

This publication is available online at: http://www.aidsalliance.org/graphics/secretariat/publications/Positive_prevention.pdf

Publications (*continued...*)

Network capacity analysis: rapid assessment guide. International HIV/AIDS Alliance, 2007

The aim of this toolkit is to build the skills required by civil society networks to develop and strengthen their capacity. They can be used by networks to help identify their capacity building needs, plan technical support interventions, and monitor and evaluate the impact of capacity building. The Rapid guide can be used to plan, steer, and collect outcomes of a meeting or teleconference where, due to specific needs or limited resources, the aim is to do a more rapid capacity analysis.

This publication is available online at:

http://www.aidsalliance.org/graphics/secretariat/publications/Network_capacity_analysis_rapid_web.pdf

Forthcoming Publications

Research Project on the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Local Government, IDASA

The Governance and AIDS Programme (GAP) at IDASA has just embarked on an exciting new research project to assess the impact of HIV on local government in South Africa. Following in the footsteps of GAP's multi-national research project on the relationship between HIV and democratic governance, the new project takes the investigation a few crucial steps further, by zooming in on the realities of HIV/AIDS at local level. The main focus of the study is the effect HIV is having on local politicians and their constituencies and whether this might eventually impact on the quality of democracy at local level and/or the efficient functioning of municipal councils. The study will be concluded in May 2008.

More information is available online at: <http://www.idasa.org.za/index.asp?page=outputs.asp%3FTID%3D12%26OTID%3D2>

UPCOMING EVENTS

6th Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty

Athens, 26-28 March 2008

The main objective of this meeting is to reinforce local democracy in order to better tackle poverty. Themes will include: decentralisation, good governance, the contribution of civil society to local development, cities and climate change and the contribution of local government authorities in tackling HIV.

More information is available online at: <http://mirror.undp.org/switzerland/wacap/>

HIV and Gender: Creating an Enabling Environment

Sarajevo, 27-28 March 2008

This annual regional conference is an integral component of the Western Balkans HIV prevention and AIDS treatment and care programme. The conference provides an opportunity to bring together representatives from health and other sectors to exchange, learn from each other, and increase collaboration to develop effective responses to create universal access to prevention, treatment, care, and support at the national and regional level.

More information is available online at: <http://www.balkans-fight-HIV.org>

HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting

Kampala, June 3-7 2008

This year's theme is "Scaling Up Through Partnerships: Overcoming Obstacles to Implementation," recognizing the rapid expansion of HIV/AIDS programs worldwide. Together, implementers will exchange lessons learned and best practices in the scale-up of HIV/AIDS programs, with a focus on building the capacity of local prevention, treatment, and care programs; enhancing quality; and promoting coordination among partners.

More information is available online at: www.hivimplementers.com

UN 2008 High-Level Meeting on AIDS

New York, 10-11 June 2008

The 2008 high-level meeting on AIDS will take place at the United Nations headquarters in New York. It will review progress made in implementing the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. The high-level meeting will provide an important forum for various stakeholders, including government representatives and accredited civil society participants. Discussions are expected to focus on the progress made, challenges remaining and sustainable ways to overcome them.

More information is available online at: http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/Resources/FeatureStories/archive/2008/20070115_2008_High_level_mtg.asp

3rd National Conference on Peer Education, HIV and AIDS in Kenya

Nairobi, 18-20 June 2008

This conference will focus on addressing the problem of stigma & discrimination in Kenya in detail and seeking to identify tangible solutions through information exchange. It will target peer education groups, individuals, stakeholders, NGOs, CBOs & YSOs.

More information is available online at: www.icw.org

2008 International AIDS Conference

Mexico City, 3-8 August 2008

Conference organizers are developing a wide variety of sessions that meet the needs of various participants and support collective efforts to expand delivery of HIV prevention and treatment to communities worldwide. Central to many of these sessions will be the transfer of knowledge and sharing of best practices.

More information is available online at: <http://www.aids2008.org/>



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