



## Electronic Bulletin Issue 12

### TECHNICAL STANDING COMMITTEE (TSC) MEETING

The Alliance Technical Standing Committee, established in December 2003 to provide technical oversight and guidance to the Alliance and AMICAALL, convened its first meeting September 6, 2004 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The TSC reviewed the current Alliance workplan, future strategic directions paper, and financial resources, including resource mobilisation activities. A strategic directions paper for 2005 – 2008 was endorsed, taking into account the comments and suggestions of the TSC. Members include representatives from: the Alliance Coordinating Committee, National AMICAALL Coordinator network, UN, bilateral and NGO partners.

### AMICAALL PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The third AMICAALL Programme Development Workshop took place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from September 7-9, 2004. The main objective of the workshop was to review all AMICAALL country programme activities to date, share experiences and lessons learned at the country level, and identify bottlenecks with a view to better understand challenges of scaling up and agree on key strategic directions for the future. Workshop outcomes also informed the development of the Alliance/AMICAALL strategic plan for 2005-2008. Workshop participants included representatives of national AIDS programmes/Commissions, local government partners from 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, World Bank, UNAIDS, UNDP, NGO and bilateral organizations, members of the Alliance Coordinating Committee and Coordinators of national AMICAALL programmes. The Alliance expresses its thanks to the World Bank for providing support for this workshop and appreciates the efforts of the Alliance Secretariat and UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme for their efforts to ensure a successful workshop. Thanks also to all the participants who worked very hard to ensure a useful outcome.

### COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

After the Technical Standing Committee meeting and the AMICAALL Programme Development Workshop, the Alliance Coordinating Committee met in Dar es Salaam September 10-11, 2004. The Coordinating Committee was opened by the Tanzanian Minister of Regional Administration and Local Government, and included statements from the Head of the Tanzanian Commission on AIDS (TACAIDS), UNAIDS speaking on behalf of the UN system, the Alliance Coordinator and the Executive Secretary of the Alliance. One day was devoted to a strategic planning exercise, which built on the outcomes and recommendations from the TSC and the Programme Development Workshop. The Coordinating Committee, together with technical staff from national AMICAALL programmes, undertook an analysis of "strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats" (SWOT) which provided useful inputs for the review of the Alliance strategic directions for the period 2005-2008. The Coordinating Committee reviewed the progress of UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme, the Secretariat, and the National AMICAALL Programmes. The Committee also reviewed the decisions made at their last meeting in December 2003.

## FAREWELL TO TERRY AND WELCOME TO ALFRED

The Alliance is greatly indebted to Mr. Terry Parker who helped to set up the Alliance Secretariat in late 2001 and worked as the Administrative Manager from January 2002 to September 2004. Terry is moving closer to his native Australia and his family. The Alliance wishes him the best in his new endeavours. Mr. Alfred Mndzebele, from Swaziland, has taken over as Administrative Manager at the Alliance Secretariat. The Alliance is pleased to welcome Alfred and wishes him success in his new functions.

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

A coalition of partners - Alliance Secretariat, AMICAALL Namibia, Local Authorities in Namibia, Ministry of Planning, Namibia, Social Impact Assessment and Policy Analysis Corporation (SIAPAC), UNDP and UN APP - have been working together to develop and test out a municipal level HIV/AIDS Impact Assessment and Planning Toolkit in four municipalities in Namibia. The overall objective of this activity is to develop a toolkit to guide local authorities in carrying out impact assessments of HIV/AIDS on municipal personnel and communities served by the municipality and to develop reality-based plans for implementation. The draft toolkit, which is now available, is being shared with a wide range of organisations and stakeholders to solicit feedback. During the development and testing of the toolkit in Namibia, it was found that the data to fully assess impact at local level are not readily available or in some cases simply not available. This is a constraint that needs to be addressed and an issue which the Alliance is raising with government and international development agencies in the hope that steps can be taken to address this gap.

## LAMVELASE HELP CENTRE OPENS IN SWAZILAND

Under the auspices of the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme, an HIV/AIDS testing and counseling center, opened in Manzini. This Centre is a pilot for other such facilities in Swaziland's urban areas. The Centre offers many services reflecting a holistic approach that is necessary for living positively with HIV/AIDS. The services include: counseling, blood testing, nutrition, exercise and legal aid. The Centre was named by King Mswati of Swaziland in remembrance of his great-grandmother.

## AMICAALL SWAZILAND SELECTED AS GOOD PRACTICE

In September 2004, the AMICAALL Swaziland Programme was selected as a "Good Practice" by UN-HABITAT and the Dubai Municipality. This was part of the 2004 Dubai International Award for Best Practices to Improve the Living Environment. AMICAALL Swaziland was nominated in the public, private, and community partnerships category.

## AMICAALL UGANDA RECEIVES FUNDING SUPPORT FROM GLOBAL FUND

The AMICAALL Uganda Programme received funding support from the Global Fund allocation to Uganda to support actions aimed at mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS in a select number of municipalities: Kampala, Jinja, Soroti, Fort Portal, Iganga, Kamuli, Hoima, Busia and Kisoro. This support will enable local partners to provide economic assistance to orphans and vulnerable children and affected households via micro loans and vocational training.

## WORLD URBAN FORUM

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

Presentations were made on a range of issues such as: coordination in a context of decentralization by Mayor Nokutula Mthembu, Swaziland; orphan care as a challenge to the local response to HIV/AIDS, Ms. Florence Muli-Musiime, UN Habitat; community participation and capacity building in the Blantyre City Assembly, Dr. Lycester Bandawe, Blantyre City Assembly, Malawi; knowledge sharing to mainstream HIV/AIDS in South African cities, Ms. Ntombini Marrengane, South African Cities Network; local authority HIV/AIDS impact assessment and participatory planning in Namibia and AMICAALL toolkit, Mr. Rudolph Mouton, SIAPAC, Namibia; and a handbook for local government responses to HIV/AIDS, Ms. Nina Schuler, World Bank. A report on this networking session will be prepared and shared via the AMICAALL website ([www.amicaall.org](http://www.amicaall.org)) and other channels of communication.

#### AMICAALL UKRAINE SHARES ITS EXPERIENCES IN RUSSIA

UN APP and the AMICAALL Ukraine Programme were invited to present a case study and share lessons on local government responses to HIV/AIDS in Ukraine (Crimea) at a seminar held in Suzdal, Russia from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October and organized with support from UNAIDS and cosponsors. A copy of the case study is available on the AMICAALL Ukraine website: [www.amicaall.org/ukraine/eg/documents/casestudy\\_eg.pdf](http://www.amicaall.org/ukraine/eg/documents/casestudy_eg.pdf).