

US AND AFRICAN MAYORS WORK TOGETHER TO CONFRONT HIV/AIDS

The US Conference of Mayors and the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa organized a visit by nine US mayors to four African countries - Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Uganda - in Aug/Sept 2003, as part of a city-to-city cooperation initiative to expand HIV/AIDS-related services and programs. This initiative was facilitated by the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme (UN APP) in collaboration with the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other partners, such as the Coca Cola Company, Motorola, Altria and Iridium. Led by US Conference of Mayors President, Hempstead (NY) Mayor James A. Garner, it was the largest mission undertaken in the 71-year history of the US Conference of Mayors. The goal of the trip was to share experiences and build partnerships between US and African cities and towns. This mission followed initial meetings of US and African mayors at the second International Conference of Mayors meeting in Denver, Colorado in June 2003. "We are committed to this cause and know that this mission will be another significant step towards furthering our partnership with African mayors," noted Mayor Garner. A detailed cooperation plan is currently being developed.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS/AMICAALL NAMIBIA PARTNERSHIP

AMICAALL Namibia was honored to be one of four programs chosen worldwide to participate in the 2003 PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Ulysses Program. The Alliance has a long-term partnership with PwC that is facilitated by the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme (UN APP). PwC, a multinational accounting, financial and business advisory company, is committed to building partnerships with civil society as well as developing a new generation of talented, culturally aware global leaders. During July and August 2003, a PwC team, worked with six local authorities (Aranos, Gochas, Stampriet, Maltahohe, Otjiwarongo and Eenhana) and community stakeholders to develop guidelines, training materials and manuals on subjects, such as impact assessment, budget preparation and reporting. The overall goal is to enhance accountability, transparency and strengthen local authority capacity to develop and manage - in collaboration with civil society organizations and communities - effective community-based responses to HIV/AIDS. At a workshop, initial findings were discussed with many stakeholders including: the Association for Local Authorities in Namibia, Ministry of Regional and Local Government, National AIDS Coordination Program, Namibian Red Cross, USAID, UNAIDS and UN APP. AMICAALL Namibia, and other AMICAALL programs, will benefit from this collaboration and the tools, materials and training guides developed for ongoing capacity development in cities and towns. This collaboration with PwC represents an excellent example of a private sector contribution to the HIV/AIDS response in Africa.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Alliance was invited to address the International Conference on Women in Local Government, held in Bloemfontein, South Africa from 13 to 15 August 2003. Alliance representatives shared information and documentation on local government's role in the response to HIV/AIDS. They also highlighted the importance of ensuring that the planning, design and delivery of HIV/AIDS-related services respond to the different experiences of men and women in terms of vulnerability and impact.

COLLABORATION WITH THE WORLD BANK

The Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa and the UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme (UNAPP) have developed an ongoing collaboration with the World Bank. Recent examples of this collaboration include the development of "Local Government Responses to HIV/AIDS: A Handbook" and efforts to enhance planning and program design capacities at the municipal level to respond to HIV/AIDS.

UN APP COLLABORATES WITH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

In early 2003, Sister Cities International (SCI) was awarded a grant from the US State Department to support community HIV/AIDS projects in seven collaborating African cities. The UN AMICAALL Partnership Programme (UN APP) is a collaborator on the grant. At the SCI annual conference, held in St. Louis in July, a special one-day Community Leadership Workshop was convened for representatives of the seven African cities (from Ghana and Kenya) and their cooperating US cities who are participating in the

grant activities. An UN APP Associate presented at the workshop and shared lessons from the Alliance and AMICAALL country experiences.