

E-bulletin - Issue 7

MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL LEADERS IN MALI DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION ON HIV/AIDS

Through a collaborative effort with UNAIDS and cosponsors, national and local government agencies, bilateral agencies and NGOS, UN APP facilitated a series of meetings and a workshop with local government leaders and their development partners in Mali in September on the role and contribution of local government to the national response to HIV/AIDS. A plan of action is under development.

MALAWI LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE ALLIANCE.

In October, the Malawi Local Government Association launched its national chapter of the Alliance, in Blantyre, Malawi. The Alliance and UN APP provided support for the preparatory activities and the launch. Support included sensitization workshops with mayors, municipal leaders and other stakeholders in the country. The next steps will be the development of an AMICAALL programme in Malawi.

AFRICA UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES (AULA) CONFERENCE ADDRESSES HIV/AIDS.

At the request of AULA, the Alliance, with support from UN APP and USAID organized a special session on HIV/AIDS and local government at the AULA Conference which was held in Bloemfontein, South Africa in October. Emerging lessons on the involvement of local government in confronting HIV/AIDS in their cities and towns were shared. The Conference provided an opportunity for the Alliance and its partners to advocate for integrating HIV/AIDS into municipal development agendas; expanding partnerships with civil society organisations; and expanding opportunities for local economic development.

PRIVATE SECTOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVES ON HIV/AIDS IN NAMIBIA.

The Otjiwarongo Multi-Purpose Help Center, located in northern Namibia, aims to provide a range of HIV-related services to the community: HIV prevention, care and support to affected households, support for orphans and vulnerable young people. Through an innovative programme sponsored by UNAIDS under its "Namibia Business Partnership Menu" initiative, the Namdeb Joint Venture Mining Company learned about the work of the Centre and provided a cash contribution to support its work. The Centre is the result of a coordinated effort by local government, non-governmental organisations and community groups, together with support from the National AMICAALL programme and international partners.

IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL: NAMIBIA

The national AMICAALL programme in Namibia is working with the National Planning Commission and UNDP, together with other partners to carry out a study on the impact of HIV/AIDS at the municipal level and to develop a municipal planning tool that will focus on impact mitigation.

11TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS, UGANDA

During the 11 International Conference of People Living with HIV/AIDS which took place in Uganda in October, a meeting was organized by the Chairman of the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Uganda, Mayor of Kampala John Ssebaana, with representatives of UNAIDS, the Conference Chairman and Coordinator of the National Guidance and Empowerment Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda, Major Rubaramira Ruranga, Ministry of Health, TASO, AMICAALL Uganda and other partners. This meeting provided an opportunity to share information on AMICAALL Uganda: progress and constraints and elicit feedback from representatives of people living with HIV/AIDS. While progress is being

made, it was noted that in many districts, local authorities had not yet internalized the challenges of HIV/AIDS. Stigma is still a big problem and as a result many people living with HIV/AIDS are not open about their status and do not seek help. It was noted that local authorities are now beginning to take responsibility and should be actively supported. The National Guidance and Empowerment Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda noted that the theme of the Conference was: "Dawn of Positive Leadership" and requested mayors to make this a reality since they are in a position of leadership in their communities.

UNAIDS/NABCOA PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILISATION MEETING IN NAMIBIA

UNAPP participated in and made a presentation to the regional Private Sector Mobilisation Meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 11 to 13 November 2003. The meeting brought together representatives of the Business Coalitions Against AIDS from Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Namibia. The meeting was coordinated by UNAIDS and the Namibia Business Coalition on AIDS (NABCOA), and also attended by UN and World Bank representatives from Geneva, Indonesia, Tanzania and Kenya. Following the presentation on AMICAALL, business coalition leaders recognised the synergies between the objectives of AMICAALL and Business Coalitions. They identified the need to work more closely with Mayors, local authorities and AMICAALL chapters, and encouraged them to contact their national Business Coalitions with a view to establishing meaningful collaborations.

WORKSHOP ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT APPROACHES TO HIV/AIDS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The AMICAALL Swaziland Programme represented the Alliance and UNAPP at this workshop in Johannesburg, South Africa on November 13 and 14. The event was hosted by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) in partnership with the Department of Health and the Education and Training Unit (ETU). The workshop is part of ongoing support for the development of the AMICAALL South Africa Programme. The workshop targeted individuals who are directly involved in municipal HIV/AIDS work.