



> A WORD from the Vice-President

"We take this opportunity to welcome the publication of the information bulletin of the "United Cities against Poverty" - "**The Letter**".

"The Letter" will further the influence of our organization, started with inaugural funding three years ago.

"United Cities against Poverty" although young, has gained a maturity in keeping with its ambitions and achievements, spreading quickly throughout many continents. This has been achieved by the active engagement of its member's in their fight against poverty and their desire to see a better quality of life in the populations with whom they feel such solidarity. Projects being undertaken underline this philosophy - in Bamako, Kigali, Abomey, Dakar, Ouagadougou... the local populations are feeling and living the benefits of our organisation".

The association UCP is an organisation that, in synergy with its member cities, lends a helping hand to those in need, in order to lessen the suffering that poverty brings.

Moussa Badoulaye Traoré, Vice President of the United Cities Against Poverty, Mayor of the district of Bamako.

> UCP ACTIVITIES

■ KICUKIRO / Kigali - Rwanda

In February, UCP entered a cooperative partnership with the town of **Kigali** and the district of **Kicukiro**. It involved putting in place a "**participative town workshop**" with the object of studying and rolling out projects, in consultation with the local population, aimed at "improving the quality of life" for locals.

Paul Rusagara, workshop coordinator, completed the consultation phase of the project in collaboration with the students of St. André College. This enabled the local population to prioritise the various proposed projects along the following lines:

- ▶ The construction of four water tanks.
- ▶ The construction of a road connecting two suburbs, hitherto disconnected by a swamp and creating an access to a primary school.
- ▶ The construction of a bridge connecting two suburbs hitherto separated by a ravine.

A partnership contract was signed between UCP and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Swiss Foreign affairs Ministry. As a result, a **participation fund** was set up allowing for the co-financing of certain projects.

■ DAKAR / Hann Bel Air - Senegal

The partnership with the commune of Hann Bel Air is now in the operational phase. Following an environmental evaluation by teams of experts from the Geneva and Barcelona missions, and a workshop organised by UCP in Geneva on 26th and 27th October, a programme of cooperation has been outlined.

In the presence of the Mayor of Hann Bel Air, Mr. Amadou Dia, it was agreed that in 2006 action would be taken to reinforce the municipal highways department and the recently created local environmental department.

The **first cleansing programme** of the bay which will start at the beginning of 2006 will aim at reinforcing the service through a number of important actions: the training of municipal staff together with practical advice in urban cleansing, the sending of 250 containers, 100 official jackets and other equipment from the highways department of Geneva and the construction of sanitary blocks.

■ KINSHASA / Democratic Republic of Congo

The training programme for elected officials and local staff in Kinshasa will take place in 2006.

The first training programme was supported by United Cities in 2004; the Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (IDHEAP) in Lausanne rolled out the first cycle of training consisting of 4 modules to a hundred or so elected officials and administration managers.

The main goal was to improve public services in the 24 communes of Kinshasa. The training modules, each of five days, touched on the following themes: **1)** new information technology, communication and cyber-administration, **2)** local finances, **3)** sustainable town planning, **4)** organisation and management of public services.

A second phase of the programme, for 2006, will be held in conjunction with the city of **Brussels** and a Belgium training institution - the ERAP (Ecole régionale de l'administration publique). For each module of the training, the **expertise drawn from the network of the UCP** will play a role by illustrating the theory with examples from their own professional practice.

ACTIVITIES / News of...

:- Bamako

Following the first phase and roll out of the cleansing programme in **Bamako** (Sogoninko) a new agreement was signed between the town of Bamako and UCP for the period 2005-2006 with the objective of extending the programme to other suburbs of the town. This extension will be financed principally by the HIPC (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries) Initiative.

United Cities continues to support the **coordination group** for projects concerning "cleansing and the fight against malaria" which will become an independent service at the end of the current project.

Moreover, the partnership has extended into the area of civil protection with the support of an operational unit from Bamako. The Geneva City Service of Assistance and Protection of the Population will offer their services and equipment in 2006 in the training of emergency help and utilisation of security intervention equipment.

:- Yaoundé IV

The commune of **Yaoundé IV** was invited to present its project of communal micro-credit before the General Assembly of the AIMF (International Association of Mayors and Heads of partially or totally French-speaking capital and major cities), which was held on 25-27 November 2005 in Antananarivo (Madagascar). At the heart of the debate was the idea of "micro credit" as a tool in the fight against poverty.

> UCP - New cities join the network

At the **General Assembly** of 25 August 2005 the UCP confirmed the membership of three new towns to the organisation - **Kigali** (Rwanda) **Dakar** (Senegal) and **Rosario** (Argentina). UCP has signed an agreement in August 2004 with Rosario so as to create an evaluation protocol of Rosario's Program of responsible procreation.

> IN BRIEF

On the 17th October, in Huy, Belgium, during the **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**, **Manuel Tornare**, President of the UCP, **Jean-Michel Daclin** (Lyon) and **Moussa Badoulaye Traoré** (Bamako) Vice-Presidents, took part in a meeting with local Belgium groups about the "Decentralised cooperation as a tool in the fight against poverty". The meeting, organised by Mrs. Anne-Marie Lizin, Mayor of Huy, (city member of UCP) and President of the Belgium Senate took place in the presence of Mr. **Bruce Jenks** Director of the Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships of the UNDP and Prince **Jean Nassau** advisor to the President of the "Suez Environment".

The **Fifth Forum** of the **World Alliance of Cities against Poverty** is to be held from the 29th to 31st March 2006 in Valencia Spain. At this time, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will put in place a **committee of sponsorship** for the Alliance which, under the presidency of Anne-Marie Lizin, will call together organisers from previous forums (Lyon, Geneva, Huy, Rome and Valencia) The goal being to give preferential status to programmes and projects that have, as their stated aim, the furthering of assistance to the impoverished cities in the developing world.

The President of the United Cities, **Manuel Tornare**, will be a speaker at the opening of the Forum of Valencia.

[Discussions are in progress between the UNDP and United Cities to delineate the nature of a "strategic partnership" which would allow the UCP to benefit, in the roll out of its projects, from the support of UNDP offices around the world.]

Manuel Tornare and the team of United Cities Against Poverty send their best wishes for 2006 !

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