



*DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program
Status Report
May 2003 to September 2004*

Angola



BACKGROUND

Introduction/General Information

The Angolan population is estimated to be 11 million people, with an average life expectancy of 37 years. Portuguese is the official language of Angola, which has an estimated literacy rate of 42%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Eighty-five percent of the Angolan population relies on subsistence agriculture; the annual per capita income is \$1,900.

Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors

The HIV prevalence rate in Angola's general population is between 3 and 5%, though the actual HIV prevalence is not known due to poor HIV surveillance infrastructure and a civil war that crippled the country for 26 years. Angola has an estimated 240,000 people living with AIDS. Identified significant risk factors include blood transfusions and unprotected sexual contact.

Military HIV/AIDS Information

The Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) is estimated at approximately 110,000. In November 2003, Charles R. Drew University and the FAA conducted sero-surveillance with 2800 troops in 4 locations in Angola. HIV prevalence rates were highest near the border of Namibia at 11%. The HIV rates among the remaining 3 sites were 5% in the capital city of Luanda and,

less than 3% in the remote areas of Kuito and Dundo.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

The FAA continued efforts in the implementation of their HIV/AIDS prevention plan, which included objectives in prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS, information and education activities to promote healthy sexual behavior, training in clinical syndromic management, and counseling regarding HIV, blood safety, and condom use.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military-to-Military

DHAPP funded two representatives from the FAA to attend the *All-Africa Military HIV/AIDS Prevention Workshop* in Gaborone Botswana. These representatives developed a list of FY04 HIV/AIDS prevention activities for the FAA and resource allocations are under review. Angola received notification from the Defense Security Cooperation Agency regarding the availability of a Foreign Military Financing (FMF) grant for procurement of medical equipment and supplies. Angola has also received the first increment of DHAPP funding to support its FY04 HIV/AIDS efforts for the FAA. Most recently a draft letter of offer and acceptance and supporting documentation was prepared by Navy International Programs Office to provide durable medical equipment, laboratory supplies, and HIV test kits to the FAA under the auspices of the FMF program. A DHAPP consultant at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, Georgia, will coordinate with the country team and civilian agencies to

identify specific items to be procured with FMF funds.

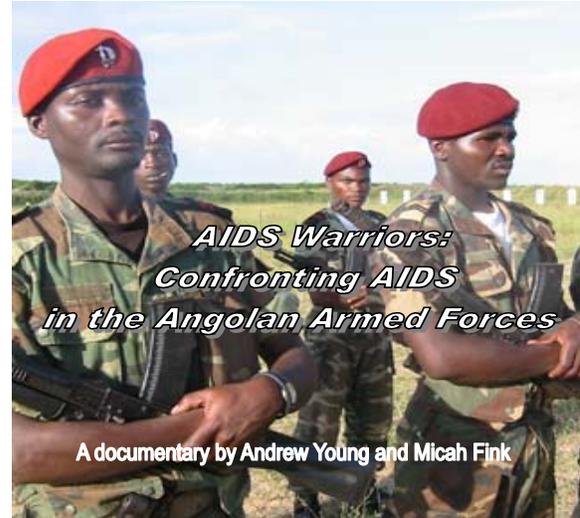
Contractor-Based Assistance

Charles R. Drew University, Los Angeles, California, received a DHAPP contract which sought to expand prevention efforts begun by DHAPP by augmenting the number of HIV prevention peer educators, placing an epidemiologist in Angola to coordinate HIV prevention efforts, initiating a public information campaign, and training a cadre of health workers in counseling and testing (CT), surveillance, epidemiology, and prevention.

The Drew/FAA HIV program was featured in a one-hour television special highlighting some of the efforts being conducted by Drew in conjunction with the Angolan military, and through US Department of Defense funding. This program, titled *AIDS Warriors*, aired nationally on PBS on 24 July 2003. It discussed the active role the military is taking to combat AIDS, describing it as the newest threat in postwar Angola. The program featured the gripping story of a soldier with HIV receiving emotional support as his wife was informed that they were both HIV positive. Demobilized FAA troops and repatriated Angolan refugees returning from neighboring countries where HIV rates are higher are potential carriers of HIV.

Drew University entered into another contract with DHAPP to expand peer educator training and HIV/STI intervention programs with the goals of (1) increasing knowledge about HIV among military personnel by developing an intervention and training senior and peer advocates, (2) developing a behavioral surveillance program, and (3) initiating CT programs. In addition, the epidemiologist stationed in Angola provided on-site training and hands-on experience in CT, HIV surveillance, epidemiology, and conducted social marketing of public health. Specifically,

billboard ads and brochures were used to launch a mass awareness campaign that emphasized HIV/STI prevention and correct use of condoms



The PBS series *Wide Angle* sent award-winning filmmakers Andrew Young and Micah Fink to Angola to look behind the HIV/AIDS pandemic and examine the role of the military in fighting this health crisis.

Clinical Provider Training

DHAPP funded the attendance of two FAA physicians at the 4-week *Military International HIV Training Program* in San Diego, California, during the summer of 2003.

Interoperability

DHAPP continues to collaborate with the US Agency for International Development, CDC, the US Embassy country team, and Drew University to ensure that HIV/AIDS prevention efforts are sustained.

PROGRAM IMPACT

The FAA developed a program of peer activists to be included within the Patriotic Education Program. More importantly, the Ministry of Health and the FAA are now starting a coordinated program to promote HIV education and prevention through peer

education programs and CT clinics in various locations across the country.

DHAPP-funded HIV/AIDS prevention efforts increased collaboration between the military and civilian sectors of health care and enhanced HIV prevention and awareness in Angola. Given that the military is a highly visible functioning segment of Angolan society, it is important for it to share experiences with civilian populations and organizations. Joint training of Angolan civilian and military medical providers in Los Angeles, and the creation of a civilian-military alliance evidence this sharing of public health concerns among FAA and civilian officials.

The civilian-military alliance also marks the beginning of long-term broad investment in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Additionally, the FAA is incorporating HIV education into patriot training for all recruits, which will ensure that all soldiers will be informed about HIV and prevention.

Master Trainers and Peer Educators

Four master trainers and 24 peer educators (PE) have been trained. The master trainers will instruct additional PEs and sustain them by ensuring that they have current information and guidance.

Number of Troops Trained

HIV/AIDS prevention programs are ongoing, reaching 44,419 troops during the reporting period.



An FAA officer, recently trained as a peer educator, speaks with members of the Commando Battalion based at Cabo Ledo about the dangers of AIDS.

Potential Number of Troops Affected

DHAPP-sponsored HIV/AIDS prevention efforts are expected to have an impact on the entire FAA, estimated at 110,000 troops.

Counseling and Testing (CT)

Thirty counselors work in the CT centers where 2500 personnel were tested for HIV during the reporting period, bringing total testing and clients receiving counseling to 6500.



DHAPP supported establishing 4 CT sites where troops may be tested, receive HIV prevention training, and get counseling on related health issues.