



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

Botswana



BACKGROUND

Introduction/General Information

The population of Botswana is estimated at 1.6 million people, with a life expectancy of 30.8 years down significantly from a high of 67 years prior to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. English is the official language of Botswana, which has an in-country literacy rate of 80%. Botswana has a stable, democratic government and a large, well-developed public health care infrastructure. The economy is based primarily in agriculture; the annual per capita income is approximately \$9,000.

Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors

Botswana has one of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in the world, with estimates ranging as high as 39% of the population with HIV infection and AIDS. Adults between the ages of 20 and 39 have the highest prevalence rate, and the numbers of adults believed to be living with AIDS is estimated to be 350,000. Identified risk factors include high-risk heterosexual contact with multiple partners, widespread poverty, in-country migration, and lack of care and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Military HIV/AIDS Information

The Botswana Defense Force (BDF) is estimated at 8000 personnel on active duty.

Since the BDF has not tested forcewide for HIV, the prevalence rate is unknown; however, it is estimated at 40%, slightly higher than the general population.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

The BDF continued the implementation of their DHAPP HIV/AIDS prevention plan, which included objectives in educating BDF personnel on HIV and STI prevention, training the caretakers of persons living with AIDS, ensuring access to and encouraging consistent use of condoms, creating an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign, establishing counseling and testing (CT) capability, and adapting off-the-shelf technology and training materials to local needs.

In September 2003, BDF representatives met with DHAPP staff during the *All-Africa HIV/AIDS Prevention Workshop* in Gaborone, Botswana. The BDF requested funding to expand and continue its HIV/AIDS prevention program. Specifically, funding was requested to support the following program elements: (1) developing an education mass marketing campaign in conjunction with Population Services International (PSI); (2) designing and conducting HIV/AIDS prevention promotional events and training; and (3) developing and/or purchasing HIV/AIDS training materials, including condom models.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military-to-Military

DHAPP awarded funds to hire an HIV/AIDS coordinator, purchase 9 modular CT centers, and procure laboratory equipment. DHAPP also provided funding to purchase computer and audiovisual equipment and mass awareness supplies for the BDF. The Botswana Government, BDF, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are actively collaborating on a program, known as BOTUSA, that is providing CT services to military personnel. DHAPP is providing HIV test kits for this program element. To date, more than 300 troops have been tested.

DHAPP and the BDF hosted the *All-Africa HIV/AIDS Prevention Workshop* from 8-12 September 2003 in Gaborone, Botswana. One hundred thirty-nine representatives from African countries attended this highly successful workshop. Eight representatives from the BDF were participants in the workshop. The American Ambassador to Botswana and Commanding General of the BDF welcomed attendees and emphasized the critical need for HIV prevention, particularly among militaries.

In response to the most recent BDF proposal and request for support (received in September 2003), DHAPP funding has been provided to support an HIV prevention social marketing campaign coordinated with PSI/Botswana. The campaign uses print ads, radio spots, drama troupes, quiz nights, music and dance, and sporting events to continue spreading HIV/AIDS prevention information. Additionally, posters, brochures, bottle openers, comic books, and other promotional items aimed at HIV/AIDS prevention have been developed and distributed.

The BDF has been approved for Foreign Military Financing grant funds to procure HIV screening and diagnosis equipment; formal mechanisms for receipt and disbursement of

these funds are in progress by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency and the Navy International Programs Office.

Contractor-Based Assistance

ResourceLinC, Inc. received funding from DHAPP to develop and implement an HIV/AIDS prevention program for the BDF, including increased emphasis on primary prevention, enhanced CT and STI treatment and care, improved capacity and infrastructure development through training of medical personnel, and adaptation of HIV education and intervention tools for local needs.

ResourceLinC subsequently administered a prevention training curriculum that included situation-specific and culturally appropriate HIV prevention methods in a train-the-trainer module, psychosocial support for HIV infected troops, and training in the use of technological tools.

Clinical Provider Training

DHAPP funded 2 members of the BDF to attend the *XIV International HIV/AIDS Conference* in Barcelona, Spain, and the *First South African AIDS Conference*, held 3-6 August 2003 in Durban, South Africa.

Interoperability

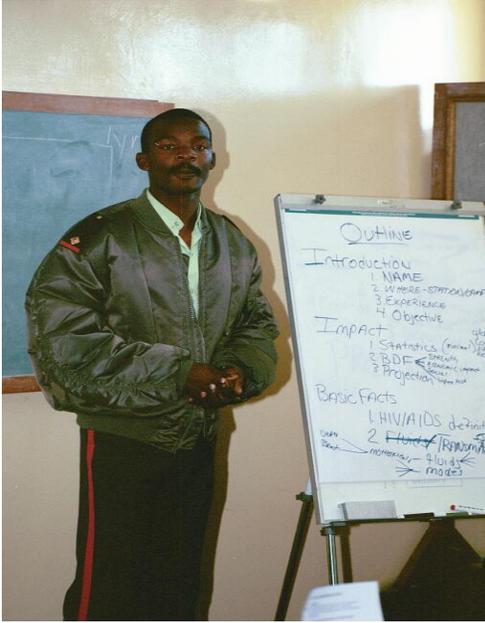
DHAPP continued facilitation of an established liaison between the BOTUSA project and the BDF, providing expanded HIV screening of military members at CT sites sponsored by the CDC.

PROGRAM IMPACT

In Botswana, all four pillars of the DHAPP program were supported.

Master Trainers and Peer Educators

DHAPP has supported training for 55 master trainers and 314 peer educators.



DHAPP-trained peer educator presents HIV/AIDS information to fellow troops.

Number of Troops Trained

A total of 1727 troops have been trained via classroom, house-to-house, and mass awareness campaigns.

Potential Number of Troops Affected

The BDF's HIV prevention efforts reached 8000 troops.

Counseling and Testing (CT)

Five CT centers are open, one in each military camp. In addition, the BDF and the CDC recently established an agreement to share CT services for testing military personnel for HIV. To date, more than 300 troops have been tested.

Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure

DHAPP provided 9 portable campers for CT and laboratory services.

Mass Awareness

A multi-faceted mass awareness social marketing campaign coordinated with PSI is being conducted in Botswana (see Program Response).