



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

Ethiopia



BACKGROUND

Introduction/General Information

The population of Ethiopia is estimated to be 67.85 million, with an average life expectancy of 40.88 years; the latter has been significantly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Amharic and English are the predominate languages, with a literacy rate of 42.7%, disproportionately distributed between men and women. The Ethiopian economy is primarily agricultural, accounting for comprising half of the gross national product and employing 80% of the workforce. Annual per capita income is \$700.

Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors

The HIV/AIDS prevalence estimate is 6%, and the number of people believed to be living with AIDS is 1.5 million. Identified risk factors include blood transfusions, unsafe injections, perinatal transmission, and unprotected sexual contact. Eighty-eight percent of all transmissions are acquired through heterosexual contact, and 87% of new infections are the result of "multiple sex-partnering."

Military HIV/AIDS Information

The National Defense Force of Ethiopia (NDFE) is estimated at approximately 250,000. HIV prevalence in the NDFE is estimated at 7%.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

The NDFE FAA continued efforts in the implementation of their DHAPP HIV/AIDS prevention plan, which included reducing the rate of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI), increasing condom use by soldiers, providing healthcare and psychosocial support to HIV-positive NDFE personnel and their dependants, establishing an HIV/AIDS/STI information center at military headquarters and satellite facilities, establishing counseling and testing (CT) within the NDFE, and training healthcare workers in universal precautions and HIV management.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military-to-Military

DHAPP funds were provided to pay for 2 representatives from the NDFE to attend the *All-Africa Military HIV/AIDS Prevention Workshop* in Gaborone Botswana. At this meeting, a list of proposed fiscal year 2004 HIV/AIDS prevention activities was developed and forwarded to the NDFE for review and approval. In addition, the NDFE has been selected to receive FY-04 Foreign Military Financing funds to procure HIV diagnostic, blood bank safety and storage equipment. DHAPP staff visited Ethiopia to assess medical equipment at NDFE hospitals. Additional staff traveled to Addis Ababa to participate in the meeting titled *New Strategies for HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Resource Constrained Countries*, which was sponsored by the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC). Recently, Ethiopia received DHAPP funds to complete the HIV/AIDS Resource and Information Center, implement fiscal year 2004 *President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS Relief* (PEPFAR) DoD Mission Strategic Plan, and to pay general and administrative costs to run the HIV/AIDS prevention program.

Contractor-Based Assistance

DHAPP awarded a contract to Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, to implement a CT program and to train NDFE instructors, thereby providing CT services on a forcewide basis.

During this reporting period, Johns Hopkins University was awarded a second contract, and 4 additional CT centers were opened. Johns Hopkins evaluated the effectiveness of the CT program created in 2002, updated CT training course materials, and assessed the knowledge and skills of NDFE counselors.

Clinical Provider Training

None during this reporting period.

Interoperability

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to support CT programs that Johns Hopkins University established under contract to DHAPP.

PEPFAR

Ethiopia has been identified as a focus country in the PEPFAR, which was announced during the 2003 State of the Union Address to Congress. Two DHAPP staff members traveled to Addis Ababa in August 2004 for meetings with NDFE representatives and American Embassy defense personnel to discuss PEPFAR Track 2.0 initiatives. Based on those discussions, the NDFE included the following initiatives in the PEPFAR country operating plan (COP):

- Establish a safe blood supply,
- Strengthen behavior change communication programs,
- Enhance counseling and testing,
- Establish two mobile counseling and testing units,
- Improve strategic information regarding HIV/AIDS rates among NDFE personnel,
- Enhance laboratory capacity, and
- Provide management support.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Master Trainers and Peer Educators

DHAPP prepared 5 CT instructors who are approved to teach CT methods; these CT instructors trained 100 CT counselors. Additionally, 24 master educators and 198 peer educators have been trained to conduct HIV/AIDS prevention education sessions.

Number of Troops Trained

To date, 6554 troops have received specific training and more than 25,000 have attended seminars and dramas presenting HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention information.

Potential Number of Troops Affected

DHAPP-sponsored programs affect 250,000 NDFE troops.

Counseling and Testing (CT)

An additional 4 CT centers were opened, bringing current operations to 7. To date, CT counselors have screened more than 3000 troops for HIV. Approximately 100 NDFE personnel have been trained to provide CT counseling.

Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure

None during this reporting period.

Mass Awareness

Drama troupes and billboards continue to spread HIV/AIDS prevention messages to tens of thousands of troops.