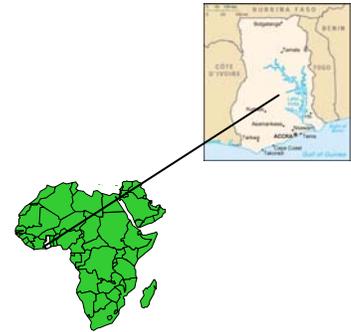




*DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program
Status Report
May 2003 to September 2004*

Ghana



BACKGROUND

Introduction/General Information

The population of Ghana is estimated at 20.8 million people, with a life expectancy of 56 years. English is the official language; literacy is about 74.8%, disproportionately distributed between males and females. Ghana has a developing economy with developed export markets; however, 60% of the population relies on subsistence agriculture. The annual per capita income estimate is \$2,200.

Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors

HIV/AIDS prevalence in Ghana is estimated at 2.8% of the population; the number of people living with AIDS is 350,000. Risk factors include heterosexual contact with multiple partners and commercial sex workers, low condom use, and a high incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). HIV is spread through heterosexual contact, which accounts for up to 80% of infections. Select groups of commercial sex workers tested had prevalence rates as high as 76%. Mother-to-child transmission accounts for about 15% of infections.

Military HIV/AIDS Information

The Ghanaian military numbers about 18,000 troops. A nationwide HIV prevalence study done in 2001 indicated

an HIV prevalence rate in the military of 6.7%, which is significantly higher than the general population.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

The GAF continued efforts in the implementation of their DHAPP HIV/AIDS prevention plan, which included the establishment of CT centers in military garrisons and the central military hospital, staffing for the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) AIDS committee, and the acquisition of a vehicle.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military to Military

DHAPP provided assistance to the GAF HIV/AIDS Program with regional travel, purchase of computer and audiovisual equipment, training, and office support.

In addition, an updated proposal was received from the GAF in February 2004. In response, DHAPP provided additional funding to allow Ghana to continue and expand its HIV/AIDS prevention proposal. Specifically, funds were provided for the following functions: (1) establishing counseling and testing (CT) centers and making HIV testing available to troops and their families, (2) training CT counselors and laboratory technicians, (3) training peer educators to provide information and

education and promote condom use, and (4) facilitating local project management.

The GAF has also been approved for Foreign Military Financing grant funds to procure HIV test kits; formal mechanisms for receipt and disbursement of these funds are in progress by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency and Navy International Programs Office.

DHAPP funds were used to support a representative from the Ghana Police Service in attending the *All-Africa Military HIV/AIDS Prevention Workshop* in Gaborone, Botswana.

Contractor-Based Assistance

The Ghana Police Service AIDS Control Program was awarded a DHAPP contract to implement a prevention campaign to reduce the incidence of STIs/HIV, improve treatment for STIs, encourage monogamy, increase the use of condoms, develop an HIV/AIDS education program, and establish CT for police officers.

Clinical Provider Training

None during this reporting period.

Interoperability

None during this reporting period.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Following training, Ghana Police Service peer educators provided prevention sessions throughout the police force. In addition, Ghana Police produced and disseminated materials developed for a comprehensive social marketing media campaign.

The Ghana Police experience has had a widespread effect on HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in several other countries funded by DHAPP. In particular, the requirement for

leather condom pouches as part of the uniform has been widely borrowed as a social marketing tool in African militaries.

Master Trainers and Peer Educators

Ghana's military HIV/AIDS prevention program is beginning.

Number of Troops Trained

None during this reporting period.

Potential Number of Troops Affected

The program has the potential of reaching 18,000 troops.

Counseling and Testing (CT)

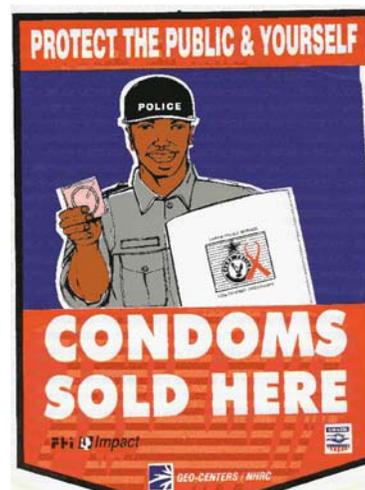
None during this reporting period.

Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure

None during this reporting period.

Mass Awareness

Ghana Police produced and disseminated a large number of HIV prevention materials, including posters, stickers, brochures, key rings, and condom wallets for all uniforms.



A poster developed by the Ghanaian Police Service to promoting HIV/AIDS prevention.