



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



**Mali**



**BACKGROUND**

**Introduction/General Information**

The population of Mali is estimated to be 11.96 million people, with a life expectancy of 45.28 years. French is the official language, with an estimated literacy rate of 46.4%, disproportionately distributed between males and females. The economy of Mali is described as underdeveloped, with 80% of the population engaging in subsistence agriculture. The annual per capita income estimate is \$900.

**Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors**

Mali is believed to have one of the lowest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in sub-Saharan Africa, estimated to be approximately 1.9% of the adult population with either HIV infection or AIDS. The number of people estimated to be living with AIDS is 140,000. Identified significant risk factors include a high incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and high-risk heterosexual contact with both multiple partners and commercial sex workers.

**Military HIV/AIDS Information**

Although the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate of the military population in Mali is not known, it is estimated to be greater than the 1.9% national average.

**PROPOSED PROGRAM**

To date, no HIV/AIDS prevention plan has been submitted by Mali.

**PROGRAM RESPONSE**

**Military-to-Military**



The DHAPP-sponsored HIV prevention program has developed military and culturally specific behavior change communication materials.

DHAPP funded 2 representatives from the Malian military to attend the *All-Africa Military HIV/AIDS Prevention Workshop* in Gaborone Botswana. At this meeting, a list of proposed HIV/AIDS prevention activities was developed and subsequently forwarded to the Malian military for review and approval. Results of this review are pending. Items procured with FY03 DHAPP funds

were handed over to the Malian Minister of Defense in an official HIV/AIDS donation ceremony and included condom vending machines, and computer and medical supplies to support HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care. Previous DHAPP funding supported HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention and treatment activities, and training and study trips for Ministry of Defense medical staff and high-level officers. These training events and workshops were widely covered by local and international media, including the BBC.

DHAPP funds were also provided to the American Embassy in Bamako to construct and outfit an HIV education center for the Malian military, including computer and audiovisual equipment, Internet connectivity, and to support HIV/AIDS prevention program management costs.

#### **Contractor-Based Assistance**

Population Services International (PSI) was awarded a contract to develop and implement an HIV/AIDS prevention program with the Malian military. Peer educators and peer educator supervisors were trained in STI/HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive health, communication techniques, negotiation techniques, and counseling and testing (CT). The peer educator supervisors were also trained in constructive supervising techniques. PSI also carried out multiple awareness raising events with the DHAPP-purchased mobile video unit. PSI opened 3 CT centers.

#### **Clinical Provider Training**

To date, 129 nurses, 52 doctors, and several midwives received training in the diagnosis and treatment of STIs and the care and support of HIV-positive patients.

#### **PROGRAM IMPACT**

Peer educators in Sévaré took the initiative to work with local radio stations and provide

STI/HIV prevention messages. In addition to their work with their peers, the peer educators were guests on popular radio shows throughout the week, allowing the entire community of Sévaré to have access to these messages.

Due to the success of the awareness-raising sessions in the military camps, PSI was approached by the police commandant to carry out the same activities with his police officers during the National HIV/AIDS Awareness Month. Three activities were held in Bamako, reaching 330 people.



A military theme attracts attention of Malian troops to the HIV/AIDS prevention program sponsored by DAHPP.

#### **Master Trainers and Peer Educators**

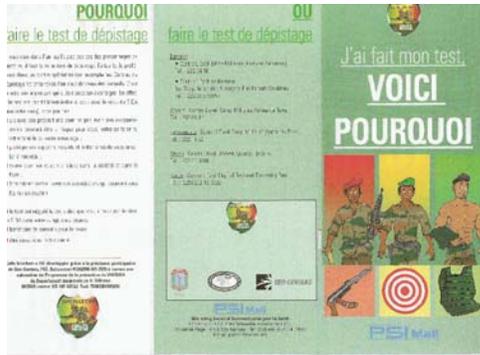
Twenty master trainers were trained and 200 peer educators have been trained.

#### **Number of Troops Trained**

DHAPP-sponsored HIV/AIDS prevention efforts reached 100% of Mali's military.

#### **Potential Number of Troops Affected**

DHAPP-sponsored HIV/AIDS prevention efforts can reach 20,000 troops.



A DHAPP-sponsored contractor produced HIV awareness and behavior change communication materials specifically targeting Mali's military.

## Counseling and Testing (CT)

Three CT centers were opened and have screened 478 people at the time of this report. Ten CT counselors have been trained.

## Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure

DHAPP provided support to improve laboratories with air conditioning, running water, computers, and rapid test kits.

## Mass Awareness

Twenty-six mass awareness events were conducted, reaching 4280 members of the military and their families.



A camouflaged motif and local language help target military members in Mali with HIV prevention materials.