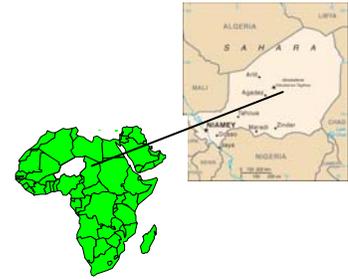




*DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program  
Status Report  
May 2003 to September 2004*



*Niger*



## **BACKGROUND**

### **Introduction/General Information**

The population of Niger is estimated at 11.36 million people, with life expectancy estimates of 42.2 years. French is the official language, with a literacy rate of approximately 17.6%. Niger is a poor, landlocked, sub-Saharan nation, whose economy centers on subsistence agriculture, animal husbandry, and re-export trade. The estimated annual per capita income is \$800.

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

Niger has a relatively modest HIV/AIDS infection rate estimated at 1.2%. Approximately 70,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in Niger.

### **Military HIV/AIDS Information**

No reliable estimates are currently available for the size of the military forces of Niger. Furthermore, Niger has not performed forcewide testing of personnel, making current HIV prevalence rates unavailable. It is believed that the HIV infection rate is slightly higher in the military than the general population.

## **PROPOSED PROGRAM**

In November 2003 DHAPP received a list of HIV/AIDS prevention activities from Niger, arranged in order of priority, requesting

resource support. Resource allocations were reviewed. DHAPP requested that the country team submit a proposal to the Embassy in Niamey. In April 2004 DHAPP received the proposal to expand Niger's HIV/AIDS prevention program in its military. The proposal included a behavioral surveillance survey, peer education training, and HIV/AIDS rapid test kits.

## **PROGRAM RESPONSE**

### **Military-to-Military**

Funds were allocated in and forwarded to the American Embassy to begin implementing the military HIV/AIDS prevention proposal submitted by Niger. Funds included support to purchase medical supplies, condom machines, computer equipment, and meet regional training costs and related expenses. In January 2004, an official hand-over ceremony was presided over by the Minister of Defense and the US Ambassador to Niger, and covered by local media. The Nigerien military medical team is fully equipped to undertake HIV/AIDS awareness raising, prevention, and treatment training programs.

### **Contractor-Based Assistance**

None during this reporting period.

### **Clinical Provider Training**

In September 2003, 60 military doctors and nurses were trained in the integrated

management of STDs, and in January 2004 they were given the medical supplies necessary to implement treatment. The training programs were covered in local and international media.

### **Interoperability**

Four members of the Nigerian military HIV/AIDS committee traveled to Cameroon in August 2003 to visit DOD-funded HIV/AIDS activities. As a result of their one-week visit, useful contacts were established with Cameroonian HIV/AIDS prevention networks, and military-specific HIV/AIDS posters and awareness raising tools were shared (and will be modified and reproduced in Niger). As a result of the awareness-raising workshop (which was attended by the US Ambassador and Defense Attaché to Niger, the First Lady, the Minister of Defense, and a representative of the HIV/AIDS Multi-sectoral Coordination Program), the motivation of military leaders to participate in HIV/AIDS prevention programs and their understanding of the importance of these programs increased. The event was extensively covered in local media.



The US Ambassador and Defense Attaché greeting the Nigerian Minister of Defense during a formal turnover ceremony of material and supplies procured with DHAPP funds.

## **PROGRAM IMPACT**

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

None during this reporting period.

### **Number of Troops Trained**

None during this reporting period.

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

The entire Nigerian military has the potential to be reached by its emerging HIV/AIDS prevention activities.

### **Counseling and Testing (CT)**

None during this reporting period.

### **Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure**

None during this reporting period.

### **Mass Awareness**

Both the HIV/AIDS awareness workshop and the official hand-over of equipment and condoms supplies were covered extensively by local media.



Members of the Nigerian military display condoms obtained through a program financed by the German AID agency (KfW). The KfW collaborated with DHAPP coordinators in Niger to promote condom use among military personnel.