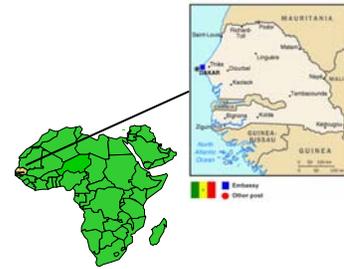




*DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program
Status Report
May 2003 to September 2004*

Senegal



BACKGROUND

Introduction/General Information

The population of Senegal is estimated to be 10.85 million people, with a life expectancy of 56.6 years. French is the official language in Senegal, with an in-country literacy rate estimated to be 40.2%, distributed disproportionately between males and females. Senegal is a developing nation with a strong democratic government and relatively well-diversified economy. The annual per capita income estimate is \$1,600.

Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors

Senegal has one of the lowest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in sub-Saharan Africa, with an estimated 0.8% of the population with either HIV infection or AIDS. The number of people believed to be living with AIDS is 44,000. Identified risk factors include heterosexual contact with multiple partners and commercial sex workers. Testing among selected groups of commercial sex workers in Senegal revealed prevalence rates as high as 20 – 30%, according to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Military HIV/AIDS Information

There are no reliable estimates of the size of Senegal's military. The military has not performed forcewide testing of personnel; however, DHAPP-sponsored CT provided HIV screening to 4105 Senegalese Armed Forces members. The prevalence rate of troops testing positive for HIV infection from this surveillance was 1.24%.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

Senegal requested funding for its military HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and management plan. This comprehensive plan included initiatives to:

- Enhance general healthcare,
- Ensure condom accessibility to 100% of the force,
- Provide counseling and testing (CT),
- Improve treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs),
- Develop and disseminate culturally and situationally appropriate educational aids,
- Participate in national mass awareness efforts, such as the Senegalese National Youth AIDS and Women's AIDS Weeks, and World AIDS Day,
- Enhance diagnostic and treatment capacity for screening for HIV and other STIs, and
- Develop a syndromic management program.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military to Military

DHAPP funded the attendance of 3 Senegalese Armed Forces representatives to attend the *All-Africa Military HIV/AIDS Prevention Workshop* in Gaborone, Botswana, in September 2003. Senegalese representatives developed a list of proposed HIV/AIDS prevention activities and submitted it to the Senegalese military for review. In December 2003 Senegal received notification from the Defense Security Cooperation Agency regarding availability

of Foreign Military Financing grant funds to procure HIV diagnostics and viral load analyzer equipment. DHAPP provided funding to purchase laboratory equipment and supplies, conduct mass awareness campaigns, and to support travel for the HIV coordinators for the Senegalese military.

Contractor-Based Assistance

None during this reporting period.

Clinical Provider Training

None during this reporting period.

Interoperability

The Senegalese military was again included in the national HIV serologic and behavioral surveillance study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Master Trainers and Peer Educators

To date, 52 members of the Senegalese Armed Forces have been trained as peer educators.



Director of Health for the Senegalese Army instructs new recruits on the importance of maintaining a fit and healthy fighting force.

Number of Troops Trained

A total of 285 nurses received HIV/AIDS prevention training under the DHAPP-sponsored program. The Senegalese Armed Forces provided HIV/AIDS prevention

training and screening for 2149 Senegalese soldiers prior to deployment for a peacekeeping mission. A total of 4105 troops have been screened for HIV and have received HIV/AIDS prevention information.

Potential Number of Troops Affected

The Senegalese military's HIV prevention program has the potential to reach the entire military; however, at this time there are no estimates of the size of this military.

Counseling and Testing (CT)

DHAPP-sponsored CT provided HIV screening to 4105 Senegalese Armed Forces members. As noted earlier, the prevalence rate of troops testing positive for HIV infection from this surveillance was 1.24%.

Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure

None during this reporting period.

Mass Awareness

The Health Department of the Senegalese Armed Forces organized sports activities (cross-country running and wrestling) and drama plays for 850 newly recruited soldiers and 130 noncommissioned officers. The Director of the Senegal Army Department of Health Services kicked off the events, emphasizing the necessity of AIDS screening in bringing about a change in behavior and protecting the health of the force.



Finish line at a 10K race organized by the Senegal Army Department of Health Services for new recruits and noncommissioned officers.