



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

Swaziland



BACKGROUND

Introduction/General Information

The population of Swaziland is estimated to be 1.17 million, with an average life expectancy of 37.54 years, reduced (from 46 in 1970) due to the AIDS epidemic. English and siSwati are the official languages of Swaziland. The literacy rate is estimated at 81%, evenly distributed between men and women. Swaziland is a developing nation with a majority of the population (80%) dependent on subsistence agriculture; the per capita income estimate is \$4,900.

Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors

Swaziland has one of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in Africa, with estimate of 38.8% of the adult population with either HIV infection or AIDS. The number of people believed to be living with AIDS is 220,000. Identified risk factors include high population mobility, high-risk heterosexual contact with both multiple partners and commercial sex workers, and high incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). In 1999, HIV prevalence at select STI clinics in Swaziland was over 50%.

Military HIV/AIDS Information

There are no reliable estimates currently available for the size of military forces in Swaziland. The Umbutfo Swaziland

Defense Force (USDF) has not performed systematic screening of personnel; therefore prevalence statistics are unavailable. Current forcewide rates are believed to be greater than in the civilian population.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

Through liaison with the Office of Defense Cooperation in South Africa and DHAPP staff in-country needs assessment visits, the USDF agreed on the first steps in a comprehensive prevention program, outlined below.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military to Military

Swaziland received fiscal year 2004 DHAPP funding to support the following HIV/AIDS efforts for the USDF:

- Training for counseling and testing (CT) counselors and laboratory technicians,
- Purchasing medical and laboratory equipment, and
- Paying local program management costs.

The USDF has been selected to receive Foreign Military Financing funds for HIV test kits. In addition, a DHAPP logistician met with representatives from the American Embassy, USDF, and the National Ministry of Health to identify personnel and equipment resource requirements to support

HIV surveillance activities for the USDF. Equipment procured to date includes a refrigerator, centrifuge, sharps containers, HIV rapid test kits, desktop computers, projectors, and other laboratory/office supplies for use by USDF personnel at the main military hospital.

Contractor-Based Assistance

Medical Care and Development International (MCDI) was awarded a contract to develop and implement an HIV/AIDS prevention program in conjunction with USDF. Recently, MCDI was awarded a follow-on contract to expand previously developed program elements. Key components of the program included:

- HIV risk assessment,
- CT Training,
- HIV/AIDS/STI diagnostic, treatment and case management training,
- A surveillance system,
- Knowledge, attitudes, practices, and behaviors (KAPB) surveys ,
- A mass awareness campaign,
- Capacity building for HIV/AIDS-affected military personnel and their dependents, and
- Monitoring and evaluation.

MCDI developed training manuals for ongoing project management and administration as well as CT training. A Sentinel Surveillance System was introduced to collect epidemiological data. MCDI also developed information, education and communication (IEC) materials in English and siSwati and distributed them to military bases and at mass awareness events. MCDI aired radio programs in English and siSwati targeting USDF members and their families to address common misconceptions about HIV/AIDS.

Clinical Provider Training

None during this reporting period.

Interoperability

None during this reporting period.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Master Trainers and Peer Educators

In addition to the 50 peer educators previously trained, 2 additional master trainers were trained and equipped. Other training included data collection personnel (5), project managers and administrative personnel (23), and clinical protocol managers (24). An additional 1800 were trained in behavior change communication.

Number of Troops Trained

HIV/AIDS prevention and sensitization workshops have reached 2,700 troops.

Potential Number of Troops Affected

The entire USDF has the potential to be reached through the ongoing prevention efforts.

Counseling and Testing (CT)

The Phocweni CT center began operation in late 2003 and to date, 27 counselors have been trained in CT counseling.

Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure

DHAPP funds were used to purchase a refrigerator, centrifuge, sharps containers, HIV rapid test kits, desktop computers, projectors, and other laboratory and office supplies.

Mass Awareness

As part of the IEC campaign, 2 film clips and numerous radio spots were developed, distributed, and aired throughout Swaziland.