



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

Togo



BACKGROUND

Introduction/General Information

The population of Togo is estimated to be 5.56 million, with an estimated life expectancy of 53.05 years. French is the official language in Togo, where the literacy rate is estimated to be approximately 60.9%; literacy is distributed disproportionately between men and women. Togo has a developing economy, with 65% of the workforce engaged in both commercial and subsistence agriculture; the per capita income estimate is \$1,500.

Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors

HIV/AIDS prevalence in Togo is estimated to be 6% of the adult population with either HIV infection or AIDS. The number of people estimated to be living with AIDS is 110,000. Identified significant risk factors include a high prevalence of sexually transmitted infections and high-risk heterosexual contact with multiple partners.

Military HIV/AIDS Information

Togo's military size is estimated at approximately 12,000. The Togolese Armed Forces (FAT) has not performed systematic screening of personnel; however, the HIV prevalence rate among Togolese forces is estimated to be 14%, which is significantly higher than the rest of the population.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

An HIV/AIDS prevention plan has not been submitted by the Togolese military to date.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military to Military

DHAPP provided funds to the US Embassy in Togo to support a proposal by Population Services International (PSI) to implement primary HIV prevention, including developing a peer education network and a system for condom distribution.

DHAPP funded the attendance of 2 FAT representatives at the *All-Africa Military HIV/AIDS Prevention Workshop* in Gaborone, Botswana. DHAPP funds continued to support HIV awareness activities among FAT members and their dependents and ensure comprehensive monitoring and evaluation and peer education programs. In addition, the FAT was approved for Foreign Military Financing grant funds to procure HIV diagnostic equipment and test kits.

Contractor-Based Assistance

DHAPP entered a follow-on contract with PSI to train more personnel on HIV/AIDS prevention, distribute prevention messages through a media campaign, and assist people living with HIV/AIDS through various support programs.

Key points of the PSI program include:

- Training peer educators and counselors,
- Distributing condoms,
- Establishing a behavior change communication (BCC) campaign,
- Conducting mass awareness initiatives,
- Training STI clinic staff in diagnosis, treatment, and counseling,
- Training counseling and testing (CT) counselors, and
- Conducting workshops for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)

Clinical Provider Training

None during this reporting period.

Interoperability

None during this reporting period.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Master Trainers and Peer Educators

PSI trained an additional 240 peer educators and 24 peer educator supervisors, increasing the total to 840 and 84, respectively.

Number of Troops Trained

PSI has reached virtually all of the FAT military personnel with the HIV/AIDS prevention message.

Potential Number of Troops Affected

Through DHAPP support, PSI has affected approximately 12,000 FAT troops and their family members.

Counseling and Testing (CT)

Four CT sites are open and 30 counselors have been trained. In the last year, these CT centers screened 2974 clients.

Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure

An additional 8 technicians have been trained to use HIV rapid test protocols, bringing the total trained to 10.

Mass Awareness

PSI held 18 mass BCC events attended by approximately 2500 soldiers per session, thereby reaching 45,000 troops with HIV prevention messages. Each member of the FAT attended 3 to 4 events last year.