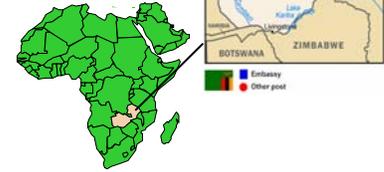




*DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program
Status Report
May 2003 to September 2004*

Zambia



BACKGROUND

Introduction/General Information

The population of Zambia is estimated to be 10.46 million, with a life expectancy of 35.18 years, down significantly due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. English is the official language of Zambia, with an estimated literacy rate of 80.6%, distributed disproportionately between men and women. Zambia is described as one of the most urbanized countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with almost 50% of the population living in a few urban areas clustered along the principal transportation corridor. One consequence of this population distribution pattern is widespread unemployment and poverty; the annual per capita income estimate is \$800.

Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors

With almost 21% of the adult population with either HIV infection or AIDS, Zambia has one of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in the world. The number of people estimated to be living with AIDS is 920,000. Identified risk factors include a high prevalence of sexually transmitted infections, heterosexual contact with multiple partners, perinatal transmission, significant cultural stigmatization of people with HIV or AIDS, and specific cultural practices.

Military HIV/AIDS Information

The size of the Zambian military is estimated at 27,000. The Zambian Defence Force (ZDF) has not performed systematic screening of its personnel; however, HIV/AIDS prevalence rates are estimated at 35% of the military force, which is significantly higher than the general population.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

DHAPP has worked through the Defense Attache Office in the US Embassy in Zambia to ascertain needs and provide assistance. No formal plan has been received from the ZDF.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military to Military

DHAPP funded computer and audio-visual equipment; initial and refresher training courses for social workers, physician assistants, and peer educators, and support for drama, song and dance groups. In addition, the ZDF has been approved for Foreign Military Financing grant funds to procure HIV screening/diagnostic equipment and test kits.

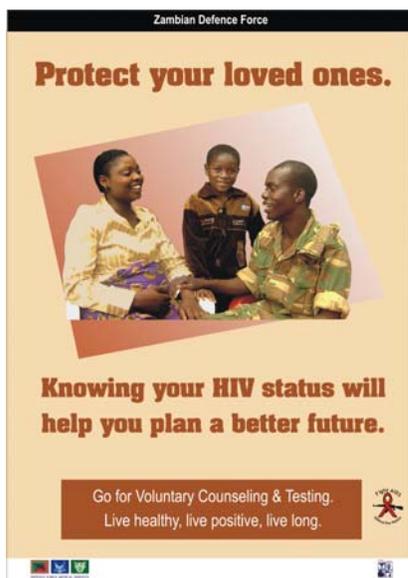
Contractor-Based Assistance

DHAPP funded a contract with Project Concern International (PCI) to perform several HIV prevention efforts including:

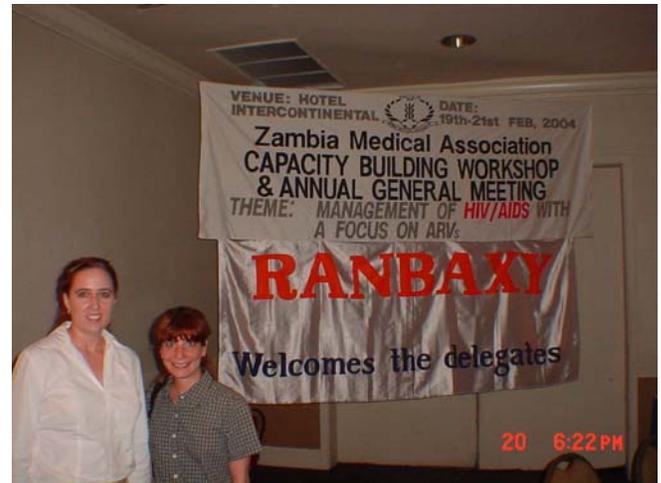
- Refresher training for master trainers and peer educators,
- Support for drama/song/dance groups to convey the HIV/AIDS prevention message, and
- Sponsorship of a series of HIV/AIDS prevention workshops with military and civilian agencies.

Twenty ZDF personnel are scheduled to receive training in the *Theater for Development*, which incorporates HIV/AIDS education into drama, dance, and song. Three ZDF members, who completed HIV/AIDS prevention training under DHAPP sponsorship in 2003, will join with faculty from the Zambia Open University as instructors and facilitators for this course.

An HIV/AIDS sensitization workshop was also conducted for 29 senior ZDF officers. The workshop included screening of the video *Watch Out Soldier*, which was produced by PCI and the ZDF Medical Service with fiscal year 2003 DHAPP funds.



Posters encourage troops to be tested for HIV.



DHAPP sponsored infectious disease physicians provide training to ZDF medical personnel.

PCI developed a group of military personnel to handle planning, management, and monitoring of the ZDF HIV/AIDS prevention program. A group of peer educator supervisors were also provided training that emphasized communication and facilitation skills and HIV/AIDS knowledge. Peer educator supervisors trained peer educators throughout the ZDF. Members of the ZDF medical services were also trained in syndromic management and counseling.

Clinical Provider Training

DHAPP funded 4 ZDF physicians to attend the *Military International HIV Training Program* (MIHTP) in San Diego, California.

Interoperability

DHAPP coordinated HIV/AIDS prevention activities in the ZDF with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Global AIDS Prevention Office.

PEPFAR

Zambia has been identified as a focus country in the *President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief* (PEPFAR), which was announced during the 2003 State of the Union Address to Congress. The ZDF

included the following in its PEPFAR country operating Plan (COP):

- Support prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT),
- Reproduce and distribute HIV/AIDS abstinence and faithfulness promotional materials,
- Provide blood safety program,
- Strengthen behavior change communication programs, peer education, and drama troupes,
- Enhance counseling and testing,
- Provide training in HIV diagnostics,
- Enhance and provide palliative care and home-based care,
- Train health care professionals in antiretroviral (ARV) therapy,
- Strengthen surveillance and monitoring and evaluation,
- Enhance laboratory capacity, and
- Provide management support.

PROGRAM IMPACT

ZDF troops gave very positive feedback on educational materials, reporting high levels of relevancy and effectiveness of training. Progress was also made in convincing ZDF leadership of the importance of addressing HIV/AIDS issues. The Ministry of Defence and the Zambia Army Commander addressed troops before their deployment on UN peacekeeping missions, stressing the importance of avoiding HIV. Partnerships with other governmental and nongovernmental organizations will help to ensure high quality sustainability of HIV/AIDS prevention efforts.

Master Trainers and Peer Educators

To date, 36 ZDF personnel have been trained in management, design, and program implementation; 31 master trainers, 321 peer educators, and 25 ZDF recruit trainers have also been trained. DHAPP-funded computer and audiovisual equipment were transferred the ZDF to support peer education.

Number of Troops Trained

At this time, 4,556 troops have been trained.

Potential Number of Troops Affected

The ZDF HIV/AIDS prevention program will reach 30,000 troops.

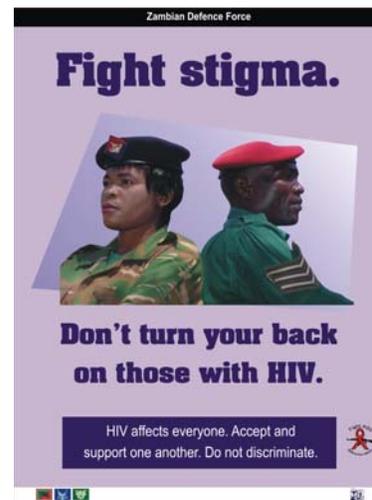
Counseling and Testing (CT)

A CT center is operational in Lusaka, and 35 clinical officers and nurses were trained in HIV serology testing. In addition, 18 personnel were trained in HIV CT counseling and data management.

Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure

None during this reporting period.

Mass Awareness



The ZDF uses posters widely in its mass awareness efforts. This poster addresses the issue of stigma frequently aimed at HIV-positive people.