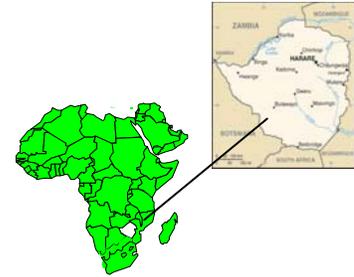




*DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program  
Status Report  
May 2003 to September 2004*

**Zimbabwe**



## **BACKGROUND**

### **Introduction/General Information**

The population of Zimbabwe is estimated at 12.67 million people, with an average life expectancy of 37.8 years. English is the official language, with a 90.7% literacy rate. Zimbabwe had a viable commercial farming sector, the traditional source of exports and foreign exchange and the provider of 400,000 jobs. Unfortunately, 4 years of war with the Democratic Republic of the Congo drained a large part of the country's economy. Annual per capita income is estimated at \$1,900.

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

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population of Zimbabwe is estimated to be 33.7%, with 1.8 million people living with AIDS. Heterosexual sexual contact is the most common mode of HIV transmission in Zimbabwe, with some vulnerable populations affected disproportionately by the epidemic. The Young Adult Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Survey (YAS, 2001-2002) collected HIV prevalence and behavioral data on a representative sample of men and women aged 15-29 years between September 2001 and February 2002. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, results indicated

that the HIV prevalence among Zimbabweans aged 15-29 years was higher among women (21.8%) than men (10.3%), and that the highest prevalence was found in the 25-29 year age group for both women (34.7%) and men (24.4%).

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

There are no reliable sources of information regarding the size of Zimbabwe's military, and the Zimbabwe Defence Force (ZDF) has not conducted force-wide HIV testing, making current prevalence rates unavailable. It is believed that the infection rate is higher among the ZDF than in the general population.

## **PROPOSED PROGRAM**

No formal proposal has been received as of 30 September 2004. DHAPP has worked with the Defense Attache Office to provide assistance.

## **PROGRAM RESPONSE**

### **Military to Military**

DHAPP funded the attendance of ZDF representatives at the *All-Africa Military HIV/AIDS Prevention Workshop* in Gaborone, Botswana. DHAPP also provided funds to purchase HIV rapid test kits, computer, audiovisual, and laboratory

equipment and reagents, and to pay for training of laboratory technicians.

**Contractor-Based Assistance**

None during this reporting period.

**Clinical Provider Training**

None during this reporting period.

**Interoperability**

None during this reporting period.

**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**

None during this reporting period.

**Counseling and Testing (CT)**

None during this reporting period.

**Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure**

DHAPP funds were used to prepare HIV Rapid Test Kits, Computer and Audio-Visual and Lab Equipment, IEC Equipment, Reagents for HIV Testing, and to support training efforts.

**Mass Awareness**

None during this reporting period.