



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

DHAPP

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HIV/AIDS
PREVENTION PROGRAM**

**REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF HIV/AIDS
AMONG UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN
SELECTED AFRICAN NATIONS AND BEYOND**

WINNING BATTLES IN THE WAR AGAINST HIV/AIDS

BACKGROUND

Country Statistics

The population of the Central African Republic (CAR) is estimated at 3.8 million, with life expectancy estimates at 43.4 years. French is the official language of the country, with an overall literacy rate of 51%. Literacy is much higher for men (63%) than for women (40%). Factional fighting between the government and its opponents has remained a drag on economic growth. The economy is based mainly on subsistence agriculture and forestry, with the agricultural sector generating about half of gross domestic product. The annual per capita income is estimated at \$1,100.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV epidemic in the CAR is generalized and has been growing steadily since the first case was reported in the early 1980s. The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 13.5%. The CAR has an estimated 260,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. Young people 15–35 years old are the hardest hit by the epidemic, and women are more severely affected than men.

Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 3000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Proposed Future Activities

A proposal was received from Johns Hopkins University on behalf of the CAR military for the 2006 fiscal year. The proposal describes a combined project that also includes Chad, Gabon, and Congo-Brazzaville. The overall goal of the proposed project is to decrease HIV infection in military personnel through the integration of community mobilization, behavior change communication activities, and peer education and condom distribution. Other aspects of the project include conducting a knowledge, attitudes, practices and behavior survey, as well as an HIV seroprevalence study.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

Because the first proposal for HIV prevention activities in the CAR military was received during FY05, there are no outcomes measures as of the end of this reporting period. DHAPP looks forward to continued collaboration with CAR in the development of its program.

