

CHAD

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 Chad is estimated at 9.8 million, with an average life expectancy of 47.2 years. French and Arabic are the official languages of Chad, which has a literacy rate of 47.5%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Chad's postindependence history has been marked by instability and violence. Over 75% of Chad's population relies on subsistence agriculture and livestock raising, but oil production has recently become an important part of the economy. The annual per capita income is estimated at \$1,600.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 4.8%. The number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Chad is approximately 200,000. HIV prevalence is unequally distributed across the country, with the highest prevalence in the densely populated south of the country. Identified significant risk factors include high-risk heterosexual intercourse with multiple partners and commercial sex workers.

Military Statistics

The size of the Chadian military is approximately 30,000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available.

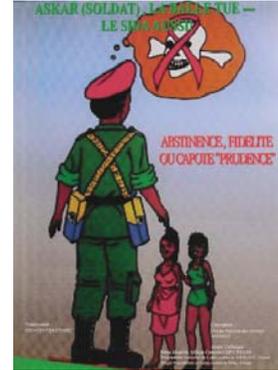
PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

Continuing with efforts established in 2002 and 2003, the Walter Reed-Johns Hopkins Cameroon Program (WRJHCP), targeted the capital city of Chad for their continuing work. Their efforts there focused on training of 2 medical personnel in sexually transmitted infection (STI) care using the syndromic approach and facilitated medical care of AIDS patients in the target population, according to national policies and international guidelines. Other efforts were made to encourage behavior communication change among military personnel and their family members by training 200 peer educators. Further efforts were made to improve and encourage both HIV preventive behaviors and the protection of persons living



with HIV/AIDS in the target group through 75 educational sessions organized by peer educators. Lab efforts targeted improving skills in the use of rapid tests for the diagnosis of HIV in the military health centers by training 2 laboratory technicians. Mass awareness emphasizing behavior change related to STI/HIV/AIDS resulted in the production and distribution of 2000 pamphlets and 200 artificial penises, 115 photo flip charts, 2000 posters, and 2000 uniforms for peer educators.



Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Chad was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory and medical equipment. This funding was awarded during fiscal year 2003, and was released for expenditure during this fiscal year. Actual funding has not been received in-country as of yet. The Chadian military, US Embassy representatives, and DHAPP staff members continue to negotiate equipment purchases.

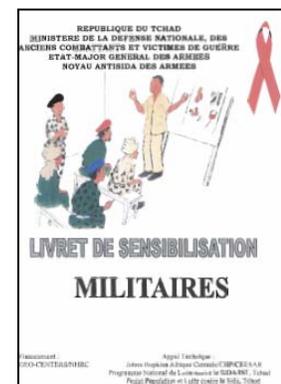
Proposed Future Activities

A proposal was received from Johns Hopkins University on behalf of the military of Chad for the FY06. The proposal describes a combined project that also includes the Central African Republic, Gabon, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. 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

WRJHCP is committed to providing technical assistance to Central African militaries to improve their HIV/AIDS prevention programs. To meet this objective, a statement of work was refined for efforts in Cameroon, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, Chad, Sao Tomé, Equatorial Guinea, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. During the latter part of FY05, initial efforts took place in Cameroon, as well as Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, and Chad, with emphasis on STI treatment and care, training military peer educators, and training laboratory technicians on the use of rapid testing kits. Early FY06 efforts will involve Sao Tomé, Equatorial Guinea, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and will expand upon the efforts commenced during FY05. DHAPP anticipates successful programs in all 7 Central African militaries and is progressing toward these important targets in prevention and care.



In addition, ongoing efforts in Chad have led to the training of 200 military and family peer educators, 2 physicians in STI management and HIV-related palliative care, and 2 laboratory technicians.