

DJIBOUTI

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 Djibouti is estimated to be 477,000, with an average life expectancy of 43.1 years. French and Arabic are the official languages; the literacy rate is 68%, disproportionately distributed between men and women. The economy of Djibouti is based on service activities linked with the country's strategic location and status as a free trade zone. The per capita income is estimated at \$1,300 per year.



HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 2.9%. The number of people living with HIV/AIDS is approximately 9100. The primary mode of HIV transmission in Djibouti is heterosexual contact. Vulnerable groups include military personnel, commercial sex workers, dockworkers, truck drivers, and refugees. Women are more severely affected than men. Individuals 20–29 years old are more severely affected than other age groups.

Military Statistics

The size of the Djiboutian Armed Forces (FAD) is estimated at 8000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military-to-Military Technical Assistance

DHAPP staff met with the Djibouti country team to provide information regarding the upcoming proposal cycle and reporting requirements, and to establish a plan for laboratory development, during an in-country assist visit that took place 11–16 July 2005.

DHAPP staff met with the Director of Health Services for the FAD, the FAD HIV/AIDS Coordinator, Deputy Surgeon/Medical Planner, and Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa. A laboratory assessment was completed and this visit was able to bring key personnel together to assist FAD in establishing its laboratory for HIV/AIDS diagnostics.

DHAPP plans to include Djiboutian physicians in an upcoming *Military International HIV Training Program*, and schedule a follow-up visit to assess progress of laboratory operation and development.

Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Djibouti was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory and medical equipment. This award was awarded during fiscal year 2003, and was released for expenditure during this fiscal year. Since the time this money was awarded, the FAD have purchased HIV test kits and contracted the remaining funding to purchase hepatitis B and C test kits, an automated immunoassay analyzer, a hematology analyzer, and other HIV/AIDS diagnostic equipment and supporting supplies.



Proposed Future Activities

A proposal was received on behalf of the FAD for FY06. Specific objectives of the proposed project include conducting an Information, Education, and Communication campaign; training peer educators and peer educator supervisors; enhancing laboratory capabilities; training medical staff; and establishing 2 new Counseling and Testing (CT) Centers.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

During FY05, 2 community outreach programs, with specific focus on abstinence and/or being faithful, reached 510 military members (480 men, 30 women). Fifty troops were trained to provide prevention messages that focused primarily on abstinence and/or being faithful.

Care

The FAD supported 3 service outlets providing general, HIV-related palliative care. This program reached a total of 5 people and trained 10 individuals in the provision of palliative care.



Counseling and Testing

During FY05, the FAD supported 1 outlet providing CT. Eighty-three troops were tested during the year and received their results (61 men, 22 women). Two individuals were trained in CT according to national standards.

Treatment

Ten FAD adults were established on antiretroviral therapy (ART) at the end of FY05 (8 men, 2 women). Four health care workers were trained in the provision of ART. Twelve laboratory technicians were trained in laboratory services.