

EL SALVADOR

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 El Salvador is estimated at 6.7 million people, with an average life expectancy of 71.2 years. Spanish is the official language; estimated literacy is 80.2%, evenly distributed between men and women. The economy is based mainly on services, which account for 60% of the country's gross domestic product. The annual per capita income is estimated at \$4,900.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 0.7%, with approximately 29,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. The male-to-female ratio of reported AIDS cases is approximately 1.9:1. The majority of HIV cases are sexually transmitted, with 76% of cases transmitted through heterosexual contact. The epidemic is largely concentrated in urban areas. Vulnerable populations include commercial sex workers and their clients, sexually transmitted infection (STI) patients, surgical patients, men who have sex with men, and street children.

Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 17,000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

El Salvador received funding late in 2005, so the majority of the assistance effort will be conducted in 2006. Significant work has been planned with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine.

Proposed Future Activities

A proposal was received on behalf of the El Salvadoran military for the 2006 fiscal year. Specific objectives of the proposed project include developing an HIV prevention mass

awareness and education program, developing an STI management program, developing a counseling and testing program, conducting a condom distribution program, conducting a behavioral surveillance survey, and hosting a multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS workshop.



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

Current efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention projects for military members in El Salvador are being undertaken by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) as part of a collaborative agreement between DHAPP and USUHS. Toward the end of the current reporting period, DHAPP funding was released to the implementing partner for commencement of activities. DHAPP looks forward to the start of the program in El Salvador and forthcoming results.

