

GUINEA

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 Guinea is estimated to be 9.5 million, with an average life expectancy of 49.4 years. French is the official language in Guinea, which has an estimated countrywide literacy rate of 36%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Unrest in Sierra Leone and Liberia has spilled over into Guinea on several occasions over the past decade, threatening stability and creating humanitarian emergencies. Guinea is a developing nation. Its economy is concentrated primarily in agriculture (25%), industry (38%), and services (37%); the mining sector accounts for 75% of the country's exports. The annual per capital income is approximately \$2,100.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 3.2%, with an estimated 140,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. HIV is spread mainly through heterosexual intercourse. Identified risk factors include early initiation of sexual activity, high-risk heterosexual contact, sexual contact with commercial sex workers, and polygamous marriages. High rates of HIV have been found among commercial sex workers (42%).



Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 10,000. A nationwide HIV prevalence study done in 2001 indicated an HIV prevalence rate in the military of 6.6%, which is significantly higher than the general population.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Proposed Future Activities

A proposal was received on behalf of the Guinean Armed Forces (GAF) for the 2006 fiscal year. The overall goal of the proposed project is to develop a comprehensive counseling and testing (CT) program for the armed forces in Guinea. Specific objectives of the proposed project include constructing 2 CT centers in military camps, procuring laboratory

equipment for the 2 centers, training laboratory technicians and CT counselors, developing promotional materials to promote the use of the centers, and assessing the impact of the CT centers.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

During FY05, the GAF was committed to prevention messages with a comprehensive overview. Through these community outreach efforts at comprehensive prevention 9135 troops were reached (8,952 men and 183 women). Five hundred and thirty-seven soldiers were trained to provide this message to peers, and 210 condom service outlets were supported.

Care/Counseling and Testing

Three service outlets provided HIV counseling and/or testing for GAF military members. During FY05, 350 soldiers were tested and received their results (343 men, 7 women). Forty soldiers were trained in the provision of CT services.

Treatment

Three GAF laboratories have the capability to perform HIV testing, although none can perform CD4 and/or lymphocyte testing. Forty personnel were trained in clinical management.

Other Activities

Forty-three indigenous organizations were provided with technical assistance in the development of HIV policy, institutional capacity building, and the reduction of stigma and discrimination. One hundred and fifty-five military members attended training on these issues.

