



HONDURAS

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 Honduras is estimated at 6.9 million people, with an average life expectancy of 65.6 years. Spanish is the official language; the estimated literacy rate is 76.2%. Honduras is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, with an unequal distribution of income and high unemployment. Economic growth is dependent on the economy of its main trading partners and on commodity prices, particularly coffee. The annual per capita income is \$2,800.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated at 1.8%, with approximately 63,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. AIDS is the leading cause of death among Honduran women and is believed to be the second biggest cause of death overall in the country. Most HIV-positive Hondurans (85%) are between the ages of 15 and 49. Identified risk factors include high-risk heterosexual contact, sexual contact with men who have sex with men, sexual contact with commercial sex workers, and high rates of sexually transmitted infections.

Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 8000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available, but a 1997 study found a prevalence of 6.8% among military recruits.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

Honduras 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 Honduran military for the 2006 fiscal year. Specific objectives of the proposed project include developing a counseling and testing (CT)

program, training CT counselors, developing an abstinence and be faithful training program, conducting an HIV prevalence study, hosting 2 regional training workshops, and establishing an HIV prevention center of excellence.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

Current efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention projects for military members in Honduras 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 FY05, DHAPP funding was released to the implementing partner for commencement of activities. In addition, during February–March 2005, the Honduran military sent two physicians to the *Military International HIV/AIDS Training Program* in San Diego. They were provided with training in prevention, CT, care, and treatment methods, as well as policy development and capacity building. Participants relayed positive feedback from the course and stated that they felt it would enhance their ability to establish prevention, care, and treatment programs for HIV in their country.

Early efforts have yielded some preliminary results. One indigenous organization was provided with technical assistance for HIV-related policy development and institutional capacity building. Four individuals were trained in HIV-related institutional capacity building. The Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine was successful in gaining leadership support for the US Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) HIV/AIDS prevention initiative. This has resulted in a more aggressive effort by the Honduran Armed Forces HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator to gain support from the government. Coordination efforts with and between US DoD, US Agency for International Development, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and national agencies, continue to develop in a positive direction. US DoD is working with UNAIDS/United Nations Population Fund and the Honduran Armed Forces to develop a coherent and collaborative program.

