

KAZAKHSTAN

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 Kazakhstan is estimated at 15.2 million people, with an average life expectancy of 66.6 years. Russian and Kazakh are the official languages; the estimated literacy rate is 98.4%. The largest of the former Soviet republics in territory, excluding Russia, Kazakhstan possesses large fossil fuel reserves as well as plentiful supplies of other minerals and metals. It also has a large agricultural sector. Since independence, oil development has brought rapid economic growth to this country. The annual per capita income is \$7,800.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 0.2%, with an estimated 16,500 people living with HIV/AIDS. The HIV epidemic in Kazakhstan is concentrated mainly among intravenous drug users and their sexual partners. Intravenous drug users accounted for about 75% of new HIV cases in 2003; the remainder of new cases were infected through sexual transmission. The great majority of the HIV cases are male, and the most affected age group is 20-29 years old. Other vulnerable groups include intravenous drug users, commercial sex workers, prisoners, migrants, and truck drivers.



Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 64,000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military-to-Military Technical Assistance

DHAPP staff members have established contact with the US Embassy in Kazakhstan and has assisted them, along with their military colleagues there, in the early development of a plan for future activities. Through this collaboration, members of the Kazakhstan military were able to work with the US Embassy to ensure 2 military physicians were able to attend vital training in HIV prevention, care, and treatment methods at the San Diego-based *Military International HIV/AIDS Training Program* (MIHTP).

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

DHAPP has commenced early collaborative interaction with military officials and US Embassy staff in Kazakhstan to establish a comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention/education program for their country. During April–May 2005, DHAPP funded 2 physicians to attend MIHTP in San Diego. Feedback from the participants indicated that they felt the course would be of great assistance to them in the commencement of prevention, treatment, and care programs for the military members in their country. At this time, no additional funding has been sent to Kazakhstan.

