

MADAGASCAR

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 Madagascar is estimated to be 18 million, with an average life expectancy of 56.9 years. French and Malagasy are the official languages; the overall literacy rate is 68.9%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Agriculture, including fishing and forestry, is a mainstay of the economy, accounting for 29% of the gross domestic product and employing 74% of the population. The annual per capita income is estimated at \$800.



HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Madagascar's general population is estimated at 1.7%. Approximately 140,000 individuals in the country are living with HIV/AIDS. National rates of adult HIV prevalence in Madagascar have risen sharply in recent years, as seen among pregnant women attending prenatal clinics. Significant risk factors for infection include unprotected heterosexual contact, poverty, low literacy, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). It is believed that the epidemic is driven mainly by unprotected heterosexual contact.

Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 21,000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Proposed Future Activities

A proposal was received on behalf of the military of Madagascar for the 2006 fiscal year. The specific objectives of the proposed project include establishing an HIV/AIDS mass awareness campaign for militaries and their families; establishing 3 Counseling and Testing (CT) centers; training laboratory technicians, peer educators, and counselors; strengthening and expanding laboratory infrastructure; and improving the blood safety program.



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

The Madagascar Ministry of Defense (MOD) HIV prevention program is in its early stages. During FY05, 3150 members of the military were reached with comprehensive prevention messages, and 51 individuals were trained to provide those messages to peers. One targeted condom service outlet has been established. In addition, 1 military hospital has instituted a program of blood-safety activities. 24 personnel were provided training in laboratory techniques, CT provision, and HIV-related palliative care



Other Activities

In the end of FY05, 1 indigenous program was provided with technical assistance in capacity building, and 24 personnel were provided training in laboratory techniques, CT provision, and HIV-related palliative care. The Madagascar MOD Military Health Service organized this training session for military personnel from 6 military health regions. The objective was to reinforce CT managers' capacity in HIV/AIDS counseling (pre- and post-test) and psychosocial responsibility for people living with HIV. Training content included emphasis on the seriousness of STI and AIDS, with general information on STI/AIDS, as well as counseling methods and techniques. The participants included 8 medical doctors and 2 nurses, and the trainers were 2 medical doctors from the program "Fight Against STI/ HIV/AIDS" from the Ministry of Health and Family Planning. The objective of the second session was to allow the participants to acquire basic techniques on diagnosis of HIV infections and opportunistic infections. The training consisted of theoretical and practical sessions, including the evolution and indicators of HIV, testing principles, diagnosis strategies of HIV, blood drawing techniques with the Vacutainer system, syphilis serologic diagnosis, and the use of lab management tools.

DHAPP staff look forward to continued collaboration with the Madagascar MOD, and expansion of their program in the near future.

