

MALAWI

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

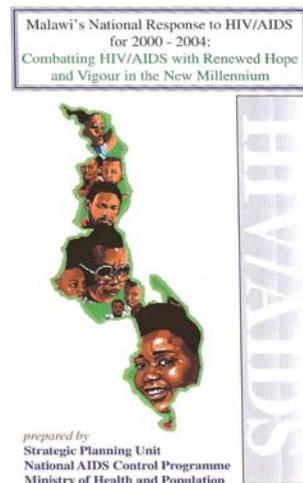
The population of Malawi is estimated to be 12.2 million, with an average life expectancy of 41.4 years, shortened due to the AIDS epidemic. English and Chichewa are the official languages; the overall literacy rate is 62.7%, distributed disproportionately between men and women. Landlocked Malawi ranks among the world's least developed countries. The economy is predominately agricultural, with about 90% of the population living in rural areas. Agriculture accounts for nearly 40% of the gross domestic product and 88% of export revenues; tobacco accounts for over 50% of exports. The annual per capita income is estimated at \$600.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated at 14.2%, with approximately 900,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. AIDS is the leading cause of death among Malawian adults; patients with HIV/AIDS-related conditions occupy over 70% of hospital beds. Approximately 400,000 children have lost parents to HIV/AIDS. The 2 main mechanisms of transmission in Malawi are heterosexual contact and mother-to-child transmission. HIV prevalence is almost twice as high in urban areas as in rural areas. More than half of the new HIV infections are occurring in young people aged 15-24 years.

Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 5000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available, but military HIV rates are believed to be slightly higher than in the civilian population.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military-to-Military Technical Assistance

DHAPP staff members maintained early collaborative contact with US Embassy staff in Malawi and with Malawi Defense Force (MDF) members. Program development and implementation, logistics, and proposal planning were undertaken by DHAPP staff members in coordination

with the MDF, and a technical assist in-country visit was planned for early in fiscal year 2006.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

Since MDF programs in HIV prevention, care, and treatment are relatively new, limited data were available for FY05. In the generalized palliative care setting, 8 military patients were provided with general HIV-related palliative care. Two hundred and fifty military members were tested for HIV and received their results. In addition, 1 Counseling and Testing Center was approved for renovations, which are scheduled in early FY06. DHAPP staff members anticipate successful continued collaboration with the MDF and the US Embassy staff in Malawi.

