

# MOZAMBIQUE

# 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

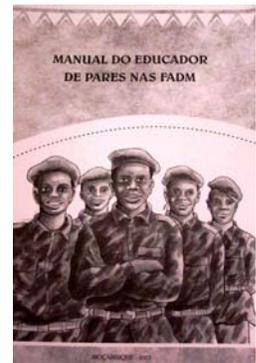
### BACKGROUND

#### Country Statistics

The population of Mozambique is estimated to be 19.4 million people, with an average life expectancy of 40.3 years, shortened due to the AIDS epidemic. Portuguese is the official language; the estimated literacy rate is 47.8%, distributed disproportionately between men and women. Mozambique is described as a developing nation with a majority of the population dependent on subsistence agriculture. The annual per capita income is estimated at \$1,200.

#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated at 12.2%, with approximately 1.3 million people living with HIV/AIDS. Recent data show a dramatic increase in the HIV epidemic in Mozambique. The primary mode of HIV transmission is heterosexual contact. HIV prevalence levels are highest in the country's central and southern provinces, where rates as high as 20% have been found. Vulnerable groups include commercial sex workers and their clients, mobile populations, and people with sexually transmitted infections.



#### Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 11,000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available, but it is estimated that HIV prevalence may be as high as 39% in some military units.

### PROGRAM RESPONSE

#### In-Country Ongoing Assistance

Funding distributed in fiscal year 2005 was used to continue the program started in FY04. This program, conducted by Population Services International-Mozambique, is designed to expand counseling and testing (CT) services in the Ministry of Defense at 4 recruit training sites and establish a Ministry of Defense policy for confidentiality. Funds were also used to train counselors and staff, procure equipment and supplies, and conduct Information, Education, and Communication/behavior change communication seminars, and outreach.

### **Military-to-Military Technical Assistance**

DHAPP staff members provided technical assistance to the Mozambique Armed Defense Forces (MADF) during an in-country assist visit 28 March to 1 April 2005. The purpose of the visit was to collaborate with the MADF and the country team on the development of the MADF plan for HIV prevention, care, and treatment to be proposed for the Country Operational Plan (COP) in FY06.

DHAPP staff members met with US Embassy representatives on the country team and with Population Services International to discuss the status of the program and proposal to date. Action items included follow-up for the military CT Center refurbishment. Members of the MADF met with DHAPP staff to discuss the upcoming prevalence/behavioral study set for implementation in the MADF. Logistic details were discussed and probable sites were determined. The DHAPP staff member interviewed candidates for the program manager position and made an offer to one of them.

Other meetings took place between DHAPP staff members and the US Ambassador to Mozambique, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and US Agency for International Development representatives on the Mozambique President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) country team. The CDC provided an update on the inclusion of the military hospital in its work with antiretroviral therapy, including the imminent start of 100 patients per month on treatment there. During outbriefing meetings the next day, the Ambassador expressed her support for the military program, and all members of the country team agreed to work together with the new program manager in the development of programs to be submitted in the FY06 COP process for PEPFAR.

### **Foreign Military Financing Assistance**

Mozambique was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory and medical equipment. Specific equipment purchases are currently being negotiated by US Embassy and Mozambique military representatives, and DHAPP staff.

### **Proposed Future Activities**

As a PEPFAR focus country, the military of Mozambique submitted a comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment proposal to the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) via their PEPFAR country team's overall COP. Military activities for FY06 were approved by technical and program review committees at OGAC, as well as by agency principals, and these will commence in the new fiscal year.

## **OUTCOMES & IMPACT**

### **Prevention/Care/Treatment**

DHAPP staff members have maintained contact and collaborative interaction with military officials and US Embassy staff in Mozambique to plan to expand their established comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention/education program for military members in their country. As of this reporting date, DHAPP desk officers have maintained active roles as members of the Mozambican country core team at the OGAC, providing support to the country team in its implementation of PEPFAR funding. During FY05, DHAPP staff members were actively engaged with Mozambican officials in the commencement of an HIV

behavioral and seroprevalence study. In addition, DHAPP has assisted Mozambique with its established CT Centers and in the process of renovating 2 more centers. Finally, DHAPP funding was used to hire an in-country program manager, who will assist the US Embassy team in the implementation of prevention, care, and treatment programs beginning in early FY06. DHAPP desk officers have engaged country team members through their association with the OGAC core team, and were active planning participants in the COP process for FY06.

