



NEPAL



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 Nepal is estimated at 27.7 million people, with an average life expectancy of 59.8 years. Nepali is the official language; the estimated literacy rate is 45.2%, unevenly distributed between men and women. An isolated, agrarian society until the mid-20th century, Nepal entered the modern era in the 1950s without schools, hospitals, roads, telecommunications, or electric power, but has made steady progress toward sustainable economic growth. Agriculture remains Nepal's principal economic activity, providing a livelihood for over 80% of the population. Annual per capita income is estimated at \$1,500.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated at 0.5%, and it is reported that 3100 people are living with HIV/AIDS. Experts believe the actual rate may be much higher, with the official figures representing only passive case reporting. Men are much more severely affected by HIV than women. Intravenous drug use is the primary mode of HIV transmission. Other key factors involved in the spread of HIV in Nepal include high rates of mobility and migration for work opportunities, prostitution, poverty, gender inequality, and low education levels.

Military Statistics

The size of the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) is approximately 50,000. 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 RNA for the 2006 fiscal year. Specific objectives of the proposed project include developing laboratory infrastructure, developing a counseling and testing program, developing a peer education program, developing surveillance capabilities, and conducting workshops and conferences.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

Because the first proposal for HIV prevention activities in the RNA was received during FY05, there are no outcomes measures as of the end of this reporting period. DHAPP looks forward to continued collaboration with Nepal in the development of its program.

