

NIGER

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 Niger is estimated at 11.7 million people, with an average life expectancy of 42.1 years. French is the official language; the estimated literacy rate is 17.6%, unevenly distributed between men and women. One of the poorest countries in the world, Niger has minimal government services and insufficient funds to develop its resource base. The largely agricultural economy centers on subsistence crops, livestock, uranium deposits, and re-export trade. The estimated per capital income is \$900.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 1.2%, with approximately 70,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. Relatively little is known about the specific factors that influence the spread of HIV/AIDS in Niger. Incomplete testing and people's reluctance to seek hospital treatment for AIDS have led to a lack of reliable statistics on the true level of HIV infection among Niger's people. According to Niger's 2002 sentinel survey, HIV prevalence among commercial sex workers in Niger was 26%. The HIV rate for truckers was 1.7%; the rate for teachers was 1.4%.

Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 10,000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available. However, it is estimated at 3.8%, slightly higher than the general population.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military-to-Military Technical Assistance

DHAPP staff members have established contact with the US Embassy in Niger and have assisted them, along with their military colleagues there, in the early planning for future activities. Through this collaboration, DHAPP staff members hope to assist with the development of a proposal for prevention activities there.



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

DHAPP staff members have maintained contact and collaborative interaction with military officials and US Embassy staff in Niger to plan for future activities to expand their established comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention/education program for military members in their country. As of this reporting date, no proposal for continued military assistance has been received for consideration by DHAPP; therefore, at this time, no funding has been sent to Niger.