

NIGERIA

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 Nigeria is estimated to be 129 million people, with an average life expectancy of 46.7 years. English is the official language; the estimated literacy rate is 68%, distributed disproportionately between men and women. Following nearly 16 years of military rule, a new constitution was adopted in 1999, and a peaceful transition to civilian government was completed. Although Nigeria is one of the world's largest oil producers, few Nigerians have benefited from the oil wealth. Most of the country's population relies primarily on subsistence agriculture. Annual per capita income in Nigeria is estimated to be \$1,000.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

Nigeria ranks third in the world on HIV prevalence, and it has the largest number of HIV cases of any country in Africa. The HIV prevalence rate in the general population is estimated at 5.4%, with approximately 3.6 million people living with HIV/AIDS. The epidemic in Nigeria is growing rapidly. HIV in Nigeria is mainly transmitted through heterosexual intercourse. Women are somewhat more affected than men. Youth and young adults are more severely affected than other age groups. Identified risk factors include sexually transmitted infections, heterosexual contact with multiple partners and with commercial sex workers, mother-to-child transmission, and blood transfusions. It is estimated that blood transfusions are responsible for 10% of all HIV cases.



Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 92,000. Forcewide testing has not been conducted, but HIV prevalence in the military is estimated at 8%.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

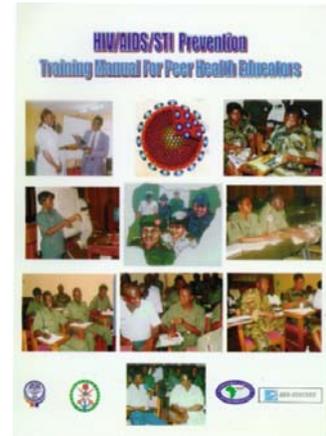
Military-to-Military Technical Assistance

The US Army has a significant in-country presence in Nigeria and has provided needed

technical assistance to the Nigerian military in the implementation of its activities, as well as the preparation of proposals for future efforts.

Proposed Future Activities

As a President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) focus country, the military of Nigeria submitted a comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment proposal to the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) via the PEPFAR country team’s overall Country Operational Plan. Military activities for fiscal year 2006 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

Because funding was received late in the fiscal year, data have only begun to be collected. During FY05, 20 Nigerian military members were provided with general HIV-related palliative care. In addition, during October and November 2004, the Nigerian military sent 2 physicians to the *Military International HIV/AIDS Training Program* in San Diego. They were provided with training in prevention, counseling and testing, care, and treatment methods, as well as policy development and capacity building. Participants relayed positive feedback from the course and stated that they felt it would enhance their ability to establish prevention, care, and treatment programs for HIV in their country.

Treatment

The first patients initiated treatment at the very end of the fiscal year, with 25 patients currently treated (18 men, 7 women). Eleven military medical officers were trained in care and treatment methods at the DoD-sponsored Infectious Diseases Institute course in Kampala, Uganda. Statements of work are presently under revisions for improvements at all 4 major laboratory facilities. During the year, 15 laboratory technicians received training on the provision of HIV laboratory services.

Other

The DoD HIV Program (Nigeria) has established its office at the US Embassy, Abuja. The program has hired a program manager, program assistant, driver, and office manager.

