

TANZANIA

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 Tanzania is estimated at 36.8 million people, with an average life expectancy of 45.2 years. Swahili and English are the official languages, and the in-country literacy rate is estimated at 78.2%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world. The economy depends heavily on agriculture, which accounts for almost half of gross domestic product, and employs 80% of the workforce. Topography and climatic conditions, however, limit cultivated crops to only 4% of the land area. Annual per capita income is estimated at \$700.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the general population is estimated at 8.8%, with approximately 1.6 million individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Prevalence rates are higher in urban than in rural areas, and women are more severely affected than men. Identified significant risk factors include high-risk heterosexual contact and contact with commercial sex workers. Vulnerable populations include commercial sex workers and their clients, military personnel, transportation workers, refugees, and prisoners.

Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 27,000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available, but it is estimated that HIV rates are higher within the military population than in the general population.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military-to-Military Technical Assistance

DHAPP staff participated in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) meeting, "Alcohol, HIV Risk Behaviors and Transmission in Africa: Developing Programs for the United States Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief," held in Tanzania, 28 August - 2 September 2005.



DHAPP staff coordinated a session on alcohol use and HIV risk in the military. Presentations covered military HIV and alcohol use risk factors, testing, comprehensive prevention plans, and the need for more alcohol-related prevention activities.

An introductory meeting took place regarding the potential role of the US Department of Defense (DoD) in a new effort in HIV prevention among African truck drivers and communities. The idea is to have safety stops for prevention and care along common transportation routes for drivers and the community, and to include many prevention partners in this effort. DHAPP staff will follow up on plans for new alcohol-related initiatives will be followed up by DHAPP staff.

In addition, the US Army has a significant in-country presence in Tanzania and has provided needed technical assistance to the Tanzanian People's Defense Force (TPDF) in the implementation of its activities, as well as the preparation of proposals for future efforts.

Proposed Future Activities

As a PEPFAR focus country, the TPDF submitted a comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment proposal to the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) via the/ its 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

In FY05, the TPDF HIV prevention program reported significant accomplishments during this fiscal year, with high numbers of soldiers reached through efforts in counseling and testing (CT), as well as palliative care. Community outreach prevention programs were implemented that focused primarily on abstinence and/or being faithful. These efforts reached 62,126 soldiers and their family members (37,276 men and 24,850 women).

Care

TPDF has 2 service outlets providing general HIV-related palliative care for infected troops and families. During this reporting period, 1398 military patients received palliative care services, including care for tuberculosis/HIV (793 men, 605 women). One hundred and ninety health care workers were trained in palliative care.

TPDF reported 1 service outlet providing care for military orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). During the reporting period, 400 OVC received services at this outlet, including 193 male and 207 female children.

Counseling and Testing

TPDF reported 9 service outlets providing CT for military members. During the year, 7801 soldiers received their test results in these facilities (3085 men and 4716 women). Thirty soldiers were trained in the provision of CT services.

Treatment

Initial health facility and laboratory assessment technical assistance visits have been made to 6 of the 8 military hospitals targeted for assistance. Family Health International, working directly with TPDF medical officials and the Tanzanian National Care and Treatment Program, has expanded access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) to a total of approximately 700 (650 military and 50 dependents) during FY05 at the central referral hospital in Dar, Lugalo General Military Hospital (GMH). In addition to Lugalo GMH, 3 other military hospitals in Mwanza, Arusha, and Zanzibar have referred a total of at least 89 patients (40, 35, and 14, respectively), to regional referral centers for ART. Two military health providers were trained in treatment and care methods at the DoD course in Uganda.

Upcoming plans call for expanding ART to at least 1000 patients at Lugalo GMH, 250 patients each at Mbeya and Mwanza, and 100 patients each in Tabora and Songea military hospitals in FY06. Concomitant with this expansion of ART and care services, significant upgrading of laboratory and health facility equipment will be undertaken at all military hospitals. Other services to be provided in FY06 include (1) prevention program expanded to cover approximately 200,000 persons and 5000 recruits, with 150 peer educators and 15 trainers trained; (2) CT services expanded to a total of 8000 individuals at 6 sites with 20 health care workers to be trained; (3) prevention of mother-to-child transmission services expanded to a total of 6000 women at 4 sites, 350–400 (5–7%) of whom are to receive nevirapine prophylaxis and 24 health care workers to be trained; and (4) review of TPDF policy for medical access to HIV-positive personnel and dependents and establishment of a standardized HIV testing policy with approximately 40,000 military personnel and TPDF civilians to be trained.

