



## UGANDA

# 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 Uganda is estimated to be 27.3 million people, with an average life expectancy of 51.6 years. English is the official language of Uganda, and the in-country literacy rate is estimated at 69.9%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Uganda is a country with substantial natural resources and a developing economy. Agriculture is the most important sector of the economy, employing over 80% of the workforce. Coffee accounts for the bulk of export revenues. Annual per capital income is estimated at \$1,500.

#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population has been reported to be 7%, with 530,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. Uganda is one of the few African countries where HIV prevalence rates have declined. Due to a very comprehensive national HIV/AIDS response over the past decade, HIV rates in Uganda have fallen from a rate of 18.9% in 1992 to a rate of 7% in 2005. Identified significant risk factors include high-risk heterosexual contact with multiple partners and sexually transmitted infections. Prevalence is higher in urban areas (10.7%) than in rural areas (6.4%). Prevalence is higher among females than males.

#### Military Statistics

The size of the military is estimated at 50,000 active-duty personnel. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available, but it is estimated that HIV rates are slightly higher within the military population than in the general population.

### PROGRAM RESPONSE

#### Military-to-Military Technical Assistance

DHAPP staff provided technical assistance in the assessment of laboratory capacity and the identification of appropriate equipment and training for treatment of HIV-infected patients in the Uganda People's Defense Force, 8–13 January 2005. In Bombo, Uganda, DHAPP staff visited the Infectious Disease Institute (IDI), Core Laboratories at IDI, Makerere Medical Center and National TB Reference Laboratory, and the laboratory facilities in Mbuyu, Uganda. Future equipment purchases will be centered on a sequential approach to upgrading laboratory facilities.

In addition, DHAPP staff initiated the first DHAPP-sponsored IDI course held in Kampala, Uganda, 3–7 July 2005. During this course, discussion groups regarding HIV policies and prevention programs were formed with diverse and active student participation. Consideration is being given to conduct a francophone course and develop a monitoring and evaluation program for this course.

### Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Uganda was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory and medical equipment. This funding was awarded during FY03, and was released for expenditure during this fiscal year. These funds have been used to purchase chemistry and hematology analyzers and supporting HIV/AIDS diagnostic supplies and reagents.

### Proposed Future Activities

As a President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief focus country, the UPDF submitted a comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment proposal to the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) via its PEPFAR country team's overall Country Operational Plan. 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

During FY05, the UPDF continued its commitment to prevention messages, as well as targeted goals in HIV palliative care. Over the year, 20,000 troops (12,000 men, 8000 women) were reached through community outreach efforts with comprehensive prevention messages, and 30 military members were trained to be able to teach these programs. Twelve condom service outlets were supported.

### Care

During FY05, 2 outlets provided generalized palliative care for military patients with HIV/AIDS. During the year, 80 troops and their families (32 men, 48 women) received care at these outlets. Forty health care providers were trained in HIV/AIDS palliative care, as well as care of HIV-related tuberculosis. Challenges included the capture and documentation of these data. The country team plans to ask for increased technical support for the set up of a data management system during FY06.



