

# UKRAINE

# 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 Ukraine is estimated at 47.4 million people, with an average life expectancy of 66.9 years. Ukrainian is the official language, and the in-country literacy rate is estimated at 99.7%. Ukraine was formerly part of the Soviet Union; independence was achieved in 1991. Industry and services are the key sectors of the economy. Annual per capita income is estimated at \$6,300.

#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 1.4%, with an estimated 360,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. Although the HIV prevalence rate is relatively low, it is growing steadily. The most common mode of HIV transmission is intravenous drug use, which is responsible for 57% of HIV cases. Heterosexual contact accounts for about 27% of total HIV cases. Prevalence is highest in the southern and eastern regions of the country. Among the key factors driving the epidemic are transactional sex, high levels of migration, and large numbers of intravenous drug users.



#### Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces in Ukraine is approximately 300,000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available.

### PROGRAM RESPONSE

#### Military-to-Military Technical Assistance

DHAPP staff members maintained early collaborative contact with US Embassy staff in Ukraine. Program development and implementation, logistics, and proposal planning were undertaken by the collaborative team in coordination with the Ukrainian military.



### Proposed Future Activities

A proposal was received on behalf of the military of Ukraine for the 2006 fiscal year. The specific objectives of the proposed project include developing an education and prevention program for military personnel, training medical staff in HIV diagnostics, expanding laboratory infrastructure, establishing a donor blood/plasma bank, expanding infrastructure to ensure blood safety, and establishing an HIV surveillance system.



## OUTCOMES & IMPACT

### Prevention/Care/Treatment

DHAPP is currently engaged in a collaborative interaction with military officials and US Embassy staff in Ukraine for the implementation of important HIV/AIDS prevention efforts among military members there. DHAPP funding was provided for start-up efforts in HIV prevention efforts in Ukraine during late FY05. Recent data received indicated the commencement of a program, with no reportable numbers as of the end of the fiscal year. DHAPP looks forward to continued collaboration and targeted results as the program progresses.

