

BOTSWANA

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

With four decades of uninterrupted civilian leadership, progressive social policies, and capital investment, Botswana is considered one of the most dynamic economies in Africa. Botswana's population is estimated to be 1.6 million people, with an average life expectancy of 33.7 years. English is the official language of Botswana, but the vast majority of people speak Setswana. The country has an estimated literacy rate of 79.8%, evenly distributed between men and women. Mineral extraction, principally diamond mining, dominates economic activity, though tourism is a growing sector due to the country's conservation practices and extensive nature preserves. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$10,700, with 30% of Botswanans living below the poverty line.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Botswana's general population is considered the highest in the world, estimated at 24.1%. Botswana has approximately 270,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Identified risk factors include high-risk heterosexual contact with multiple partners, in-country migration, and lack of care and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. Heterosexual contact is the principal mode of transmission.

Military Statistics

The Botswana Defense Force (BDF) is estimated at 9000 active-duty personnel. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available. However, it is estimated at 40%, slightly higher than the general population. Botswana allocates 3.4% of the GDP for military expenditures.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

In February 2006, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Core Team provided technical assistance to the BDF. This trip included discussions on current BDF needs and procedures, as well as over 25 site visits to collaborating organizations that support the BDF. In August 2006, a follow-up trip by the Core Team was organized to assist the BDF with their Country Operational Plan (COP) for fiscal year 2007 and discuss implementation of their 2006 program with the BDF and Population Services International (PSI).



Proposed Future Activities

Ongoing successful BDF and partner programming was expanded to include additional aspects of comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment for military members and their families. All proposed activities were submitted to the Botswana country team and were included in the FY07 COP.



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

The BDF was funded for activities throughout the fiscal year; however, reporting data were received for the first quarter activities only. During the first quarter, the Office of Defense Cooperation, in conjunction with the BDF and PSI, developed a comprehensive survey to determine education and behavior patterns of the 18-24 years age demographic within the BDF. The BDF senior leadership had identified this group as a target population for future bilateral programming. The survey was approved by BDF leadership during the first quarter, and is expected to be implemented in February 2007. Fifty (50) targeted condom service outlets were supported for the BDF.

DHAPP looks forward to future successful collaboration with the BDF and the US Embassy in Botswana.