



BURUNDI

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

Burundi's population is estimated to be 8.0 million people, with an average life expectancy of 50.8 years. Kirundi and French are the official languages of Burundi, which has an estimated literacy rate of 51.6%, unevenly distributed between men and women. The economy is predominantly agricultural with more than 90% of the population dependent on subsistence agriculture. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$700, with 68% of Burundians living below the poverty line.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Burundi's general population is estimated at 3.3%. Burundi has approximately 150,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified risk factor in the population is unprotected heterosexual contact.

Military Statistics

The Burundi National Defense Force (BFDN) is estimated at approximately 30,000 personnel. Burundi allocates 5.6% of the GDP for military expenditures. No current prevalence data are available for the BFDN.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

Population Services International (PSI) was awarded funding to work with the BFDN during fiscal year 2006 and have succeeded in early efforts to develop and implement an HIV/AIDS prevention program for military members and their families. Specific accomplishments include sensitization of military leaders to HIV as a potential threat, training for troops on HIV prevention techniques, and the establishment of counseling and testing (CT) for military members.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal from PSI on behalf of the BFDN for activities during FY07. The primary objectives of the proposal included referral for military members who tested seropositive during FY06, introduction to CT services, the formation of a mobile prevention training team to provide peer education in remote camps, continued efforts toward information and education of military members through pairs of peer educators in the camps, and augmentation of military clinics' capacity to care for HIV-positive personnel.

The proposal was reviewed by a scientific panel and will be presented to the DHAPP Board of Directors.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention and Care

The HIV program in Burundi is relatively new. DHAPP received no reporting data on activities in this program during the fiscal year. DHAPP looks forward to future successful collaboration with the BFDN.

