



CAMBODIA

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 Cambodia is estimated to be 13.8 million people, with an average life expectancy of 59.3 years. Khmer is the official language of Cambodia, which has an estimated literacy rate of 73.6%, unevenly distributed between men and women. More than 50% of the population is aged 20 years or younger. The population, particularly in the poverty-ridden countryside, suffers from an almost total lack of basic infrastructure. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the population is engaged in subsistence farming. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$2,500, with 40% of the population living below the poverty line.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the general population of Cambodia is estimated at 1.6%, with approximately 130,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The response of the Cambodian government and civil society in the fight against HIV/AIDS has been impressive. In 2001, the government implemented the 100% Condom Use Program (CUP) in all provinces, requiring brothel-based sex workers to attend monthly sexually transmitted infection (STI) screenings and involving establishment owners in condom negotiation initiatives.

Military Statistics

The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) is estimated at approximately 110,000 members. The RCAF has been organized into five military regions and three forces (Navy, Army and Air Force). Each force has its own independent health structure that provides medical services to military personnel and their family members. The Ministry of National Defense (MoND) Health Department is responsible for medical supplies and equipment and for management of medical personnel. Cambodia expends 3.0% of the GDP for military purposes. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

In collaboration with the US Pacific Command (USPACOM) and implementing partner the Center of Excellence (COE) in Hawaii, DHAPP has made early contact with the RCAF and initial planning for future activities has taken place.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal for activities in FY07 from Family Health International on behalf

of the RCAF. The specific objectives of the proposal included Increased awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention among military personnel and their families; improved STI case management and service delivery; uptake of HIV/AIDS/STI prevention, treatment, care, and support services; enhanced capacity of MoND and civil society for HIV/AIDS intervention with RCAF; broadcast and production of a radio serial; expanded peer education network; 2 new CT (CT) sites; increased access to counseling and testing services; increased access to condoms; stronger linkages between military and civilian health systems; and support and involvement of local stakeholders for a national HIV/AIDS strategic plan.

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

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

DHAPP has continued its collaborative interaction with USPACOM and COE as implementing partners for future activities in the RCAF. No programmatic activities took place in the RCAF during the current reporting period. DHAPP looks forward to future collaboration with Cambodia.

