



CHAD

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

Chad's population is estimated to be 9.9 million people, with an average life expectancy of 47.5 years. Arabic and French are the official languages of Chad, which has an estimated literacy rate of 47.5%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Chad's primarily agricultural economy will continue to be boosted by major foreign direct investment projects in the oil sector that began in 2000. Over 80% of Chad's population relies on subsistence farming and livestock for its livelihood. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$1,400, with 80% of Chadian people living below the poverty line.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Chad's general population is estimated at 3.5%. Chad has approximately 180,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified risk factor in the population is unprotected heterosexual contact.

Military Statistics

The Chadian National Army (ANT) is estimated at approximately 19,000 members. Chad allocates 1.0% of the GDP for military expenditures. In 2003, with funding from DHAPP, the first HIV surveillance was conducted for the ANT in the capital city, N'Djamena, revealing a prevalence of 5.3%.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The Johns Hopkins Cameroon Program (JHCP) has been providing technical assistance to the militaries of Central Africa (including Chad) in the implementation of HIV prevention and surveillance activities. Evaluation from the first four countries in the region to work with JHCP (Cameroon, Gabon, Chad, and Republic of Congo) shows considerable progress in education, training, and surveillance, as well as development of a more sustainable approach to preventing infectious diseases among troops and their families.

In March 2006, DHAPP staff conducted a field visit to N'Djamena on behalf of the DHAPP-sponsored program. Technical assistance was provided to the local military team in preparation for the official launch ceremony of the first activity on their action plan, at the Moundou military base. During the visit (1) assistance was provided during planning and coordination of activities, and during identification and preparation of training materials; (2) training modules and agenda for peer educators were finalized; and (3) 41 troops and 9 family members were trained with assistance from DHAPP staff during the training session.

Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Chad was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory and medical equipment. This award was allocated for fiscal year 2003 and 2005, and 2003 funding was released for expenditure in early FY06. Although still in negotiation, the plan is to use 2003 funding to procure HIV diagnostic equipment and supplies.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal from JHCP on behalf of the ANT for activities during FY07. The application included eight countries in the Central African region, and built on the successful work accomplished by JHCP in the region over the past 4 years, aiming to develop a more comprehensive strategy for fighting HIV/AIDS in the region's militaries. Specifically, funding was requested to extend the ongoing program into four additional central African countries (Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tomé and Principe.) Continuous efforts were proposed to monitor the rate of HIV in the already established countries (Cameroon, Gabon, Chad, and Republic of Congo), as well as to conduct refresher training for trained peer educators in these four countries. Using the same survey methodology already established in these four countries will provide, for the first time, the ability to reliably compare military HIV rates across all eight countries in the region.

The proposal was reviewed by a scientific review board and will be submitted to the DHAPP Board of Directors for funding decisions.



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

During the fiscal year, the ANT reported significant early success in their new HIV prevention program. During the year, 1660 troops and family members were reached with comprehensive HIV prevention messages (1264 men, 396 women), and another 50 individuals were trained in the provision of those messages. Four (4) military members were trained in both blood- and injection-safety techniques.

Care and Treatment

Four (4) ANT members were trained in the provision of both HIV-related palliative care and antiretroviral therapy.

Other

During the year, one indigenous organization (ANT) was provided with technical assistance for strategic information. Fifty (50) military members were provided training in HIV-related community mobilization.