

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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 Côte d'Ivoire population is estimated to be 17.6 million people, with an average life expectancy of 48.8 years. French is the official language of Côte d'Ivoire, which has an estimated literacy rate of 50.9%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Côte d'Ivoire is among the world's largest producers and exporters of coffee, cocoa beans, and palm oil. Despite government attempts to diversify the economy, it is still heavily dependent on agriculture and related activities, engaging roughly 68% of the population. Growth was negative in 2000-03 because of the difficulty in meeting the conditions of international donors, continued low prices of key exports, and severe civil war. The gross domestic product per capita is \$1,600, with 37% of Ivoirians living below the poverty line.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Côte d'Ivoire's general population is estimated at 7.1%. Côte d'Ivoire has approximately 750,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. HIV prevalence is higher in urban than in rural areas. Identified significant risk factors for HIV include early initiation of sexual activity, significant poverty, and unprotected heterosexual contact.

Military Statistics

The size of the Côte d'Ivoire Defense and Security Forces (FDSC) is approximately 8000. Côte d'Ivoire has not performed force-wide HIV testing; however, the HIV infection rate in the military has been estimated at 9%.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

During fiscal year 2006, bilateral military programs for HIV prevention in the FDSC were suspended due to continued instability in the area. DHAPP staff members look forward to future collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Although programming for the FDSC continues to be suspended, DHAPP personnel have maintained active roles as members of the Côte d'Ivoire core team for the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator. In these roles, DHAPP staff members have offered support to the in-country team in their country operational planning process for funding under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief in Côte d'Ivoire.

