

DJIBOUTI

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 Djibouti is estimated to be 486,500 people, with an average life expectancy of 43.1 years. French and Arabic are the official languages of Djibouti, which has an estimated literacy rate of 67.9%, unevenly distributed between men and women. The economy is based on service activities connected with the country's strategic location and status as a free trade zone in northeast Africa. Two thirds of the inhabitants live in the capital city; the others are mostly nomadic herders. Low rainfall limits crop production to fruits and vegetables, and most food must be imported. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$1,000, with 50% of Djiboutian people living below the poverty line. Djibouti hosts the only US military base in Sub-Saharan Africa and is a front-line state in the global war on terrorism.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Djibouti's general population is estimated at 3.1%. Djibouti has approximately 15,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary mode of transmission is heterosexual contact. Women are more severely affected than men. Individuals aged 20-29 years are more severely affected than other age groups.

Military Statistics

The Djibouti Armed Forces (FAD) is estimated at approximately 8000 members. 4.3% of Djibouti expends 4.3% of the GDP for military purposes. No current HIV prevalence data are available for military personnel.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP staff members have worked in coordination with the FAD and US Embassy personnel in Djibouti to provide technical assistance as needed as the FAD prevention and care program continues to expand. DHAPP looks forward to continued collaboration with the FAD.

Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Djibouti was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory and medical equipment. This award was allocated for fiscal year 2003 and released for expenditure during FY05. These funds have been used to purchase a hematology analyzer, auto-

clave, centrifuge, and HIV test kits, in addition to other supporting diagnostic supplies and reagents.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal from the FAD for activities in 2007. Specific objectives of the proposal included nutritional support for military personnel living with HIV/AIDS; enhanced training of military physicians on the care and treatment of people with HIV; use of Information, Education, and Communication materials during a prevention tour of military bases, aimed at increased HIV awareness; training for nurses on the provision of prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services; and set up and equipment of 2 counseling and testing (CT) centers.

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



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

Data for FAD activities are based on the final quarter of FY06 only. During that quarter, 56 FAD peer educators were trained to provide comprehensive prevention messages to FAD troops. The personnel trained to be peer educators were recruited from different military camps around the country. Training has been divided into two sessions because of differing operational responsibilities among the bases. Training and community outreach programs are planned to continue in FY07.

One (1) FAD outlet provided PMTCT services to 28 pregnant military women.

Care and Treatment

The FAD supports 2 CT centers for its troops. During the last quarter of FY06, 35 FAD personnel were tested for HIV and received their results (15 men, 20 women). A seroprevalence study was conducted with FAD personnel during the last quarter of FY06, with results forthcoming.

One service outlet provides antiretroviral therapy (ART) for FAD members and their families. During the last quarter of the fiscal year, 9 FAD personnel were initiated on ART (9 men). The FAD supports one laboratory with the capacity to perform HIV tests, and 5 laboratory personnel were trained in the provision of these tests.

