



ETHIOPIA

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 Ethiopia is estimated to be 74.7 million people, with an average life expectancy of 49 years. Amharic is the official language of Ethiopia, which has an estimated literacy rate of 42.7%, unevenly distributed between men and women. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$900, with 50% of Ethiopian people living below the poverty line. Ethiopia's poverty-stricken economy is based on agriculture, accounting for half of the GDP, 60% of exports, and 80% of total employment. The agricultural sector suffers from frequent drought and poor cultivation practices. Coffee is critical to the Ethiopian economy, with exports of some \$156 million in 2002.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Ethiopia's general population is not known with certainty but is estimated between 0.9% and 3.5%, with between 420,000 and 1.3 million individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Identified risk factors include unprotected sexual contact, blood transfusions, unsafe injections, and vertical transmission. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of all transmissions are acquired through heterosexual contact.

Military Statistics

The National Defense Forces of Ethiopia (NDFE) consists of approximately 350,000 active-duty members. Ethiopia expends 3.4% of its GDP for military purposes. Military HIV prevalence rates are estimated at 7%.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

Blood Banking technical assistance was provided by DHAPP and US Navy Blood Program personnel. Lectures on blood safety, processing and transfusion medicine were provided. Joint meetings to discuss national blood plans were held with the Ethiopian Red Cross, CDC, WHO, and the DoD. In the fall of 2006, the NDFE Bella Hospital Blood Center facility was completed and procurement for a computerized tracking system, blood banking and transfusion service equipment began. Key management personnel for the Blood Center were trained in a three-week program at the Naval Medical Center San Diego. It is expected that the Bella Hospital Blood Center in Addis Ababa will begin operations in spring 2007.

DHAPP personnel participated in a review of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Ethiopia prevention program, producing an action report for the country team. In

In addition, throughout the year, the PEPFAR Core Team provided technical assistance to the country team and NDFE. This included discussions on current NDFE needs and procedures, as well as site visits to collaborating organizations that support the NDFE. Follow-up assistance was organized by the PEPFAR the Core Team to assist the NDFE with their Country Operational Plan (COP) for fiscal year 2007.

Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Ethiopia was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory and medical equipment. This award was allocated for Y2003 and released for expenditure during FY05. Plans to purchase NDFE Blood Bank equipment with this funding are under way.

Proposed Future Activities

Ongoing successful NDFE and partner programming was expanded to include additional aspects of comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment—with specific emphasis on the opening of the new NDFE Blood Bank—for military members and their families. All proposed activities were submitted to the Ethiopia country team and were included in the FY07 COP.



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

During FY06, 250,000 troops and family members were provided with comprehensive HIV prevention messages. The NDFE maintained 448 targeted condom service outlets, with 100% of condom availability continuously maintained for troops. A total of 154 persons from the Ethiopia Defense Health Sciences College and military hospitals have attended lectures on blood safety and proper blood transfusion practices. The lecturers were from the US Naval Medical Center San Diego Blood Bank. All health professionals and support staff have been trained on injection safety. The training has occurred with a phased approach, and has been augmented since 2003, with provision of universal precaution equipment and policies.

Ten (10) NDFE outlets have provided basic services for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). During FY06, 696 pregnant women have been provided with PMTCT services, 47 of whom were provided with a complete course of antiretroviral therapy (ART) prophylaxis. Fourteen (14) health care workers were trained in the provision of PMTCT.

Care

Ten (10) NDFE outlets provided HIV-related palliative care. During FY06, 3485 troops and family members were provided with HIV-related palliative care (2597 men, 888 women). One hundred and thirty (130) military health workers were trained in the provision of HIV-related care.

The NDFE supported 20 counseling and testing (CT) centers. During the year, 10,995 troops were tested for HIV and received their results (2448 men, 8547 women). Forty-five (45) military members were trained in the provision of CT.

Treatment

Ten (10) service outlets provided ART services to military members. By the end of the year, 3641 troops and family members were established on ART (1948 men, 631 women, 1023 boys, 39 pregnant women). One hundred and fifteen (115) military medical personnel were trained in the provision of ART according to international standards. Ten (10) NDFE laboratories had the capability of performing HIV tests and CD4 and/or lymphocyte testing.

