

GUINEA

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 Guinea is estimated to be 9.69 million people, with an average life expectancy of 49.5 years. French is the official language of Guinea, which has an estimated literacy rate of 35.9%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Guinea possesses major mineral, hydropower, and agricultural resources, yet remains an underdeveloped nation. The country possesses almost half of the world's bauxite reserves and is the second-largest bauxite producer. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$2,000, with 40% of people in Guinea living below the poverty level.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in general population of Guinea is estimated at 1.5%, with approximately 85,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Most cases of HIV in Guinea are spread through multi-partner heterosexual sex and mother-to-child transmission.

Military Statistics

The Guinean Armed Forces (GAF) is estimated at approximately 10,000 members. Guinea allocates 2.9% of the GDP for military expenditures. A nationwide HIV prevalence study done in 2001 indicated an HIV prevalence rate in the military of 6.6%, which is significantly higher than the general population.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

During fiscal year 2006, DHAPP collaborated with the GAF and the Defense Attaché Office of the US Embassy in Guinea and the in-country partner Population Services International. During the year, the following successes were noted: FY04-06 knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) baseline and follow-up studies completed; study trips to three countries were organized for military decision makers; a written policy drafted by the Ministry of Defense HIV/AIDS committee was vetted during a verification workshop funded by DHAPP and signed into law; 264 master



trainers and supervisors were trained; 576 peer educators were trained; behavior change communication (BCC) materials were conceived using results of the KAP study, produced and distributed via peer educators; condom availability was increased through social marketing in and around military installations in all military regions; and approximately 19,000 military personnel participated in over 12,000 activities.

Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Guinea was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory and medical equipment. This award was allocated for FY05 and has not yet been released for expenditure. Although still in negotiation, the plan is to use these funds to procure HIV diagnostic equipment and supplies.



Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received two proposals on behalf of the GAF for activities in FY07. The first, from the Defense Attaché Office of the US Embassy, focused on expansion of existing GAF programs. The primary objective of the proposals include expanding prevention programs to reach 75% of military personnel; adding a fourth counseling and testing (CT) center for GAF personnel; dashboard impact studies based on last year's KAP surveys; and hiring a program manager.

A second proposal was received from partner EngenderHealth on behalf of the GAF. The goal of the proposed activities is the dissemination of a gender-based HIV/AIDS prevention curriculum, *Men as Partners*, through master trainers and peer educators. Through trained peer educators, EngenderHealth proposed to facilitate the implementation of *Men as Partners* messages and activities in the military setting and wider military community.

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

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

The GAF continued its outstanding prevention programs during FY06, reaching 46,090 military members and their families (45,168 men, 922 women) with comprehensive prevention messages and training another 2160 personnel to provide those messages. Twelve (12) service outlets provided blood safety services, and ninety (90) military personnel were trained in blood safety. Another 150 were trained in injection safety.

Care

Fifty (50) service outlets provided HIV-related palliative care to GAF personnel and their families. Four hundred (400) military members were trained in the provision of HIV-related care, including tuberculosis. Twelve (12) CT centers provided services to GAF members and their families. During FY06, 662 individuals were tested for HIV and received their results (1628 men, 34 women).

Treatment

Two (2) service outlets provided antiretroviral therapy (ART) for GAF members. During the fiscal year, 40 military medical personnel were trained in the provision of ART. Five (5) GAF laboratories had the capacity to perform HIV tests. One hundred and forty (140) laboratory personnel were trained in the provision of these services.

Other

Seven hundred and two (702) individuals were trained in strategic information methods; 54 indigenous organizations were provided with technical assistance (TA) for strategic information. Three (3) organizations were provided with TA for policy development and another 37 were provided with TA for HIV-related institutional capacity building. One hundred and eighty-four (184) individuals were trained in policy development, 702 in capacity building, and 2100 in both reduction of stigma and discrimination and community mobilization.

