



KENYA

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

Kenya's population is estimated to be 37.7 million people, with an average life expectancy of 48.9 years. English and Kiswahili are the official languages of Kenya, which has an estimated literacy rate of 85.1%, evenly distributed between men and women. The regional hub for trade and finance in East Africa, Kenya has been hampered by corruption and by reliance upon several primary goods whose prices have remained low. In the December 2002 elections, a new opposition government took on the economic problems facing the nation. In 2003, progress was made in rooting out corruption and encouraging donor support, with the gross domestic product (GDP) growing more than 5% in 2005. The GDP per capita is \$1,100, with 50% of Kenyans living below the poverty line.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Kenya's general population is estimated at 6.1%. Kenya has approximately 1.3 million individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified risk factor in the population is unprotected heterosexual contact. Girls and young women are particularly vulnerable to infection. Women aged 15–24 years are more than twice as likely to be infected as men of this age.

Military Statistics

The Kenyan Department of Defense (KDOD) is estimated at approximately 35,000 personnel. Kenya allocates 1.6% of the GDP for military expenditures. The KDOD HIV prevalence rate is estimated at 7%.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP staff members provided technical assistance to the KDOD during in-country Core Team visits. The purpose of each trip included review, assistance, and preparation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Country Operational Plan (COP) for fiscal year 2007, as well as military-specific planning and technical assistance to the KDOD and US Embassy personnel. DHAPP staff members represent the KDOD as members of the PEPFAR Core Team, and have been involved in every level of country planning, ensuring that KDOD programs are adequately addressed.

Proposed Future Activities

Ongoing successful KDOD and partner programming was expanded to include additional aspects of comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment for military members and their families. All proposed activities were submitted to the Kenyan country team and were included in the FY07 COP.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

During FY06, KDOD continued to provide exceptional results across all areas in prevention, care, and treatment of HIV. Through extensive community outreach efforts, a total of 112,688 military personnel and their families were reached with prevention messages that focused primarily on abstinence and being faithful (92,630 men, 20,058 women). A total of 20,664 troops and families received abstinence-only messages mainly through faith-based organizations and seminars aimed at the youth in the military population. Seventy-nine others were trained in the provision of those messages. In addition, 63,176 military members and their families were reached with comprehensive prevention messages (49,630 men, 14,536 women). Condom services were provided through 440 dispensing points (mess toilets, hospitals waiting rooms, clinics, bars). Seventy-two (72) new individuals were trained in the provision of comprehensive prevention.

During the fiscal year, 1496 women were provided with prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services at 14 PMTCT sites. These services included counseling, HIV testing, and results. Of the women tested under PMTCT setting, 66 were provided with a complete course of antiretroviral (ARV) prophylaxis. Fourteen military health care workers were trained in the provision of PMTCT.

Care

One (1) service outlet provided HIV-related palliative care to military members and their families. During the year, 1383 KDOD members were provided with HIV-related palliative care (939 men, 444 women), and another 126 individuals were trained in the provision of that care. These numbers included 374 troops and family members receiving treatment for tuberculosis (TB). With the streamlining of TB services the numbers are gradually picking up and the initial stigma caused due to the integration of services appears to be decreasing.

Twenty counseling and testing (CT) centers provided HIV testing for KDOD personnel. During FY06, a total of 5857 troops and family members were tested for HIV and received their results (4163 men, 1694 women). 57 military members were trained in the provision of CT. Three military post-test clubs remained active during the current period.

Treatment

During FY06, one (1) outlet provided ART services to KDOD personnel and their families. 219 service members or dependents were newly started on antiretroviral therapy (ART) during the reporting period (138 men, 56 women, 13 boys, 12 girls). Nine hundred and fifty-four (954) military members or families had ever received ART by the end of the fiscal year (639 men, 255 women, 32 boys, 28 girls). Eight (8) military health workers were trained in the provision of ART. One KDOD laboratory had the capacity to perform HIV tests and CD4 and/or lymphocyte testing, and 5 laboratory workers were trained.

