

KYRGYZSTAN

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

In 1991, Kyrgyzstan achieved independence from the Soviet Union. The population of Kyrgyzstan is estimated to be 5.2 million people, with an average life expectancy of 68.5 years. Kyrgyz and Russian are the official languages of Kyrgyzstan, which has an estimated literacy rate of 98.7%, evenly distributed between men and women. Cotton, tobacco, wool, and meat are the main agricultural products, although only tobacco and cotton are exported in any quantity. The gross domestic product per capita is \$2,000, with 40% of Kyrgyz people living below the poverty line.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Kyrgyzstan's general population is estimated at less than 0.10%, with approximately 700 people living with HIV in 2005. Risk factors in this concentrated epidemic include primarily intravenous drug use, comprising 80% of cases. Sexual transmission accounts for most other cases.

Military Statistics

The Kyrgyz Republic Armed Forces are estimated at approximately 9000. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

With financial support from DHAPP and administrative support from the US Embassy Security Assistance Office, assistance for the scale-up of laboratory and testing/care facilities was provided to the medical units of the Ministry of Defense, Border Troops, National Guard, Ministries of Emergency Situations and Interior Forces to help them continue their own HIV/AIDS prevention programs. Specific equipment purchased and provided included 7 autoclaves, 25 hot air sterilizers, 25 ultraviolet irradiators, 7000 gloves, 70,000 syringes, and 10,000 systems for intravenous injections. Furthermore, the Medical Departments of the Kyrgyz Republic Armed Forces received educational materials such as computers, projectors, TV sets, video cameras, and over 125,000 copies of handouts and calendars for soldiers and officers, which were distributed as an everyday reminder for HIV/AIDS prevention.



Proposed Future Activities

A proposal was received on behalf of the Kyrgyz Republic Armed Forces for FY07. The specific objectives of the proposed project include increasing awareness of HIV in military personnel through training of master trainers and peer educators; development and distribution of information, education, and communication materials; creation of a military-specific video on HIV awareness; and increased knowledge of and access to counseling and testing (CT) services. In addition, two CT centers and their laboratories will be equipped and medical personnel will be trained on treatment of sexually transmitted infections and the importance of linkage to CT services.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

During this fiscal year, the Kyrgyz Republic Armed Forces commenced a comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment program, with impressive early results. Early in the year, 5100 troops (5000 men and 100 women) were reached with a comprehensive prevention education message, and 150 troops were trained to provide that message to peers. Nine pregnant women were provided with services for prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

