



MAURITANIA

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

Mauritania achieved independence from France in 1960. The population of Mauritania is estimated to be 3.17 million people, with an average life expectancy of 53.1 years. Arabic is the official language of Mauritania, which has an estimated literacy rate of 41.7%, unevenly distributed between men and women. In 2001, it was discovered that Mauritania has an estimated 1 billion barrels of oil in reserves 80 km offshore. Substantial oil production and exports were scheduled to begin in early 2006 and may average 75,000 barrels per day. In the meantime, the government has emphasized reduction of poverty, improvement of health and education, and promoting privatization of the economy. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$2,200, with 40% of Mauritanian people living below the poverty line.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Mauritania's general population is estimated at less than 0.70%, with approximately 12,000 people living with HIV in 2005. Risk factors are largely unknown.

Military Statistics

The Mauritanian Armed Forces are estimated at approximately 16,000 members. Mauritania allocates 1.4% of the GDP for military expenditures. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

During the current reporting period, DHAPP funding supported the implementation of Defense Institute for Medical Operations (DIMO) HIV training (in French) for military health care providers in Mauritania.

Training in HIV-related prevention, care, and treatment was given to 119 providers (57 military officers, 4 enlisted military members, 58 civilians).

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention, Care and Treatment.

During fiscal year 2006, 119 military and civilian health care providers who support the Mauritanian military received the DIMO HIV training. Training was provided for basic prevention methods, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, injection and blood safety, HIV-related palliative care, counseling and testing methods, and treatment.

