

## MOZAMBIQUE

# 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 Mozambique is estimated to be 19.7 million people, with an average life expectancy of 39.8 years. Portuguese is the official language of Mozambique, which has an estimated literacy rate of 47.8%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Mozambique remains dependent upon foreign assistance for much of its annual budget, and the majority of the population remains below the poverty line. Subsistence agriculture continues to employ the vast majority of the country's work force. A substantial trade imbalance persists, although the opening of an aluminum smelter, the country's largest foreign investment project to date, has increased export earnings. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$1,300, with 70% of Mozambicans living below the poverty line.

#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Mozambique's general population is estimated at 16.1%, a slight increase from 2 years ago. Mozambique has approximately 1.8 million individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The estimated death toll from the start of the epidemic is at least 110,000. The primary identified risk factor in this population is unprotected heterosexual contact.

#### Military Statistics

The Mozambique Armed Defense Forces (FADM) is estimated at approximately 11,000 active-duty troops. Mozambique allocates 1.6% of the GDP for military expenditures. As of this annual report, HIV prevalence in the military was unavailable, but the first military seroprevalence study has been completed and should be released soon.

### PROGRAM RESPONSE

#### In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The FADM sought the assistance of the US Department of Defense (DoD) to conduct a prevalence and behavioral risk survey. The collaborative partners working on this project included the FADM, DoD, Research Triangle Institute International (funded by DoD), Population Services International (funded through USAID), and the US Embassy in Maputo. The survey was developed to include both military demographics and risk factors and international risk factors with emphasis on deployment, condom use, partner patterns and alcohol use. There were three goals in the conduct of the survey and HIV testing procedures: (1) assess HIV prevalence in the FADM, (2) assess behavioral risk, and (3) assess referrals to care and treatment for those testing positive for HIV.

The DoD is extremely proud of the efforts of the FADM and its in-country partners in Mozambique for embarking on this groundbreaking study on seroprevalence and behavioral risk factors in military personnel. The results will provide invaluable information for the development of future implementation and measurement for the military context of a generalized epidemic.

In addition, in August 2006, DHAPP staff provided technical assistance to the FADM during a site visit to Mozambique. During this trip, they discussed implementation of 2006 activities, 2007 planned activities, program and policy development and progress of a recent prevalence report, and also visited the site for upcoming hospital renovations.

#### **Foreign Military Financing Assistance**

Mozambique was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory and medical equipment. This award was allocated for fiscal years 2003 and 2005, and FY03 funding was released for expenditure during FY05. Although still in negotiation, the plan is to use FY03 funding to procure sharps containers and microscope in addition to other supporting diagnostic supplies and reagents.

#### **Proposed Future Activities**

Ongoing successful FADM and partner programming was expanded to include additional aspects of comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment for military members and their families. Specifically, the Prevention for Positives programs and follow-on activities to the seroprevalence study are highlights of next year's proposed targets. All proposed activities were submitted to the Mozambique country team, and were included in the FY07 the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief Country Operational Plan.

## **OUTCOMES & IMPACT**

### **Prevention**

During FY06, Population Services International (PSI) continued its ongoing strong collaboration with the FADM and reported early successful programs, specifically in prevention and care. During the year, 30,000 FADM troops and family members were reached with comprehensive prevention messages by PSI-trained military peer educators. Messages are delivered in a participative style in which audience members themselves are expected to contribute substantially. Behaviors emphasized include strengthening personal risk perception to motivate a reduction in the number of sexual partners, consistent condom use, and prompt treatment of sexually transmitted infection.

The FADM and PSI supported 12 outlets providing prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services. During the year, 9572 pregnant women were provided with PMTCT services, and 573 were provided with a complete course of antiretroviral prophylaxis.

### **Care**

The FADM supported 27 counseling and testing (CT) centers during the year. Two hundred and ninety-five (295) service members and families were tested for HIV and received their results. Twenty-eight (28) individuals received training in the provision of

CT, including FADM personnel.

**Treatment**

During FY06, 12 outlets (all PMTCT) provided antiretroviral therapy (ART) services to FADM personnel and their families. One thousand two hundred and forty (1240) service members or dependents were newly started on ART during the reporting period (573 pregnant women, 667 infants). Four (4) military health workers were trained in the provision of ART.

