

## NIGERIA

# 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

Nigeria's population is estimated to be 131.8 million people, with an average life expectancy of 47 years. English is the official language of Nigeria, which has an estimated literacy rate of 68%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Following nearly 16 years of military rule, a new constitution was adopted in 1999, and a peaceful transition to civilian government was completed. The country is rich in oil, and after a long period of political instability and corruption, is undertaking some reforms under the new administration. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$1,400, with 60% of Nigerians living below the poverty line.

#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Nigeria's general population is estimated at 3.9%, a decrease from last year. Nigeria has approximately 2.9 million individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Identified risk factors include sexually transmitted infections, heterosexual contact with multiple partners and with commercial sex workers, mother-to-child transmission, and blood transfusions.



#### Military Statistics

The Nigerian Armed Forces (NAF) has approximately 92,000 active-duty members. Force-wide testing has not been conducted, but HIV prevalence in the military is estimated at 8%. Nigeria allocates 0.8% of the GDP for military expenditures.

### PROGRAM RESPONSE

#### In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP staff members provided technical assistance to the NAF 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 NAF and US Embassy personnel. DHAPP staff members represent the NAF as members of the PEPFAR Core Team, and have been involved in every level of country planning, ensuring that NAF programs are adequately addressed.

### Proposed Future Activities

Ongoing successful NAF 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 Nigeria country team, and were included in the FY07 COP.

## **OUTCOMES & IMPACT**

### Prevention

During FY06, NAF continued to provide exceptional results, specifically in HIV care and treatment. Prevention efforts involving the NAF are primarily implemented through other agencies. Five (5) military health personnel were trained in the provision of prevention of mother-to-child transmission services.

### Care

Five service outlets provided HIV-related palliative care to military members and their families. During the year, 1990 NAF members were provided with HIV-related palliative care (1103 men, 887 women), and one individual was trained in the provision of that care. These numbers included 1557 troops and family members receiving treatment for tuberculosis (565 men, 962 women).

Five (5) counseling and testing centers provided HIV testing for NAF personnel. During FY06, a total of 8891 troops and family members were tested for HIV and received their results (3778 men, 5113 women).

### Treatment

During FY06, one (1) outlet provided antiretroviral therapy (ART) services to NAF personnel and their families. A total of 1557 service members or dependents were newly started on ART during the reporting period and were also established on treatment at the end of the year (562 men, 930 women, 32 boys, 33 girls). Forty-seven (47) military health workers were trained in the provision of ART. Five (5) NAF laboratories had the capacity to perform HIV tests and CD4 and/or lymphocyte testing, and 16 laboratory workers were trained in the provision of laboratory services.

