

UKRAINE

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 Ukraine is estimated to be 46.7 million people, with an average life expectancy of 70 years. Ukrainian is the official language of the Ukraine, which has an estimated literacy rate of 99.7%, evenly distributed between men and women. Ukraine's fertile black soil generated more than one fourth of Soviet agricultural output, and its farms provided substantial quantities of meat, milk, grain, and vegetables to other republics. Ukraine depends on imports of energy, especially natural gas, to meet some 85% of its annual energy requirements. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$7,000, with 29% of Ukrainian people living below the poverty line.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Ukraine's general population is estimated at 1.4%, with 410,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS, half of whom are women. The most common mode of HIV transmission is intravenous drug use, which is responsible for 57% of HIV cases. Prevalence is highest in the southern and eastern regions of the country. Among the key factors driving the epidemic are transactional sex, high levels of migration, and large numbers of intravenous drug users.

Military Statistics

The Ukrainian Armed Forces consist of Ground Forces, Naval Forces, and Air Forces, estimated at approximately 240,000 active-duty members. The Ukraine expends 1.4% of its GDP for military purposes. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown; however, as of 2005, there were 444 documented cases of HIV in the military, with 25 to 30 new cases detected annually.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

In June 2006, DHAPP staff traveled to Ukraine to conduct an initial needs assessment and evaluated status of the HIV/AIDS prevention program. During this site visit, activities included (1) meeting with the Ukrainian program manager, (2) visiting 3 DHAPP-funding voluntary counseling and testing (CT) sites and regional laboratories, (3) conducting the site assessment, (4) evaluating the status of the Ukrainian HIV testing program, and (5) developing concepts for the upcoming proposal request.



Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal for fiscal year 2007 activities from Project Hope on behalf of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The proposed objectives include provide high-quality HIV prevention education and information at the troop level by increasing the number of health care educators trained to promote HIV/AIDS prevention through behavior change, provide basic-level HIV CT services by increasing the number of military health workers trained in CT, and provide high-quality care and treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS by increasing the number of military health workers trained to deliver antiretroviral therapy and to provide HIV/AIDS care.

The proposal was reviewed by a scientific panel and will be submitted to the DHAPP Board of Directors.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention and Care

In FY06 the Ukrainian military reported significant accomplishments in CT service. During the year, one primary CT center was opened in Kiev, with a ceremony during which the US Ambassador to Ukraine and the Minister of Defense were present. In addition, renovations have taken place for 3 more military CT centers, which should be ready to open at different times during the upcoming year. Automated microplate readers, plate washers, and shaker incubators for microplates have been provided for all 4 centers. In addition, the following supplies have been purchased to equip each of the 4 CT centers: furniture; refrigerators; expendable supplies, such as caps, masks, medical coats, and gloves; computers and printers; laptop computers; and overhead projectors and screens for training presentations.