



## VIETNAM

# 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

Vietnam's population is estimated to be 84.4 million people, with an average life expectancy of 70.8 years. Vietnamese is the official language of Vietnam, which has an estimated literacy rate of 90.3%, evenly distributed between men and women. Deep poverty, defined as a percentage of the population living under \$1 per day, has declined significantly and is now smaller than that of China, India, and the Philippines. Vietnam is working to promote job creation to keep up with the country's high population growth rate. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$2,800, with 19.5% of Vietnamese living below the poverty line.

#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Vietnam's general population is estimated at 0.5%, with approximately 260,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified high-risk groups in the population have been injection drug users and sex workers. People under age 30 are most severely affected, and men are much more severely affected than women. Injection drug use has been identified as the most common mode of HIV transmission, followed by heterosexual intercourse.

#### Military Statistics

The Vietnam Ministry of Defense (VMD) is estimated at approximately 480,000 active-duty troops. Vietnam allocates 2.5% of the GDP for military expenditures. HIV prevalence in the military has been estimated at about 0.64% among military recruits.

### PROGRAM RESPONSE

#### In-Country Ongoing Assistance

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

#### Proposed Future Activities

Ongoing successful VMD 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 Vietnam country team, and were included in the FY07 COP.

## **OUTCOMES & IMPACT**

### **Prevention**

During FY06, 150 military medics attached to individual units were trained as peer educators. These trainers were considered individual “condom service outlets”. One of the functions of these medics was to distribute condoms to the military recruits of their units. During FY06, 44,564 troops were reached with comprehensive prevention messages (all male). Two hundred and seventy (270) additional military personnel were trained in the provision of comprehensive prevention messages. Two (2) outlets participated in blood-safety activities, and 19 military members were trained in blood safety.

### **Care**

Two (2) VMOD outlets provided HIV-related palliative care for VMOD members and their families. During FY06, 250 troops were provided with HIV-related palliative care (all male). One hundred and fifty-eight (158) military medical personnel were trained in the provision of HIV-related care, including care for tuberculosis.

The VMOD supported 2 counseling and testing (CT) centers for military members. During the year, 376 military members were tested for HIV and received their results. Three (3) individuals were trained in the provision of CT services.

### **Treatment**

Four (4) VMOD medical personnel were trained in the provision of antiretroviral therapy. Two (3) laboratories had the capability to perform HIV testing, and 9 laboratory personnel were trained in the provision of these tests.

### **Other**

Five (5) indigenous organizations were provided with technical assistance in both policy development and institutional capacity building. Eight hundred and twenty-three (823) VMOD personnel were trained in capacity building, policy development, reduction of stigma and discrimination, and community mobilization for HIV prevention, care, and treatment.

