

# ZIMBABWE

# 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 Zimbabwe is estimated to be 12.23 million people, with an average life expectancy of 39.3 years. English is the official language of Zimbabwe, which has an estimated literacy rate of 90.9%, evenly distributed between men and women. The government's land reform program, characterized by chaos and violence, has badly damaged the commercial farming sector, the traditional source of exports and foreign exchange and the provider of 400,000 jobs, turning Zimbabwe into a net importer of food products. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$2,100, with 80% of Zimbabwean people living below the poverty level.

#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the general population of Zimbabwe is estimated at 20.1%, with approximately 1.7 million individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Most cases of HIV in Zimbabwe are spread through multi-partner heterosexual sex.

#### Military Statistics

The Zimbabwe Defense Forces (ZDF) is estimated at approximately 40,000 members. Zimbabwe allocates 4% of the GDP for military expenditures. No HIV prevalence data were available for the armed forces.



### PROGRAM RESPONSE

#### In-Country Ongoing Assistance

In November 2005, DHAPP staff traveled to Zimbabwe to provide technical assistance through evaluation and strategic development. During the visit, areas for expansion and improvement within the military HIV/AIDS prevention program were identified. DHAPP staff worked with the ZDF to develop a strategy for future HIV/AIDS programs.

## **OUTCOMES & IMPACT**

### **Prevention**

The ZDF, in coordination with DHAPP, proposed the use of a prefab structure as a counseling and testing center in Harare for military personnel and their families. The beginning of the project faced some delays due to funding issues; however, the structure and equipping of the CT center appear on track as of the end of the fiscal year. DHAPP looks forward to future collaboration as the ZDF scales up CT efforts among their military personnel.

