



ALBANIA

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

Albania has played a significant role in managing inter-ethnic tensions in southeastern Europe, and is continuing to work toward joining NATO and the European Union. Albania, with troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, has been a strong supporter of the global war on terrorism. The estimated Albanian population is 3.6 million people, with an average life expectancy of 78 years. Albanian is the official language. The literacy rate is estimated at 99%, with even distribution between men and women. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in Albania is \$6,300, with 25% of people living below the poverty level.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Albania's general population is estimated at less than 0.2%. Some high-risk populations for HIV transmission include intravenous drug users, sex workers and their clients, and migrant communities.

Military Statistics

The Albanian military is composed of an estimated 14,500 members. Albania allocates 1.5% of the GDP for military expenditures. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

During FY07, most efforts focused on lab renovation for Albania. Lab equipment

used for blood testing was procured for the military hospital in Tirana and the Albanian National Blood Bank. In addition, HIV prevention material was translated and produced for the Albanian military. It is scheduled for distribution in early 2008.

Proposed Future Activities

Albania has submitted a proposal to DHAPP to fund additional procurement of laboratory equipment for safe-blood activities.

