



BURUNDI

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 estimated population of Burundi is 8.7 million people, with an average life expectancy of 52 years. Kirundi and French are the official languages of Burundi. There is an estimated literacy rate of 59%, with uneven distribution between men and women. The economy is predominantly agricultural, with more than 90% of the population dependent on subsistence agriculture. Economic growth depends on coffee and tea exports, which account for 90% of foreign exchange earnings. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$800, with 68% of Burundians living below the poverty level.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Burundi's general population is estimated at 3.3%. Burundi has approximately 150,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified risk factor in the population is unprotected heterosexual contact.

Military Statistics

The Burundi National Defense Force (BNDF) has approximately 30,000 personnel. Burundi allocates 5.9% of the GDP for military expenditures. No current HIV/AIDS prevalence data are available for the BNDF.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP is working with the BDFN and Population Services International (PSI) on a prevention program for the troops. Development and implementation of the program

began in FY06, and the current goals are to provide prevention efforts as well as counseling and testing (CT) services.



Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Burundi was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory equipment, supporting reagents, and other supplies related to the diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS. This award was appropriated for FY06 and has not yet been released for expenditure. Although still in negotiation, the current proposal for these funds includes procuring HIV diagnostic equipment and supplies.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention and Care

The program seeks to reduce HIV sexual transmission among the BNDF through CT, with a focus on behavior change. Many major milestones were met in order for this to begin. To initiate the prevention efforts, educational materials were pretested, finalized, and validated by the Ministry of Health. Two hundred fifty-two (252) posters, 1,320 leaflets, and 1,000 T-shirts were produced and distributed. National media campaigns, including 1 radio spot referring military troops and their families to the Akabanga CT Center, was broadcasted 1,122 times on 4 local radio stations. Approximately 40 peer educators and 8 supervisors were trained to provide HIV/AIDS prevention awareness through interpersonal communication within their respective military camps, thus reaching 2,894 troops.

A temporary CT Center was renovated and equipped with laboratory equipment, and opened on 16 March 2007. Since then, 913 troops and their families have been counseled and tested. Counseling and testing training was completed by 9 counselors and 6 laboratory technicians prior to the opening of the CT Center. Fifteen (15) service providers were trained on counseling in January 2007, and 10 of them received refresher training in August 2007. A hotline has been established to ensure counseling services at the CT Center during working hours.



Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal from PSI on behalf of the BDNF for activities during FY08. The primary objectives of the proposal include encouraging behavior change through prevention efforts and providing counseling and testing for troops and their families. A new and permanent CT Center is proposed since the capacity of the temporary CT Center is insufficient for the high number of clients. In addition to a newly planned CT Center, mobile CT units are proposed to provide services to the military camps outside of Bujumbura, thus expanding coverage of CT services for the BDNF.

