



# CAMBODIA

# 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 Cambodia is 14.2 million people, with an average life expectancy of 62 years. Khmer is the official language of Cambodia, which has an estimated literacy rate of 74%, unevenly distributed between men and women. More than 50% of the population is aged 20 years or younger. The population, particularly in the poverty-ridden countryside, suffers from an almost total lack of basic infrastructure. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the population is engaged in subsistence farming. From 2001 to 2004, the economy grew at an average rate of 6.4%, driven largely by an expansion in the garment sector and tourism. The United States and Cambodia signed a Bilateral Textile Agreement, which gave Cambodia a guaranteed quota of US textile imports and established a bonus for improving working conditions and enforcing Cambodian labor laws and international labor standards in the industry. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$1,800, with 35% of the population living below the poverty level.

#### **HIV/AIDS Statistics**

The HIV prevalence rate in the general population of Cambodia is estimated at 1.6%, with approximately 130,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The response of the Cambodian government and civil society in the fight against HIV/AIDS has been impressive. In 2001, the government implemented the 100% Condom Use Program in all provinces, requiring brothel-based sex workers to attend monthly sexually transmitted infection screenings and involving establishment owners in condom negotiation initiatives.

### **Military Statistics**

The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) is estimated at 110,000 members. The RCAF has been organized into 5 military regions and 3 forces (Navy, Army, and Air Force). Each force has its own independent health structure that provides medical services to military personnel and their family members. The Ministry of National Defense Health Department is responsible for medical supplies and equipment and for management of medical personnel. Cambodia expends 3.0% of the GDP on military purposes. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown.



### **PROGRAM RESPONSE**

#### **In-Country Ongoing Assistance**

In collaboration with the US Pacific Command (USPACOM) and its implementing partner the Center of Excellence (COE) in Hawaii, DHAPP has made contact with the RCAF and there have been discussions about future activities.

### **OUTCOMES & IMPACTS**

DHAPP has continued its collaborative interaction with USPACOM and COE as implementing partners for future activities in the RCAF. No programmatic activities took place in the RCAF during the current reporting period.

#### **Proposed Future Activities**

In collaboration with USPACOM and its implementing partner the COE in Hawaii, DHAPP has made contact with the RCAF and there have been discussions about future activities.