



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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 Central African Republic is 4.4 million people, with an average life expectancy of 44 years. French is the official language of the Central African Republic, which has an estimated literacy rate of 51%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Subsistence agriculture, together with forestry, remains the backbone of the economy of the Central African Republic, with more than 70% of the population living in outlying areas. The agricultural sector generates more than half of the gross domestic product (GDP). The per capita GDP is \$700. Timber has accounted for about 16% of export earnings and the diamond industry, for 40%.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the Central African Republic general population is estimated at 10.7%, with approximately 250,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified risk factor in the population is unprotected heterosexual contact.

Military Statistics

The Central African Armed Forces (CAAF) is composed of an estimated 3,000 personnel. The Central African Republic allocates 1.1% of the GDP for military expenditures. No military HIV/AIDS prevalence data were available.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The Johns Hopkins Cameroon Program (JHCP) has been providing technical assistance to the militaries of Central Africa in the implementation of HIV prevention and surveillance activities. They are continually developing contacts with local partners in the Central African Republic and the military to establish implementation of a prevention project among the militaries in the capital city Bangui.

OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

The first site visit by JHCP occurred in June 2007. However, political instability has halted the implementation of prevention activities for the CAAF during the later part of FY07.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal from JHCP on behalf of the CAAF for activities during FY08. The application, which includes 8 countries in the Central African region and builds on the successful work accomplished by JHCP in the region over the past 5 years, aims to develop a more comprehensive strategy for fighting HIV/AIDS in the region's militaries.

