

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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 Côte d'Ivoire population is estimated at 18 million people, with an average life expectancy of 49 years. French is the official language of Côte d'Ivoire, which has an estimated literacy rate of 51%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Côte d'Ivoire is among the world's largest producers and exporters of coffee, cocoa beans, and palm oil. Despite government attempts to diversify the economy, it is still heavily dependent on agriculture and related activities, engaging roughly 68% of the population. Growth was negative in 2000–2003 because of difficulty in meeting the conditions of international donors, continued low prices of key exports, and severe civil war. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$1,800, with 42% of Ivoirians living below the poverty level.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Côte d'Ivoire's general population is estimated at 7.1%. Côte d'Ivoire has approximately 750,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. HIV prevalence is higher in urban than in rural areas. Identified significant risk factors for HIV include early initiation of sexual activity, significant poverty, and unprotected heterosexual contact.

Military Statistics

The size of the Côte d'Ivoire Defense and Security Forces (CDSF) is approximately 8,000 members. Côte d'Ivoire does not perform force wide HIV testing, so the prevalence rate is unknown. The Côte d'Ivoire government expends 1.6% of the GDP on military expenditures.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

Although programming for the CDSF continues to be suspended, DHAPP personnel have maintained active roles as members of the Côte d'Ivoire Core Team for the US Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC). In these roles, DHAPP staff members have provided technical assistance to the in-country team in their Country Operational Planning process for funding under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in Côte d'Ivoire.

OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

During FY07, bilateral military programs for HIV prevention in the CDSF continue to be supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funding through PEPFAR rather than through US Department of Defense mechanisms due to ongoing instability in the area. DHAPP staff members continue to work with the CDSF and provide technical assistance visits to discuss future activities in FY08.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP staff have been active members of the Côte d'Ivoire Core Team for the OGAC and were successful in securing PEPFAR funding for several activities with the CDSF. Some of the planned activities include having CDFS physicians participate in DHAPP's *Military International HIV Training Program* in San Diego, development of military HIV policy, and technical assistance visits from DHAPP staff.

