

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

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 Equatorial Guinea is 616,000 people, with an average life expectancy of 60 years. Spanish and French are the official languages of Equatorial Guinea, which has an estimated literacy rate of 86%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Equatorial Guinea has experienced rapid economic growth due to the discovery of large offshore oil reserves, and, in the last decade, has become sub-Saharan Africa's third largest oil exporter. Forestry, farming, and fishing are also major components of the gross domestic product (GDP). GDP per capita is \$44,100, the fourth highest in the world, after Luxembourg, Bermuda, and Jersey.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Equatorial Guinea's general population is estimated at 3.2%. Equatorial Guinea has approximately 8,900 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified risk factor in the population is unprotected heterosexual contact.



Military Statistics

The Equatorial Guinean Armed Forces (EGAF) is estimated at approximately 2,000 members. Equatorial Guinea allocates 0.1% of the GDP for military expenditures. A seroprevalence study will be conducted within the EGAF during FY08.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The Johns Hopkins Cameroon Program (JHCP) has been providing technical assistance to the EGAF for its HIV prevention activities.



OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Prevention

All prevention activities were concentrated in the capital city of Malabo. A capacity-building technical session was held in December 2006, with 12 EGAF members in attendance. During this session, JHCP experts discussed with the EGAF HIV/AIDS technical team future project activities and strengthened their capacity in the implementation of HIV/AIDS activities. Peer education training was held for 20 trainers in March 2007. A session aimed at mobilizing the military high command in the fight against HIV/AIDS was also organized in March. Forty-five (45) senior EGAF members were sensitized, and advocacy was initiated for their involvement in HIV prevention activities within the military. From March to September 2007, a total of 18 comprehensive prevention sessions were organized by the trained peer educators in various military units in Malabo, reaching 363 troops. Also during FY07, didactic materials were developed, including a peer educator guide and a manual for trainers on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections in the military. These manuals are now in production and will soon be available in the field.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal from JHCP on behalf of the EGAF for activities in FY08. The proposal included training peer educators, distribution of prevention materials, as well as a seroprevalence study within the EGAF.

