



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 Guinea is 10.2 million people, with an average life expectancy of 50 years. French is the official language of Guinea, which has an estimated literacy rate of 30%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Guinea possesses major mineral, hydropower, and agricultural resources, yet remains an underdeveloped nation. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$1,000, with 47% of people in Guinea living below the poverty level.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in general population of Guinea is estimated at 1.5%, with approximately 85,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Most cases of HIV in Guinea are spread through multi-partner heterosexual sex and mother-to-child transmission.

Military Statistics

The Guinean Armed Forces (GAF) is estimated at 23,000 members. Guinea allocates 1.7 % of the GDP for military expenditures. A nationwide HIV prevalence study done in 2001 indicated an HIV prevalence rate in the military of 6.6%, which is significantly higher than the general population.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

During fiscal year 2007, DHAPP collaborated with the GAF and the Defense Attaché Office of the US Embassy in Guinea and the in-country partner Population

Services International (PSI). In collaboration with PSI, the GAF focuses on an all-inclusive intervention; that is it includes abstinence, fidelity, and correct and consistent condom use. Other messages are partner reduction, sexually transmitted infection (STI) treatment, and using Counseling and Testing (CT) Centers.

Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Guinea was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory equipment, and supporting reagents and supplies related to the diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS. This award was appropriated for FY05 and FY06 and has not yet been released for expenditure.

OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Prevention

The GAF continued its outstanding prevention programs during FY07, reaching 17,948 troops and their families with comprehensive prevention messages and training another 1,108 peer educators to provide those messages. Fifty-two (52) troops were trained in both blood safety and injection safety. Of the 1,108 personnel trained, 80 are members of the Ministerial Committee and/or members of the Policy Validation Committee and/or high-ranking officers of the military command, 28 are trainers, 720 are peer educators, and 280 are supervisors/committee persons in 36 military camps. The training of new peer educators and the refresher training of original peer educators are conducted by the master trainers. Peer educators conduct weekly sessions of a set program based on a thematic approach to STI/HIV/AIDS prevention: knowledge, risk perception, self-awareness/confidence building, and negotiation skills focusing on abstinence, being faithful, partner reduction, and correct and consistent condom use

Care

Fifty (50) service outlets provided HIV-related palliative care to GAF personnel and their families. Two hundred (200) military members were trained in the

provision of HIV-related care, including tuberculosis treatment. Twelve (12) CT Centers provided services to GAF members and their families. During FY07, 1,662 individuals were tested for HIV and received their results, and 50 individuals were trained in the provision of CT services.



Treatment

During FY07, 32 military medical personnel were trained in the provision of antiretroviral therapy (ART) services, and 50 laboratory personnel were trained in the provision of ART lab diagnostics. For the reporting period, no treatment numbers were reported to DHAPP.

Other

Three hundred and eighty-six (386) individuals were trained in strategic information. Eighteen (18) indigenous organizations were provided with technical assistance for strategic information and HIV-related institutional capacity building. Sixty-two (62) individuals were trained in policy development. For policy development, 12 members of the Ministry HIV Committee and approximately 50 officers and troops convened for a day-long workshop to validate the written policy and receive additional training. For institutional capacity training, an additional 252 troops have been trained.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal from PSI on behalf of the GAF for activities in FY08. The objectives for the proposal are (1) increase personal risk perception for HIV among sexually active military personnel and their families, (2) improve access to condoms for military personnel and their families, and (3) increase knowledge about the benefits of HIV CT among the military population and their families (in zones where services are available).