



HONDURAS

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 Honduras is 7.6 million people, with an average life expectancy of 69 years. The official language of Honduras is Spanish, and the literacy rate is 80%, evenly distributed between men and women. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$3,300, with a population of 51% living below the poverty level. Honduras, the second poorest country in Central America and one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, with an extraordinarily unequal distribution of income and massive unemployment, is banking on expanded trade under the US-Central America Free Trade Agreement and on debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. The economy relies heavily on a narrow range of exports, notably bananas and coffee, making it vulnerable to natural disasters and shifts in commodity prices. However, investments in the maquila and nontraditional export sectors are slowly diversifying the economy. Growth remains dependent on the economy of the United States, its largest trading partner, and on reduction of the high crime rate, as a means of attracting and maintaining investment.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the Honduran general population is estimated at 1.5%, with 63,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Honduras accounts for almost 60% of HIV/AIDS cases in Central America and occupies the fifth place in the official number of total cases on the American continent. Sex is the transmission route for 93% of the total number of cases reported, mother-to-child transmission accounts for 6.5%, and blood transmission represents 0.5%.

Military Statistics

The Honduran military consists of approximately 8,000 troops. The various branches of the military in Honduras include Army, Navy, and Air Force. The government of Honduras allocates 0.6% of the GDP for the military. The HIV prevalence rate in the HAF is unknown, but a 1997 study found that 6.8% of military recruits were HIV-positive.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine (CDHAM), implementing agency for the United States Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, provided 2 trainings for the Honduran military on comprehensive prevention efforts and treatment for medical providers.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

Four-day training was conducted in El Cajon, Honduras, with 34 members of the military in attendance. Comprehensive prevention training was provided to the various levels of military members present. It included messages of prevention, human rights, stigma and discrimination reduction.

Training in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, for the Honduran military medical personnel was conducted with 150 military members in attendance. The medical personnel included physicians, dentists, nurses, combat medics, lab personnel, and others. A physician from Walter Reed Army Medical Center provided HIV treatments training.

Proposed Future Activities

CDHAM is exploring a public media campaign for the Honduran military.

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