



# MOZAMBIQUE

# 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 Mozambique is 20 million people, with an average life expectancy of 41 years. Portuguese is the official language of Mozambique, which has an estimated literacy rate of 48%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Mozambique remains dependent upon foreign assistance for much of its annual budget, and the majority of the population remains below the poverty line. Subsistence agriculture continues to employ the vast majority of the country's work force. A substantial trade imbalance persists, although the opening of an aluminum smelter, the country's largest foreign investment project to date, has increased export earnings. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$900, with 70% of Mozambicans living below the poverty level.

#### **HIV/AIDS Statistics**

The HIV prevalence rate in Mozambique's general population is estimated at 16.1%, a slight increase from several years ago. Mozambique has approximately 1.8 million individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified risk factor in this population is unprotected heterosexual contact.

#### **Military Statistics**

The Mozambique Armed Defense Forces (MADF) is estimated at approximately 11,000 active-duty troops. Mozambique expends 0.8% of the GDP on military expenditures. The first round of the military seroprevalence and behavioral risk factor study was completed and the next phase is planned for August 2008.

## PROGRAM RESPONSE

### **In-Country Ongoing Assistance**

The MADF works in collaboration with Population Services International (PSI), the University of Connecticut, and Research Triangle Institute International as its partners. An in-country program manager works for the Office of the Defense Attaché at the US Embassy. The program manager oversees the activities of the various partners as well as participating in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Mozambique Country Team and various Technical Working Groups on Gender and Prevention. DHAPP staff provided technical assistance to the MADF on the development of an HIV/AIDS policy and the continued seroprevalence and behavioral risk factor study.



### **Foreign Military Financing Assistance**

Mozambique 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 fiscal years 2003, 2005, and 2006. Funding for 2003 was released for expenditure during FY05. Funding for the 2003 appropriation has been used to procure sharps containers and microscope in addition to other supporting diagnostic supplies and reagents.

## OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

### **Prevention**

During FY07, 15,392 individuals were reached with prevention messages. The MADF also provided training for 225 individuals on peer education. PSI is assisting in the development of a local radio education show for MADF

members. Working together, the MADF and PSI have constructed a radio studio and office for the production of the show. The radio show is planned to be on the air in the near future.

Early in FY07, the University of Connecticut conducted 7 focus groups with HIV-positive patients who attend the Maputo Military Day Hospital for care. The focus groups were intended to assist in the development of a *Prevention with Positives* (PwP) program. The program will allow HIV-positive people to both maintain their health and prevent the spread of HIV to others. University of Connecticut developed the curriculum for the PwP program, planned trainings, and created a monitoring and evaluation component for the program. In addition, a program manager will be hired to oversee the various activities.

### Care

In May 2007, a new military Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Center was opened in Chimoio. The new facility has expanded the MADF CT capabilities. In the 4 VCT Centers, services are offered not only to the military and their families but also to civilians. During FY07, 3,105 individuals received CT services (46% male, 54% female). Twenty-four (24) individuals received training in the provision of CT services, including MADF personnel. Members of the MADF and their dependents can receive care and treatment for HIV/AIDS at military facilities.



### Treatment

Four (4) physicians selected from Maputo, Beira, and Nampula provinces attended the DHAPP Military International HIV Training Program in San Diego, California, and the Infectious Diseases Institute in Kampala, Uganda. On their return, they shared their experiences and materials with other colleagues in Mozambique. Throughout the reporting period, a total of 10 individuals were trained in the provision of antiretroviral therapy services.

Laboratory reagents and a CD4 count machine were procured for the Maputo Military Day Hospital lab during the year.

### Other

The development of an HIV/AIDS policy has begun for the MADF. In March 2007, DHAPP staff conducted a policy workshop that 13 FADM members attended. The objective of the workshop was to discuss and develop a draft HIV/AIDS policy for the MADF, which the Ministry of Defense is currently reviewing and revising. The next phase of the seroprevalence and behavioral risk factor study is planned for August 2008.

### Proposed Future Activities

The proposed activities were submitted to the PEPFAR Mozambique Country Team, and were included in the FY08 PEPFAR Country Operational Plan. PwP programs, and follow-on activities to the seroprevalence study are highlights of next year's proposed targets.

