



SOUTH AFRICA

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

South Africa's estimated population is 46.8 million people, with an average life expectancy of 42 years. Many languages are spoken in South Africa; the three most common are isiZulu, isiXhosa, and Afrikaans, with an estimated literacy rate of 86%, evenly distributed between men and women. South Africa is a middle-income, emerging market with an abundant supply of natural resources; well-developed financial, legal, communications, energy, and transport sectors; a stock exchange that is 17th largest in the world; and a modern infrastructure supporting an efficient distribution of goods to major urban centers throughout the region. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$10,600, with 50% of South Africans living below the poverty level.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in South Africa is one of the highest in the world. The prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 18.8%, with approximately 5.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS, including more than 250,000 children. Heterosexual contact is the principal mode of transmission.

Military Statistics

The South African National Defense Force (SANDF) is estimated at approximately 73,000 active-duty members. The prevalence of HIV in the SANDF is unknown. South Africa expends 1.7% of the GDP on military expenditures.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The SANDF HIV/AIDS program is a collaborative effort between the SANDF, the Office of Defense Cooperation at the US Embassy, and DHAPP. An in-country program team that works under the Office of the Defense Cooperation manages the day-to-day program operations. DHAPP staff members have provided technical assistance to the SANDF during in-country Core Team visits. The purpose of each trip included review, assistance, and preparation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Country Operational Plan (COP) for FY08, as well as military-specific planning and technical assistance to the SANDF and US Embassy personnel. DHAPP staff members have been involved in every level of country planning, ensuring that SANDF programs are adequately addressed.



OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Prevention

During FY07, the SANDF reported continued outstanding results across prevention, care, and treatment targets. During the year, 3,141 military members and their families were reached with prevention messages that focused on abstinence and/or being faithful. The majority of military members reached are new recruits who are HIV negative upon entry into the military. Therefore, the prevention program focuses on values, ethics, and spirituality. Thirty-one (31) chaplains were trained in the provision of these messages and they are primarily responsible for the abstinence and/or being faithful program. The program is known as Combating HIV and AIDS Through Spiritual and Ethical Conduct or CHATSEC. The chaplains reach groups of 20-25 military members over a 3-day program; these 3-day programs occurred 39 times in FY07. In addition, 987 military personnel were reached with comprehensive prevention messages that go beyond abstinence and/or being faithful, and 408 individuals were trained to provide those messages. The SANDF supported 115 targeted condom service outlets.

No reporting data were available for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services. However, there were 49 military health care workers were trained in the provision of PMTCT.

Care

One hundred thirty-six (136) service outlets provided HIV-related palliative care to military members and their families. During the year, 904 SANDF members and family members were provided with HIV-related palliative care (552 men, 352 women). Of these, 185 were provided with preventive therapy for tuberculosis. These data only reflect the first three quarters of the fiscal year. Data for the final quarter was not available. During FY07, data on the number of people counseled and tested was unavailable. However, 169 military members were trained in the provision of counseling and testing services.

Treatment

SANDF treatment numbers from *Phidisa* are included in this report. The figures reflected are reported by the 5 *Phidisa* sites and 1 military hospital. Data from the other military hospitals was unavailable. In FY07, 144 patients were newly initiated on antiretroviral therapy (ART), and at the end of the reporting period, there were 604 current patients on ART.

Other

Thirty-six (36) SANDF members were trained in strategic information during the reporting period. Two 5-day strategic information work sessions were conducted. Members of the HIV/AIDS management team from all 9 provinces attended these work sessions. In addition, 4 SANDF personnel attended training to improve monitoring and evaluation within the SANDF.

Proposed Future Activities

Ongoing successful SANDF and partner programming was expanded to include additional aspects of comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment for military members and their families. All proposed activities were submitted to the South Africa Country Team, and were included in the FY08 COP.