



# TAJIKISTAN

# 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**

Tajikistan became independent in 1991 following the breakup of the Soviet Union, and it is now in the process of strengthening its democracy and transitioning to a free-market economy after a civil war that lasted from 1992 to 1997. The estimated population of Tajikistan is 7 million people, with an average life expectancy of 65 years. Tajik is the official language of Tajikistan, which has an estimated literacy rate of 99.5%, evenly distributed between men and women. The gross domestic product per capita is \$1,600, with 60% of Tajikistan's people living below the poverty level.

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

The HIV prevalence rate in Tajikistan's general population is estimated at 0.1%. Of the registered cases, more than 60% are men, over 70% are intravenous drug users, and more than 70% are younger than 30 years old.

#### **Military Statistics**

The size of Armed Forces of the Republic of Tajikistan (AFRT) is approximately 27,000, including the Border Guards, the largest branch of the AFRT, comprising about 12,500 officers and enlisted members. In addition, the Ministry of Defense has about 10,500 personnel, the National Guard has 2,500, the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense has about 1,500 members. No information regarding HIV prevalence in the military is available, but the military is generally considered a high-risk group.

## PROGRAM RESPONSE

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

DHAPP staff members have maintained close collaborative efforts with the Office of Defense Cooperation at the US Embassy in Tajikistan. Together, funding allocated for FY07 was used to ensure a successful program for the AFRT.



## OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

### **Prevention and Care**

The HIV prevention program in the AFRT reported reaching 15,442 troops with comprehensive prevention and nondiscriminatory messages, and 250 peer educators were trained. Twenty-five (25) people were trained in blood safety and 672 field personnel were trained in injection safety. Counseling and testing (CT) services were provided to 1,450 troops, and 297 individuals were trained in CT services.



### **Proposed Future Activities**

DHAPP received a proposal from the Office of Defense Cooperation at the US Embassy in Dushanbe on behalf of the AFRT for FY08 funding. The stated goal of the proposed HIV/AIDS program in Tajikistan is to continue training medical staff and peer educators, broaden the voluntary testing program, continue implementation of AFRT policy on HIV/AIDS that was developed and approved in 2005, provide treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and improve the supplies, equipment, and infrastructure for medical testing and treatment.