



UKRAINE

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 Ukraine is 46 million people, with an average life expectancy of 68 years. Ukrainian is the official language of the Ukraine, which has an estimated literacy rate of 99%, evenly distributed between men and women. Ukraine's fertile black soil generated more than one fourth of Soviet agricultural output, and its farms provided substantial quantities of meat, milk, grain, and vegetables to other republics. Ukraine depends on imports of energy, especially natural gas, to meet some 85% of its annual energy requirements. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$6,900, with 38% of Ukrainian people living below the poverty level. Real GDP growth reached about 7% in 2006–07, fueled by high global prices for steel—Ukraine's top export—and by strong domestic consumption, spurred by rising pensions and wages. Although the economy is likely to expand in 2008, long-term growth could be threatened by the government's plans to reinstate tax, trade, and customs privileges and to maintain restrictive grain export quotas.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Ukraine's general population is estimated at 1.4%, with 410,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS, half of whom are women. The most common mode of HIV transmission is intravenous drug use, which is responsible for 57% of HIV cases. Prevalence is highest in the southern and eastern regions of the country. Among the key factors driving the epidemic are transactional sex, high levels of migration, and large numbers of intravenous drug users.

Military Statistics

The Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF), which consists of Ground, Naval, and Air Forces, comprises approximately 200,000 active-duty members. The Ukraine expends

1.4% of the GDP on the military. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown; however, in 2005, there were 444 documented cases of HIV in the military, with 25 to 30 new cases detected annually.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The HIV/AIDS program for the UAF is a collaborative effort between the UAF, the Office of Defense Cooperation at the US Embassy in Kiev, and DHAPP. DHAPP staff provides technical assistance and support to the UAF program. In addition, DHAPP staff is a member of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Ukraine Country Team, and participated in the Country Operational Plan (COP) for FY08.

OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Prevention

In FY07, the HIV/AIDS prevention workshops for senior-level medical personnel kicked off the year with training 150 staff as master trainers. They trained 850 additional peer educators. In total, 1,000 peer educators reached approximately 120,000 troops with comprehensive prevention messages. The peer educators conducted annual 2-hour HIV/AIDS training with their units, which typically have 120 soldiers in a unit. During the prevention trainings, troops are taught about healthy lifestyles, correct and consistent use of condoms, and the correct usage of tattoo needles and shaving razors. Two hundred (200) information boards that have pockets were purchased for condom distribution to the troops.



Care

Currently, there are 4 counseling and testing (CT) outlets for the UAF. Under renovation are 2 additional CT Centers. The CT Centers are staffed by psychologists for counseling services, and lab technicians and nurses provide testing services. In FY07, 1,050 UAF troops were counseled and tested.



Treatment

Only 1 military lab in Kiev has the equipment needed for CD4 testing. Fifteen (15) lab workers and doctors were trained on recently procured lab equipment.

Other

DHAPP staff trained 1 individual on strategic information. With technical assistance from DHAPP, 2 UAF staff members have begun to develop military medical training manuals. They visited the US Naval Medical Center San Diego and attended a portion of the DHAPP *Military International HIV/AIDS Training Program* as part of the technical assistance.

Proposed Future Activities

Continued HIV programming for the UAF members was proposed to the PEPFAR Ukraine Country Team. All proposed activities were included in the FY08 COP. Some of these activities include continued prevention efforts and increased CT services.