



VIETNAM

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

Vietnam's estimated population is 86 million people, with an average life expectancy of 71 years. Vietnamese is the official language of Vietnam, which has an estimated literacy rate of 90%, evenly distributed between men and women. Deep poverty, defined as a percentage of the population living under \$1 per day, has declined significantly and is now smaller than that of China, India, and the Philippines. Vietnam is working to promote job creation to keep up with the country's high population growth rate. In an effort to stem high inflation, which took off in 2007, in early 2008 Vietnamese authorities began to raise benchmark interest rates and reserve requirements. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$2,600, with 15% of Vietnamese living below the poverty level.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Vietnam's general population is estimated at 0.4%, with approximately 260,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified high-risk groups in the population have been injection drug users and commercial sex workers. People under age 30 are most severely affected, and men are much more severely affected than women. Injection drug use has been identified as the most common mode of HIV transmission, followed by heterosexual intercourse.

Military Statistics

The Vietnam Ministry of Defense (VMOD) is estimated at approximately 480,000 active-duty troops. Vietnam expends 2.5% of the GDP on military expenditures. No prevalence data are available on the VMOD.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The US Pacific Command and its implementing agent, the Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, have continued to collaborate with the VMOD.

OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Prevention

During FY07, the VMOD reached 25,000 troops with comprehensive prevention messages and trained 716 peer educators. There was 292 VMOD service members trained in blood safety and 12 trained in injection safety. Six (6) health workers were trained in the provision of prevention of mother-to-child services. There were 2 targeted condom service outlets.

Care

One (1) VMOD outlet provides HIV-related palliative care for VMOD members and their families. During FY07, 350 troops were provided with HIV-related palliative care. Thirty-one (31) military medical personnel were trained in the provision of HIV-related care, including care for tuberculosis.

The VMOD supported 2 Counseling and Testing (CT) Centers for military members. During the year, 732 military members were tested for HIV and received their results. Six (6) individuals were trained in the provision of CT services.

Treatment

One (1) service is providing antiretroviral therapy (ART) for VMOD troops and family members. There were 116 patients newly initiated on ART in FY07. Thirty-one (31) individuals were trained in the provision of ART. Two (2) laboratories had the capability to perform HIV testing and CD4 tests, and 300 laboratory personnel were trained in the provision of these tests.

Other

Five hundred forty-two (542) VMOD personnel were trained in capacity building, policy development, reduction of stigma and discrimination, and community mobilization for HIV prevention, care, and treatment.

Proposed Future Activities

A portfolio review is planned for summer 2008, and will determine future activities with the VMOD.

