

ALBANIA

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

Albania has made progress in its democratic development since first holding multiparty elections in 1991, but deficiencies remain. Albania was invited to join NATO in April 2008 and is a potential candidate for European Union accession. Although Albania's economy continues to grow, the country is still one of the poorest in Europe, hampered by a large informal economy and an inadequate energy and transportation infrastructure. The estimated Albanian population is 3.6 million people, with an average life expectancy of 78 years. Albanian is the official language. The literacy rate is estimated at 99%, with even distribution between men and women. The GDP per capita in Albania is \$6,400.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Albania's general population is estimated at less than 0.2%. Some high-risk populations for HIV transmission include intravenous drug users, sex workers and their clients, and migrant communities.

Military Statistics

The Albanian military is composed of an estimated 16,000 members. Albania allocates 1.5% of the GDP for military expenditures. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

During FY08, most efforts focused on procuring lab equipment used for blood testing and the detection of HIV at the military hospital in Tirana and the Albanian National Blood Bank. In addition, 20 military members were trained on blood and injection safety. The lab equipment that was procured included 2 ELISA auto analyzers, HIV and hepatitis A and B test kits, and uninterruptible power sources.

Proposed Future Activities

For FY09, Albania submitted a proposal to DHAPP and the proposal is under review.

