



# CAMBODIA

# 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 Cambodia is 14.2 million people, with an average life expectancy of 62 years. Khmer is the official language of Cambodia, which has an estimated literacy rate of 74%, unevenly distributed between men and women. More than 50% of the population is aged 20 years or younger. The population, particularly in the poverty-ridden countryside, suffers from an almost total lack of basic infrastructure. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the population is engaged in subsistence farming. From 2001 to 2004, the economy grew at an average rate of 6.4%, driven largely by an expansion in the garment sector and tourism. The US and Cambodia signed a Bilateral Textile Agreement, which gave Cambodia a guaranteed quota of US textile imports and established a bonus for improving working conditions and enforcing Cambodian labor laws and international labor standards in the industry. The GDP per capita is \$2,100.

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

The estimated HIV prevalence rate in the general population of Cambodia is 0.8%, with approximately 70,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The response of the Cambodian government and civil society in the fight against HIV/AIDS has been impressive. In 2001, the government implemented the 100% Condom Use Program in all provinces, requiring brothel-based sex workers to attend monthly STI screenings and involving establishment owners in condom negotiation initiatives.

#### **Military Statistics**

The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) is estimated at 110,000 members. The RCAF has been organized into 5 military regions and 4 forces (navy, army, air

force, and military police). Each force has its own independent health structure that provides medical services to military personnel and their family members. The Ministry of National Defense Health Department is responsible for medical supplies and equipment and for management of medical personnel. Cambodia expends 3.0% of the GDP on military purposes.

### PROGRAM RESPONSE

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

In collaboration with USPACOM and its implementing partner, COE, DHAPP conducted a program assessment of the RCAF's HIV/AIDS program.



### OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

In June 2008, DHAPP and COE staff traveled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to conduct a program assessment of the HIV/AIDS program in the RCAF. They met with various members of the RCAF, US Embassy staff, and USG (CDC and USAID in-country staff). Their recommendations were submitted to the PEPFAR Cambodia Country Support Team for consideration in the FY09 COP.

USPACOM/COE, together with the US Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences and the Royal Thai Armed Forces, and with funding from DHAPP, stood up a military Regional Training Center (RTC) in Bangkok, Thailand. The RTC is responsible for the education of a core group of military medical officers. In FY08, 2 members of the RCAF attended the *Asia-Pacific Regional HIV/AIDS Lab Infrastructure and Capacity Building (Train the Trainer in Lab and Diagnostics) Course* in August 2008. Also in FY08, 2 RCAF members attended the *Asia-Pacific Regional Support and Training Capacity for Treatment and Care Initiatives (Train the Trainer in HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment) Course* in July 2008.