



CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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 Central African Republic is 4.4 million people, with an average life expectancy of 44 years. French is the official language of the Central African Republic, which has an estimated literacy rate of 51%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Subsistence agriculture, together with forestry, remain the backbone of the economy of the Central African Republic, with more than 70% of the population living in outlying areas. The agricultural sector generates more than half of the GDP. The per capita GDP is \$700. Timber has accounted for about 16% of export earnings, and the diamond industry for 40%. Important constraints on economic development include the Central African Republic's landlocked position, a poor transportation system, a largely unskilled workforce, and a legacy of misdirected macroeconomic policies. Factional fighting between the government and its opponents remains a hindrance to revitalization.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the Central African Republic general population is estimated at 6.3%, with approximately 140,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified risk factor in the population is unprotected heterosexual contact.

Military Statistics

The Central African Armed Forces (CAAF) is composed of an estimated 15,000 personnel. The Central African Republic allocates 1.1% of the GDP for military expenditures. No military HIV/AIDS prevalence data were available.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The JHCP has been providing technical assistance to the militaries of Central Africa in the implementation of HIV prevention and surveillance activities. The JHCP has been continuing to work with the US DAO in N'Djamena, Chad, who covers the Central African Republic. They are continually developing contacts with local partners in the Central African Republic and the military to establish implementation of a prevention project among the militaries in the capital city Bangui. The country is facing political instability, which makes it difficult to establish local contacts necessary for the implementation of prevention activities. The JHCP hopes to start field work in this country during FY09.



OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

The first site visit by the JHCP occurred in June 2007. However, political instability halted the implementation of prevention activities for the CAAF during the latter part of FY07. No programmatic activities occurred in FY08.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal from the Global Viral Forecasting Initiative (Dr. Nathan Wolfe, formerly of JHCP, is the founder and principal investigator) on behalf of the CAAF. The application, which includes 8 countries in the Central African region and builds on the successful work accomplished by JHCP in the region over the past 5 years, aims to develop a more comprehensive strategy for fighting HIV/AIDS in the region's militaries.