

CHAD

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

Chad's estimated population is 10.1 million people, with an average life expectancy of 47 years. Arabic and French are the official languages of Chad, which has an estimated literacy rate of 48%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Chad's primarily agricultural economy continues to be boosted by major foreign direct investment projects in the oil sector that began in 2000. A consortium led by 2 US companies have invested \$3.7 billion to develop oil reserves - estimated at 1 billion barrels - in southern Chad. Chinese companies are also expanding exploration efforts and plan to build a refinery. The nation's total oil reserves have been estimated at 1.5 billion barrels. Oil production came on stream in late 2003. Over 80% of Chad's population relies on subsistence farming and livestock for its livelihood. The GDP per capita is \$1,600.

#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Chad's general population is estimated at 3.5%. Chad has approximately 180,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified risk factor in the population is unprotected heterosexual contact.



### **Military Statistics**

The Chadian National Army (CNA) is estimated at approximately 50,000 members. Chad allocates 4.2% of the GDP for military expenditures. In 2003, with funding from DHAPP, the first HIV surveillance was conducted for the CNA in the capital city, N'Djamena, revealing a prevalence of 5.3%. Another HIV surveillance study is planned for 2009.

### **PROGRAM RESPONSE**

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

The JHCP has been providing technical assistance to the CNA in the implementation of HIV prevention and surveillance activities. DHAPP staff also collaborates with the US DAO in N'Djamena.

#### **Foreign Military Financing Assistance**

Chad was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory equipment, and supporting reagents and supplies related to the diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS. This award was appropriated for 2003, 2005, and 2006. Funding for 2003 was released for expenditure in early FY06. To date, funding for the 2003 appropriation has been used to procure HIV rapid test kits for disbursement to several clinics throughout the country. Planning and negotiation for 2005 and 2006 funding procurements are currently under way.

### **OUTCOME AND IMPACT**

#### **Prevention**

During FY08, 1,825 troops and family members were reached with comprehensive HIV prevention messages. In total, 113 educational sessions were held to reach the troops and their family members. Peer educators were retrained during FY08.

## Care

The protocol for an HIV seroprevalence survey was approved by local authorities in 2007, and implementation was planned for January 2008. A total of 1,000 troops were to be screened in N'Djamena. During FY08, the survey was not conducted due to continuous high political instability in the country. The new plan is to have this study conducted in 2009 at the Moundou military garrison located approximately 600 km outside of the capital city of N'Djamena.

## 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 CNA for activities. The proposed activities include continued peer education trainings, production and dissemination of an HIV/AIDS prevention manual for military trainers, and administration of the seroprevalence survey for troops.

