



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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 Côte d'Ivoire population is estimated at 20 million people, with an average life expectancy of 55 years. French is the official language of Côte d'Ivoire, which has an estimated literacy rate of 49%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Côte d'Ivoire is among the world's largest producers and exporters of coffee, cocoa beans, and palm oil. Despite government attempts to diversify the economy, it is still heavily dependent on agriculture and related activities, engaging roughly 68% of the population. Since the end of the civil war in 2003, political turmoil has continued to damage the economy, resulting in the loss of foreign investment and slow economic growth. The GDP grew by 1.8% in 2006, 1.7% in 2007, and 2.5% in 2008. Per capita income has declined by 15% since 1999. The GDP per capita is \$1,700.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The estimated HIV prevalence rate in Côte d'Ivoire's general population is 3.9%. Côte d'Ivoire has approximately 420,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

Military Statistics

The size of the Côte d'Ivoire Defense and Security Forces (CIDSF) is approximately 50,000 members. Côte d'Ivoire does not perform forcewide HIV testing, so the prevalence rate is unknown. The Côte d'Ivoire government expends 1.6% of the GDP on military expenditures.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP staff have maintained active roles as members of the PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire Country Support Team. In these roles, DHAPP staff members have provided technical assistance to the in-country team in their COP process for funding under PEPFAR. The US DAO has also been working with DHAPP and the CIDSF on proposed activities.

OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

During FY08, bilateral military programs for HIV prevention in the CIDSF continued to be supported by CDC funding through PEPFAR and using an implementing partner, PSI. For FY09, funding has been allocated for DoD to support the CIDSF directly. DHAPP staff members continue to work with the CIDSF and provide technical assistance visits to discuss future activities in FY09. In FY08, DHAPP staff conducted an assessment of the current CT program that PSI is supporting for the CIDSF.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP staff have been active members of the PEPFAR Côte d'Ivoire Country Support Team and were successful in securing funding for several activities with the CIDSF. Some of the planned activities include CIDSF physician participation in *MIHTP* in San Diego, development of military HIV policy, stigma reduction, introduction of the *Prevention with Positives* program, and continued technical assistance visits from DHAPP staff. In addition, DHAPP will be hiring a program manager through the US DAO in Abidjan in FY09.

