



DJIBOUTI

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 Djibouti is 506,000 people, with an average life expectancy of 43 years. French and Arabic are the official languages of Djibouti, which has an estimated literacy rate of 68%, unevenly distributed between men and women. The economy is based on service activities connected with the country's strategic location and status as a free trade zone in northeast Africa. Two thirds of the inhabitants live in the capital city; the others are mostly nomadic herders. Low rainfall limits crop production to fruits and vegetables, and most food must be imported. The GDP per capita is \$3,800. Djibouti hosts the only US military base in sub-Saharan Africa .

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Djibouti's general population is estimated at 3.1%. Djibouti has approximately 15,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary mode of transmission is heterosexual contact. Women are more severely affected than men.

Military Statistics

The Djibouti National Army (DNA) is estimated at approximately 8,000 members. Djibouti expends 3.8% of the GDP on the military. In 2006, the DNA conducted its own seroprevalence study and found a rate of 1.17%.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP staff members have worked in coordination with the DNA and the US MLO in

Djibouti to provide technical assistance, as needed, as the DNA prevention and care program continues to expand.



Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Djibouti 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, 2006, and 2007. Funding for the 2003 and 2006 appropriation was released for expenditure during FY05 and FY09, respectively. To date, funding for 2003 has been used to procure a hematology analyzer, autoclave, centrifuge, rapid HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C test kits, immunoassay, biochemistry and microbiology equipment, refrigerators, and supporting laboratory reagents and supplies for the clinic laboratory. Planning and negotiation for 2006 and 2007 funding procurements are currently under way.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

The DNA HIV/AIDS prevention programs focus on abstinence, faithfulness, and correct and consistent condom use. The three are not considered separate, even though the use of a condom is advised as a last resort. During, the National Fight Against HIV/AIDS Week, a mass awareness campaign was conducted and nearly 700 troops were sensitized. The locations where the campaign was conducted include Holl-Holl, Ali Sabieh, Galafi, Galileh, Ali Adde, Obock, Khor Angar, and Moulouhle. Another mass awareness

campaign was launched in September 2008, and a total of 269 troops were reached with prevention messages. Among these troops were new recruits and women. During FY08, the total number of troops reached with prevention messages was 936. There were 93 peer educators trained including 34 female peer educators in June 2008.

Two (2) service outlets provide PMTCT services. During the first half of FY08, 541 pregnant women received PMTCT services, and 9 of them received a complete course of antiretroviral prophylaxis. Data were not available for the second half of the year.

Care

The DNA supports 9 CT centers for its troops. The CT centers are located throughout the DNA and service all branches of the military, including the Republican Guard and the Gendarmerie Nationale. During FY08, 565 DNA personnel were counseled and tested.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal from the US MLO on behalf of the DNA for activities in FY09. Specific objectives of the proposal included continuing prevention efforts, procuring a mobile CT unit, increasing the number of troops tested, and providing medical personnel with training on blood safety and laboratory services.

