



EQUATORIAL GUINEA



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 Equatorial Guinea is 616,000 people, with an average life expectancy of 61 years. Spanish and French are the official languages of Equatorial Guinea, which has an estimated literacy rate of 86%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Equatorial Guinea has experienced rapid economic growth due to the discovery of large offshore oil reserves, and, in the last decade, has become sub-Saharan Africa's third largest oil exporter. Forestry, farming, and fishing are also major components of the GDP. The GDP per capita is \$30,200. Undeveloped natural resources include titanium, iron ore, manganese, uranium, and alluvial gold. Growth remained strong in 2008 and was led by oil.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Equatorial Guinea's general population is estimated at 3.4%. Equatorial Guinea has approximately 9,800 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified risk factor in the population is unprotected heterosexual contact.

Military Statistics

The Equatorial Guinea Armed Forces (EGAF) is estimated at approximately 2,000 members. Equatorial Guinea allocates 0.1% of the GDP for military expenditures. A seroprevalence study was conducted within the EGAF during FY08. Results revealed an HIV rate of 10.1%.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

On behalf of DHAPP, the JHCP has been providing technical assistance to the EGAF for its HIV prevention activities.



OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Prevention

During FY08, JHCP provided technical assistance to the EGAF to continue prevention activities started in FY07. A total of 39 peer education sessions reached approximately 741 troops. Prevention materials such as brochures and posters were created, produced, and distributed to the troops in various camps by peer educators. The peer educator's manual and master trainer's manual were finalized and distributed during FY08.



A seroprevalence study was conducted in March 2008 among the troops in the capital city of Malabo and Bioko Island. A total of 516 troops were counseled and tested for HIV and syphilis during the study. The HIV prevalence rate was 10.1%, and 38.8% for syphilis. Free treatment was also provided for all syphilis-positive cases. The final surveillance report was officially handed to the MOD during a restitution session in Malabo with the EGAF senior staff. A strategic plan is being created as a response to the current prevalence rates.



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 EGAF. The proposal included training peer educators, distributing prevention materials, and conducting a seroprevalence study within the EGAF.

