

HONDURAS

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 Honduras is 7.6 million people, with an average life expectancy of 69 years. The official language of Honduras is Spanish, and the literacy rate is 80%, evenly distributed between men and women. The GDP per capita is \$3,700, with an estimated unemployment rate of 27.8%. Honduras, the second poorest country in Central America and one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, with an extraordinarily unequal distribution of income and massive unemployment, is banking on expanded trade under the US-Central America Free Trade Agreement and on debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. The economy relies heavily on a narrow range of exports, notably bananas and coffee, making it vulnerable to natural disasters and shifts in commodity prices. However, investments in the maquila and nontraditional export sectors are slowly diversifying the economy.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the Honduran general population is estimated at 0.7%, with 26,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

HIV prevalence among female sex workers is 10% in Honduras. However, there is recent evidence of a steep decline in HIV prevalence among female sex workers in Honduras, where condom promotion efforts were stepped up in recent years.

Military Statistics

The Honduran Armed Forces (HAF) consists of approximately 8,000 troops. The various branches of the military in Honduras include an army, navy, and air force.

The Honduran government allocates 0.6% of the GDP for the military. The HIV prevalence rate in the HAF is unknown, but a 1997 study found that 6.8% of military recruits were HIV positive.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP staff have been collaborating with USSOUTHCOM, US Joint Task Force-Bravo (JTF-Bravo), and the HAF to support an HIV/AIDS program in Honduras. In addition, a new partner was identified to support the HAF program. PSI and its affiliate in Central America, PASMO, will be supporting the program in FY09.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

In FY08, no programmatic activities occurred.

Proposed Future Activities

PASMO will create comprehensive prevention programming, support CT activities, and conduct a TRaC survey among the HAF. Program activities will begin in FY09. PASMO will also work with the HAF to produce radio and television spots for the military that will contain prevention messages. JTF-Bravo will support the DHAPP program in Honduras by collaborating with the HAF and conducting the same prevention and CT activities that PASMO will be supporting. Both PASMO and JTF-Bravo will cover different regions of the country but the activities will be uniform in design. In addition, DHAPP will support a study that will assess the perception of female family members regarding decision making for HIV testing.