



INDIA

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 India is 1.1 billion people, with an average life expectancy of 69 years. Hindi is the official language of India, which has an estimated literacy rate of 61%, unevenly distributed between men and women. The economy has posted a growth in the past decade, much of this due to significantly expanding manufacturers through late 2008. Despite impressive gains in economic investment and output, India faces pressing problems, such as the ongoing dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir, massive overpopulation, environmental degradation, extensive poverty, and ethnic and religious strife. The GDP per capita is \$2,900.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

According to the UNAIDS *2007 AIDS Epidemic Update*, the estimated HIV prevalence rate in India's adult population is 0.3%, with 2.3 million people living with HIV. The newly revised estimates may be lower than previous estimates, but HIV still greatly affects large numbers of people. The predominant mode of HIV transmission is through heterosexual contact, followed by intravenous drug use. Identified risk factors include high-risk heterosexual contact, intravenous drug use, and contact with commercial sex workers.

Military Statistics

The Indian Armed Forces (IAF) is estimated at approximately 1.3 million active-duty troops and more than 500,000 reservists. Although military HIV prevalence rates are unknown, AIDS is documented as the fifth most common cause of death in the IAF.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

USPACOM and its implementing agent, COE, have continued to collaborate with the Indian Armed Forces Medical Services.



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

Prevention messages reached many IAF troops and their family members, but no validated number was reported.

Care and Treatment

CT services were provided to the IAF, but no official number of troops or family members tested was provided. Ninety (90) individuals were trained in the provision of CT services.

Ten (10) service outlets provided ART for the IAF, and 100 individuals newly initiated on ART during the reporting period. In addition, 10 laboratories have the capacity to perform HIV tests and CD4 tests.

USPACOM/COE, together with the US Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences and the Royal Thai Armed Forces, with funding from DHAPP, stood up a military Regional Training Center (RTC) in Bangkok, Thailand. The RTC is responsible for the education of a core group of military medical officers. In FY08, 2 IAF members attended the *Asia-Pacific Regional HIV/AIDS Lab*

Infrastructure and Capacity Building (Train the Trainer in Lab and Diagnostics) Course in August 2008. Also in FY08, 2 members of the IAF attended the Asia-Pacific Regional Support and Training Capacity for Treatment and Care Initiatives (Train the Trainer in HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment) Course in July 2008.

Other

There were 350 individuals trained on HIV-related stigma and discrimination reduction, community mobilization for prevention, care, and/or treatment, and HIV-related institutional capacity building.

In August 2008, DHAPP, COE, and OGAC staff traveled to New Delhi, India, to conduct a program assessment of the HIV/AIDS program in the IAF. They met with various IAF members, US Embassy staff, and USG in-country staff.

