



# KAZAKHSTAN



# 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 Kazakhstan is 15.3 million people, with an average life expectancy of 68 years. Russian is the official language of Kazakhstan, which has an estimated literacy rate of 99%, evenly distributed between men and women. Kazakhstan, the largest of the former Soviet republics in territory, excluding Russia, possesses enormous fossil fuel reserves and plentiful supplies of other minerals and metals. It also has a large agricultural sector featuring livestock and grain. Kazakhstan's industrial sector rests on the extraction and processing of these natural resources. The GDP per capita is \$12,000.

#### **HIV/AIDS Statistics**

The HIV prevalence rate in the general population of Kazakhstan is estimated at 0.1%, with approximately 12,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The HIV epidemic in Kazakhstan is concentrated mainly among intravenous drug users and their sexual partners. Intravenous drug users accounted for about 75% of new HIV cases, with the remainder of new cases infected through sexual transmission.

#### **Military Statistics**

The Kazakhstan Armed Forces (KAF) is composed of an estimated 64,000 members. Kazakhstan expends 0.9% of the GDP on military purposes. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown.

## PROGRAM RESPONSE

### **In-Country Ongoing Assistance**

DHAPP staff members have maintained contact with US Embassy staff in Astana for continued development of a plan for future prevention activities for military members.

## OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

### **Prevention**

DHAPP approved FY08 funds for Kazakhstan's HIV prevention program. Originally, an HIV prevalence and risk survey was proposed among the border security forces. However, the US Embassy and DHAPP have determined that this study may be premature and these funds would be better used toward establishing an HIV prevention strategic plan for Kazakhstan.

### **Proposed Future Activities**

DHAPP staff will work with the US Embassy staff in Astana and the KAF to develop a strategic plan for its HIV program in FY09.

