



MALI

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 Mali is 12.3 million people, with an average life expectancy of 50 years. French is the official language of Mali, which has an estimated literacy rate of 46.4%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Mali is among the poorest countries in the world, with 65% of its land area desert, and with a highly unequal distribution of income. Economic activity is largely confined to the river area irrigated by the Niger. About 10% of the population is nomadic, and some 80% of the labor force is engaged in farming and fishing. Industrial activity is concentrated on processing farm commodities. Mali is heavily dependent on foreign aid and vulnerable to fluctuations in world prices for cotton, its main export, along with gold. The GDP per capita is \$1,200.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The estimated HIV prevalence rate in Mali's general population is 1.5%, with approximately 93,000 people living with HIV. The primary modes of HIV transmission are heterosexual contact, sexual contact with commercial sex workers, and STIs. Migration is considered a significant factor in Mali's HIV epidemic.

Military Statistics

The Malian Armed Forces (MAF) is estimated at approximately 37,500 members. Mali allocates 1.9% of the GDP for military expenditures. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

In-country partner FHI has established a collaborative relationship with the MAF and US Embassy officials in country. In Mali, as in many African countries, military and civilian populations share the main hospitals, with the military primarily using the health clinics. There are 34 military clinics in the 6 military regions. The health care system in the military is severely limited in its capacity to care for people living with HIV/AIDS due to inadequate staff skills, supplies, and infrastructure, including erratic availability of reagents in CT centers, drugs for STI treatment, and intermittent supplies of ARVs in clinics.



OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Prevention

During FY08, 38,778 troops and their family members were reached with comprehensive prevention messages. These activities involved all aspects of prevention, including abstinence, being faithful, and correct and consistent condom use. Thirty-seven (37) medical health care providers were trained in blood safety.



Care

Six (6) service outlets provide palliative care and CT services for the MAF and the surrounding civilian population. Two hundred eight (208) individuals received palliative care services. CT services were provided to 5,326 individuals (3,618 were troops and family members, the remaining were civilians). Twenty-five (25) individuals were trained in CT services.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received two proposals for FY09 activities on behalf of the MAF. The first one is from the US Embassy in Mali. Objectives include providing training for 2 physicians through *MIHTP* in San Diego, and 2 health care workers through *IDI* in Uganda. The second proposal is from *FHI*, and objectives include continuing prevention education, training for peer educators, and providing training for health care workers.

