

MAURITANIA

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

Mauritania achieved independence from France in 1960. A bloodless coup in August 2005 deposed President TAYA and ushered in a military council that oversaw a transition to democratic rule. Independent candidate Sidi Ould Cheikh ABDALLAHI was inaugurated in April 2007 as Mauritania's first freely and fairly elected president. His term ended prematurely in August 2008 when a military junta deposed him and ushered in a military council government. Meanwhile, the country continues to experience ethnic tensions among its black population (Afro-Mauritanians) and White and Black Moor (Arab-Berber) communities. The estimated population of Mauritania is 3.4 million people, with an average life expectancy of 54 years. Arabic is the official language of Mauritania, which has an estimated literacy rate of 51%, unevenly distributed between men and women. The GDP per capita is \$1,900.



HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Mauritania's general population is estimated at less than 0.8%, with approximately 14,000 people living with HIV. Risk factors are largely unknown.

Military Statistics

The Mauritanian Armed Forces (MAF) is composed of an estimated 16,000 members. Mauritania allocates 5.5% of the GDP for military expenditures. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

During FY08, no funding was provided for program activities to the MAF because of the current political situation.

