



MOROCCO

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 Morocco is 34 million people, with an average life expectancy of 72 years. Arabic is the official language of Morocco, which has an estimated literacy rate of 52.3%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Moroccan economic policies brought economic stability to the country in the early 1990s, but have not spurred growth sufficient to reduce unemployment that nears 20% in urban areas. The GDP per capita is \$4,000. Morocco's GDP grew to 5.3% in 2008, with the economy recovering from a draught in 2007 that severely reduced agricultural output and necessitated wheat imports at rising world prices.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The estimated HIV prevalence rate in Morocco's general population is 0.1%, with approximately 21,000 people living with HIV. HIV in Morocco is mainly transmitted through heterosexual intercourse. Less-frequent modes of transmission include sexual contact with men who have sex with men, intravenous drug use, and blood or blood products.

Military Statistics

The Moroccan Royal Armed Forces (MRAF) has an estimated 200,000 troops. The Royal Armed Forces comprises its army (includes air defense), navy (includes marines), and air force. Morocco allocates 5% of the GDP for the military. All new recruits are required to be tested for HIV.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The MRAF implemented a prevention program for its forces beginning in 1996. The MRAF, through its Health Inspection Division, has been able to sustain an HIV/AIDS prevention program with assistance from DHAPP and the OSC in Rabat.



OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Prevention and Treatment

During FY08, 10,000 troops were reached with comprehensive prevention messages, and 220 peer educators were trained. The program targets young recruits for several reasons such as international assignments and frequent displacements. In each unit targeted by the program, condoms were given to the troops after the peer education sessions.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal from the MRAF for activities in FY09. Goals for its prevention efforts include (1) continue prevention education for troops, (2) conduct train-the-trainer and peer education sessions, (3) educate health care professionals on ART services, and (4) procure a mobile CT unit.