

# MOZAMBIQUE

# 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 Mozambique is 21.3 million people, with an average life expectancy of 41 years. Portuguese is the official language of Mozambique, which has an estimated literacy rate of 48%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Mozambique remains dependent on foreign assistance for much of its annual budget, and the majority of the population remains below the poverty line. Subsistence agriculture continues to employ the vast majority of the country's work force. A substantial trade imbalance persists, although the opening of an aluminum smelter, the country's largest foreign investment project to date, has increased export earnings. The GDP per capita is \$900.

#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The estimated HIV prevalence rate in Mozambique's general population is 12.5%. Mozambique has approximately 1.4 million individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified risk factor in this population is unprotected heterosexual contact.

#### Military Statistics

The Mozambique Armed Defense Forces (MADF) is estimated at approximately 11,000 active-duty troops. Mozambique expends 0.8% of the GDP on military expenditures. The first round of the military seroprevalence and behavioral risk factor study was completed and the next phase is planned for 2009.



## PROGRAM RESPONSE

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

The MADF works in collaboration with PSI, the University of Connecticut, and Research Triangle Institute International (RTI). An in-country program manager from the DAO at the US Embassy oversees the activities of the various partners as well as participates in the PEPFAR Mozambique Country Support Team and various technical working groups on Gender and General Prevention. DHAPP staff provided technical assistance to the MADF on the development of an HIV/AIDS policy and the continued seroprevalence and behavioral risk factor study.



### **Foreign Military Financing Assistance**

Mozambique was awarded Foreign Military Financing (FMF) funding for the acquisition of laboratory equipment, and supporting reagents and supplies related to the diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS. This award was appropriated for fiscal years 2003, 2005, 2006, and 2007. Funding for FY03 was released for expenditure during FY05. DoD worked with the CDC/PEPFAR and implementing partners to have the laboratories renovated prior to DoD using FMF funds to procure new equipment, including small items such as microscopes and centrifuges, and larger pieces of equipment such as hematology and biochemistry machines. The equipment chosen is in line with the National Laboratory Strategic Plans, and as such, should receive support through the Mozambique MOH for service and resupply of reagents. Further use of FMF funds awaits the renovation of other laboratories, which is already in process.



## OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

### **Prevention**

During FY08, through MADF and PSI efforts, 47,662 individuals were reached with prevention messages. The MADF also provided training for 44 individuals on peer education. Supervisors were trained to ensure quality interpersonal communication and ongoing support and training. Abstinence was a focus for younger troops (aged 18 - 24 years) especially during recruit education though messages always included information about the importance of fidelity. Peer educators help ensure access to condoms outside of health facilities as well as information about correct and consistent condom use. PSI plans to launch a camouflage condom in FY09, and will open service outlets close to military camps and brigades to ensure access to free and subsidized condoms.

Early in FY07, the University of Connecticut conducted 7 focus groups with HIV-positive patients who attend the Maputo Military Day Hospital for care. The focus groups assisted in the development of a *Prevention with Positives* (PwP) program. The program will allow HIV-positive people to both maintain their health and prevent the spread of HIV to others. The University of Connecticut developed the curriculum for the PwP program, planned trainings, and created a monitoring and evaluation component for the program. Based on feedback from key stakeholders, modifications were made to the PwP training materials in preparation for the upcoming trainings. In FY08, 1 psychologist and 2 nurses from the Maputo Military Day Hospital attended the pilot training on the use of the PwP program manual.

### **Care**

In the 8 CT sites, services are offered not only to the military and their families but also to civilians. During FY08, 1,277 troops received CT services as well as 9,417 civilians from the surrounding areas. Forty-four (44) individuals received training in the provision of CT services, including MADF personnel. One of the challenges of CT is reaching the partners of troops as well as increasing the demand for testing among the troops. Brigade-based testing or promotions may be more effective in promoting CT among the military, so this concept is being

explored. MADF members and their dependents can receive care and treatment for HIV/AIDS at military facilities, which are funded through PEPFAR.

### **Other**

RTI trained 2 MADF personnel on basic data entry and cleaning that will be needed for the first round of the prevalence study. In total, 17 MADF personnel were trained in strategic information. Two (2) laptop computers, a printer, and other Internet wireless connection materials were also procured in support of the MADF epidemiology department.

Two hundred seventy (270) individuals were trained in HIV-related community mobilization for prevention, care, and/or treatment.

### **Proposed Future Activities**

The proposed activities were submitted to the PEPFAR Mozambique Country Support Team, and were included in the FY09 PEPFAR COP. PwP programs, and follow-on activities to the seroprevalence study, are highlighted proposed targets.

