

NICARAGUA

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 Nicaragua is 5.8 million people, with an average life expectancy of 71 years. Spanish is the official language of Nicaragua, which has an estimated literacy rate of 68%, evenly distributed between men and women. Nicaragua has widespread underemployment, one of the highest degrees of income inequality in the world, and the third lowest per capita income in the Western Hemisphere. While the country has progressed toward macroeconomic stability in the past few years, annual GDP growth has been far too low to meet the country's needs, forcing the country to rely on international economic assistance to meet fiscal and debt financing obligations. The GDP per capita is \$3,000.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the general population of Nicaragua is estimated at 0.2%, with approximately 7,500 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Even though Nicaragua has a relatively low incidence of HIV, infection rates among women are growing. Nicaragua's epidemic is spread primarily through heterosexual activity.

Military Statistics

The National Army of Nicaragua (NAN) is estimated at approximately 14,500 active-duty members. Eighty percent (80%) of the NAN population is 18–35 years old, approximately 99% of whom are male. Nicaragua expends 0.6% of the GDP on the military. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

In FY08, no subsequent engagement had occurred, and planning HIV/AIDS prevention program activities did not occur.

OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

No programmatic activities took place in the NAN during the current reporting period.

