



NIGER

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

Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world, with minimal government services and insufficient funds to develop its resource base. The largely agrarian and subsistence-based economy is frequently disrupted by extended droughts common to the Sahel region of Africa. A predominately Tuareg ethnic group emerged in February 2007 as the Nigerien Movement for Justice and attacked several military targets in Niger's northern region throughout 2007 and 2008. Events have since evolved into a fledging insurgency. The estimated population of Niger is 13.3 million people, with an average life expectancy of 44 years. French is the official language, and the literacy rate is estimated at 29%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Nearly half of the government's budget is derived from foreign donor resources. Future growth may be sustained by exploitation of oil, gold, coal, and other mineral resources. Uranium prices have increased sharply in the last few years. A drought and locust infestation in 2005 led to food shortages for as many as 2.5 million Nigeriens. The GDP per capita is \$700.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The current HIV prevalence rate in Niger's general population is 0.8%, with 56,000 Nigerien people living with HIV/AIDS.

Military Statistics

Niger allocates 1.3% of the GDP for military purposes. The Nigerien Armed Forces' (NAF) rate of HIV is unknown.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP staff has been collaborating with the DAO at the US Embassy in Niamey, and the NAF on an HIV/AIDS program.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

DHAPP staff traveled to Niamey in July 2008 to meet with US Embassy staff and NAF representatives. They discussed how DHAPP could best support the NAF's current HIV program.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal for FY09 activities in Niger from the US Embassy.

