



PERU

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 Peru is 29 million people, with an average life expectancy of 70 years. Spanish is the official language of Peru, which has an estimated literacy rate of 88%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Peru's economy reflects its varied geography - an arid coastal region, the Andes further inland, and tropical lands bordering Colombia and Brazil. After several years of inconsistent economic performance, the Peruvian economy grew by more than 4% per year during the period 2002–2006, with a stable exchange rate and low inflation. Despite the strong macroeconomic performance, underemployment and poverty have remained persistently high. The GDP per capita is \$8,500, with an unemployment rate of 8.4%. The US and Peru completed negotiations on the implementation of the US-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (PTPA), and the agreement entered into force February 1, 2009, opening the way to greater trade and investment between the two economies.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the Peruvian general population is estimated at 0.5%. It is estimated that 74,000 Peruvians are living with HIV/AIDS. Most HIV transmission occurs through sexual contact, and most cases occur among individuals aged 20–39 years. Most heterosexual HIV transmission appears to occur in women whose partners have sex with men or who have contact with commercial sex workers. HIV rates are highest in the large urban areas of the country.

Military Statistics

The Peruvian Armed Forces (PAF) consists of an army, air force, and navy (including naval air, naval infantry, and coast guard). There are approximately

120,000 personnel (including 25,000 civilians) in active service. Mandatory conscription ended in 1999, and the current force is composed of volunteers. Peru participates in several UN-sponsored PKOs.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP staff is collaborating with the US Naval Medical Research Center Detachment (NMRCDD) in Lima and the PAF. Funding was officially sent at the latter part of FY08, and no official program activities occurred.

Proposed Future Activities

In FY09, NMRCDD-Lima, in conjunction with the PAF, will provide HIV/STI prevention training for PAF units, particularly those located remotely from Lima, perform HIV testing and counseling, purchase laboratory reagents and supplies for HIV screening and testing, optimize the provision of ARVs in the PAF by performing HIV-resistance genotype testing on new HIV isolates, offer local lecture series for Peruvian physicians on HIV infection and antiretroviral management, develop and implement seroprevalence survey for HIV and other STIs, and provide training in Lima and on-site for Peruvian laboratory workers in HIV and syphilis testing.

