



SERBIA

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

In May 2006, Serbia declared that it was the successor state to the Union of Serbia and Montenegro. Following 15 months of inconclusive negotiations mediated by the United Nations and 4 months of further inconclusive negotiations mediated by the United States, European Union, and Russia on 17 February 2008, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in the Kosovo-administered province of Kosovo declared itself independent of Serbia.

The population of Serbia is estimated to be 10 million people (including Kosovo), with an average life expectancy of 73 years. Serbian is the official language of Serbia, which has an estimated literacy rate of 96%, evenly distributed between men and women. The GDP per capita is \$7,700.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The estimated HIV prevalence rate in Serbia's general population is less than 0.2%. Relatively little is known about the factors that influence the spread of HIV in Serbia, although the early phases of the epidemic were primarily driven by intravenous drug use.

Military Statistics

The Serbian Armed Forces (SAF) is composed of an estimated 27,000 troops. The prevalence of HIV in the Serbian military is unknown. In the SAF, military service age and obligation are 19–35 years of age for compulsory military service; under state of war or impending war conscription can begin at age 16. Conscription is to be abolished in 2010.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP staff work in conjunction with the Military Medical Academy in Belgrade to support the SAF in its HIV prevention program. Activities have expanded from laboratory support to prevention and care programs in FY07.



OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Prevention

Training in blood safety was carried out for 500 health care workers from the Military Medical Academy, Belgrade, and the Military Medical Center, Novi Sad, which serves the SAF. Physicians who specialize in epidemiology, infectious diseases, microbiology, and psychiatry from the Military Medical Academy organized 1 workshop on prevention, laboratory diagnostic, palliative care, ART, and psychosocial aspects of HIV/AIDS for SAF psychologists and physicians.

Care

Twenty (20) lab technicians were trained in the provision of HIV/AIDS lab-related activities.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal from the Military Medical Academy in Belgrade on behalf of the SAF for FY09. The main objectives of the proposal are to increase the quality and access to HIV/AIDS prevention material, and to provide mass awareness campaigns, CT services, and HIV diagnostic capabilities to the SAF.