



SOUTH AFRICA

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

South Africa's estimated population is 48.7 million people, with an average life expectancy of 49 years. Many languages are spoken in South Africa; the three most common are isiZulu, isiXhosa, and Afrikaans, with an estimated literacy rate of 86%, evenly distributed between men and women. South Africa is a middle-income, emerging market with an abundant supply of natural resources; well-developed financial, legal, communications, energy, and transport sectors; a stock exchange that is 17th largest in the world; and a modern infrastructure supporting an efficient distribution of goods to major urban centers throughout the region. Growth has been robust since 2004, as South Africa has reaped the benefits of macroeconomic stability and a global commodities boom. However, unemployment remains high, and an outdated infrastructure has constrained growth. The GDP per capita is \$10,600.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in South Africa is one of the highest in the world. The estimated prevalence rate in the general population is 18.1%, with approximately 5.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS, including 280,000 children. Heterosexual contact is the principal mode of transmission.

Military Statistics

The South African National Defense Force (SANDF) is estimated at approximately 73,000 active-duty members. The prevalence of HIV in the SANDF is unknown. South Africa expends 1.7% of the GDP on military expenditures.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The SANDF HIV/AIDS program is a collaborative effort between the SANDF, the DAO at the US Embassy, and DHAPP. An in-country program team that works under the OSC manages the day-to-day program operations. DHAPP staff members provided technical assistance to the SANDF during in-country visits. The purpose of each trip included review, assistance, and preparation of the PEPFAR COP for FY09, as well as military-specific planning and technical assistance to the SANDF and US Embassy personnel. DHAPP staff members represent the SANDF as members of the PEPFAR Country Support Team, and have been involved in every level of country planning, ensuring that SANDF programs are adequately addressed.

OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Prevention

During FY08, 1,336 military members and their families were reached with prevention messages that focused on abstinence and/or being faithful. The majority of military members reached each year are new recruits who are HIV negative upon entry into the military. Therefore, the prevention program focuses on values, ethics, and spirituality. Sixty (60) chaplains were trained in the provision of these messages, and they are primarily responsible for the abstinence and/or being faithful program. The program is known as Combating HIV and AIDS Through Spiritual and Ethical Conduct or CHATSEC. The chaplains reach groups of 20–25 military members over a 3-day program. In addition, 1,005 military personnel were reached with comprehensive prevention messages that go beyond abstinence and/or being faithful, and 314 individuals were trained to provide those messages. The SANDF supported 115 targeted

condom service outlets. No reporting data were available for PMTCT services. There are 3 service outlets for the SANDF.

Care

One hundred fifteen (115) service outlets provided HIV-related palliative care to military members and their families. During the year, 917 SANDF members and family members were provided with HIV-related palliative care. Of these, 247 were provided with preventive therapy for TB.

During FY08, data on the number of people counseled and tested were unavailable. However, 190 military members were trained in the provision of CT services.

Treatment

Eight (8) service outlets provide ART for the SANDF. In FY08, 942 patients were newly initiated on ART, and at the end of the reporting period, there were 767 current patients on ART. Fifty-three (53) health workers trained in the delivery of ART services, in accordance with national standards.

Other

Twenty-six (26) SANDF members were trained in strategic information during the reporting period. Two 5-day strategic information work sessions were conducted. Members of the HIV/AIDS management team from all 9 provinces attended these work sessions.

Proposed Future Activities

Ongoing successful SANDF and partner programming was expanded to include additional aspects of comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment for military members and their families. All proposed activities were submitted to the South Africa Country Support Team, and were included in the FY09 COP.