



SURINAME

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 Suriname is 476,000 million people, with an average life expectancy of 73 years. Dutch is the official language of Suriname, which has an estimated literacy rate of 90%. The GDP per capita is \$8,900, with an unemployment rate of 9.5%. The economy is dominated by the mining industry, with exports of alumina, gold, and oil accounting for about 85% of exports and 25% of government revenues, making the economy highly vulnerable to mineral price volatility. Prospects for local onshore oil production are good, and a drilling program is under way. The short-term economic outlook depends on the government's ability to control inflation and on the development of projects in the bauxite and gold mining sectors, though investment in these projects may slow with the tightening of global credit markets.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the Suriname general population is estimated at 2.4%. There are an estimated 6,700 people living with HIV. Relatively little is known about the factors that influence the spread of HIV/AIDS in Suriname. Heterosexual contact is thought to be the principal mode of HIV transmission.

Military Statistics

The Suriname National Army (SNA) consists of approximately 2,500 volunteer active-duty members with a small air force, navy, and military police, the majority of whom are deployed as light infantry (army) security forces. Primarily tasked with the defense of the nation's borders and to provide support to civil authorities as directed, the SNA is predominately male, with an average age of 25 years. Suriname

expends 0.6% of the GDP on military expenditures. No estimates of military HIV prevalence rates are available.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP has been collaborating with the US MLO in Paramaribo, the US Naval Medical Research Center Detachment in Lima, Peru, (NMRC-D-Lima) and the SNA.



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Two (2) representatives from NMRC-D-Lima traveled to Suriname on behalf of DHAPP in April 2008. The purpose of trip was to conduct an assessment of the current HIV/AIDS programming that included prevention and CT capabilities within the SNA.

Proposed Future Activities

PSI submitted a proposal to work with the SNA in FY09. The proposal included creating a comprehensive prevention program and expanding CT activities.

