



# TAJIKISTAN

# 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**

Tajikistan gained independent in 1991 following the breakup of the Soviet Union, and it is now in the process of strengthening its democracy and transitioning to a free-market economy after a civil war that lasted from 1992 to 1997. The estimated population of Tajikistan is 7.2 million people, with an average life expectancy of 65 years. Tajik is the official language of Tajikistan, which has an estimated literacy rate of 99%, evenly distributed between men and women. The GDP per capita is \$1,800. There have been no major security incidents in recent years, although the country remains the poorest in the former Soviet sphere. Attention from the international community in the wake of the war in Afghanistan has brought increased economic development and security assistance, which could create jobs and increase stability in the long term. Tajikistan is in the early stages of seeking World Trade Organization membership and has joined NATO's Partnership for Peace.

#### **HIV/AIDS Statistics**

The HIV prevalence rate in Tajikistan's general population is estimated at 0.3%, and there are approximately 10,000 people with HIV.

#### **Military Statistics**

The size of the Tajikistan Armed Forces (TAF) is approximately 27,000, including the border guards, the largest branch of the TAF, comprising about 12,500 officers and enlisted members. In addition, MOD has about 10,500 personnel, the National Guard has 2,500, and the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense has about 1,500 members. No information regarding HIV prevalence in the military is

available, but the military is generally considered a high-risk group.

## PROGRAM RESPONSE

### **In-Country Ongoing Assistance**

DHAPP staff members have maintained close collaborative efforts with US ODC personnel in Dushanbe and the TAF. Constant communication between the US offices and the TAF has resulted in an ongoing successful program.

The current and future goals of the program are continually being evaluated for effectiveness and adjusted as appropriate.



## OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

In June 2008, DHAPP staff traveled to Dushanbe with the CENTCOM Surgeon and his representatives to conduct a program assessment. During the assessment, and in consultation with the TAF, it was noted that adding collaborators such as NGOs would enhance the current program and would help in the expansion of the program. The Broad Agency Announcement process was used to identify partners, and a local NGO has been approved to provide services to assist the TAF in HIV/AIDS prevention activities.

### **Proposed Future Activities**

DHAPP received a proposal from the International Organization of Open Society Institute Assistance on behalf of the TAF in FY08. The proposal included prevention activities, such as advocate sessions for mid- to senior-level military officials, prevention training for recruits, purchase of OI drugs, lab renovation and lab equipment, and STI management training for clinicians. This would be in addition to the funding of activities that is currently going on and will continue through the US Embassy in Dushanbe to support the TAF with materials and training of soldiers.