

# TANZANIA

# 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

Tanzania's estimated population is 40 million people, with an average life expectancy of 51 years. Kiswahili, Swahili, and English are the official languages of Tanzania, which has an estimated literacy rate of 70%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world. The economy depends heavily on agriculture, which accounts for more than 40% of GDP, provides 85% of exports, and employs 80% of the work force. The GDP per capita is \$1,400.

#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Tanzania's general population is estimated at 6.2%, with approximately 1.3 million people living with HIV in Tanzania. Prevalence rates are higher in urban than in rural areas, and women are more severely affected than men. Identified significant risk factors include high-risk heterosexual contact and contact with commercial sex workers.



#### Military Statistics

The size of the Tanzanian People's Defense Force (TPDF) is approximately 35,000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available. Tanzania expends 0.2% of the GDP on military expenditures.

## PROGRAM RESPONSE

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

The TPDF works in collaboration with the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) and PharmAccess International (PAI) on its HIV/AIDS program. WRAIR programs in Tanzania are directed by a US Department of Army civilian with attaché status hired under the Division of Retrovirology (Div. Retro.) who reports directly to the Ambassador under the US Embassy in Dar es Salaam. WRAIR's primary administrative and contracting hubs are located in Silver Spring, Maryland, and Fort Detrick in Frederick, Maryland, respectively, with the Department of Army civilian providing direct oversight of program progress on the ground. WRAIR works closely with the DAO at the US Embassy. Though not involved in the day-to-day management of the PEPFAR program, DAO staff assist in coordinating higher-level meetings with the TPDF, ensuring goals and objectives of the Combatant Command are met.

PAI is an NGO based in the Netherlands. PAI has more than 15 years of experience working on comprehensive, workplace HIV programs in Africa, and over 5 years working with the TPDF. Through a grant issued by the US Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity based at Fort Detrick, PAI provides not only managerial and fiscal oversight of the program but also focuses technical assistance on both clinical and behavioral interventions for the TPDF.

PEPFAR activities are further supported by US-based staff at WRAIR Headquarters and its US Military HIV Research Program (USMHRP) under Div. Retro. in both technical and administrative areas. Additional technical support is provided by USMHRP staff located in Kenya and DHAPP staff members working in collaboration with USMHRP. In country, WRAIR participates in PEPFAR technical working groups along with the CDC, USAID, Department of State, and the Peace Corps, participating in the development of the annual COP through which PEPFAR funds are solicited. Through this coordination, WRAIR also ensures activities with the TPDF funded by PEPFAR meet overall USG PEPFAR strategic goals.

## OUTCOMES & IMPACT

### **Prevention**

The TPDF prevention program targets all 5,000 recruits, 30,000 military personnel, 90,000 dependents, and 80,000 civilians living near the military camps and hospitals. During FY08, the TPDF program reported outstanding results across all areas in prevention, care, and treatment of HIV. During the year, 59,944 troops, their dependents, and civilians living in the communities around the 8 military health centers were reached with comprehensive prevention messages. Eight hundred forty (840) peer educators were trained in the provision of those messages. The peer educators represent 5 army brigades, and the air force, navy, and military intelligence. Condom services were provided through 163 targeted outlets. Gender and gender-based violence have been integrated into some of the prevention messages. The adjustments in the peer educator training programs have been accomplished in collaboration with EngenderHealth and the Champions Project.

During FY08, 7,847 pregnant women were provided with PMTCT services at 9 sites. These services included counseling, testing for HIV, and receiving results. Of the women tested in the PMTCT setting, 495 were provided with a complete course of ARV prophylaxis. Twenty-four (24) military health care workers were trained in the provision of PMTCT services, in accordance with the national PMTCT guidelines.

### **Care**

There are 8 palliative care sites for the TPDF, and 7,877 individuals received services. Four hundred twenty-five (425) palliative care patients received treatment for TB. Fifty-four (54) medical officers and nurse counselors have been trained on palliative care services including TB, according to the guidelines of the National AIDS Control Programme TB Unit and the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Program.

Eleven (11) CT centers provided HIV testing for TPDF personnel. During FY08, a total of 47,428 troops, family members, and civilians were tested for HIV and received their results (23,765 men, 23,663 women). Seventy-six (76) military members were trained in the provision of CT. In the future, provider-initiated CT will replace voluntary CT, in accordance with the counseling and testing guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.



### **Treatment**

In FY08, 33 military health workers were trained in the provision of ART. In the past year, the TPDF scaled up the number of sites that can offer treatment services. At the 8 TPDF treatment sites, 1,549 individuals were newly initiated on ART, and by the end of reporting period, 3,243 current patients were on ART. Eleven (11) TPDF laboratories had the capacity to perform HIV tests and CD4 and/or lymphocyte testing, and 24 laboratory workers were trained in the provision of laboratory services. One of the major accomplishments of this program is that the care and treatment services of the TPDF hospitals are more integrated with the National Care and Treatment Plan are under the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. Another accomplishment is that data comes from a central electronic database as opposed to the sites' registrar books which was the normal practice until April 2008. Electronic data-entry started in May 2008 at all sites.

### **Other**

Training for strategic information was provided to 16 individuals. An HIV/AIDS policy to make HIV testing an integrated part of the yearly medical checkup for

all TPDF personnel has been written by a dedicated TPDF task force. Authorization of the policy is expected in the near future. The new policy has two implications. First, a large number of army personnel will be tested and an extensive increase in HIV-positive persons who need care and treatment can be expected. Second, health centers at military camps will need to be scaled up so that yearly medical checkups, including HIV screening, care and treatment services, can be provided there.

### Proposed Future Activities

Ongoing successful TPDF and partner programming will continue to include additional aspects of comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment for military members and their families. All proposed activities were submitted to the Tanzania Country Support Team and were included in the FY09 COP.

