



TIMOR-LESTE

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 Timor-Leste is 1.1 million people, with an average life expectancy of 67 years. Tetum and Portuguese are the official languages of Timor-Leste, which has an estimated literacy rate of 59%. In late 1999, about 70% of the economic infrastructure of Timor-Leste was laid waste by Indonesian troops and anti-independence militias, and 300,000 people fled westward. Over the next 3 years, however, a massive international program, manned by 5,000 peacekeepers (8,000 at peak) and 1,300 police officers, led to substantial reconstruction in both urban and rural areas. The GDP per capita is \$2,500. In June 2005, the National Parliament unanimously approved the creation of a Petroleum Fund to serve as a repository for all petroleum revenues and preserve the value of Timor-Leste's petroleum wealth for future generations. The Fund held assets of US\$3.9 billion as of October 2008. The economy is recovering from the mid-2006 outbreak of violence and civil unrest, which disrupted both private and public sector economic activity. The government in 2008 resettled tens of thousands of an estimated 100,000 internally displaced persons.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Timor-Leste's general population is not known. A 2003 study found HIV prevalence rates of 3% for female commercial sex workers and 1% for men who have sex with men.

Military Statistics

The Timor-Leste Defense Force (TLDF) is estimated at approximately 700 members. Force wide testing is not in place; therefore, HIV prevalence is unknown.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

USPACOM and its implementing agent, COE, engaged the TLDF in 2008.

OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Care and Treatment

Activities for FY08 included shipping some laboratory supplies such as lancets and examination gloves to the TLDF. USPACOM/COE, together with the US Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences and the Royal Thai Armed Forces, and with funding from DHAPP, stood up a military Regional Training Center (RTC) in Bangkok, Thailand. The RTC is responsible for the education of a core group of military medical officers. In FY08, 2 TLDF members attended the *Asia-Pacific Regional Support and Training Capacity for Treatment and Care Initiatives (Train the Trainer in HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment) Course* in July 2008.

Other

In July 2008, DoD and COE staff traveled to Dili, Timor-Leste, to conduct a needs assessment of the HIV/AIDS program in the TLDF. They met with various members of the TLDF, US Embassy staff, the Timor-Leste MOH, and several NGOs in the country.

