

TOGO

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

After years of political unrest from international organizations for human rights abuses, Togo is finally being welcomed into the international community again. The estimated population of Togo is 5.9 million people, with an average life expectancy of 58 years. French is the official language, and the literacy rate is estimated at 61%, unevenly distributed between men and women. This small, sub-Saharan country's economy is heavily dependent on both commercial and subsistence agriculture, which provide employment for 65% of the labor force. Some basic foodstuffs must still be imported. Cocoa, coffee, and cotton generate about 40% of export earnings, with cotton being the most important cash crop. The GDP per capita is \$900.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The current HIV prevalence rate in Togo's general population is 3.3%, with 120,000 Togolese people living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified risk factor is heterosexual sex with multiple partners.

Military Statistics

The Togolese Armed Forces (TAF) is composed of approximately 12,000 personnel. HIV prevalence in the military is unknown. Togo allocates 1.6% of the GDP for military purposes.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP staff has been collaborating with US Embassy staff from the Development Office in Lomé, the OSC in Ghana, and the TAF on an HIV/AIDS program for the TAF.



Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Togo was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory equipment, and supporting reagents and supplies related to the diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS. The award was appropriated for 2003, 2004, and 2006. Funding for the 2003 appropriation was released for expenditure during FY05. Procurements using 2003 appropriation funding are currently under way, to include a hematology analyzer, microscope, and rapid test kits. Planning and negotiation for 2004 and 2006 funding procurements are currently under way.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

DHAPP staff members and the OSC in Accra traveled to Lomé in August 2008. They met with US Embassy staff and representatives of the TAF's Medical Division as well as several local NGOs. Discussions on how DHAPP could best support the TAF's HIV program occurred.

Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal for FY09 activities in Togo from the US Embassy and a local NGO. DHAPP with support sending a representative from the US Embassy staff to the *Defense Institute for Medical Operations 8th Annual HIV/AIDS Planning and Policy Development Course* in San Antonio in December 2008.