

UKRAINE

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 Ukraine is 46 million people, with an average life expectancy of 68 years. Ukrainian is the official language of the Ukraine, which has an estimated literacy rate of 99%, evenly distributed between men and women. Ukraine's fertile black soil generates more than one fourth of Soviet agricultural output, and its farms provided substantial quantities of meat, milk, grain, and vegetables to other republics. Ukraine depends on imports of energy, especially natural gas, to meet some 85% of its annual energy requirements. The GDP per capita is \$6,900. The drop in steel prices and Ukraine's exposure to the global financial crisis due to aggressive foreign borrowing has lowered growth in 2008 and the economy probably will contract in 2009. Ukraine reached an agreement with the International Monetary Fund for a \$16.5 billion standby arrangement in November 2008 to deal with the economic crisis.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Ukraine's general population is estimated at 1.6%, with 430,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS, half of whom are women. The most common mode of HIV transmission is intravenous drug use, which is responsible for 57% of HIV cases. Among the key factors driving the epidemic are transactional sex, high levels of migration, and large numbers of intravenous drug users.

Military Statistics

The Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF), which consists of ground, naval, and air forces, comprises approximately 200,000 active-duty members. The Ukraine expends 1.4%

of the GDP on the military. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown; however, as of 2005, there were 444 documented cases of HIV in the military, with 25 to 30 new cases detected annually.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The UAF HIV/AIDS program is a collaborative effort between ODC at the US Embassy in Kiev, DHAPP, and the UAF. DHAPP staff provide technical assistance and support to the UAF program. In addition, the DHAPP staff members are part of the PEPFAR Ukraine Country Support Team, and participated in the FY09 COP.

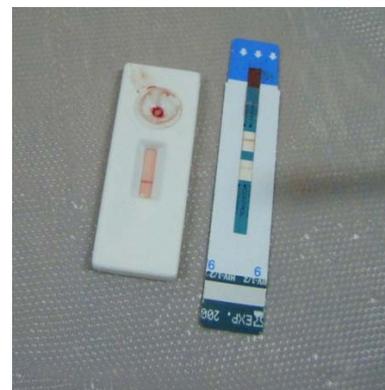
OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Prevention

In FY08, the HIV/AIDS prevention workshops for senior-level medical personnel kicked off the year with training 210 staff as master trainers. They trained 1,190 additional peer educators. In total, 1,400 peer educators reached approximately 150,000 troops with comprehensive prevention messages. The peer educators conducted annual 2-hour HIV/AIDS training with their units, which typically have 120 soldiers in a unit. During the prevention trainings, troops are taught about healthy lifestyles, correct and consistent condom use, and correct usage of tattoo needles and shaving razors.

Care

In FY08, there were 6 CT centers for the UAF, which is an increase from last year's 4 CT centers. Two (2) were renovated in FY07 with DHAPP funding and are now functioning CT centers. The CT centers are staffed by psychologists for counseling services, and lab technicians and nurses provide testing services. The psychologists at



the CT centers are trained by the MOD's Health Department.

Twenty-one (21) military clinicians who work in pulmonary services throughout various MOD hospitals in Ukraine were trained on clinical prophylaxis and treatment for TB of HIV-infected individuals (diagnosed or presumed).



Treatment

Only 1 military laboratory in Kiev has the equipment needed for CD4 testing. Twenty-five (25) lab technicians were trained on using recently procured lab equipment.

Proposed Future Activities

Continued HIV programming for UAF members was proposed to the PEPFAR Ukraine Country Support Team. All proposed activities were included in the FY09 COP. Some of these activities include continued prevention efforts and increased CT services.

