



VIETNAM

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

Vietnam's estimated population is 86 million people, with an average life expectancy of 71 years. Vietnamese is the official language of Vietnam, which has an estimated literacy rate of 90%, evenly distributed between men and women. Deep poverty, defined as a percentage of the population living under \$1 per day, has declined significantly and is now smaller than that of China, India, and the Philippines. Vietnam is working to promote job creation to keep up with the country's high population growth rate. In an effort to stem high inflation, which took off in 2007, Vietnamese authorities began to raise benchmark interest rates and reserve requirements in early 2008. The GDP per capita is \$2,900.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The estimated HIV prevalence rate in Vietnam's general population is 0.5%, with approximately 280,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The primary identified high-risk groups in the population have been intravenous drug users and commercial sex workers.

Military Statistics

The Vietnam Ministry of Defense (VMOD) is estimated at approximately 480,000 active-duty troops. Vietnam expends 2.5% of the GDP on military expenditures. No prevalence data are available on the VMOD.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

USPACOM and its implementing agent, COE, have continued to collaborate with the VMOD.

OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Prevention

During FY08, the VMOD reached 15,252 troops with comprehensive prevention messages and trained 659 peer educators. There were 74 VMOD service members trained in blood safety. Thirty (30) health workers were trained in the provision of PMTCT services. There were 5 targeted condom service outlets.



Care

Two (2) VMOD service outlets provide HIV-related palliative care for VMOD members and their families. During FY08, 380 individuals were provided with HIV-related palliative care. Fifty-eight (58) military medical personnel were trained in the provision of HIV-related care, including TB care.

IN FY08, the VMOD supported 1 CT center for military members. During the year, 1,019 military members were tested for HIV and received their results. Sixteen (16) individuals were trained in the provision of CT services.

Treatment

Two (2) service outlets provide ART for VMOD troops and family members. There were 62 patients newly initiated on ART in FY08. Thirty-five (35)

individuals were trained in the provision of ART. Two (2) laboratories had the capability to perform HIV testing and CD4 tests, and 26 laboratory personnel were trained in the provision of these tests.

USPACOM/COE, together with the US Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences and the Royal Thai Armed Forces, 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 VMOD members attended the *Asia-Pacific Regional HIV/AIDS Lab Infrastructure and Capacity Building (Train the Trainer in Lab and Diagnostics) Course* in August 2008.

Other

In July 2008, DHAPP, USPACOM, and COE staff traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam, to conduct a program assessment of the DoD HIV/AIDS program with the VMOD. The objectives of the assessment included addressing strategic, programmatic, and interagency coordination issues and challenges, and making recommendations for future actions. The team met with various members of the VMOD, US Embassy staff, USG (CDC and USAID in-country staff), and local NGOs.

In FY08, 12 individuals were trained in strategic information, and 850 individuals were trained in HIV-related policy development, institutional capacity building, stigma and discrimination reduction, and community mobilization for prevention, care, and/or treatment.

