



ZIMBABWE

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 Zimbabwe is 11.3 million people, with an average life expectancy of 44 years. English is the official language of Zimbabwe, which has an estimated literacy rate of 91%, with even distribution between men and women. The GDP per capita has dropped to an estimated \$200, but with hyperinflation of historic proportions and an unemployment rate of 80%, this estimate is likely elevated.

Of late, Zimbabwe has experienced widespread political turmoil, which has adversely affected the population. General elections held in March 2008 contained irregularities, but still amounted to a censure of the ZANU-PF-led government, with significant gains in opposition seats in parliament. Opposition leader Morgan TSVANGIRAI won the presidential polls, and may have won an outright majority, but official results posted by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission did not reflect this. In the lead-up to a runoff election in late June 2008, considerable violence enacted against opposition party members led to the withdrawal of TSVANGIRAI from the ballot. Extensive evidence of vote tampering and ballot-box stuffing resulted in international condemnation of the process. Difficult negotiations over a power-sharing agreement, which allowed President Robert MUGABE (in office since 1987) to remain as president and created the new position of prime minister for TSVANGIRAI, were finally settled in February 2009.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the general population of Zimbabwe is estimated at 15.3%, with approximately 1.2 million individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Most HIV cases in Zimbabwe are spread through multi-partner heterosexual sex.

Military Statistics

The Zimbabwe Defense Forces (ZDF) is estimated at approximately 40,000 members. Zimbabwe allocates 3.8% of the GDP for military expenditures. No HIV prevalence data are available for the ZDF.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP did not provide funding in FY08 to the ZDF because of the current political situation in Zimbabwe.

Proposed Future Activities

There are no proposed future activities.

