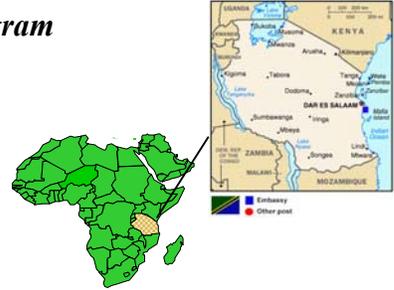




## ***DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program Status Report:***

### **Tanzania**



## **BACKGROUND**

### **Introduction/General Information**

The population of Tanzania is estimated between 36 and 37 million, with an average life expectancy of approximately 51. Kiswahili, Swahili, and English are all described as official languages of Tanzania, with an estimated literacy rate of approximately 68%; literacy is distributed disproportionately between males and females. Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world, with more than 80% of the population dependent on subsistence agriculture; per capita income estimates range from \$260 to \$610.

### **Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors**

It is estimated that just over 8% of the adult population in Tanzania is either HIV infected or has developed AIDS. The number of people believed to be living with HIV ranges from 1.3 million to 1.5 million.

### **Military HIV/AIDS Information**

There are no reliable estimates available for the size of military forces in Tanzania, and Tanzanian Defense Forces have not performed systematic screening of personnel; therefore, prevalence statistics are unavailable. Current force-wide rates are believed to be similar to those found in the civilian population.

## **PROPOSED PROGRAM**

An HIV/AIDS prevention proposal has not been submitted by the Tanzanian military forces to date.

## **PROGRAM RESPONSE**

### **Military-to-Military**

DHAPP staff traveled to Tanzania in February 2002 to participate in a Marine Corps Forces Europe exercise involving several African countries. During this time, staff met with Tanzanian military representatives to describe the objectives of DHAPP and offer assistance in developing and/or supporting HIV/AIDS prevention efforts among the Tanzanian forces. Meetings were also held between DHAPP staff and members of the US Embassy Defense Attaché Office, US Agency for International Development, and the Tanzanian military's HIV prevention point of contact.

### **Contractor-Based Assistance**

Tanzania is the recipient of aid from an external contractor funded by DHAPP. In 2001, Regents University, Virginia Beach, Virginia, was awarded a contract to develop and distribute a short film on HIV/AIDS prevention. An entertainment-education (edutainment) strategy was used in producing the film by embedding socially

relevant prevention information and education. The film was developed in three stages. First, a group of 87 soldiers completed a knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) survey to collect baseline data on HIV/AIDS awareness. Next, a script was produced incorporating information to fill HIV knowledge gaps identified in the KAP survey. The film was presented to a test audience of 459 troops to evaluate its effectiveness as an education resource. After viewing, participants were administered a test to compare with a group that had not seen the film to assess the increase in HIV knowledge achieved by the film. Additionally, 75 Tanzanian Defense Force personnel participated in a focus group discussion and provided feedback to make final edits to the film.

The final film product, titled *Ukimwi Adui Aliyejificha* in Kiswahili, (*AIDS: The Hidden Enemy*), is 56 minutes in length. The film includes 21 minutes of additional footage based on changes recommended by

the Tanzania focus groups and military leaders. The most significant change to the film included an epilogue that features Tanzanian military leaders and HIV-positive soldiers reinforcing the HIV/AIDS prevention message. Three hundred twenty videotape copies of the film (300 in Kiswahili), have been distributed to military bases throughout Tanzania and implemented as part of their HIV/AIDS prevention program.

### **Clinical Provider Training**

None at this time.

## **PROGRAM IMPACT**

### **Mass Awareness**

Regents University produced and distributed copies of *AIDS: The Hidden Enemy* video to military bases throughout Tanzania.