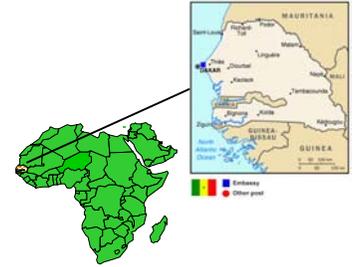




DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program Status Report:

Senegal



BACKGROUND

Introduction/General Information

Senegal's population is estimated to be between 9.7 and 10.6 million people, with life expectancy ranging from 52 to 63 years. French is the official language in Senegal, with an in-country literacy rate estimated to be 33%; literacy is distributed disproportionately between the sexes. Senegal is a developing nation with a strong democratic government and a relatively well-diversified economy; per capita income estimates range from \$500 to \$1,580.

Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors

Senegal has one of the lowest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in sub-Saharan Africa, with an estimated 1.4% of the population with either HIV infection or AIDS. The number of people believed to be living with HIV is 95,000. Identified significant risk factors include high-risk heterosexual contact with both multiple partners and commercial sex workers. Testing among selected groups of commercial sex workers in Senegal revealed prevalence rates as high as 49% in 1997.

Military HIV/AIDS Information

There are no reliable estimates currently available for the size of military forces in Senegal, and the Senegalese have not performed force-wide testing of personnel,

making current prevalence rates unavailable. It is believed that the military population currently has HIV prevalence rates higher than the national average.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

Senegal requested funding for its military HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and management plan. This comprehensive plan included initiatives to enhance condom accessibility, a clinical component to improve treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and general healthcare, and a program of voluntary counseling and testing.



The US Ambassador and Senegalese Minister of Defense participated in a ceremony turning over HIV/AIDS prevention equipment to Senegal's military forces.

The Senegalese prevention education component included a program to develop and disseminate culturally and situationally appropriate audiovisual material and educational aids. Using these materials, Senegal established a goal of reaching 90% of its healthcare personnel, social workers, and military commanders with a powerful HIV prevention message. In addition, the Senegalese military proposed to participate in the annual Senegalese National Youth AIDS week, Women's AIDS week, and World AIDS Day throughout all garrisons.

Senegal also proposed enhancing its diagnostic and treatment capacity by screening for HIV and other STIs and developing a syndromic management program. Finally, Senegal sought funding to ensure 100% condom availability for the Senegalese Armed Forces.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military-to-Military

DHAPP staff visited Senegal in October 2001 and August 2002 to conduct needs assessments, assist the military in developing an HIV/AIDS prevention plan, and to provide logistical support for procuring the required equipment and supplies.



DHAPP built HIV prevention and management infrastructure by providing computers and teaching equipment.

Clinical Provider Training

In November 2002, Dr. Sharon Reed, Director, Microbiology Laboratory, University of California, San Diego, California, arranged for a representative from BioRad, Inc., to train medical professionals at the main military hospital, in the operation of a Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay machine that was purchased with DHAPP funds. That training was delivered to a group of healthcare workers at Infirmierie Hospital de Ouakam (IHO) on 13-14 January 2003.

Interoperability

The Senegalese military was included in the national HIV serologic and behavioral surveillance study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Master Trainers and Peer Educators

To date, 52 members of the Senegalese Armed Forces have been trained as peer educators.

Number of Troops Trained

The initial cohort of trainees included 285 nurses who received HIV/AIDS prevention training under the DHAPP-sponsored program.



DHAPP funding provided equipment to support an HIV laboratory.



Laboratory refrigerators and freezer were provided by DHAPP for Senegalese blood and HIV laboratory.

support the HIV/AIDS prevention training efforts. Additionally, laboratory equipment including 2 refrigerators, 1 freezer, 1 generator, and supplies for the Senegalese military clinic, were added to the infrastructure support for the IHO. These items were transferred to the Senegalese Armed Forces in a formal ceremony on 29 April 2003.

Mass Awareness

None at this time.

Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure

DHAPP purchased office equipment, including computers, a fax machine, a copier, and audiovisual equipment to