



DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program Status Report:

Zambia



BACKGROUND

Introduction/General Information

The population of Zambia is estimated at between 9.9 million and 10.6 million, with life expectancy estimates ranging from 37 to 41 years, down significantly due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. English is the official language of Zambia, with an estimated literacy rate of 78% distributed disproportionately between males and females.

Zambia is described as one of the most urbanized countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with almost 50% of the population living in a few urban areas clustered along the principal transportation corridor. One consequence of this population distribution pattern is widespread unemployment and poverty; annual per capita estimates for Zambia range from \$330 to \$870.

Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors

With almost 22% of the adult population with either HIV infection or AIDS, Zambia has one of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in the world. The number of people estimated to be living with HIV ranges from 870,000 to 1.2 million. Identified significant risk factors include a high prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), high-risk heterosexual contact with multiple partners, perinatal transmission, significant

cultural stigmatization of people with HIV or AIDS, and specific cultural practices.

Military HIV/AIDS Information

The size of the Zambian military is estimated at approximately 27,000. Because the Zambian Defense Forces (ZDF) have not performed systematic screening of its personnel; HIV/AIDS prevalence statistics are unavailable. Current force-wide rates in Zambia are believed to be similar to those found in the civilian population.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

No formal HIV/AIDS prevention program plan has been submitted by the ZDF.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military-to-Military

In January 2000, DHAPP staff visited Lusaka, Zambia, to conduct a needs assessment. Based on that assessment, ZDF faces two major obstacles: lack of resources (drugs, screening capability, and counselors) and no established HIV policy. DHAPP staff also met with the Deputy Director for the Zambian United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and received an overview of USAID activities in Zambia. In addition, DHAPP staff traveled to the Natural Remedy Center in Kafue, Zambia, to review its program.

In March 2001 DHAPP staff met with the medical services HIV/AIDS Coordinator for ZDF at the Working Group for the Development of a Comprehensive HIV Prevention Package for the Uniformed Services of Africa in Accra, Ghana. Briefings were received on several social marketing campaigns in Zambia; to include *Know and Guard Your Status, Take Cover, The Enemy Within*, and *Don't Take it Home*.

In the absence of an HIV/AIDS country plan, audiovisual equipment was shipped to the US Embassy for delivery to the ZDF military in support of HIV/AIDS prevention education activities.

Contractor-Based Assistance

Zambia was the recipient of an external contract funded by DHAPP. In 2001, Project Concern International (PCI) was awarded a contract to develop and implement a program to strengthen the capacity of the ZDF and to provide and sustain an HIV/AIDS prevention campaign throughout their armed forces. Training provided through the PCI program included program managers, peer educator supervisors, and a cadre of peer educators.

PCI developed a group of military personnel to handle planning, management, and monitoring of the ZDF HIV/AIDS prevention program. A group of peer educator supervisors were also provided training emphasizing communication and facilitation skills and HIV/AIDS knowledge; peer educator supervisors were utilized to train peer educators throughout the ZDF. A training curriculum, adapted from materials available to African Uniformed Services, was modified to be culturally relevant and appropriate to the Zambian military environment.

Clinical Provider Training

DHAPP funds were used to send 2 Zambian medical doctors to the XIV International

HIV/AIDS Conference Barcelona, Spain, in July 2002. In addition, a senior physician from the ZDF was approved to attend the 4-week *Military International HIV Training Program* course in San Diego, California. It is anticipated that this training will occur in August-September 2003.

Interoperability

DHAPP coordinated HIV/AIDS prevention activities with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Global AIDS Prevention Office.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Master Trainers and Peer Educators

To date, 55 trainers/peer educator trainers have been trained.

DRAFT

Trainer's Guide for HIV/AIDS Awareness Training of New Recruits and Pre-Deployment Personnel



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Trainer's Guide developed by Project Concern International for raising HIV/AIDS awareness of ZDF personnel.

Potential Number of Troops Affected

The ZDF HIV prevention program will reach 27,000 troops.

Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT)

A VCT center is operational in Lusaka.

Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure

Computer and audiovisual equipment were shipped to the US Embassy in Lusaka and subsequently transferred to support peer education programs within the ZDF.



Peer educators assessed HIV/AIDS knowledge of ZDF personnel following a presentation by a drama troop.

Mass Awareness

PCI developed a comprehensive Behavior Change Campaign (BCC) to supplement its prevention curriculum. The BCC materials focused on promotion of safer sex practices, including condom use, fewer partners, and abstinence as an alternative. Early treatment seeking for STIs and VCT utilization was also encouraged.



Drama troop conducted an HIV/AIDS awareness session for ZDF troops at Mikango Army Training Center.