

SABERS Study: Preparation Continues

The US Embassy's Public Health Assistant continues to meet with Togolese military physicians to prepare for the upcoming DHAPP-funded *Seroprevalence and Behavioral Epidemiology Risk Survey* (SABERS) study, slated to commence later this year.

The protocol, the document outlining all study procedures, guidelines and study methodology, is currently being finalized and will subsequently be submitted to both US and Togolese Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) for approval. These committees formally approve, monitor, and review biomedical and behavioral research involving humans. The study will randomly test ~1,500 Togolese military personnel to gain a better understanding of HIV prevalence in the military and how to better combat the virus.



AGIR-PF and PACTE-VIH Offices Visited

The DHRF/Self-Help Coordinator recently visited the Togolese headquarters of two important regional programs funded by USAID West Africa. Dr. Eloi and his team presented on the family planning [AGIR-PF](#) program objectives and expected results. Once rollout is complete, the program will operate in 48 sites spread across the Maritime, Centrale and Kara regions.

Staff visited Dr. Me-Tahi at the [PACTE-VIH](#) offices located in the Espoir Vie Togo building close to the embassy, as was a drop-in center in Tokoin Gbonvié. Discussions with multiple HIV/AIDS peer educators ensued, with participants exploring the potential for increased collaboration with the embassy.



HAP: Construction Continues Throughout Togo

The Development Assistance Unit Clerk embarked on an upcountry journey with a Project Engineer from the US Army Corps of Engineers. In all, the team visited 11 ongoing Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP) projects.



Corruption: Brainstorming with Professors

Development Office members teamed up with the Cultural Programs Specialist from the Public Affairs Office and invited French professors and an educational inspector from the Maritime region to the embassy to discuss effective methods to combat the ills of corruption. The Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF) funded comic book *Le Bon, La Bourse et Le Corrompu* was presented in the meeting and will play a central role in the evolution of this project.

