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Mali

Response to Information Request Number:	MLI99001.ZNY
Date:	6 November 1999
Subject:	Mali: Information on individuals who are HIV Positive
From:	INS Resource Information Center, Washington, DC
Keywords:	HIV-Infected Persons / AIDS / People With AIDS / Discrimination Based On Health/ Mali

Query:

Is there societal discrimination against individuals with HIV in Mali?

Response:

The number of people who are HIV positive or have AIDs has been increasing dramatically in recent years in Mali. The disease has spread into Mali primarily through migrant workers who come into Mali as seasonal laborers, particularly in the sugar cane and cotton producing areas. (Africa News Service, 1997). In some areas of the country, it is estimated that 20 percent of the adult population may have the virus. Mali has a high awareness of the dangers of HIV in its population, but there are currently only 3 test centers in the country where individuals can be tested for the virus. (NCIH, 1997)

Because the increase of HIV is a fairly recent occurrence in Mali, it is difficult to assess the level of societal discrimination in Mali. Individuals with AID often are without family support and die alone in hospitals. People with AIDs often do not reveal their illness because of fear that they will lose their jobs. Once individuals test positive with HIV, advanced treatment options are available. Access to treatment, however, is often limited due to financial resources of the individuals. (USAID 11 November 1998).

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Planning
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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RIC within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

References:

Africa News Service. 'Mali Registers Alarming Spread of AIDS.' 1997. (Westlaw).

The National Council for International Health. NCIH AIDS Network Newsletter #44. March/April 1997.

USAID contractor. Email on 11 November 1998.

Last Modified 02/27/2003