

Date: July 21, 2000

From: WHO Collaborating Center for
Research, Training and Eradication of Dracunculiasis

Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP # 103

To: Addressees

Detect Every Case (within 24 hours), Contain Every Worm (immediately)!

NIGERIA REDUCES CASES BY -71% IN JUNE!!!!

Nigeria's Guinea Worm Eradication Program (NIGEP) has reported a provisional total of 444 cases in June 2000, which is a

visited Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, met with former Nigerian head of state General (Dr.) Yakubu Gowon, and with Minister of Health Dr. Tim Menakaya, and inaugurated a new well during a visit to the dracunculiasis-endemic village of Takupara in Niger State's Paikoro Local Government Area. They also attended the summary session of a combined review of all health activities being assisted by The Carter Center in Nigeria (dracunculiasis eradication, onchocerciasis control, lymphatic filariasis elimination, and schistosomiasis control). At the end of their visit, President and Mrs. Carter presented this year's Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Awards to Northeast Zonal Consultant Mr. Joshua Olorunshola Ologe and three of his associates: Mr. Adamu Sallau Keana (senior zonal assistant for Global 2000), Mr. Aminu Saleh (coordinator for Dukku LGA in Gombe State), and Mr. Abubakar Bala Wamdeo (Borno State Guinea worm c

On July 19, President Carter and Dr. Donald Hopkins, Carter Center associate executive director, participated in an hour-long interactive satellite televised discussion about Guinea worm eradication with invited audiences in Lagos, Nigeria; Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire; and Niamey, Niger. This program and a videotape of the award ceremony were also broadcast to US Information Services facilities in Conakry, Guinea; Dakar, Senegal; Kampala, Uganda; Lome, Togo; and Monrovia, Liberia.

ETHIOPIA, NIGER AND UGANDA ALSO SMASHED THE WORM IN JUNE!

As seen in table 1, Ethiopia reported only four cases (-96%) in June 2000, its peak month of transmission, as compared to 68 cases in June 1999. All four cases, one of which was imported into South Omo from Sudan, were contained. Niger reported 106 cases in June, which is a reduction of -65% from the 300 cases reported in June 1999. 67 (63%) were contained. Uganda reported only 10 cases in June, two of which were imported into Kitgum District from Sudan. All ten cases were contained. This is a reduction of -92% from the 102 cases reported in June 1999. June is also Uganda's peak month of transmission. The cumulative rates of reduction for these three countries during the first six months of 2000 are -68%, -59%, and -78%, respectively.

IN BRIEF:

Central African Republic: A two person team from CDC arrived in CAR on July 8 for a one month visit, at the invitation of the Minister of Health, Mr. Richard Lakoe, and the national coordinator, Mr. Gregoire Melemoko-Ndiala. The two consultants, Dr. Marc Weisskopf and Mr. Aaron Zee (former Global 2000 resident advisor to the Malian program), are to assist in clarifying the status of dracunculiasis in CAR, and make recommendations to the national program.

Ghana: Ghana has reported only 233 cases of dracunculiasis in June, which is a reduction of -43% from the 412 cases reported in June 1999. This is the fourth consecutive month of reduction. The percentage changes in cases for the first six months of 2000 are +66%, +34%, -10%, -14%, -9%, and -43%, respectively. Guinea worm eradication activities in Brong Ahafo region's Atebubu District continue to improve. A drama group of 10 women has been formed and will perform in 4 zones. Two new zonal coordinators have been deployed, with the support of Global 2000. The first bi-monthly meeting of zonal coordinators was held on June 23. Abate teams have been re-trained and that intervention is being used more aggressively.

Mr. Ahmed Issah, zonal coordinator and Chief of Labun area, stated in the coordinators meeting that he is excited to learn the new Abate technique. When he began as a village volunteer, he said, he was not chief, and Labun was "number one" with Guinea worm. Now, he is a chief and a zonal coordinator and Labun's cases have [been] reduced dramatically. It is nearly Guinea worm-free. He said he knows he can now "finish" Guinea worm with Abate application. He received applause at the meeting. From the report of a consultant to Atebubu District of Ghana's Brong Ahafo Region.

Niger: During June 2-9, just before its peak transmission season, Niger's Zinder Region held its Worm Week 2000, marking its fifth year of using that intervention and social mobilization strategy. Twenty U.S. Peace Corps and Japanese (JOCV) Volunteers were paired with Nigerian counterparts and spent five days in and among Zinder's highest endemic villages and hamlets. The teams visited over 350 hamlets and encampments, and conducted about 2000 health education sessions, educating and mobilizing thousands of hard to reach nomads and hamlet dwellers. In August, Zinder will host the first Worm Week Phase Two, which will occur at the height of the transmission season. This second week will reinforce the earlier mobilization messages.

Sudan: At long last, four Sudanese health workers (Government of Sudan) were able to visit two endemic localities (Shat Fama-population about 6,000 and Shat Safiya-population about 800) in the Nuba Mountains area of South Kordofan State for three days in early June. They found two infected persons, one in each of the two areas. Guinea worm cases had emerged over the past year. Two nurses previously trained in Guinea worm control have returned to the areas and will act as village volunteers. The workers conducted an active case search, held health education sessions for about 800 persons, and distributed 1,200 nylon filtration Sudan's Rural Water Corporation and UNICEF have already drilled 3 new wells in each of the two to then rehabilitated them in Shat Fama. There are still a few suspected endemic areas in the

JOHNSON AND JOHNSON DONATES MATERIALS FOR FIRST AID KITS

In June, the New Jersey-based pharmaceutical corporation of Johnson and Johnson

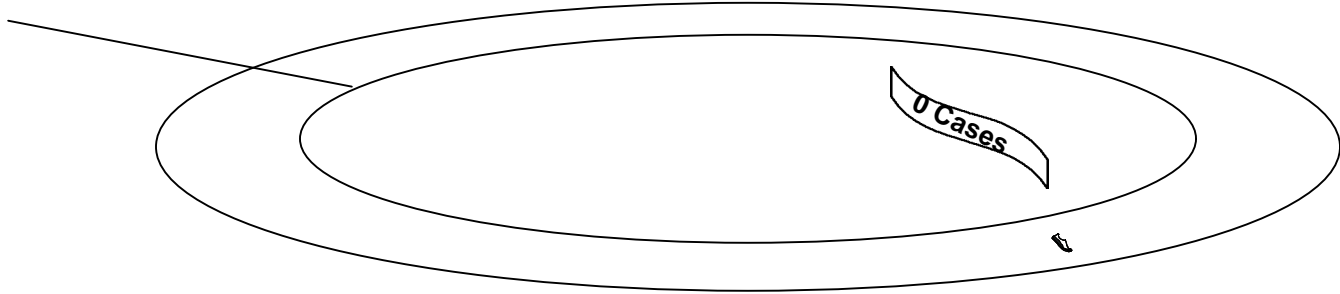
Table 1

**Number of cases contained and number reported by month during 2000*
(Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 1999)**

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED												TOTAL*	CONT.		
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER				



SUDAN(5)**	3824	25	18886	4241
UGANDA (6)	122	100	208	46
MALI (6)	114	68	95	27
ETHIOPIA (6)	38	100	130	42
NIGER (6)	170	100	356	147
MAURITANIA (5)	41	100	2	1
NIGERIA (6)	1275	100	8033	5249
BENIN (6)	159	91	144	97
COTE D'IVOIRE (5)	101	100	236	166
CENT. AFRICAN REP. (2)	15	NR	7	6
TOGO (6)	171	99	389	357
BURKINA FASO (4)	198	NR	145	152
GHANA (6)	1242	99	5086	5809
TOTAL*	7470	50	33717	16340
TOTAL (without Sudan)*				



DEFINITION OF CASE CONTAINMENT

A case of Guinea worm disease is contained if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The patient is detected before or within 24 hours of worm emergence; and
2. The patient has not entered any water source since the worm emerged; and
3. The village volunteer has properly managed the case, by cleaning and bandaging until the worm is fully removed, and by giving health education to discourage the patient from contaminating any water source (if two or more emerging worms are present, the case is not contained until the last worm is pulled out); and
4. The case is verified by a supervisor within 7 days of worm emergence (to confirm that the case is Guinea worm, and that it has been properly contained).

MEETINGS

Niger, Nigeria and Benin will hold a cross-border meeting in Maradi, Niger, on July 26-27, 2000.

The Program Review for Sudan's Guinea Worm Eradication Program will be held in Nairobi, Kenya on September 25-26, 2000. It will be followed by reviews of the Ethiopian and Ugandan programs on September 27, also in Nairobi.

The Ghana Guinea Worm Eradication Program is planning a technical review of the program during September 18-20, 2000 in Tamale, capital of the Northern Region of Ghana.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Grossl NA., 2000. Sir Jimmy and the worm slayers. The Pharos 63 (2):8-11

WHO, 2000. International Commission for the Certification of Dracunculiasis Eradication. Fourth Meeting 15-17 February 2000. Report and Recommendations. WHO/CDS/CPE/CEE/2000.6

"The Commission supports conduct of several WHO elimination and eradication programmes and the development of community-based integrated health services. However, eradication of GW and certification will require intensification of field activities and resources. These activities should not be diluted by integration into other control or eradication activities unless the GW actions are strengthened." One of the 12 recommendations in this report.

*Inclusion of information in the Guinea Worm Wrap-Up does not constitute "publication" of that information.
In memory of BOB KAISER.*

For information about the GW wrap up, contact Dr. Daniel Colley, Acting Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Research, Training, and Eradication of Dracunculiasis, NCID, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, F-22, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Atlanta, GA 30341-3724, U.S.A. FAX: (770) 488-4532.

The GW Wrap-Up is also available on the web at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/list_drc.htm.



CDC is the WHO Collaborating Center for Research, Training, and Eradication of Dracunculiasis.