



Date: May 28, 2004



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

Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #143

To: Addressees

**Are You Containing More Than 85% of All Cases?**

### **MINISTERS AGREE TO ERADICATE DRACUNCULIASIS BY END OF 2009**

In a landmark decision taken during a one hour meeting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter of The Carter Center, WHO Regional Directors Dr. E.M. Samba (AFRO) and Dr. H. Gezairy (EMRO), UNICEF deputy Executive Director Mr. Kul C. Gautam, and Chairman of the International Commission for the Certification of Dracunculiasis Eradication (ICCDE) Dr. A. A. Al-Awadi at a meeting during the Fifty-Seventh World Health Assembly in Geneva on May 19, ministers of health and their representatives\* from the 12 remaining endemic countries declared their intention to complete the eradication of dracunculiasis by the end of 2009. The ministers made clear during the discussion, however, that the 2009 target was mainly for Sudan, because of the civil war in that country, and that the other endemic countries should have reached zero cases well before that date. Signing the “Geneva Declaration” were the ministers of health of Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Uganda; representatives of the ministers of health of Cote d’Ivoire, Mali, Sudan, and Togo; the two WHO regional directors, the UNICEF deputy executive director, and the chairman of The Carter Center.

The Geneva Declaration, which is reproduced on pages 2 - 3, describes specific priority actions needed in each of the endemic countries. During the meeting, ICCDE chairman Dr. Al-Awadi said he was happy to see the representatives of these last 12 countries “face to face”, and asked if they were willing to accept the challenge of completing the eradication of dracunculiasis. In brief remarks, ministers or representatives from Sudan, Ghana, Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Benin, Uganda, and Mauritania referred to the progress already made and the remaining challenges, thanked the major partners for their assistance, and stated their intentions to finish the job quickly. President Carter noted that he had personally visited each of the 12 countries to advocate for Guinea worm eradication, lauded the special roles played by President Amadou Toumani Toure of Mali and former Nigerian head of state General (Dr) Yakubu Gowon, and commended the success being achieved by most of the countries. Like the UNICEF deputy director and the two regional directors of WHO, he pledged his personal support and that of his institution in this final phase. The 12 African representatives and the four representatives of WHO, UNICEF, and The Carter Center then signed the Declaration, and added the specific target date that had been suggested and agreed on during the discussion.

\* Ministers: Mme. C.Y. Kandissounon Seignon (Benin), Mr. B.A. Yoda (Burkina Faso), Dr. K. Tadesse (Ethiopia), Dr. K. Afriyie (Ghana), Mr. I. Ould Abdel Kader (Mauritania), Dr. M. Sourghia (Niger), Prof. E. Lambo (Nigeria), Mr. J. Muhwezi (Uganda).

Ministerial representatives: Dr. B. Guessan Bi Gouzan for Dr.A.M. Toikeusse (Cote d’Ivoire), Secretary-General Dr. M.A. Kane for Dr. M.Z.M. Youba (Mali), Director-General Dr. I.M. Abdalla for Dr. A. B. Osman (Sudan), Dr. T. Potougnima for Mme. S. Aho (Togo).

Following the signing of the Geneva Declaration by the representatives from the twelve endemic countries at their roundtable discussion on May 19, the entire World Health Assembly adopted a resolution (WHA57.9) three days later that was introduced by Sudan and amended to inc

7. national and international pressure to insure safe passage and working conditions in areas of conflict or civil unrest, such as Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger and Mali;
8. rapid mobilization of resources to implement eradication activities in newly accessible areas immediately following the cessation of hostilities and preparedness for best management and implementation of Guinea worm eradication activities in post war era in Sudan.

We, representing the Governments of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Togo and Uganda, WHO, UNICEF and The Carter Center, commit ourselves to intensifying implementation of eradication activities to free the world of dracunculiasis by the end of 2009.

## **GHANA: TWO STEPS FORWARD, ONE STEP BACK**

In January-April 2004, 14 of the top 20 dracunculiasis-endemic districts of Ghana have reduced the reported incidence of Guinea worm disease by

Figure 1

Status of Top 20 Endemic Districts in Ghana 2003

Number of Cases Reported During January -

Table 1

Number of cases contained and number reported by month during 2004\*  
(Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 2003)

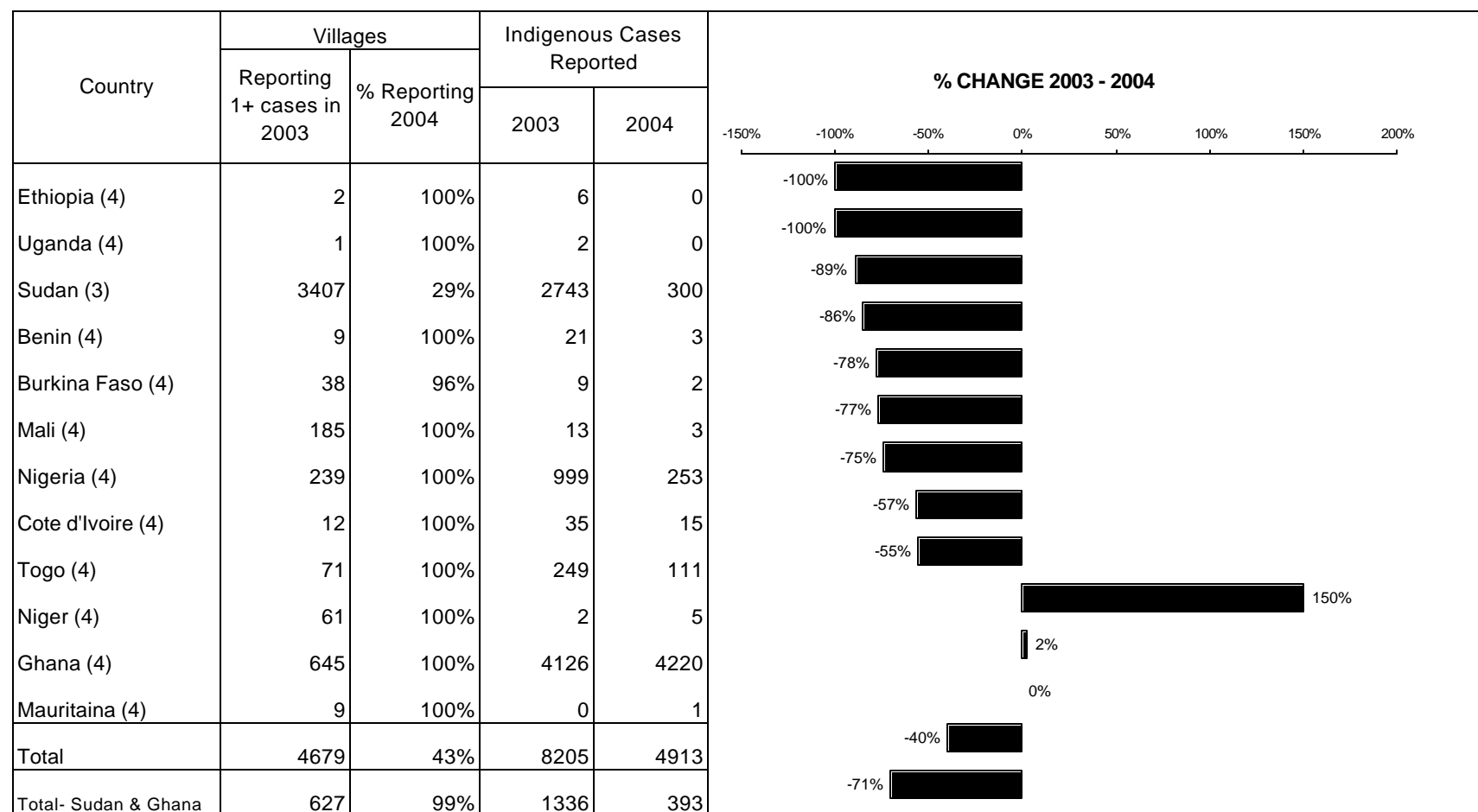
COUNTRIES REPORTING CASES	NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED												
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL*
SUDAN	27 / 122	41 / 124	16 / 34	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	84 / 280
GHANA	480 / 1211	550 / 1130	528 / 976	472 / 906	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2030 / 4223
NIGERIA	81 / 101	64 / 73	40 / 48	25 / 31	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	210 / 253
MALI	1 / 1	0 / 1	0 / 1	0 / 0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1 / 3
TOGO	35 / 46	20 / 29	18 / 46	12 / 21	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	85 / 142
NIGER	1 / 1	2 / 2	1 / 1	3 / 4	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	7 / 8
BURKINA FASO	1 / 1	1 / 2	0 / 0	2 / 2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	4 / 5
COTE D'IVOIRE	1 / 2	3 / 6	0 / 4	1 / 3	1 / 1	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	6 / 16
BENIN	0 / 0	2 / 2	1 / 1	0 / 0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	3 / 3
ETHIOPIA	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	2 / 2	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	3 / 3
UGANDA	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0 / 0
MAURITANIA	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1 / 1
TOTAL*	628 / 1486	684 / 1370	604 / 1111	517 / 969	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	2434 / 4937
% CONTAINED	42	50	54	53									49

\* PROVISIONAL

Shaded cells denote months when zero indigenous cases were reported. Numbers indicate how many imported cases were reported and contained that month.

Figure 3

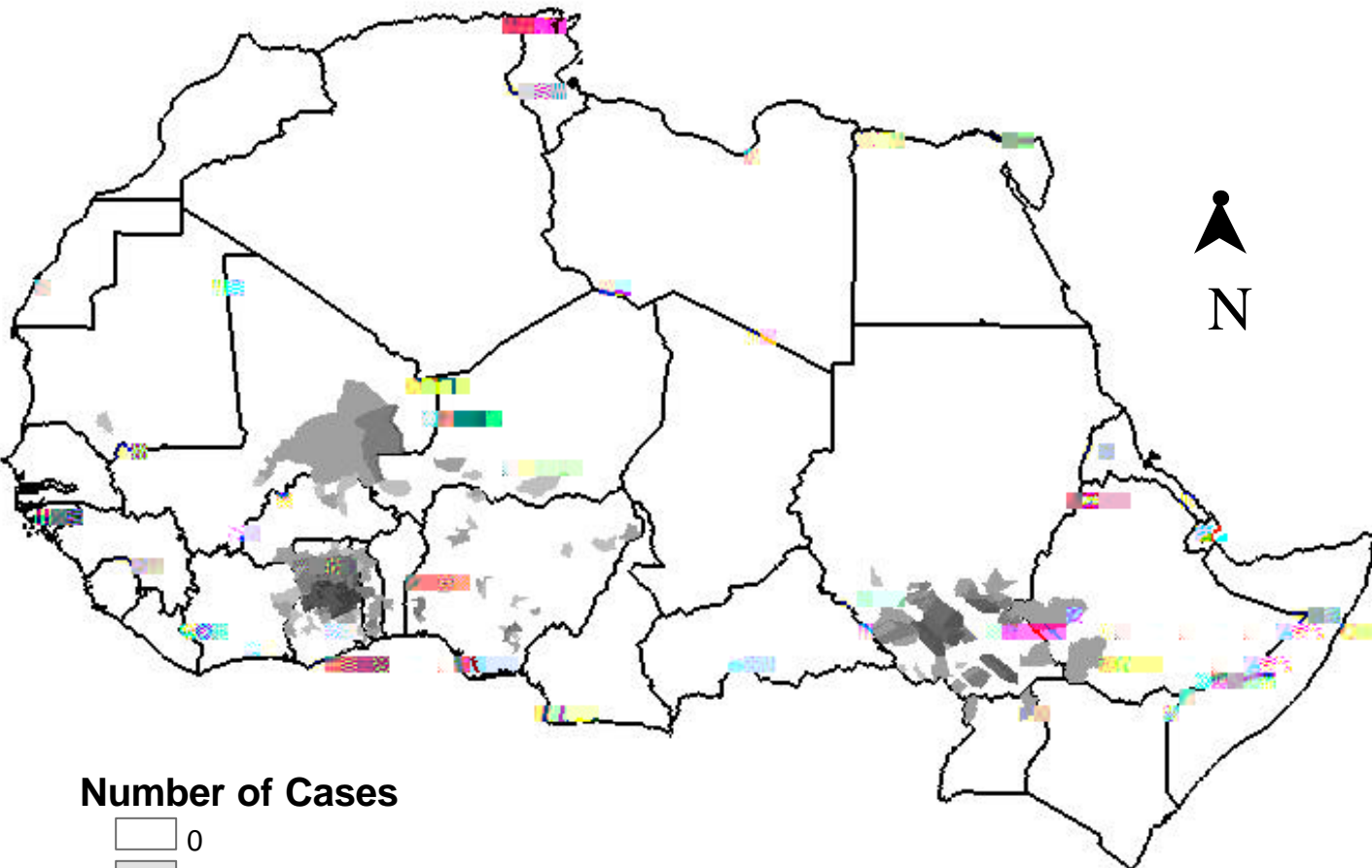
Number of Villages/Localities Reporting Cases of Dracunculiasis in 2003, Percentage of Endemic Villages Reporting in 2004\*, Number of Indigenous Cases Reported During the Specified Period in 2003 and 2004\*, and Percent Change in Cases Reported



(4) Indicates month for which reports were received, e.g., Jan. - April 2004

\* Provisional

# Distribution of 32,193 Cases of Dracunculiasis by District in 2003



## Number of Cases

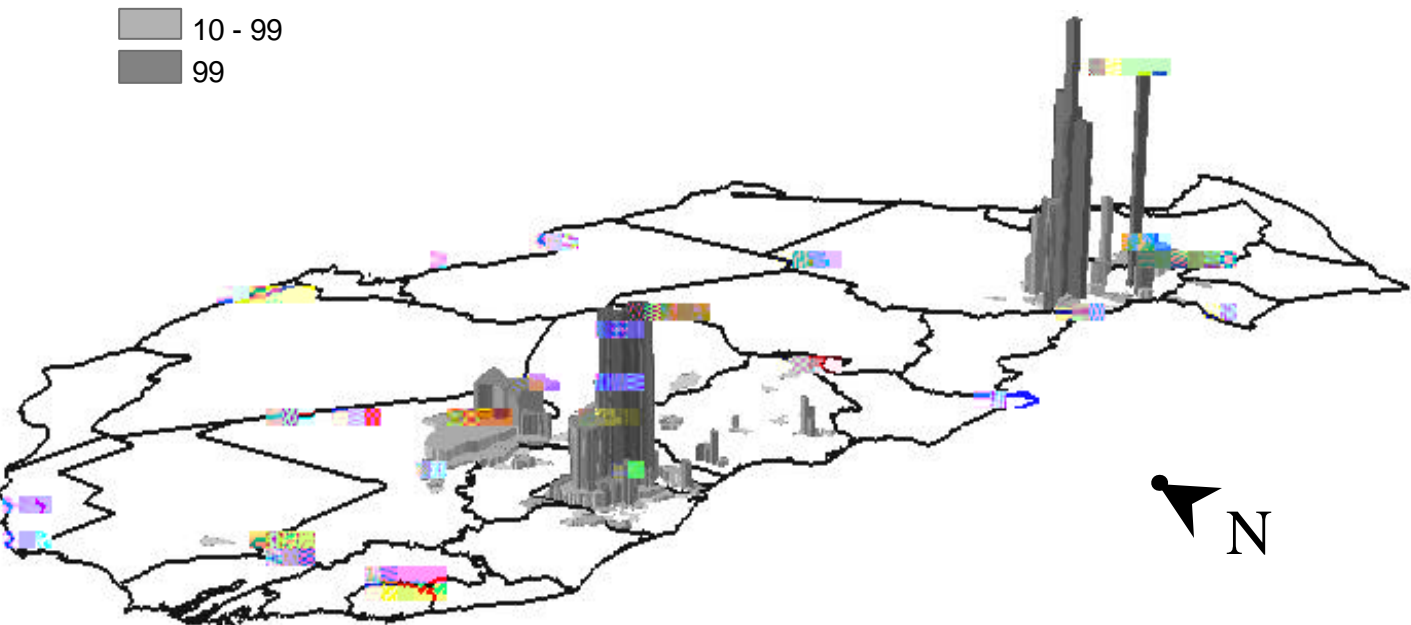
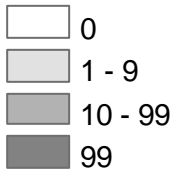
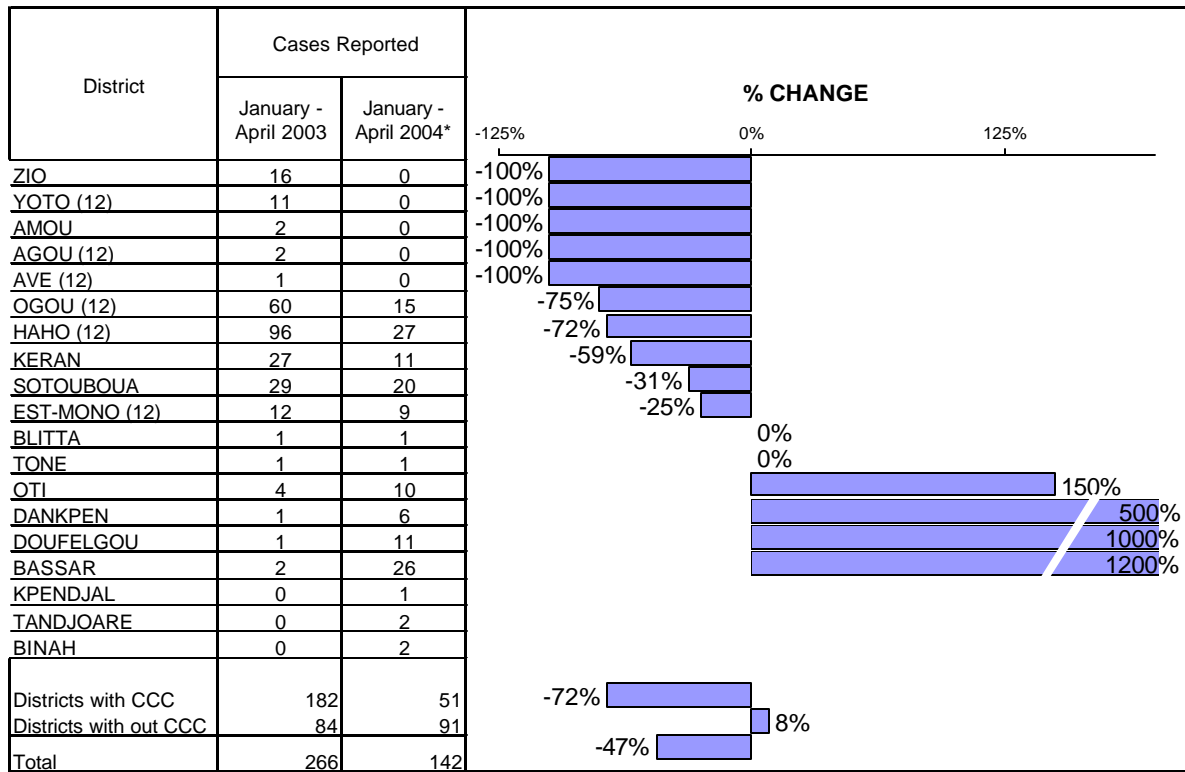




Figure 2

**TOGO GUINEA WORM ERADICATION PROGRAM**  
 Status of Endemic Districts in 2004

Number of Cases Reported During January - April 2003 and 2004\*, Percent Change in Cases Reported, and Percent Change in Cases Reported Between Districts With Case Containment Centers in Jan-Apr



\* Provisional

(12) Number of months case containment center was operational in 2003

2003 and Districts With Out Case Containment Centers During the Same Period.

**IN BRIEF:**

Burkina Faso held its annual review meeting on 15-16 April 2004 at Dori. News of the review was covered in the national newspaper, national television, and on local radio stations. Worm Weeks were conducted in Gaoua and Kaya Districts in April. This year's Worm Weeks are targeting 16 of the top 20 endemic villages in five districts.

Cote d'Ivoire conducted Worm Weeks in the sub-prefectures of Tankesse, Koun-Fao, and Kouassi-Datekro in Tanda District, and Sandegue sub-prefecture of Bondoukou District during the week of March 11-17, 2004.

Ghana. The World Health Organization has provided two motorcycles and 30 bicycles for the program.

Ethiopia held its annual national program review in Addis Ababa on March 25. It has also reinstated its previous national program coordinator, Dr. Gezahegn Tesfaye. Welcome back Dr. Gezahegn!

Mali has reported its first ever month without any indigenous cases since the program began: April 2004! Congratulations, Mali! Mali also held an annual review of the Guinea Worm Eradication Program of Mopti

Region on April 20-22.



Figure 5

		Reported	Contained
	2003	3968	910
	2004	280	84
	2003	4126	2431
	2004	4223	2030
	2003	999	727
	2004	253	210
	2003	266	197
	2004	142	85
	2003	15	14
	2004	3	1
	2003	14	10
	2004	5	4
	2003	3	3
	2004	8	7
	2003	35	14
	2004	15	6
Benin	2003	23	23
	2004	3	3
Ethiopia	2003	10	10
	2004	3	3
Mauritania	2003	0	0
	2004	1	1
Uganda	2003	3	3
	2004	0	0
		9462	4342
		4936	2434

*For information about the GW Wrap-Up, contact Dr. James H. Maguire, 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--*