



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

Public Health Service  
Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Memorandum

Date: September 26, 2005



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

Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #156

To: Addressees

“Those who say it cannot be done should not interrupt the people doing it” Chinese proverb

**NIGERIA ESTABLISHES CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE, 2006 TARGET**

Nigeria's Guinea Worm Eradication Program (NIGEP) reported only one case of dracunculiasis in the entire country in August 2005, making a total of 116 cases reported in January-August this year: a reduction of -70% from the 395 cases reported during the same period of 2004. As of the end of August, the Northwest and Northeast Zones, which together comprise 12 of Nigeria's 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, had reported no indigenous case for 13 consecutive months (Figure 1). In view of this progress, the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health recently established a National Committee on Certification for Guinea Worm Disease Eradication (NCC-GWDE). The ten members of the Committee are Prof. A.B.O. Oyediran, Prof. Eka Braide, Prof. O.O. Kale, Prof L.D. Edungbola, Prof Akin Osibogun, Dr. Amos P. Bassi, Mrs. Theresa Pamma (UNICEF), Dr. L.K. Sadiq (WHO),

The latest update on the status of the program in Nigeria was discussed at the annual Program Review in Abuja on September 7 under the chairmanship of former Nigerian head of state General (Dr.) Yakubu Gowon. General Gowon has personally spearheaded Nigeria's campaign to eradicate dracunculiasis in recent years, having led 69 visits to 123 endemic villages on behalf of the program since 1999. As of the end of July, NIGEP had contained 64% of its cases so far in 2005, and of the 92 villages that reported one or more cases since January 2004, 100% benefit from monthly health education, 100% have cloth filters

in all households, 66% have at least one source of safe drinking water, and 23% were using ABATE@ larvicide. NIGEP plans to extend offers of cash rewards for reporting of dracunculiasis cases nationwide. During the Program Review, General Gowon and the Technical Director of The Carter Center's Guinea Worm Eradication Program, Dr. Ernesto Ruiz-Tiben, presented the 2005 Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Awards for Guinea Worm Eradication to Dr. Jabir Mohammed Abdullahi (consultant, Northwest Zone), Dr. Cephas Tsevende Ityonzughul (consultant, Northcentral Zone), Chief John Nkuda (formerly state Guinea worm coordinator for Ebonyi State), Mallam Dantani Sani Mohammed (chairman of Danko/Wasagu LGA, Kebbi State), and Mr. Walter Ogar Omang (senior zonal assistant, Danko/Wasagu LGA).

On September 9, UNICEF/Nigeria announced it had received a new donation of 33.3 million euros (~US\$41.4 million) from the European Commission for a UNICEF water and sanitation project to help provide safe drinking water for 2.1 million people in 1,400 rural communities in Abia, Cross River, Gombe, Kebbi, Osun and Plateau States over four years. The project also "aims to eradicate Guinea worm disease in Nigeria," according to the announcement. These six states reported 71 of the 1,459 dracunculiasis cases in Nigeria in 2003, 37 of the 495 cases in 2004, and 3 of the 116 cases so far this year.

**PRESIDENT AND**

Table 1

### Number of Cases Contained and Number Reported by Month during 2005\* (Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 2004)

NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL*	CONT.	%
GHANA	374 / 544	343 / 483	282 / 393	249 / 396	332 / 458	244 / 386	97 / 161	20 / 53	/	/	/	/	1941 / 2874	68	
SUDAN	0 / 88	0 / 131	1 / 375	5 / 752	911 / 1860	0 / 409	9 / 108	/	/	/	/	/	24 / 5008	0	/ 4
NIGERIA	25 / 36	13 / 17	3 / 9 / 13	11 / 29	7 / 9	4 / 6	4 / 5	1 / 1	/	/	/	/	74 / 116	64	1
MALI	3 / 4	1 / 1	1 / 1	1 / 1	22 / 25	25 / 25	40 / 82	97 / 130	/	/	/	1 / 4, 7	190 / 3, 269	71	
NIGER	2 / 2	4 / 4	1 / 1	1 / 4	1 / 3	3 / 3	5 / 7	23 / 23	/	/	/	/	40 / 47	85	
TOGO	11 / 11	1 / 4	2 / 2	3 / 3	16 / 19	7 / 8	5 / 6	1 / 4	/	/	/	/	46 / 57	81	
BURKINA FASO	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	3 / 3	0 / 5	13 / 16	/	/	/	/	25 / 25	68	
COTE D'IVOIRE	0 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 4	1 / 34	/	/	/	/	/	/		







Table 2



The Carter Center a new Small Scale Grant Aid of approximately \$91,000 in support of the Center's assistance to Niger's Guinea Worm Eradication Program. These funds will be used to purchase filters, t-shirts, Guinea worm cloth, and health education posters.

Mr. Jean Pierre Mert, WHO (Geneva), recently visited the Tillaberi District, Niger, to assess the status of ongoing efforts to map (determine the latitude and longitude) of localities inhabited by the nomadic groups in this district. Mapping of these localities by Niger's Guinea Worm Eradication Program staff has been effective in improving surveillance and implementing interventions not only against Guinea worm disease but also against malaria, reported Mert.

#### **UPDATE ON UNICEF/GATES WATER SUPPLY FOR MALI, NIGER, AND TOGO**

**Mali.** As of mid-August, 4 of the 14 targeted endemic villages have wells and hand pumps with flowing water since July. Outstanding issues between UNICEF/Mali and the ministry of water supply (*Hydraulique* su theinea Wcalss disJanuar -12.75120.375 Tc 0 Tw (o) Tj 5.ine675 0 0.112 Tc 3 T625 Tw 00ater siuts groups



