

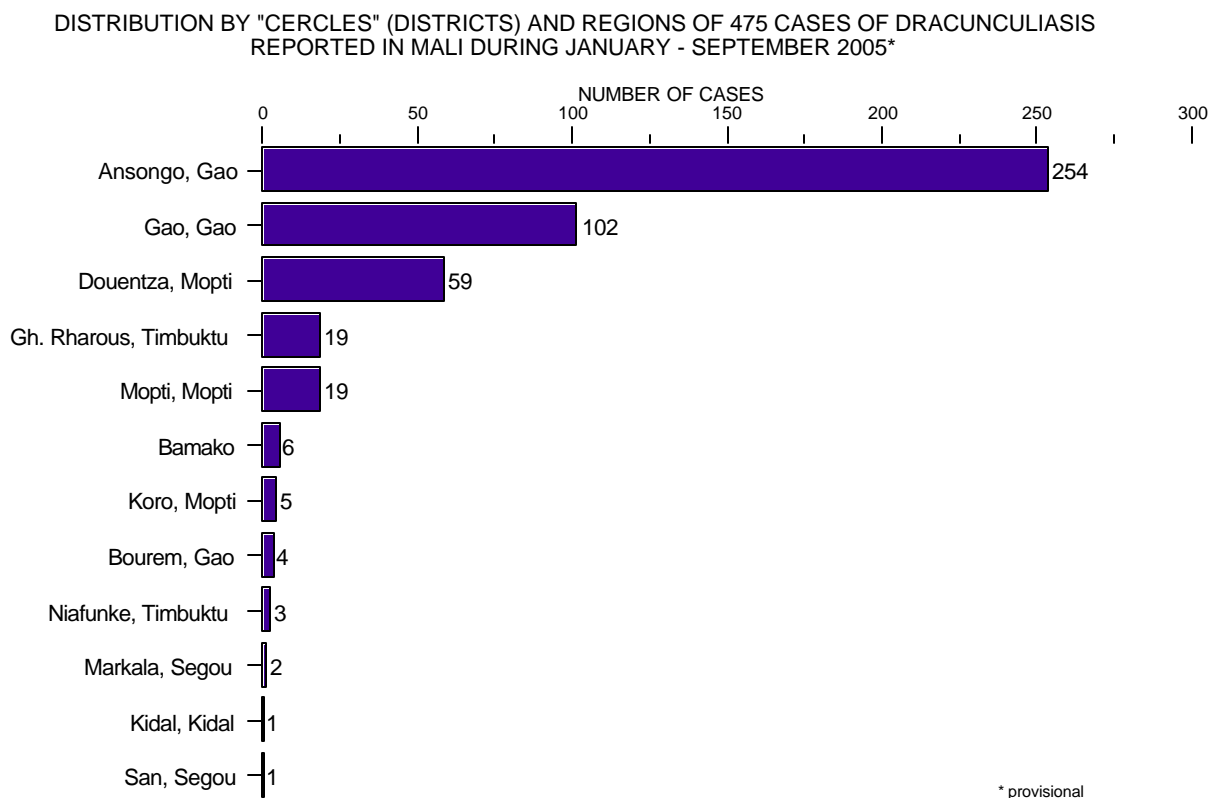


Date:

Accompanying the minister were members of her cabinet, representatives of the ministry in charge of water supply, the national center for health education, the governor and public health leaders of Mopti Region, the president of the regional assembly, the national program coordinator of the Guinea Worm Eradication Program, Dr. Gabriel GUINDO, representatives of The Carter Center, WHO and UNICEF, and members of the news media. Soon after returning to Bamako, the minister announced that she was replacing the regional public health director of Mopti and the *medecin chef* of Douentza District, as well as the head of the division of prevention and control of diseases in her ministry.

Mali has reported 475 indigenous cases of dracunculiasis in January-September 2005, which is an increase of 114% from the 221 cases reported during the same period of 2004 (Figures 1 and 2). So far this year, Mopti Region has reported 84 (18%) of Mali's cases, while Gao and Timbuktu Regions have reported 359 (76%) and 22 (5%) of the national total, respectively.

Figure 2



NIGER HOLDS NATIONAL REVIEW, JAPAN PROVIDES MORE HELP

The Governor of Tahoua Region, Mr. Zeti MAIGA, chaired the Opening Ceremony for the annual national review of Niger's Guinea Worm Eradication Program, which was held in Tahoua on September 27-29. Participants included several local elected officials, public health authorities, and a representative of The Carter Center. Niger has reported 59 indigenous cases of dracunculiasis in January-September 2005, which is a

Table 1

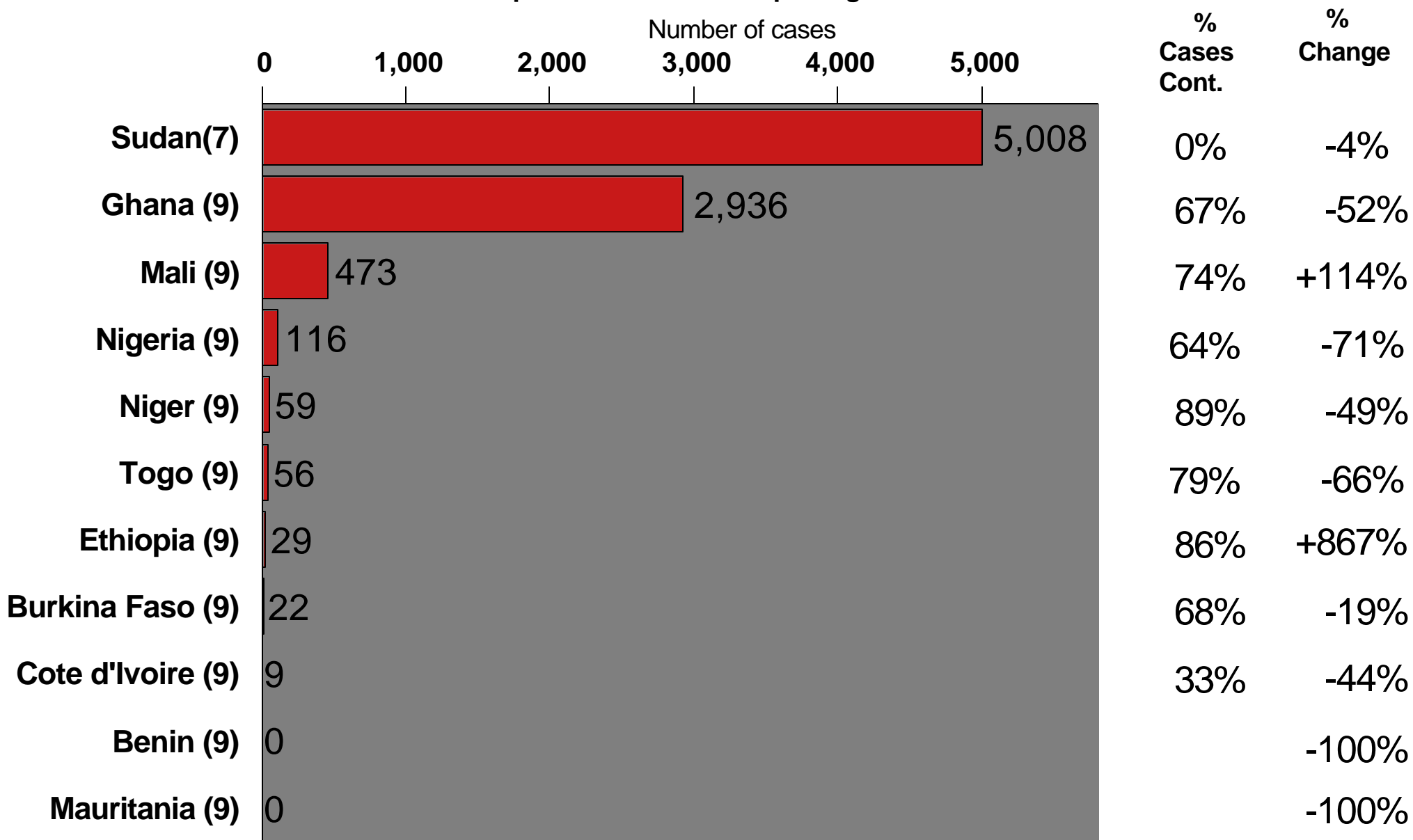
Number of Cases Contained and Number Reported by Month during 2005*
 (Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 2004)

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 / 59	26 / 56	/	/	/	1967 / 2936	67
SUDAN	0 / 88	0 / 131	1 / 375	5 / 752	9 / 1855	0 / 1499	9 / 308	/	/	/	/	/	24 / 5008	0
NIGERIA	25 / 36	13 / 17	9 / 13	11 / 29	7 / 9	4 / 6	4 / 5	1 / 1	0 / 0	/	/	/	74 / 116	64



Figure 3

**Distribution by Country of 8,709 Indigenous Cases of Dracunculiasis
Reported during January - September 2005*, Percentage of Cases Contained, and Percent Change in
Cases Compared to the Same Reporting Period in 2004**



- All 2005 data is provisional
- Numbers in parentheses indicate how many months the country has provided monthly reports in 2005. For example: Mali (9) = Jan-Sept. 2005

IN BRIEF:

Central African Republic Dr. Alhousseini Maiga, WHO/AFRO visited the ministry of health during October 20-29, 2005 to review ongoing pre-certification of eradication activities in the country. Dr. Maiga advised the ministry of health regarding the requirements for certification. An international certification team will ascertain the status of eradication during 2007.

Ethiopia reports that Akobo District of Gambella Region is now fairly accessible, with village-based surveillance in place in most of the high-risk villages, although some insecurity remains in parts of former Gog and Abobo Districts. UNICEF has provided two motorboats for use by the GW program in Akobo and other areas.

Mauritania Dr. Alhousseini Maiga, WHO/AFRO, visited Mauritania from during September 25-October 2, 2005 to review the status of the Guinea Worm Eradication Program and to advise on activities to be implemented during the pre-certification phase. The last indigenous case of Guinea worm disease in Mauritania was reported in June 2004, and the program has reported zero cases of Guinea worm disease during the last 15 months. WHO plans to conduct an external evaluation of the Guinea Worm Eradication Program during March 2006.

Nigeria reported zero case of dracunculiasis in the entire country for the second time in September 2005, following its report of only one case in August. Nigeria's first month with zero cases was September 2004. Of the 92 Nigerian villages that have reported one or more cases since January 2004, all have cloth filters in all households, 66% have at least one safe source of drinking water, and 15% used ABATE@ larvicide in September. Nigeria has -c925 Tf -128.25 -12.7Sudan

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

Mali No update, see Guinea Worm Wrap-up # 156

Niger Work has resumed on three hand dug wells, but has not resumed yet on the borehole wells due to the harvest season (so drilling rigs don't move through unharvested fields).

Togo Heavy seasonal rains and the consequent condition of the roadshare delay further work in this