

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Date: June 16, 2006

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

Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #163

To: Addressees

**ENDEMIC COUNTRIES VOW TO END GUINEA WORM DISEASE BY 2009;
WILL REPORT TO WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY EACH YEAR**

During this year's World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, the World Health Organization (WHO) convened an Informal Meeting on eradication of dracunculiasis (Guinea worm disease) on May 25th. The two-hour long meeting, which was co-chaired by the directors of WHO's Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) and African (AFRO) regional offices and co-sponsored by The Carter Center and UNICEF, was attended by over 45 persons, including the ministers of health of Ethiopia, Mali and Sudan; directors from the ministries of health of Burkina Faso, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo; representatives from seven countries in the pre-certification phase; a member of the International Commission for the Certification of Dracunculiasis Eradication, and WHO assistant director-general Dr. Margaret Chan. Following brief presentations by Dr. Donald Hopkins of The Carter Center and Dr. Dirk Engels of WHO, the meeting praised the progress made so far, especially since the Geneva Declaration and Resolution 57/9 on Guinea worm eradication that were adopted during the 57th WHA two years ago, and discussed additional measures needed to stop transmission of the disease in all of the remaining endemic countries by the end of 2009. The minister of health of Sudan, the director-general from Ghana, and the minister of health of Mali assured the meeting that Guinea worm eradication is a priority for their respective governments. The director general from Togo, which expects to end transmission of the disease this year, expressed concern about the persistence of so many cases in neighboring Ghana. The ministers of health or their representatives emphasized the challenges to provide safe drinking water to as many endemic communities as possible and to maintain adequate resources for the programs, as well as to strengthen surveillance systems, including in formerly endemic areas. The meeting unanimously agreed to include a formal report on the progress of the Guinea Worm Eradication Program at each year's World Health Assembly from now until dracunculiasis is eradicated.

The EMR Office of WHO issued a Press Release describing the outcomes of the meeting, and a summary report has just been published in WHO'S Weekly Epidemiological Record (see Recent Publications). An exhibit prepared by WHO and The Carter Center on the Guinea Worm Eradication Program was displayed prominently during the Assembly, as well as various written handouts and free copies of the WHO-produced film, "The Final Sprint".

GHANA RECORDS MODEST REDUCTION IN CASES FOR MAY

Table 1

20 Top GW Endemic Communities in Ghana (Jan. - Apr. 2006)

					1+	Adequate*	Comments
Wantugu	Tolon/Kumbungu	2,997	163	2/3	Y	N	Borehole to be mechanized. Target of Nov. 2006. 50 lpm will give town 50% safe water

Table 2

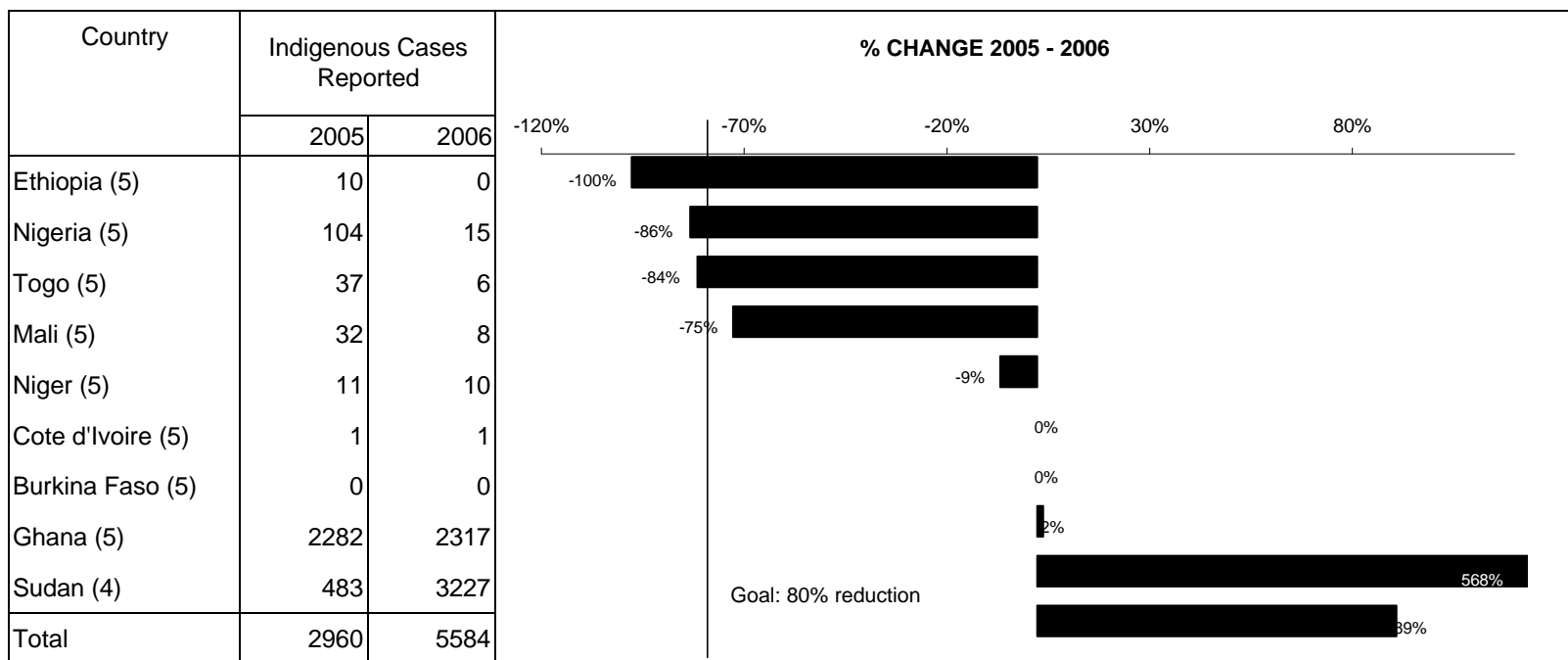
Number of Cases Contained and Number Reported by Month during 2006*
 (Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 2005)

	NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED												TOTAL*	CONT.	%
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER			
SUDAN	0 / 1 2	0 / 1	183 / 366	2276 / 2858	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2459 / 3227	76	
GHANA	397 / 608	378 / 587	267 / 411	237 / 390	160 / 322	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1439 / 2318	62	
MALI	3 / 3	1 / 1	0 / 0	1 / 1	3 / 3	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	8 / 8	100	
NIGER	2 / 2	0 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 2	6 / 6	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	9 / 10	90	
NIGERIA	0 / 0	10 / 14	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 1	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	10 / 15	67	
TOGO	1 / 1	2 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 1	1 / 1	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	4 / 6	67	



Figure 1

Number of Indigenous Cases Reported During the Specified Period in 2005 and 2006*, and Percent Change in Cases Reported



Overall % change outside of Sudan = -5%

(5) Indicates months for which reports were received, i.e., Jan. - May 2006

* Provisional

Figure 2

Number of Cases of Dracunculiasis Reported by Country During the Specified Period in 2006*, and of Cases that were Contained

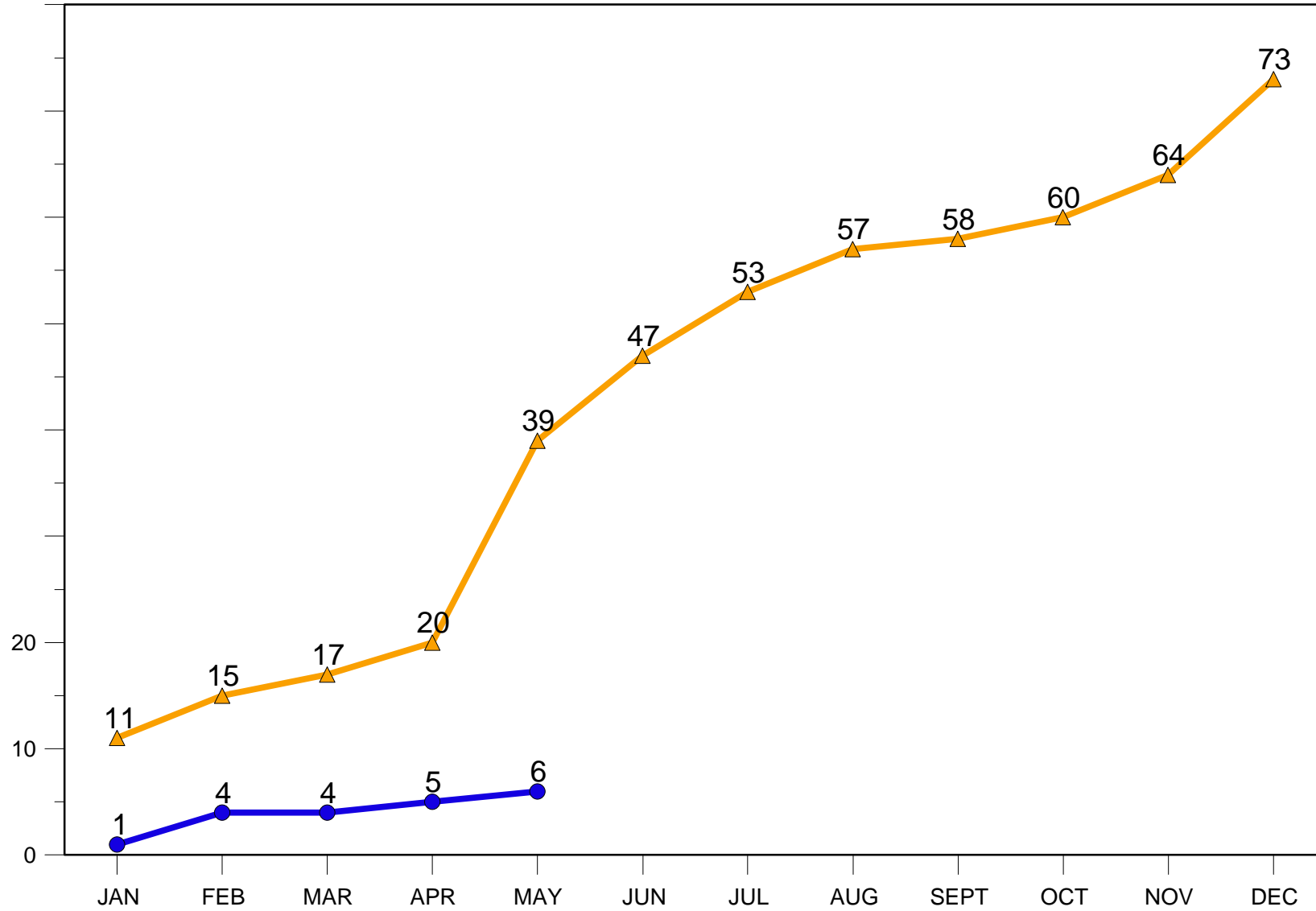
	Number of Cases	
	Reported	Contained
Ethiopia (5)	2	2
Mali (5)	8	8
Cote d'Ivoire (5)	1	1
Niger (5)	10	9
Nigeria (5)	15	10
Togo (5)	6	4
Ghana (5)	2318	1439
Burkina Faso (5)	0	0
Sudan (4)	3227	2459
Total	5587	3932

(5) Indicates months for which reports were received, i.e., Jan-May 2006

* Provisional

Vertical line indicates 80% goal

**TOGO GUINEA WORM ERADICATION PROGRAM
CUMULATIVE CASES OF DRACUNCULIASIS BY MONTH 2005 - 2006***



IN BRIEF:

Mali's Minister of Health Mme. Zeinab M.Y. Maiga personally conducted a review of Mali's Guinea Worm Eradication Program and visited several health centers during a visit to Gao Region, including Ansongo District, in May. Representatives from the three remaining endemic regions (Gao, Mopti, Timbuktu), national coordinator Dr. Gabriel Guindo, and Carter Center resident technical advisor Mr. Jim Ting all participated in the review, which occurred only a few days before the minister left

Dr. Gabriel 798ccurred6798ccu.0875%

TRANSITIONS

It is with deep sadness and regret that we acknowledge the sudden and unexpected passing of Dr. LEE Jong-wook, the popular and highly respected director-general of the World Health Organization. Dr. Lee, who was 61 years old, died suddenly on May 22nd, the opening day of the 59th World Health Assembly, after having been stricken on May 20. Among his many effective efforts and accomplishments, Dr. Lee was a strong friend of the Guinea Worm Eradication Program, having attended the final day of the Program Review for the Guinea worm programs of Ghana, Nigeria and Sudan that was held at The Carter Center in September 2003, and he joined former US President Jimmy Carter in a visit to endemic areas of Ghana in February 2004. In his letter of condolence to Dr. Lee's family, President Carter, who addressed the 57th World Health Assembly in May 2004 at the invitation of Dr. Lee, stated that [Dr. Lee] “. . . inspired us through his grace, humility, and vision for a better world”. Dr. Lee, who was from Korea, had worked for WHO for 23 years.

We also regret to report the death of Mr. Emmanuel Osei-Kofi, a zonal coordinator in Ghana's Guinea Worm Eradication Program, who was killed during a bicycle ride to promote Guinea worm awareness in the Brong-Ahafo

HELP
GHANA
REACH ITS
GOAL



ERADICATE GUINEA WORM DISEASE BY 2007