

Date: October 30, 2006

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

Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #167

To: Addressees

Detect every case. Contain each worm. Trace the source of every sporadic case.

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF GHANA'S ACTION PLAN

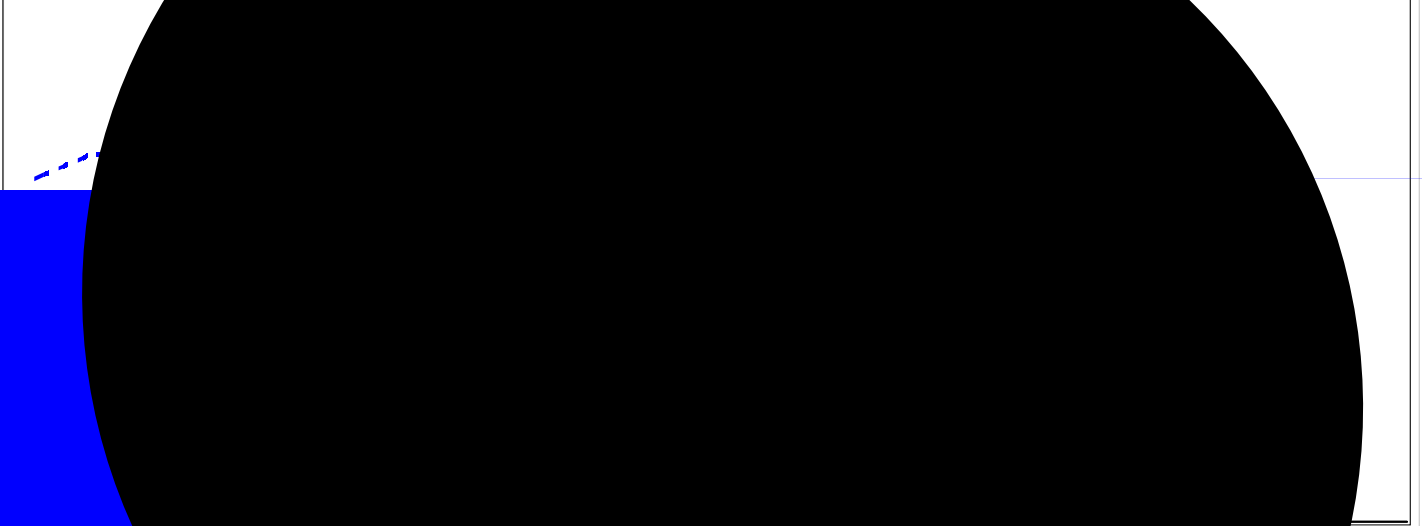
Ghana's Guinea Worm Eradication Program (GWEP) has now reported 2,968 cases of Guinea worm disease (GWD) in January-September 2006, which is an increase of 1% from the 2,943 cases reported during the same period of 2003 (See Table 1, and Figures 1,3 and 4). This year's case containment rate is stalled at 61% overall. Figure 2 compares the monthly percentage of persons with GWD in 2006 which were prevented from transmitting their infection to others to the GWEP's monthly targets for case containment rates. The 38 reported cases of GWD in September is a reduction of -32%, compared to 56 cases during the same month in 2005, but the case containment rate for the 38 cases reported in September 2006 is only 44% (compared to September's target of 76% for case containment in the Plan of Action). The status of program indicators in 528 known endemic villages during September were: 99% sent reports about cases, 95% had cloth filters in all households, 96% received one or more health education/mobilization sessions, 59% were protected with ABATE® Larvicide at least once in 2006, and 47% have access to one or more safe sources of drinking water.

Other measures that have been taken in follow up to the Plan of Action developed during the Program Review held in Atlanta in August include replacement of 2 regional and 3 district Guinea worm coordinators, and preparations for an intensive media blitz to inform the public about the state of the campaign and mobilize populations in the remaining endemic areas. Unfortunately, Ghana's electrical power crisis created by the low water level in Lake Volta is exacerbating problems with delivery of clean drinking water to the towns of Tamale and Savelugu in the Northern Region.

On October 26, Mr Abraham Odoom, Deputy Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Environment announced in Tamale that the government of Ghana is committing 9.5 billion Cedis (circa US \$ 1 million) towards the eradication of Guinea worm disease. The Northern Region Poverty Reduction Program is to receive 5.5 billion Cedis for provision of 62 borehole wells to the highest

Cases Reported

5 - Sept. 2006



800

-2

3

-32

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Table 1

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

%

JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH



Figure 3

Distribution by Country of 22,140 Indigenous Cases of Dracunculiasis Reported During 2006*

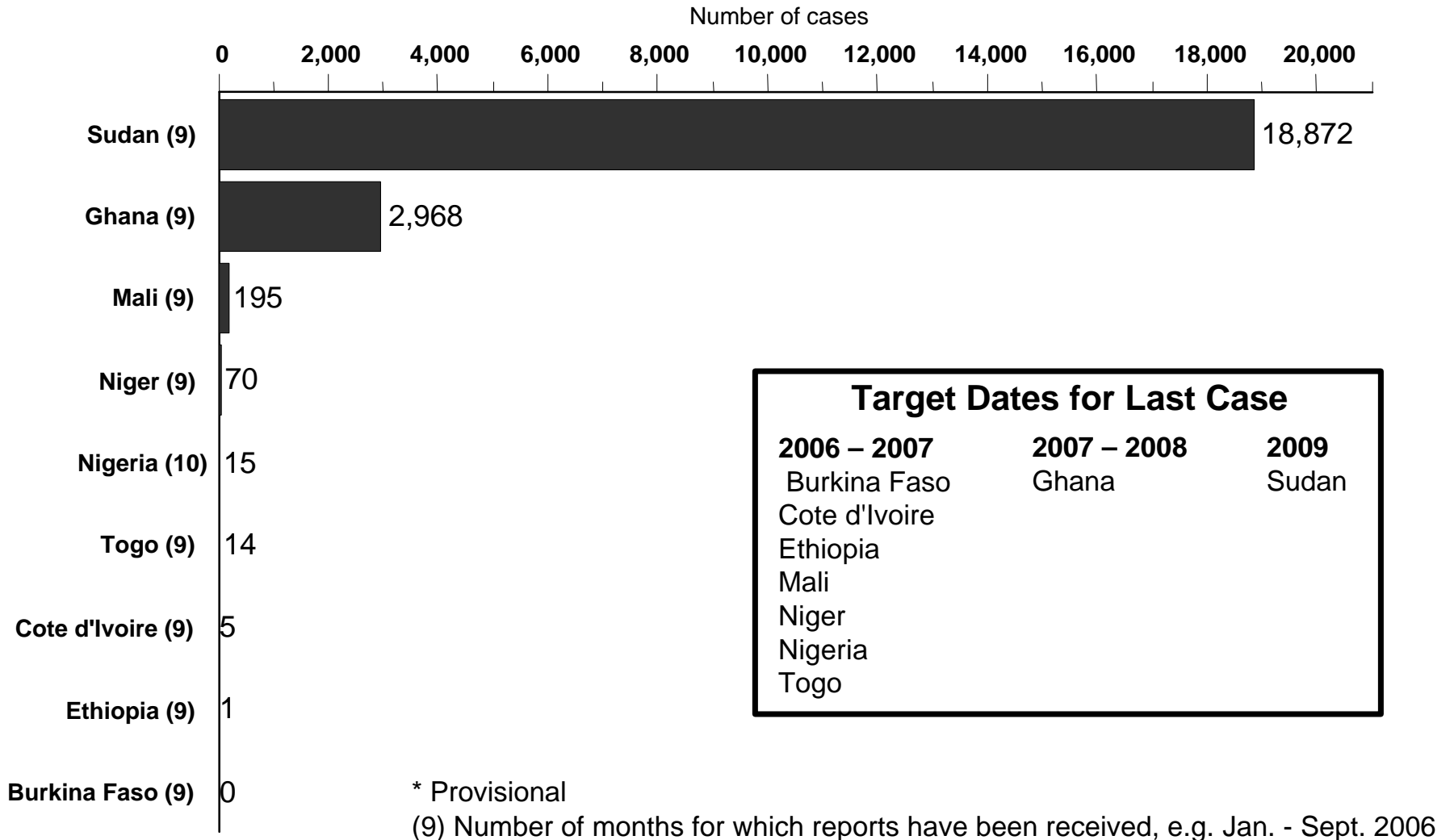
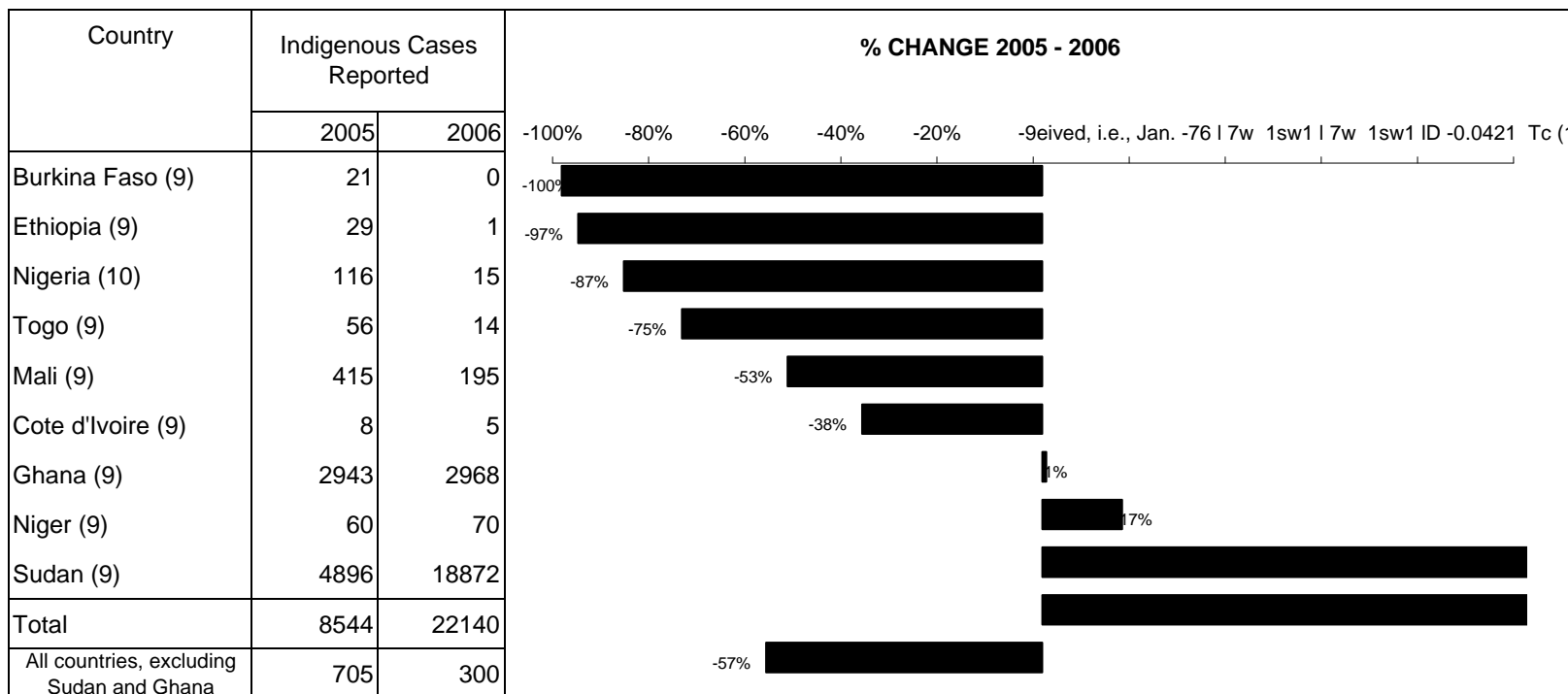


Figure 4

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

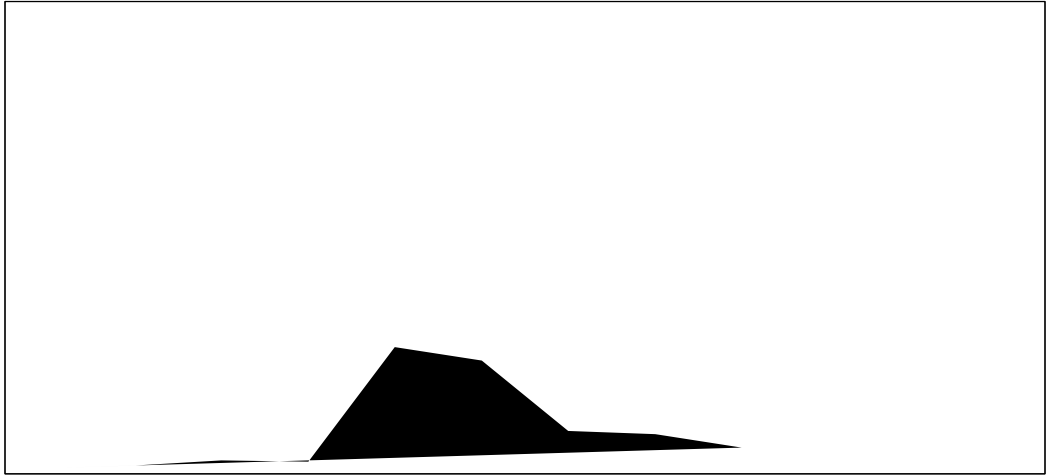


Overall % change outside of Sudan = -10%

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

* Provisional

SUDAN GUINEA WORM ERADICATION PROGRAM
NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES OF DRACUNCULIASIS: 2005 AND 2006*



SUDAN

Provisional data from the southern Sudan GWEP during January –September indicates a total of 18,872 cases of GWD reported from 2,611 endemic villages, a 285% increase in cases compared to the 4,896 cases reported during the same period in 2005 (Table 1, Figures 3 and 4). The 2,611 endemic villages in 2006 is already a 141% increase over the 1,085 endemic villages reported during 2005. Figure 5 ranks the most endemic counties in southern Sudan in descending order of cases reported so far.

The reporting rate from endemic villages so far during 2006 is 63%, but the goal is to improve it to 75% or better by the end of the dry season in May 2007 or before, if possible. Full filter coverage (cloth filters

Inclusion of information in the Guinea Worm Wrap-Up does not constitute “publication” of that information.