

conventional "shower cap" filters. Very inexpensive funnels and conventional filters are being provided to villagers to overcome this problem.

NIGERIA

The National Task Force for the Nigerian Guineaworm Eradication Program (NIGEP) held its first meeting on May 5 and 6, 1988 in Lagos. This meeting dealt with several organizational and programmatic issues; the national task force will meet again in late June or early July. The national secretariat for the guineaworm eradication program will begin functioning on July 1, with the arrival of the assignee of Global 2000/BCCI and the appointment of a full-time Nigerian professional to the project. Meanwhile, Ondo became the fifth state to establish a state task force for guineaworm eradication. The National Health Council will consider declaring guineaworm to be an officially reportable disease at its meeting in June. The Vector Biology Control project of USAID will begin a two-year study of the agricultural impact of guineaworm, in collaboration with several Nigerian researchers, this summer.



REPORTED CASES OF DRACUNCULIASIS BY YEAR, 1984-1987

Dracunculiasis is still considered to be a risk in 23 countries: 19 in Africa and 4 in Asia. The following data are based mainly on passive reporting, which is poor and vastly incomplete. Dracunculiasis is not an officially reportable disease in all of the countries. The abrupt apparent increase in cases reported for 1987 for Ghana and Nigeria are due to improved reporting, which is still incomplete. Only in India, which experienced a similar abrupt rise in reported cases when it began active surveillance for dracunculiasis in 1982, does the reported number of cases truly reflect the actual incidence of the disease. Such poor reporting adversely influences national and international support for elimination programs. Readers are urged to help improve the reporting of cases nationally, and to WHO, beginning in 1988.

REPORTED CASES OF DRACUNCULIASIS BY YEAR, 1984-1987

<u>Country</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>
Benin	...	...	...	400
Burkina Faso	1,739	458	1,837	1,296 ^a
Cameroon	--	168	86	...
Central Africal Republic	...	31	--	1,322
Chad	1,472	9	314	...
Côte d'Ivoire	2,573	1,889	1,177	483 ^a
Ethiopia	2,882	1,467	3,385	...
Gambia	--	--	--	--
Ghana	4,244	4,501	4,717	18,398
Guinea	--	--	--	--
India	40,443	30,440	22,610	17,031
Kenya	...	...	...	...
Mali	5,008	4,072	5,640	435
Mauritania	1,241	1,291	...	...
Niger	...	1,373 ^b	...	699
Nigeria	8,777	5,234	2,821	216,484
Pakistan	...	...	...	866
Saudi Arabia	...	...	...	...
Senegal	...	...	...	...
Sudan	...	...	822	...
Togo	1,839	1,456	1,325	...
Uganda	6,230	4,070	...	...
Yemen	...	...	...	...

^a Provisional

^b Includes other filariasis

... No data available

-- Zero cases reported

