

1), 7 infected cats (86% contained) compared to 20 cats in January-May 2020, and 4 confirmed Guinea

ANGOLA



Following discovery of indigenous Guinea worm transmission in Cunene Province of Angola, in 2018, a Community Based Surveillance System was initiated in 54 villages at risk starting in August 2020. WHO assisted the surveillance and response capacity of the Ministry of Health's GWEP by providing a full time technical staff and a data manager in Cunene province to accelerate and expand and roll out the active community-based surveillance. A national cash reward scheme (US\$ 450) for reporting of human cases was set up and is advertised nationwide with health education messages on reporting and prevention of dracunculiasis. Sensitization about dracunculiasis increased the level of awareness of the reward from 6.9% in 2018 to 38.2% in 2019. In 2020, 57 volunteers and community health workers, and 1455 health professionals were trained, among others.

During the first semester of 2021, active surveillance was expanded to include 7 more villages making the total number of villages under surveillance 61. Despite improvement of active surveillance, no human cases or infected animal have been reported in 2021. A total of 4 rumors were reported and investigated within 24 hours, three of which were reported during supervision visits. None turned out to be Guinea worm.

In May 2021, regular field visits were pursued in all four Municipalities in Cunene Province, three of which are endemic (risk level 1: Namacunde, Cuanhama and Cuvelai). Cahama municipality is risk level II. The visits focused on supervision, monitoring and training of community health workers in the villages. All 61 villages under active surveillance were visited by the provincial team, which performed case searches and hands-on training on how to conduct house-to-house surveillance for 50 community volunteers. Training on Guinea worm surveillance was provided to 74 health professionals, 126 education professionals and 29 data management/survey technicians.

A total 1,113 community members, including administrative authorities and professionals from different sectors, were sensitized through advocacy, communication, and social mobilization. The United Nations System Resident Coordinator was briefed on the GWEP during her visit to Cunene. Guinea worm case searches were (1) performed during mass drug administration (MDA) with Praziquantel in Cunene province organized by the Provincial Health Authority; (2) integrated into impact assessment surveys of MDA organized by the National NTD Control Program and MENTOR INITIATIVES NGO in the provinces of Uíge and Zaire; and (3) integrated into the joint MOH-WHO Angola Emergency Missions. Guinea worm case searches were also carried out during Malaria knowledge/attitude/practice (KAP) surveys organized by JC Flowers NGO in Cuando Cubango province, where a total of 84/912 persons reported seeing GW in a human and/or dog in the past 12 months in 13 villages. These rumors are being followed up. A total of 273 additional filters were distributed to 114 families. The cash reward for voluntary reporting of Guinea worm cases and infections is being broadcast through radio and TV as well as door-to-door in all localities under active surveillance.

Table 2

1.1	22	F	Arabe	Household	Amdabri	Gozdjarat	Amtiman	Salamat	1/9/2021	2/1/21	2/1/21	2/9/21	2/2/21	2/19/21	Yes	No	Left leg	Yes	Yes
2.1	3	F	Sara Kaba	child	Bodobo 1	Marabe	Kyabe	MC	3/30/2021	3/30/21	3/30/21	3/30/21	4/24/21		Yes	Yes	Left leg	Yes	Yes
3.1	7	M	Arabe	child	Bogam	Liwi	Aboudeia	SLM	4/12/2021	4/14/21	4/12/21	4/12/21	4/12/21	4/12/21	Yes	No	Testicle	Yes	Yes
4.1	7	M	Nar	Student	Balimba	Beboro	Moissala	Mandoul	4/19/2021	4/19/21	4/20/21	4/20/21	4/20/21	4/26/21	No		Abdomen		Yes
1.1	3	M	Touareg	Imam	Segou	Macina	Macina Central	Nemabougou	1/13/21	1/14/21	Yes		Yes		Yes	No	Front left leg	yes	yes
2.1	3	M	Bozo	fisherman	Segou	Markala	Babougou												

yesyes

Figure 2 Localities in Cunene Province of Angola- localities supervised by the Provincial GWEP Team in May 2021

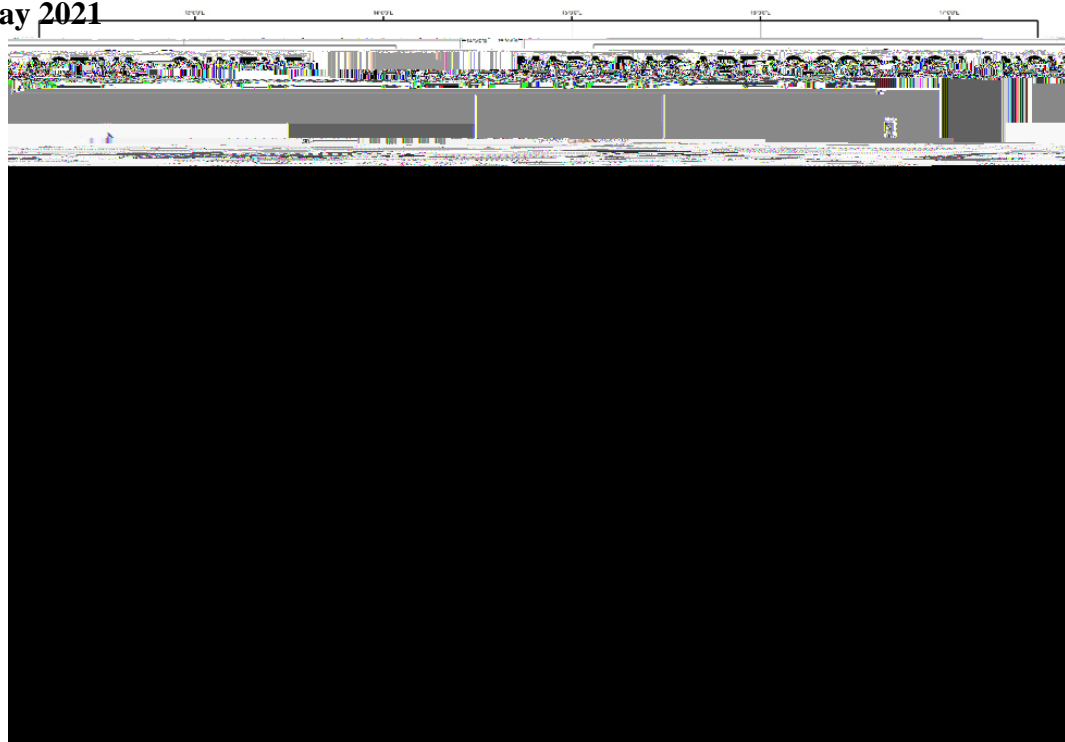
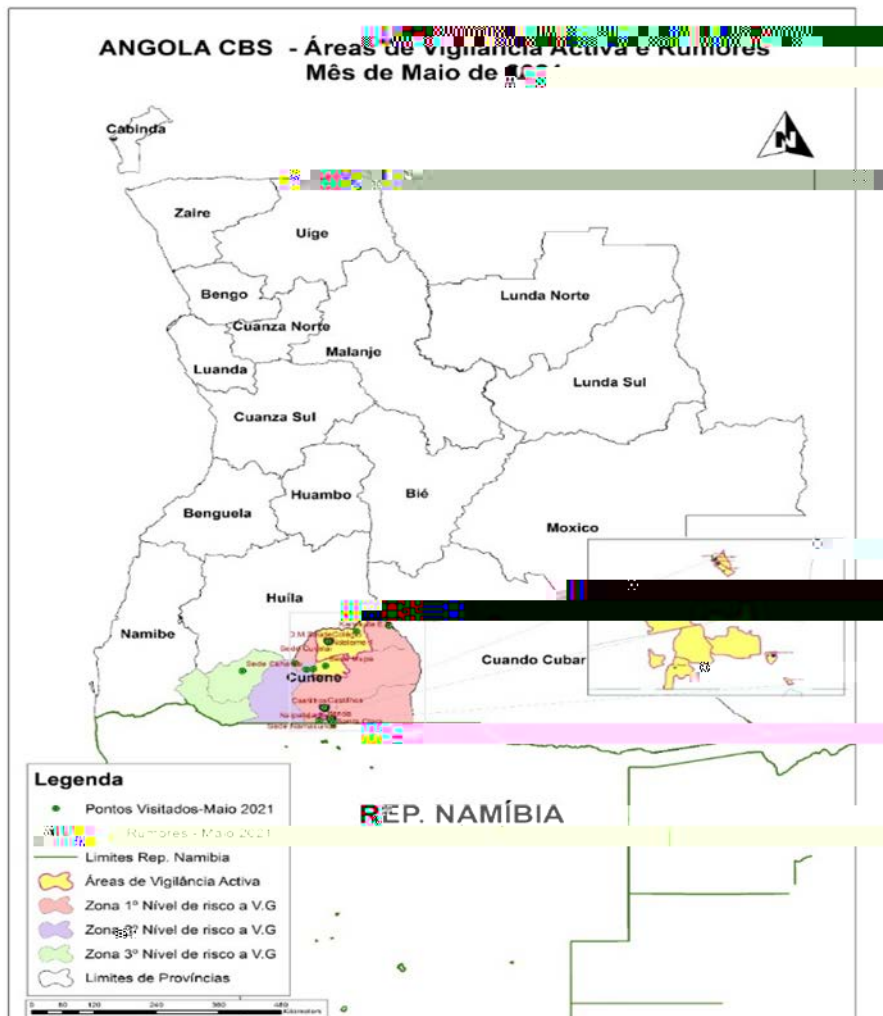


Figure 3 Cunene Active surveillance areas and rumors detected, Cunene Province, Angola, May 2021



PRE-CERTIFICATION UPDATE: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is making steady progress towards submission of the country's final report for certification. During October – December 2020, with

International Certification Team Mission could be carried out at the end of 2021 if COVID 19 restrictions are lifted.

IN BRIEF: Rumor of Guinea worm disease in Ghana

Ghana reported a suspected case of Guinea Worm Disease in Mepe Agorkope Community in North Tongu District in the Volta Region in early May. The rumor was reported to the District Health Authorities on 7th May 2021 by the local government representative (Assemblyman), who reported that a member of his community had observed a blister on his right foot which burst on 1st of May 2021, with a whitish-like worm emerging from the resultant wound. The district health authorities immediately mobilized to investigate the rumor the following day, with additional technical assistance by the regional team. Further investigations revealed that prior to this blister, two blisters had previously appeared on the left lower limb (ankle) and at the waistline which subsequently ruptured without any worm emerging. Two-three weeks later, on the 5-1.8th

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Box, E. K., Yabsley, M. J., Garrett, K. B., Thompson, A. T., Wyckoff, S. T., & Cleveland, C. A. (2021). Susceptibility of anurans, lizards, and fish to infection with *Dracunculus* species larvae and implications for their roles as paratenic hosts. *Scientific Reports*, 11(1), 11802.

World Health Organization, 2021. Dracunculiasis eradication: global surveillance summary, 2020. Wkly Epidemiol Rec 96:173-194.

World Health Organization, 2021. Monthly report on dracunculiasis cases, January-March 2021. Wkly Epidemiol Rec 96:194-195.