

**Memorandum**

Date September 15, 1989

From

WHO Collaborating Center for  
Research, Training, and Control of Dracunculiasis

Subject GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #25

To Addressees

**INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**US \$9.6 MILLION ANNOUNCED AT DONORS CONFERENCE**GLOBAL 2000**

"Target 1995: Global Eradication of Guinea Worm," the international donors conference sponsored by Global 2000 and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), met at Lagos, Nigeria on July 30-31. Approximately 250 persons attended, including the Ministers of Health of Benin, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria; the Undersecretary for Health of Ghana; representatives of Cameroon, Togo, and the Uganda ministries of health; Global 2000, CDC, BCCI, UNDP, UNICEF, World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, African Development Bank, U.S. Peace Corps, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the United States Agency for International Development (AID), and the OPEC Fund; the Sultan of Sokoto; and numerous representatives from the national and international news media.



The conference chairman was Mr. Pierre-Claver Damiba, the Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Regional Director for Africa. The President of Nigeria, the Honorable Ibrahim B. Babangida, delivered the opening address. The keynote address was given by Mr. Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States and chairman of Global 2000. Dr. G.L. Monekosso, the WHO Regional Director for Africa, presented a summary of the status of guinea worm disease in Africa. The representatives of Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Nigeria (the only countries where the disease occurs nationwide) presented their national plans of action for eradicating guinea worm disease. Videotaped films of victims of the disease in the same three countries were shown, including a videotape of the Ghanaian head of state's tour of endemic villages in June 1988. The Global Strategic Plan for Guinea Worm Eradication (1989-1995) was also presented.

Representatives of 15 organizations made statements of support at the conference. These included announcements of over 1 million dollars each

by Global 2000 and BCCI, the Federal Government of Nigeria, UNDP, UNICEF, and the Centers for Disease Control (in kind). Significant statements of future support were also made by representatives of JICA, World Bank, African Development Bank, and Peace Corps. The support announced by UNDP and UNICEF will insure that every endemic African country can conduct a national assessment of the extent of the disease and prepare a national plan of action by the end of 1990.

A total of US \$9.6 million was announced at the conference. Apart from the grant of \$0.675 million from AID to Peace Corps, which was included in the announcements, Peace Corps has budgeted another \$7.69 million over 3 years. The purpose of the additional funds is to provide up to 10 volunteers in each of 10 endemic African countries to work on guinea worm eradication. In addition, Japan announced that it is almost committed to a new \$8.0 million dollar project for rural water supply in guinea worm affected areas of Nigeria's Niger State. Later that same week, the USAID Mission to Ghana approved a grant of 622 million cedis (\$2.35 million) for that country's guinea worm eradication program.

On 30 July, former President Carter, accompanied by Nigerian officials and representatives of the news media, visited the endemic village of Idiori in Nigeria's Ogun State. Although he visited the village during the season of lowest incidence of guinea worm in that part of Nigeria, several persons with the disease from Idiori and nearby villages were present. This visit and the conference itself received extensive coverage by radio, television, newspapers, and magazines in Nigeria, as well as in the international news media.

#### INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE FOR DISEASE ERADICATION

A new International Task Force for Disease Eradication met for the first time in April at the Carter Center. The Task Force secretariat is funded by a grant from the Charles A. Dana Foundation to the Carter Center of Emory University. The Disease Eradication Task Force's purpose is to identify and evaluate diseases that are candidates for global eradication, define the requirements (scientific, organizational, financial, and political) of an eradication campaign, and help to catalyze the efforts needed to fulfill those requirements, if indicated. At its first meeting, the Task Force endorsed the view that there are no remaining technical obstacles to guinea worm eradication, and that the chief requirements for eradicating this disease are increased public, political, and financial support.

The Disease Eradication Task Force includes representatives of WHO, the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, and the Rockefeller Foundation (all in their capacities as members of the Task Force for Child Survival); Dr. Edward C. Andrews, Jr. of the Charles A. Dana Foundation; Prof. Sune Bergstrom of the Swedish Academy of Sciences; Dr. Walter Dowdle, Acting Director of the Centers for Disease Control; Dr. Samuel Thier, President of the Institute of Medicine of the US National Academy of Sciences; Dr. Yusuke Tada, consultant to the Japanese International Cooperation Agency; and Dr. Adetokunbo Lucas of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

THIRD AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Third African Regional Conference on Dracunculiasis will be held in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire, in March 1990, under the auspices of the African Regional Office of WHO. Other supporting institutions so far include UNICEF, Global 2000, and the WHO Collaborating Center at CDC. More details in the next issue.

PEACE CORPS MEETING

Peace Corps plans to convene a meeting of Peace Corps and national representatives from 12 African countries in Lome, Togo, January 16-22, 1990. The purpose will be to prepare for the new involvement by more Peace Corps volunteers in guinea worm eradication activities. Attendees will review eradication program plans, develop long-term and short-term country-specific activities, review and comment on the present Peace Corps guinea worm project, and identify ways that other agencies can help support country-specific activities.

ELIMINATION CERTIFICATION MEETING

WHO will convene a global meeting at its headquarters in Geneva to develop a consensus on criteria for certifying that dracunculiasis has been eliminated from each endemic country. The meeting, to be funded by UNDP, is tentatively scheduled for February 19-22, 1990.

**NATIONAL ACTIVITIES**



BURKINA FASO



A revised Plan of Action for the eradication of guinea worm from Burkina Faso by 1995 was presented at the international donors conference. A nationwide search for cases of the disease will be conducted in all 7,600 villages in December 1989-January 1990 with the assistance of UNICEF, and a national conference is planned for early 1990. The pilot project, which was begun in the key agricultural provinces of Bam and Oubritenga with the help of the USAID Mission, will be continued with funding from Band Aid. Over 25,000 cloth filters have been sold (at 100 CFA, or 30 US cents each) in these two provinces. A consultant from CDC visited Burkina in August. In 1988, 1,089 cases were officially reported, but authorities estimate an annual incidence of about 115,000 cases, representing an annual loss of about 3 million dollars.

GHANA

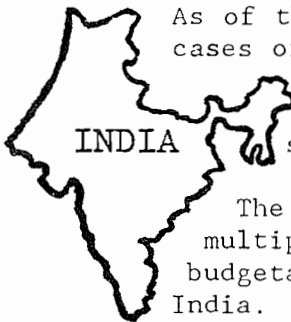
The monthly surveillance being conducted in about 80% of the country's 110 districts has revealed 42,402 new cases up to the end of July 1989. Of the 20,632 villages in the country, 3,453 villages are known to be infected so far (no reports have been received as yet from 4,304 villages). A national village-by-village search for cases will be conducted for the first time in November-December 1989.



The training of all regional health workers for intervention activities was completed with the course held in the Western Region in mid-August. An intersectoral national committee is being formed and will meet sometime in October. Former President Jimmy Carter and Ministry of Health officials revisited the two villages of Denchira and Elevanyo early in August. As a result of the intervention measures introduced since their first visit in March 1988, the incidence of dracunculiasis in the two villages has been reduced by 90% in 1989.

In addition to the grant of \$2.3 million from the USAID Mission to the Ministry of Health (mentioned above), the U.S. Peace Corps is assigning another of its volunteers to the program full time. The International Christian Chamber of Commerce has donated 1,500 cloth filters for use in households at risk. A revolving fund has also been established to recycle the money generated by the sale of filters (at 150 cedis, or US 45 cents each).

INDIA



As of the end of June 1989, six states reported a total of 6,791 cases of dracunculiasis: 218 from Andhra Pradesh; 2 from Gujarat; 875 from Karnataka; 1,035 from Madhya Pradesh; 400 from Maharashtra; and 4,261 from Rajasthan. The total represents a 31% decrease from the same period last year.

The Guineaworm Eradication Program in India is supported by multiple funding sources, including WHO in-country and extra-budgetary funds, as well as money provided by the Government of India. The program supports 10 epidemiologic teams working on different aspects of the program.

NIGERIA

Training of the health staff in the four primary health care zones for intervention activities has been completed; these zonal staff are training appropriate personnel in the states. The second annual nationwide search for cases will begin in September and will be completed by the end of 1989.



At the opening of the international donors conference, the President of Nigeria, the Honorable Ibrahim B. Babangida, announced an allocation of \$1 million in naira for the national Guinea Worm Eradication Program. The Nigeria Guinea Worm Eradication Fund, launched in Lagos just before the international donors conference, has so far received pledges or cash of 100,000 naira from the Federal Ministry of Health, 20,000 naira from Alhaji Shehu Malami, 10,000 naira from the Lambo Foundation, 1,000 naira from the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, and 2,000 naira from the Ibachem Company. In addition, Chief M.O. Obagun, the head of Onward Paper Mill Industries of Nigeria, announced that his company would include information about guinea worm in the millions of exercise books it prints for Nigerian schoolchildren (estimated value of this donation: \$50,000). CUSO, the Canadian NGO, is contributing to eradication efforts, especially in Cross River State, where the organization has a field office. Significant additional assistance for the Nigerian program is expected from the World Bank, Japan, UNICEF, UNDP, and possibly the Rotary Foundation.

On arriving in Lagos to attend the donors conference on his first trip outside of Sokoto since he was made sultan nine months previously, the Sultan of Sokoto, His Royal Highness Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki, declared his "personal interest" in the eradication of guinea worm. The sultan's first public appearance was at the launching of the active search for guinea worm cases in Sokoto last year.

PAKISTAN



The provisional cumulative total of cases reported by village implementors in 1989 through the end of August is 449, compared to 834 cases at the same time in 1988. So far, the cumulative totals for Punjab, Northwest Frontier, and Sind Provinces for 1989 are 192, 47, and 210, respectively, vs 207, 85, and 542 cases at the same time last year. The number of villages with known active cases is essentially unchanged, at 135 villages in 1989, and 124 in 1988. A total of 557 recently infected villages (within the last three years) are being monitored. July and August are the months of highest incidence in Pakistan.

UGANDA

Global 2000 and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International have agreed to collaborate with the Government of Uganda to develop a national guinea worm eradication program.



## SURVEILLANCE

Data available as of September 1, 1989 (Cases of dracunculiasis)

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989*</u>
Benin	NA	400	13,892	NA
Burkina Faso	2,558	1,957	1,069	NA
Cameroon	86	NA	746	NA
Ethiopia	3,385	NA	751	NA
Ghana	4,717	18,398	71,767	42,402
India	23,070	17,031	12,023	6,791**
Mali	5,640	435	584	NA
Nigeria	NA	216,484	653,492	NA
Pakistan	NA	2,400	1,111	449
Sudan	822	NA	542	NA
Togo	1,325	NA	156	NA

\*provisional data

\*\*as of June 1989

To our knowledge, active searches for guinea worm are planned this year in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mauritania, and Senegal for the first time, as well as repeat searches in India and Nigeria. Pakistan is conducting monthly searches for cases in all endemic villages.

AWARD FOR THE "FIERY SERPENT"

The documentary video, "Guinea Worm: The Fiery Serpent," received the 1989 Silver Screen Award presented at the U.S. Film and Video Festival in Chicago, Illinois. The videotape, filmed on location in Nigeria's Anambra State last year, was entered in the Medical Category with 1,400 other productions from 28 countries. This award-winning video was produced by the Training and Laboratory Program Office, CDC, in collaboration with CDC's Division of Parasitic Diseases/CID, UNDP, UNICEF, and Global 2000.

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