



Date: February 8, 2013

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

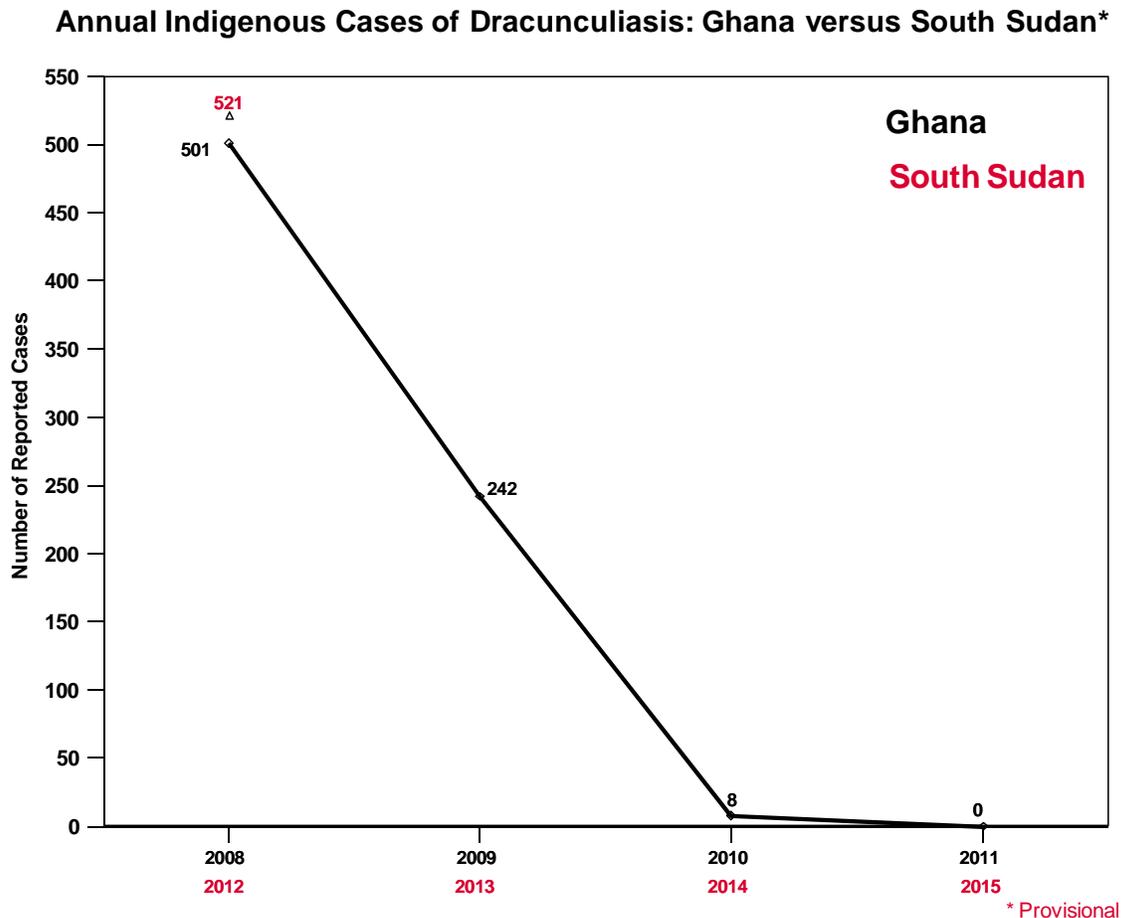
Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #217

To: Addressees

**NO GUINEA WORM DISEASE REPORTED WORLDWIDE (PROVISIONALLY) IN  
JANUARY!!**

As of February 11, no case of Guinea worm disease has been reported worldwide for the first time since the eradication campaign began collecting surveillance data in 1981. Notably, this includes the first ever zero case month for South Sudan. This is not the end of Guinea worm disease-there will be cases later in 2013-but we can see the end from here. If the South Sudan Guinea Worm Eradication Program can match the performance of Ghana's Guinea Worm Eradication Program in Ghana's final three years (501 annual cases in 2008 to last case in May 2010, 18 months later: see Figure 1), and if Chad, Ethiopia and Mali follow suit, this war will be over.

Figure 1



## **PROGRESS TOWARDS ERADICATION**

During 2012 the 4 currently endemic countries reported 542 cases of GWD, 346 (64%) contained, (including 3 cases exported from Ansongo District, Gao Region of Mali into Tillaberi District of Niger during September 2012), a 49% reduction in reported cases compared to 2011 (Table 1 and Figure 2).

### **IN BRIEF:**

**South Sudan and Chad.** Dr. Donald Hopkins and Dr. Ernesto Ruiz of The Carter Center participated in the monthly meeting of the South Sudan Guinea Worm Eradication Task Force in Juba on January 31, 2013. Mr. Craig Withers of The Carter Center and Dr. Mark Eberhard of CDC conducted a supervisory visit to Chad on January 27 to February 8.

**International Commission for the Certification of Dracunculiasis Eradication.** In collaboration with the respective governments, WHO will arrange visits by International Certification Teams to Cote d'Ivoire (July 2-19), Niger (June 3-20) and Nigeria (June 24-July 12).

**Torben Vestergaard Frandsen retires from his family's company.** After 45 years, in January Torben Vestergaard Frandsen retired from daily duties at the company founded by his father in Denmark in 1957. Torben's son Mikkel Vestergaard Frandsen now heads the company. A summary of Vestergaard Frandsen's notable contributions to the global campaign against Guinea worm disease was included in last month's issue of *Guinea Worm Wrap-Up* (#216).

### **MEETINGS**

- The annual review meeting of National Program Managers of Dracunculiasis Eradication Programs will be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on April 9-12, 2013.
- The Sixty-sixth World Health Assembly will meet in Geneva on May 20-28, 2013.

### **RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

Anonymous, 2013. Guinea worm cases fall to an all time low. British Medical Journal 346:4.

The Carter Center. 2013. Virtual Media Roundtable – Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter Releases Guinea Worm Case Numbers for 2012 <http://blog.cartercenter.org/2013/01/17/virtual-media-roundtable-former-u-s-president-jimmy-carter-releases-guinea-worm-case-numbers-for-2012>

Table 1

**Number of Reported Cases of Guinea Worm Disease Contained and Number Reported by Month during 2013\***  
(Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 2012)

COUNTRIES WITH ENDEMIC TRANSMISSION	NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED													% CONT.
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL*	
SOUTH SUDAN	0 / 0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0 / 0	
CHAD	0 / 0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0 / 0	
MALI	0 / 0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0 / 0	
ETHIOPIA	0 / 0	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0 / 0	
TOTAL*	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	
% CONTAINED														

\*Provisional

Cells shaded in black denote months when zero indigenous cases were reported. Numbers indicate how many imported cases were contained and reported that month.

Cells shaded in yellow denote months when transmission of GWD from one or more cases was not contained.

**Number of Reported Cases of Guinea Worm Disease Contained and Number Reported by Month during 2012\***  
(Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 2011)

COUNTRIES WITH ENDEMIC TRANSMISSION	NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED													% CONT.
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL*	
SOUTH SUDAN	2 / 2	3 / 4	37 / 55	51 / 80	79 / 125	84 / 123	45 / 69	14 / 27	10 / 17	9 / 14	3 / 4	1 / 1	338 / 521	65
MALI <sup>^</sup>	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 3	0 / 0	3 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	4 / 7	57
CHAD	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 1	0 / 2	2 / 4	1 / 2	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	4 / 10	40
ETHIOPIA	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 1	2 / 4	50
TOTAL*	2 / 2	3 / 4	37 / 55	51 / 81	80 / 126	85 / 125	45 / 74	17 / 32	14 / 22	10 / 15	3 / 4	1 / 2	348 / 542	64
% CONTAINED	100	75	67	63	63	68	61	53	64	67	75	50	64	

\*Provisional

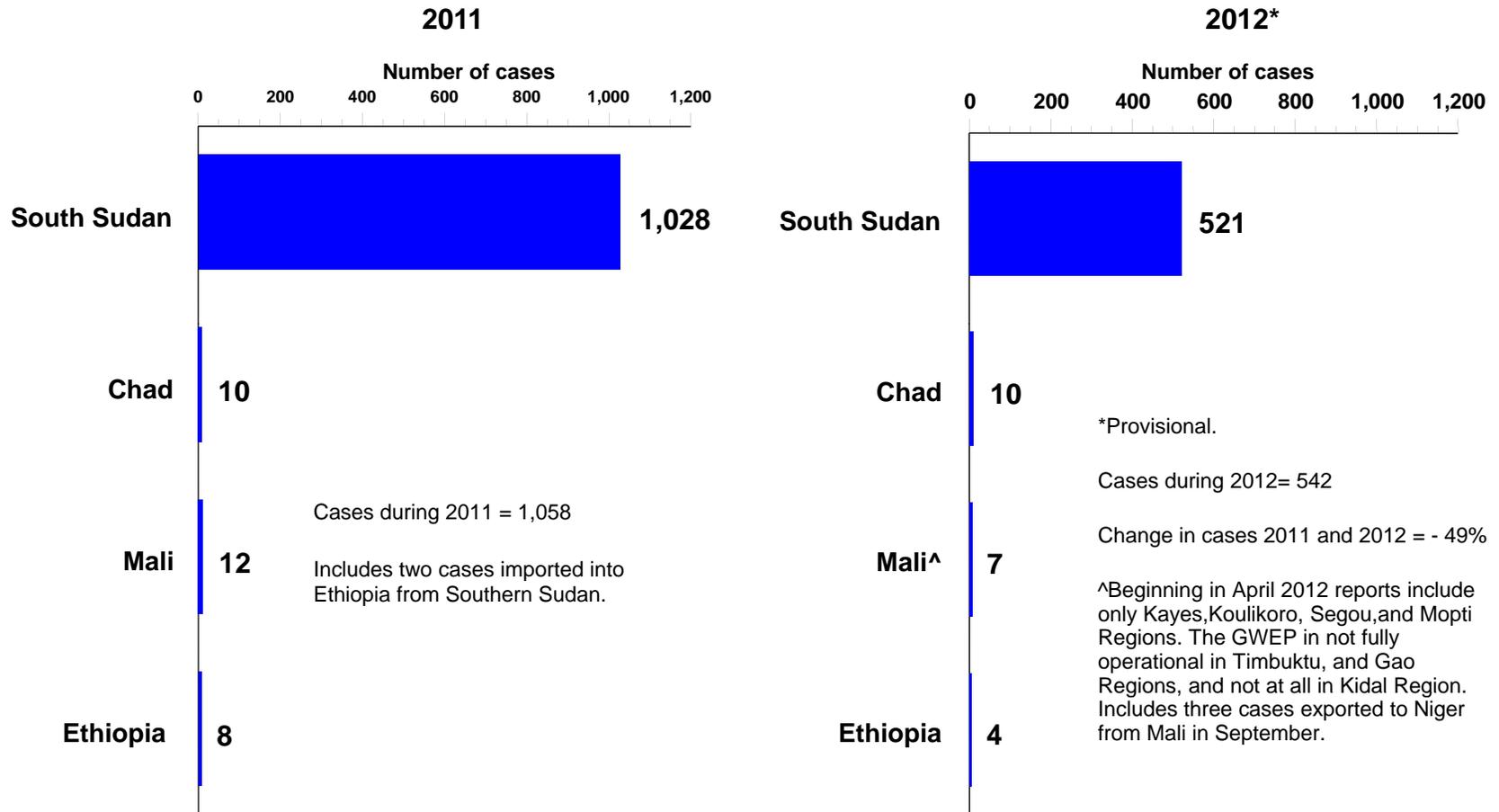
Cells shaded in black denote months when zero indigenous cases were reported. Numbers indicate how many imported cases were contained and reported that month.

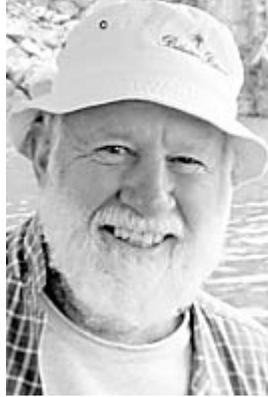
Cells shaded in yellow denote months when transmission of GWD from one or more cases was not contained.

<sup>^</sup> Beginning in April 2012 reports include only Kayes, Koulikoro, Segou, Sikasso, Mopti Regions; the GWEP is not currently fully operational in Timbuktu, and Gao Regions, and not at all in Kidal Region. Three cases exported from Mali to Niger during September (all 3 contained) are included in Mali's reported cases.

Figure 2

### Reported Cases of Dracunculiasis by Country in 2011 and 2012\*





**HARRY GODFREY (1930-2013),  
JOVIAL GUINEA WORM WARRIOR, HAS DIED**

Harry R. Godfrey, who was decorated by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire for his role in smallpox eradication and later took up arms most memorably against dracunculiasis (Guinea worm disease), died on January 4, 2013. A native of Pennsylvania, after serving in the U.S. Air Force Harry began his career in public health in 1961 at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where he worked for 25 years, including service as a consultant and operations officer for smallpox eradication in Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and India. After retiring from CDC he served as a public health consultant for several international organizations, including consultations in support of Guinea worm eradication on behalf of The Carter Center in Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Nigeria. One of his finest moments came in 1994 when The Carter Center dispatched him to Chad with less than five days' advance notice. Teaming up with the local US Peace Corps office, he helped the national coordinator start a nationwide village-by-village search in which health workers trained village volunteers on the spot to begin interventions immediately in each village found to have cases of Guinea worm disease. Added to his expertise in public health, Harry's effectiveness as a consultant to national Guinea Worm Eradication Programs derived from his respect for all human beings, his deep understanding of human nature, and his genial sense of humor. He was so popular that the director of a national Guinea Worm Eradication Program once pleaded for him to be sent back for one more consultancy even after the disease had been eliminated from that country. We extend our deep condolences to Harry's family.

Inclusion of information in the Guinea Worm Wrap-Up  
does not constitute "publication" of that information.  
In memory of BOB KAISER

Contributors to this issue were: the national Guinea Worm Eradication Programs, Drs. Donald R. Hopkins and Ernesto Ruiz-Tiben, and Mr. Craig Withers of The Carter Center, Dr. Gautam Biswas of WHO, and Drs. Sharon Roy and Mark Eberhard of CDC.

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<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/guineaworm/publications.html#gwwp>

Back issues are also available on the Carter Center web site English and French are located at

[http://www.cartercenter.org/news/publications/health/guinea\\_worm\\_wrapup\\_english.html](http://www.cartercenter.org/news/publications/health/guinea_worm_wrapup_english.html).

[http://www.cartercenter.org/news/publications/health/guinea\\_worm\\_wrapup\\_francais.html](http://www.cartercenter.org/news/publications/health/guinea_worm_wrapup_francais.html)



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CDC is the WHO Collaborating Center for Research, Training, and Eradication of Dracunculiasis.