

## **Alwaleed Philanthropies joins global Carter Center campaign to end the spread of Guinea worm disease**

- **Foundation invests \$1 million in The Carter Center Challenge Fund**
  - **Campaign aims to eradicate neglected tropical disease**

**September 26, 2019:**

Alwaleed Philanthropies, the global philanthropic foundation chaired by HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, has invested \$1 million to help complete the eradication of Guinea worm, a neglected tropical disease that remains only in remote poor rural villages in a few African countries.

Launched today in New York, The Carter Center Challenge Fund for Guinea Worm Eradication aims to secure \$40 million to help eradicate the disease. The Carter Center Challenge Fund will match, dollar for dollar, donations to the Guinea Worm Eradication Program, up to \$10 million per year in 2019 and 2020, for a total of \$20 million. Alwaleed Philanthropies' is the first donation from an international organization.

This latest investment means that over the past five years Alwaleed Philanthropies has donated more than \$60 million to help eliminate diseases and improve access to vaccines through partnerships with The Carter Center, Gavi, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the END fund.

Alwaleed Philanthropies collaborates with The Carter Center on several health programs, including the elimination of river blindness and treating and preventing advanced-stage trachoma, both leading causes of infectious blindness worldwide.

Abeer Al Fouti, Executive Director of Global Initiatives, said: *"At Alwaleed Philanthropies we help to build stronger, more resilient communities by addressing fundamental challenges such as poverty and disease. Through the combined power of partnerships, such as our relationship with The Carter Center, we can empower individuals and organizations to wipe out preventable diseases."*

Jason Carter, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Carter Center, said: *"Our successes are a testament to the fierce persistence of people on the front lines and our committed partners. We are grateful for every ally standing with us as we seek to eradicate the first parasitic disease in human history."*

The Carter Center, working with core partners including the WHO, has led the global campaign to eradicate Guinea worm disease since 1986, when an estimated 3.5 million people a year in 21 countries were infected with the painful disease.

*"Alwaleed Philanthropies has been a valuable partner for more than 16 years,"* Carter added. *"Their concern for the poorest among us should inspire others to respond in like manner."*



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**About Alwaleed Philanthropies**

Alwaleed Philanthropies supports and initiates projects in 189 countries, regardless of the gender, race or religion. We collaborate with a range of philanthropic, government and educational organizations to combat poverty, empower women and youth, develop communities, provide disaster relief and create cultural understanding through education. Together with partners around the world, we build bridges for a more compassionate, tolerant and accepting world.

**About The Carter Center**

A not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization, The Carter Center has helped to improve life for people in over 80 countries by resolving conflicts; advancing democracy, human rights, and economic opportunity; preventing diseases; and improving mental health care. The Carter Center was founded in 1982 by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, in partnership with Emory University, to advance peace and health worldwide.

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