FORMER US PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER VISITS SOUTHERN SUDAN TO HIGHLIGHT GUINEA WORM

During a visit to Mobijue village in Terekeka county former US President Jimmy Carter spoke about the dangers of Guinea Worm, which is endemic in southern Sudan. The Carter Center, founded by the former president, has been working to eradicate Guinea Worm worldwide. Guinea Worm, also known as Dracunculiasis, is a parasite that enters the body through contaminated drinking water and grows inside the body before emerging through a painful blister. There is no vaccine for Guinea Worm and the only treatment once infected is through a slow painful process of removing the worm once it emerges. While southern Sudan accounts for up to 90% of the global cases of Guinea Worm, the number of cases has fallen 99% from 118,578 in 1996 to a provisional total of 1,759 cases in 2009 according to the Carter Center. Through education and monitoring programs, the Carter Center has been working in close cooperation with the Government of Southern Sudan Ministry of Health to break the transmission cycle of Guinea Worm and eradicate the disease.

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