



Date: August 14, 2009



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

Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #191

To: Addressees

*“For what is the present, after all, but a growth out of the past?”* Walt Whitman

**Months since last indigenous case of dracunculiasis:**

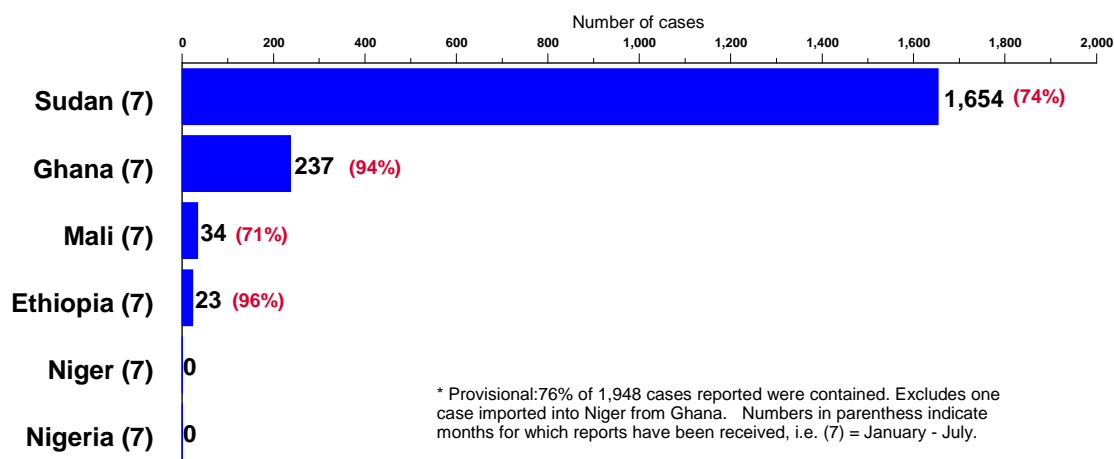
**Niger: 9 months, Nigeria: 8 months**

**Number of uncontained cases so far in 2009:**

**Sudan: 437, Ghana: 14, Mali: 10, Niger: 1, Ethiopia: 1, Nigeria: 0**

Figure 1

**Distribution by Country of 1,947 Indigenous Cases of Dracunculiasis Reported and (Cases Contained) During 2009\***



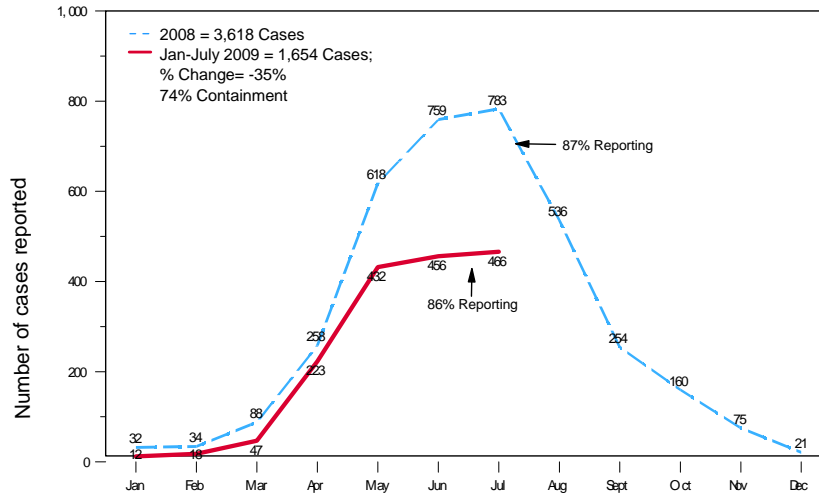
NB:

- *About 75% of Ghana’s cases in 2009 are associated with an outbreak in one village in the Northern Region.*
- *All of Ethiopia’s cases in 2009 were detected in Gambella Region.*
- *Nigeria’s latest reported indigenous case, in November 2008, was contained.*
- *Niger’s last reported indigenous case, in October 2008, was not contained.*

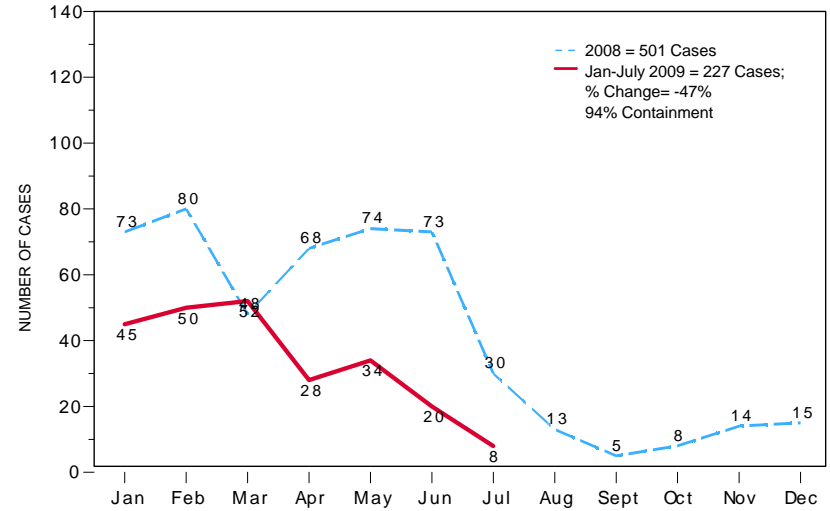
The number of reported cases by month in Sudan, Ghana, Mali, and Ethiopia during 2008 and during January through July 2009 is shown in figure 2.

# Figure 2

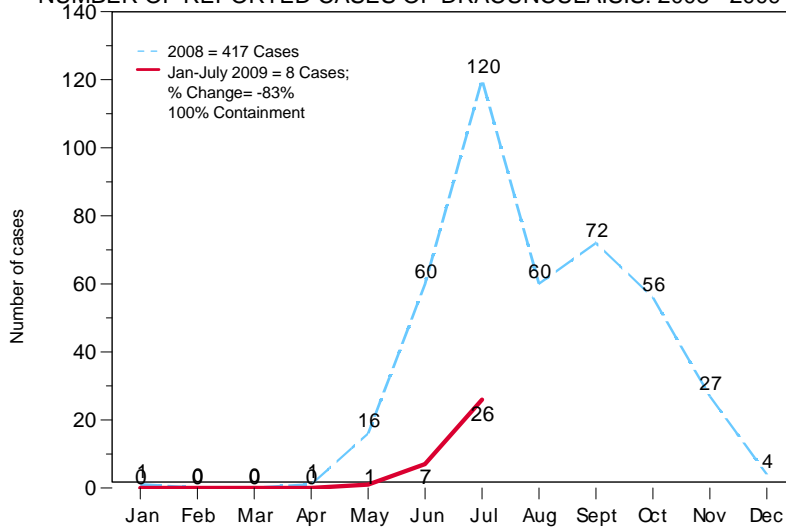
## SUDAN GUINEA WORM ERADICATION PROGRAM NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES OF DRACUNCULAISSIS: 2008 - 2009\*



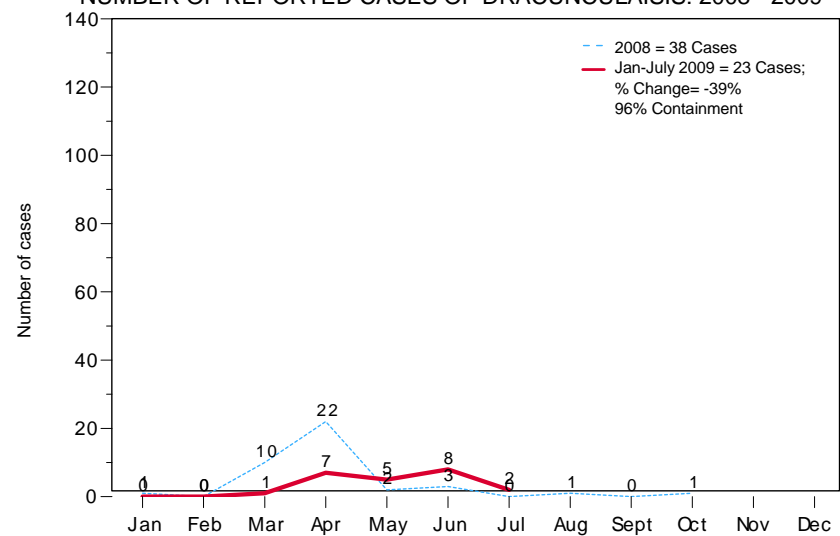
## GHANA GUINEA WORM ERADICATION PROGRAM NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES OF DRACUNCULAISSIS: 2008 - 2009\*



## MALI GUINEA WORM ERADICATION PROGRAM NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES OF DRACUNCULAISSIS: 2008 - 2009\*



## ETHIOPIA DRACUNCULAISSIS ERADICATION PROGRAM NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES OF DRACUNCULAISSIS: 2008 - 2009\*



\* Provisional

## **GHANA CONTAINS 94% OF CASES IN JANUARY-JUNE 2009**

Ghana's Guinea Worm Eradication Program has reported 229 cases of dracunculiasis in January-June 2009, of which 216 (94%) met the standards for case containment, including 177 (77%) cases that were contained in a case containment center or other medical facility. Transmission of disease from the 13 uncontained cases is believed to have been prevented, except for one case in Galumpe Village, Kintampo North District of Brong Ahafo Region, either because the case did not contaminate a water source, or because of application of ABATE® Larvicide within 14 days of contamination of water. The 229 cases were reported from 51 villages, only 17 of which reported indigenous cases. Almost all cases (223, or 97%) were reported from the Northern Region. Currently, 157 of Ghana's 170 districts are free of Guinea worm disease. This is a reduction of -45% from the 416 cases reported during January-June 2008. These data were reported by national program coordinator Dr. Andrew Seidu-Korkor and discussed at the mid-year Guinea Worm Review Meeting, which was held in Tamale, Ghana on July 28-29. External participants included Dr. Ernesto Ruiz-Tiben and Mr. Craig Withers of The Carter Center and Dr. Gautam Biswas of WHO headquarters. During July Ghana reported 7 additional cases (6 contained) for a total of 236 cases so far during 2009 (Figures 1 and 2; and Table 1).

## **CASES DECLINE, SPORADIC INSECURITY IN SOUTHERN SUDAN**

In January-July 2009, the number of dracunculiasis cases reported by Southern Sudan's Guinea Worm Eradication Program (SSGWEP) decreased by 36%, to 1,654 from the 2,572 cases reported during the same period of 2008 (Figures 1, 2 and 3; and Table 1), while the rate of reporting was 86% and the proportion of cases that were contained increased to 74% (from 47%). During the same seven months of 2009, increasing insecurity and banditry in various endemic areas of Southern Sudan disrupted program operations for days or weeks in 23 separate incidents, because staff of the program had to be temporarily confined to their quarters or evacuated. The numbers of cases reported by month in 2008 and so far in 2009 in each of the four epidemiologic focal areas are shown in Figure 5. The status of interventions in January-May 2009 and January-May 2008 are illustrated in Figure 6.

## **IN BRIEF:**

**Nigeria.** General (Dr) Yakubu Gowon, former Nigerian Head of State, led an advocacy visit to Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara states between June 29 and July 2, 2009. General Gowon thanked the state governments for their support of Guinea worm eradication, urged them to maintain publicity about Guinea worm disease and the cash reward announcements, and requested them to ensure that the state ministries of health maintain adequate and properly documented surveillance for the disease in all health facilities. NIGEP National Coordinator Dr. Ofeoma Anagbogu, Carter Center County Representative Dr. Emmanuel Miri, representatives from WHO, UNICEF, and state ministries of health accompanied General Gowon. Nigeria doubled its cash reward for reporting a case of GWD, to 10,000 naira (~\$76) in April 2009.

**Niger.** At the request of the ministry of Health of Niger, Dr. Gautam Biswas of WHO headquarters and Dr. Alhousseimi Maiga of WHO's Regional office for Africa visited Niger on July 20-26 to support surveillance of GWD in Guinea worm-free areas of the country.

Table 1

**Number of Cases Contained and Number Reported by Month during 2009\***  
(Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 2008)

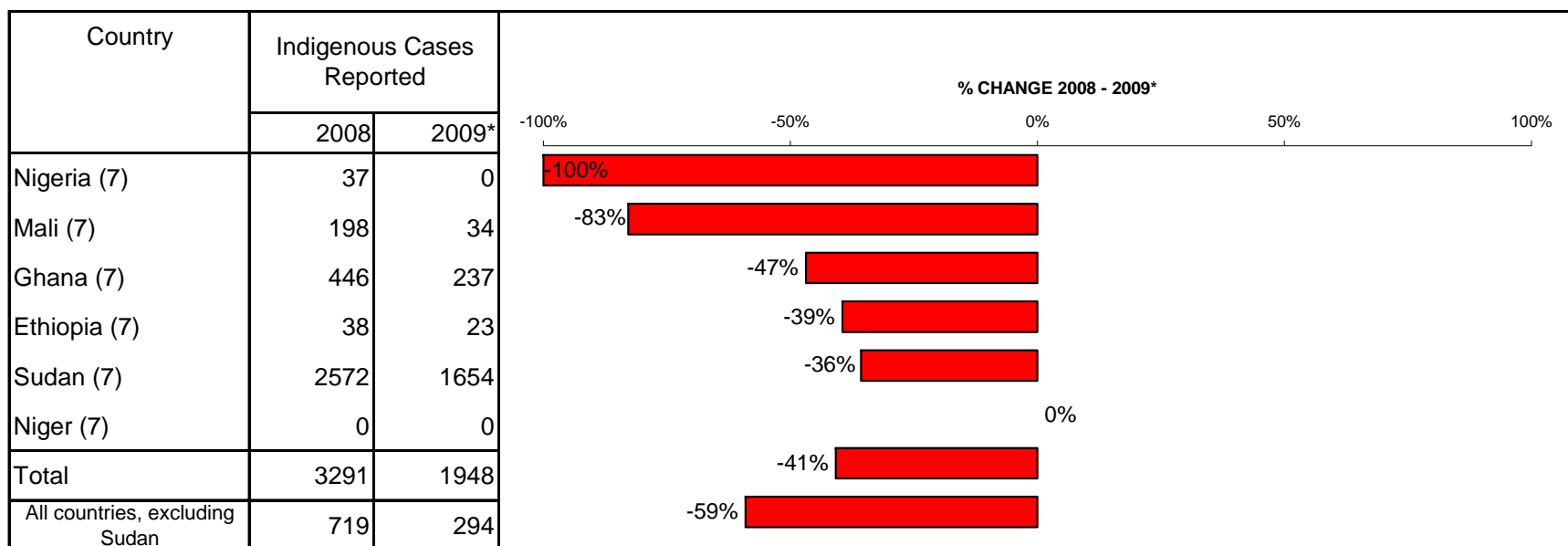
COUNTRIES REPORTING CASES	NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED													% CONT
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL*	
SUDAN	4 / 12	10 / 18	33 / 47	164 / 223	288 / 432	407 / 456	311 / 466	/	/	/	/	/	1217 / 1654	74
GHANA	40 / 45	49 / 50	50 / 52	27 / 28	31 / 34	19 / 20	6 / 7	/	/	/	/	/	222 / 236	94
MALI	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 1	7 / 7	16 / 26	/	/	/	/	/	24 / 34	100
ETHIOPIA	0 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 1	7 / 7	5 / 5	7 / 8	2 / 2	/	/	/	/	/	22 / 23	96
NIGERIA	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	/	/	/	/	/	0 / 0	100
NIGER	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	/	/	/	/	/	0 / 1	0
TOTAL*	44 / 57	59 / 68	84 / 101	198 / 258	325 / 472	440 / 491	335 / 501	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1485 / 1948	76
% CONTAINED	77	87	83	77	69	90	67						76	
% CONT OUTSIDE SUDAN	89	98	94	97	93	94	69						91	

\* provisional

Shaded cells denote months when zero indigenous cases were reported. Numbers indicate how many imported cases were reported and contained that month.

Figure 3

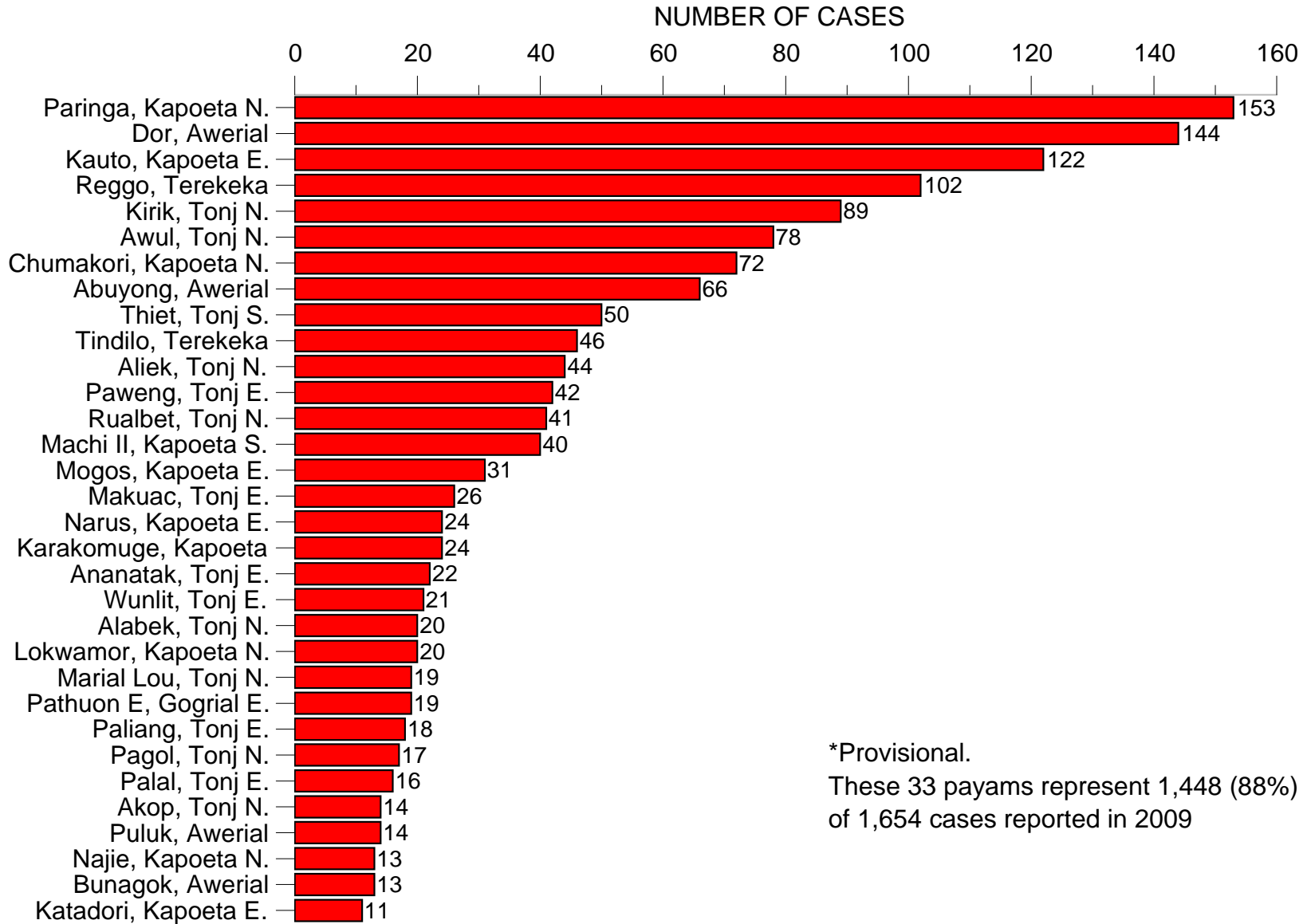
Number of Indigenous Cases Reported During the Specified Period in 2008 and 2009\*, and Percent Change in Cases Reported



\* Provisional: excludes cases exported from one country to another  
 (7) Indicates months for which reports were received, i.e., Jan. - July 2009

Figure 4

SOUTH SUDAN GUINEA WORM ERADICATION PROGRAM  
 PAYAMS REPORTING REPORTING 10+ CASES OF DRACUNCULIASIS DURING JANUARY-JULY 2009\*

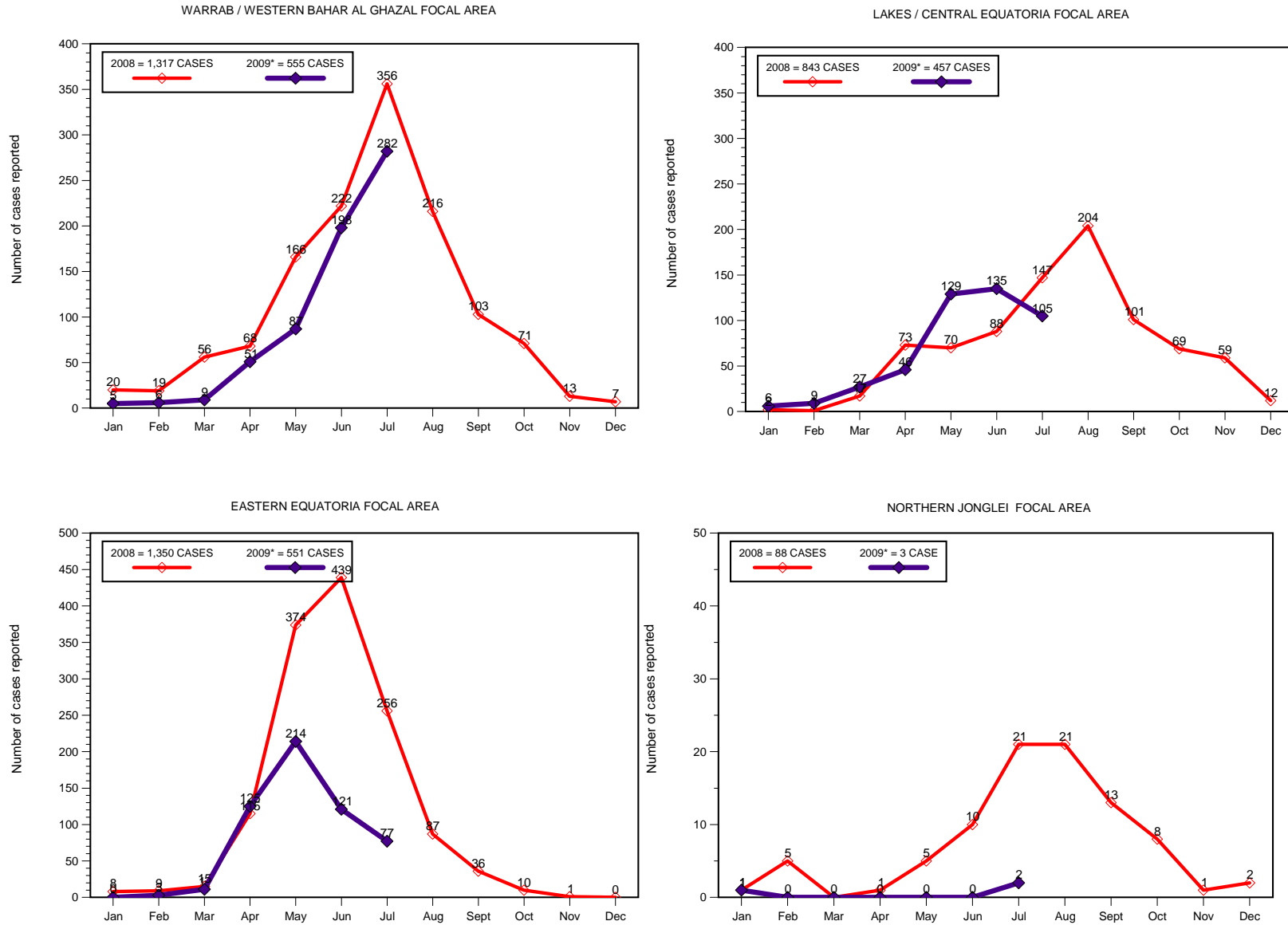


\*Provisional.

These 33 payams represent 1,448 (88%)  
 of 1,654 cases reported in 2009

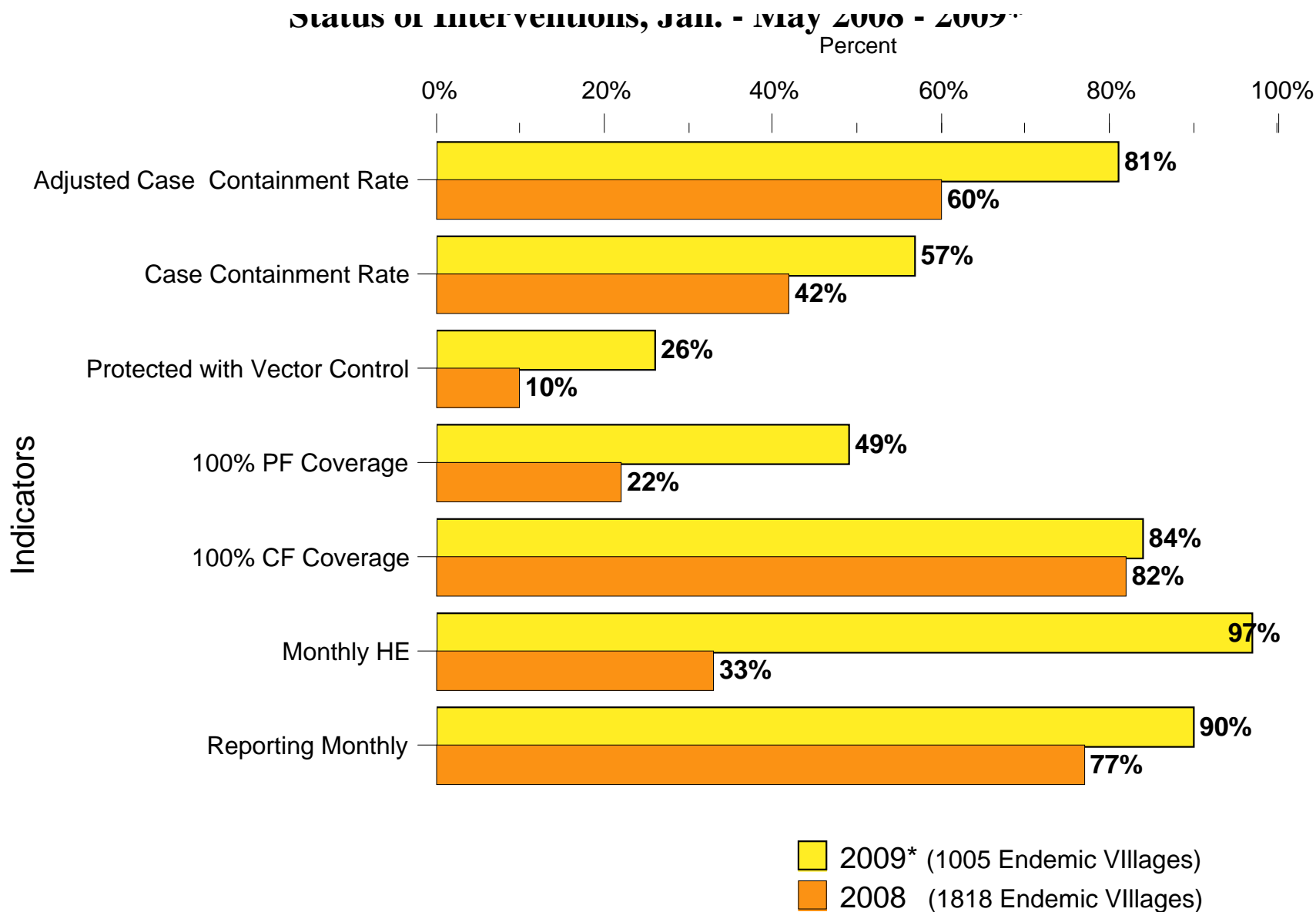
Figure 5

SOUTHERN SUDAN GUINEA WORM ERADICATION PROGRAM  
 NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES OF DRACUNCULIASIS: 2008 AND JAN-JULY 2009\*



\* Provisional

Figure 6





**Mali-Burkina Faso.** Mali detected a 10 year-old Malian boy with dracunculiasis in the village of Tadialat (Ansongo District) when his worm emerged on July 8, 2009 and evacuated him to a hospital the same day. This child, who had been infected in Mali in 2008, and his father reported that they had visited the locality of Tintagaroubane in Burkina Faso in 2008 for a short stay, when the boy also had a worm to emerge. The program in Burkina Faso is investigating.

## TRANSITION

Mr. Steven Becknell, former Carter Center Resident Advisor to the Guinea Worm Eradication Program of Southern Sudan, who returned to the Guinea Worm Eradication Program at Carter Center headquarters earlier this year, has accepted a position at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Steve has had over 5 years of very distinguished and effective service to the Guinea Worm Eradication Programs of Ghana and Southern Sudan especially while working for The Carter Center. We wish him and his family much continued success at CDC. Thank you Steven!

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Hopkins DR, 2009. The allure of eradication. Global Health Issue 03(Summer): 14-17. This article may be viewed at: [www.globalhealthmagazine.com](http://www.globalhealthmagazine.com)

Anonymous, 2009. Ghana fights Guinea worm. Editorial by the Voice of America. See: [www.voanews.com/uspolicy/2009-07-13-voa1.cfm](http://www.voanews.com/uspolicy/2009-07-13-voa1.cfm)

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

For information about the GW Wrap-Up, contact the WHO Collaborating Center for Research, Training, and Eradication of Dracunculiasis, NCZVED, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, F-22, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Atlanta, GA 30341-3724, U.S.A. FAX: 770-488-7761. The GW Wrap-Up web location is <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/guineaworm/default.htm>



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