

**Memorandum**

Date January 29, 1982


From Assistant Director for  
International Health, CDC

Subject Dracunculiasis Wrap-up #1

To See Below

1. Plans are proceeding well for the International Workshop on Dracunculiasis, which USAID has agreed to fund through the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences (BOSTID). The meeting will probably be held in June 1982. Dr. Myron Schultz of CDC will chair. A draft agenda has been set, and the proposed participants were to be contacted by cable on January 26. The proceedings will be published in English and French.
2. The draft protocol for surveillance, assessment of impact, and evaluation of intervention efficacy for dracunculiasis has been revised, and is being circulated for comment at CDC before being sent abroad.
3. We have identified a site in southern Togo where USAID/WASH is putting in wells for drinking water in a guinea worm endemic region. At least four villages which have over 30% dracunculiasis incidence are known to be targeted. The impact on guinea worm will be assessed.
4. The World Bank has identified a project in Rajasthan State of India, where they are helping to fund safe water sources for 2,000 villages. We have written the Rajasthan State health authorities to see if they would be interested in a collaborative study with CDC to focus especially on socio-economic effects of dracunculiasis. Funding from UNDP and P.L.-480 funds is available for this. A budget is being developed.
5. We expect WHO/Geneva to invite us to send a CDC person, with one of WHO's sanitary engineers, to four or five West African countries to try to identify more sites where the disease is endemic and safe water is scheduled to be put in soon, for other studies.
6. We expect an invitation from the WHO Regional Office at Alexandria for an epidemiologist to visit the Sudan to consult on the problems of dracunculiasis and some other water-borne diseases there.
7. Dr. David Sokal, stationed in Upper Volta with the OCCGE, held discussions with WHO/Geneva staff in December 1981 on the OCCGE protocol for study of dracunculiasis in Upper Volta. WHO/Geneva will fund some of the related costs. We are awaiting further details of those discussions and other related OCCGE activity.

8. In early December 1981, I met with Africare staff on this subject. They were clearly interested, as their projects include providing water sources in Upper Volta, Mali, and Niger. We have sent, at their request, a follow-up letter formally asking if they would be willing to help us gather data. No reply yet.
9. In October 1981, WHO's global Advisory Committee on Medical Research recommended that regional and national groups undertake research on dracunculiasis. Articles on the subject appeared in the November 1981 issue of Africa magazine, and the November 1981 issue of World Health. The first summary article on Dracunculiasis Surveillance should appear in WHO's Weekly Epidemiological Record at any time now.
10. We have written WHO/Geneva to ask them to officially request the regional Onchocerciasis Control Project in West Africa to have its staff include surveillance of dracunculiasis in their ongoing village-to-village surveillance activities.
11. The Indian Guinea Worm Eradication Program is scheduled to have a national meeting in New Delhi to evaluate their progress the last week in April. I will be invited to attend as a WHO consultant.
12. I spoke in early December with Mr. Victor Ilegbodu, a Nigerian student at the University of Texas, who is working with Dr. Kale in a dracunculiasis endemic area in Nigeria. Mr. Ilegbodu is in Nigeria now. Funds are being sought to facilitate his field work, which is directly relevant to control and study of dracunculiasis.

  
Donald R. Hopkins, M.D.  
Assistant Surgeon General

Addressees:

Dr. D. A. Henderson  
Ms. Karen Bell  
Dr. Foege  
Mr. Griggs  
Ms. Grimmer via Dr. Leibler  
Dr. Hughes  
Dr. S. Jones  
Dr. Kaiser  
Dr. Lisella  
Dr. Schultz  
Dr. Sokal  
Dr. Waldman  
Dr. Davis