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From: Guinea Worm Eradication Program, The Carter Center

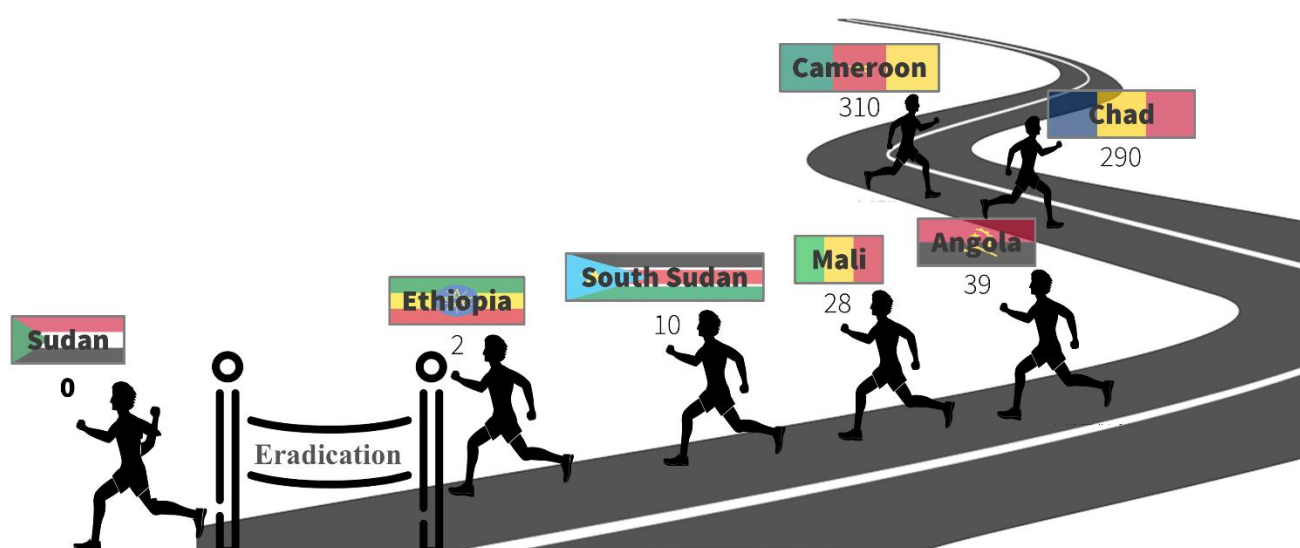
Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #324

To: Addressees

2024\*

# GUINEA WORM RACE

JOURNEY TO ERADICATION



\*Guinea worm infections reported in humans (15) and animals (664)

## CHAD ADJUSTING THE STEPS: A WEEK OF ADVOCACY MEETINGS IN BONGOR

With 63% of Chad's Guinea worm infections in January -August 2025 reported in Mayo-Kebbi East (MKE) Province, which borders the endemic area of Cameroon, Chad's Guinea Worm Eradication Program, led by its National Coordinator Dr. Tchindebet Ouakou, organized a week-long advocacy campaign on September 15-22, 2025 in Bongor, the capital of MKE, to enhance, revitalize, and accelerate GW surveillance and interventions in the border areas.

During the week, the program held a series of advocacy meetings and training sessions with different stakeholders, including political, administrative, and health authorities (51); journalists (38); ministry of health district and zone staff (33); religious leaders (28); and Community Health Workers (102). The Secretary General, representing the General Delegate of the Government to MKE Province (formerly titled "Governor"), Honorable Mr. Goukouni Sidimi, visited the village of Nahaina in Bongor district, the most

endemic village in Chad in 2025, with 8 infected dogs and 2 infected cats in January-August 2025. Nahaina is directly across the border from Nouldaina, a highly endemic village in Guere district of Cameroon. During their visit, the Secretary General and other authorities highlighted the importance of tethering dogs and cats, strengthening management of aquatic animal waste, and improving access to potable drinking water as key interventions to interrupt Guinea worm transmission along the border. Activities



General Delegate of the Government to the Province of Mayo-Kebbi-Est Mr. Goukouni Sidimi. During his speech at the opening ceremony of the GW Advocacy Week in Bongor.

during the week aimed to identify concrete strategies to enhance community ownership and improve GW surveillance in the specific context of MKE Province. Discussions highlighted persistent challenges, particularly Community Health Workers' motivation, multisectoral coordination, and cross-border collaboration, while also recognizing available support and commitments to advance field efforts.

At the Opening Ceremony, National Coordinator Dr. Tchindebet used a quote from Beninese writer and artist Jean Pliya (1931-2015), “*If the beat of a drum changes, the steps of the dancers must also change*”, to illustrate the need to adjust strategies and efforts as the GWEP aims to accelerate GW eradication. The Carter Center’s Senior Country Representative Dr. Abdalla Meftuh reinforced The Carter Center’s willingness and determination to stand by the Government of Chad through the Ministry of Public Health and Prevention until Guinea worm is eradicated. Finally, the General Delegate of Mayo-Kebbi East thanked the GWEP and The Carter Center for their relentless fight to eradicate Guinea worm disease in Chad.

Chadian authorities are concerned about increased GW infections in Cameroon’s Guere district, which borders Chad’s Bongor and Guene districts. In 2023, 2024, and January-June 2025, Guinea worm infections in Cameroon’s Guere district increased from 254, to 310, to 356, while GW infections in Chad’s Bongor and Guene districts declined from 83, to 63, to

46. Nearly all the infections in the three border districts were in animals, with only one Guinea worm case in a human, in Guere district, in 2023.

## 2 CONFIRMED CASES IN SOUTH SUDAN



South Sudan has reported two confirmed human Guinea worm cases in 2025. Patient #1 is a 14-year-old Dinka boy, a cattle herder whose single Guinea worm began emerging on July 2, 2025. The worm specimen was collected on July 5. His infection was not contained. His residence in Dharai village in Yirol West County of Lakes State has a functioning borehole well. During his likely period of infection in May-September 2024, he visited at least eight

cattle camp locations in the county, where he ate boiled fresh fish and drank unfiltered water from ponds that were also frequented by wild animals. According to the preliminary investigation there is no overlap between the travel history of this case and the uncontained human case detected in Yirol West County in September 2024. Those two cases in Yirol West in 2024 and 2025 live about 18 miles (30 km) apart. South Sudan’s Guinea Worm Eradication Program (SSGWEP) applied Abate to eligible water sources that this patient might have contaminated, distributed cloth (4,466) and pipe (3,505) filters in villages and cattle camps linked to the patient’s travel history, and conducted community meetings, health education, and cash reward awareness.

Patient #2 is a 12-year-old Dinka girl whose single Guinea worm began emerging on July 20, 2025, and whose worm specimen was collected on August 1. Her infection was contained. She resides at Yuet-Ajok cattle camp in Awerial County of Lakes State where she assists her mother with household chores, eats locally obtained boiled fish, and drinks unfiltered water from ponds and swamps around the cattle camp that are also shared with wild animals, including baboons. This case lives about 12 miles (20 km) from the most recent known GW in Awerial County, 4 human cases, one of which was uncontained, linked to Jarweng village in 2022 (see Table 2 in *Guinea Worm Wrap-Up* #316). The SSGWEP applied Abate to eligible water sources associated with this patient, distributed cloth (449) and pipe (1,013) filter replacements, conducted health education, community meetings, cash reward awareness, and follow-up of the patient's peers and family members.

South Sudan appointed the Honorable Sarah Cleto Rial as Minister of Health on June 6, 2025. Minister Rial was Governor of Bahr el Ghazal state during 2020-2024. She earned a B.A. in statistics and demography from the University of Juba, an M.A. in political science from the American University in Cairo, and an M.A. from the Program for Women in Politics and Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts in Boston. Minister Rial succeeds Honorable Yolanda Deng, who was minister of health from March 2022 to February 2025.

The Carter Center's Senior Country Representative in South Sudan, Dr. Sudhir Bunga, held a brief courtesy meeting with Minister Rial, who was accompanied by the director of South Sudan's GWEP Dr. Hakim Gol, on September 10, 2025. They discussed the work of The Carter Center and the history of its assistance to South Sudan's GWEP.

### **MAKOY RETURNS AS SSGWEP DIRECTOR**

The Government of South Sudan reappointed Mr. MAKROY Samuel Yibi Logora as Director of the South Sudan Guinea Worm Eradication Program as of late September, 2025. Mr. Makoy previously retired as SSGWEP Director on December 23, 2024 after 19 years of outstanding service (*Guinea Worm Wrap-Up* #316). Welcome back, Makoy!!

### **IN BRIEF**

The total confirmed human GW cases so far in 2025 is four: one each in Chad and Ethiopia, and two in South Sudan. Ethiopia also reported two still-provisional human cases in July.

**Angola** has reported a provisional total of 70 confirmed animal GW infections, all dogs, in January-August 2025 compared with 36 animal infections in January-August 2024, which is an increase of 94%.

The second edition of the Health Roundtable, organized by WHO Angola in collaboration with the Private University of Angola (UPRA), took place in Luanda on August 26. This year's event focused on Guinea worm disease in Angola, emphasizing the critical need for a multisectoral response. Discussions were held across two panels and featured contributions from a diverse group of stakeholders, including Carter Center Country Representative in Angola Lucia Verzotti, as well as experts from veterinary services, the ministries of fisheries, environment, and water, alongside academics and scientific researchers. Among the most prominent topics were new and innovative interventions, particularly aquatic waste management, which were highlighted as essential components in the fight against Guinea worm disease.

**Cameroon & Chad.** The National Coordinator of Chad's Guinea Worm Eradication Program Dr. Tchindebet Ouakou and the Deputy Director of Cameroon's Neglected Tropical Diseases Program Dr. Georges Nko'Ayissi met in Yaoundé, Cameroon on July 31, 2025, to discuss issues related to cross-border surveillance and GW interventions. **Cameroon** has reported a provisional total of 438 animal GW infections (411 dogs, 27 cats) in January-August 2025, compared to 307 animal infections in January-August 2024, which is an increase of 43%. 19 villages reported infections in 2025. **Chad** has reported a provisional total of 123 animal GW infections (101 dogs, 22 cats) in January-August 2025, compared to 243 animal GW infections in January-August 2024, which is a decrease of 49%. 75 villages reported infections in 2025.

**Ethiopia** recently received laboratory confirmation of its first provisional human GW infection of 2025 (see previous issue of *Guinea Worm Wrap-Up*), in a 32-year-old man whose worm began emerging on June 17, 2025, as *D. medinensis*. The worm specimen was collected on July 6 and July 13.

During January-July 2025, field officers of the Ethiopia Dracunculiasis Eradication Program physically inspected a total of 274 dead wild animals (228 baboons, 24 servals, 12 wild cats, 5 civets, 4 leopards, 1 genet) that villagers reported to the program. None had signs of Guinea worm infection.

**Mali.** The National Committee for Certification of Dracunculiasis Eradication met on August 21, 2025, for the first time since 2023. Chaired by the committee's Vice President Dr. Alhousseini Maiga and attended by representatives of the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and The Carter Center, the meeting introduced new committee members and resumed committee activities.

Mali has reported three confirmed GW infections in dogs whose worms emerged in April 2025, and ten provisional infections in dogs and domestic cats during January-August 2025, all of which were contained. Most infections occurred in Macina district; others in Djenne, Markala, and Tominian districts. Mali reported 11 GW infections in domestic animals in January-August 2024. *Surveillance and interventions by Mali's GWEP are seriously limited due to insecurity.*

**Sudan** has not reported a GW case since 2002, and has never detected GW in an animal, but has not yet been certified as GW-free due to insecurity since April 2023. During 2025, Sudan's National Neglected Tropical Diseases program has continued preparations for certification of GW eradication in accessible areas. It investigated 79 rumors of GW disease (70 in formerly endemic areas, 9 in never-endemic areas), all of which were investigated within 24 hours. The program trained 385 personnel, including 160 surveillance staff and 225 community volunteers, in Khartoum, Blue Nile, Northern, and River Nile States. Community volunteers in South Darfur (Alradoum) continue surveillance despite lack of supervision due to security constraints.

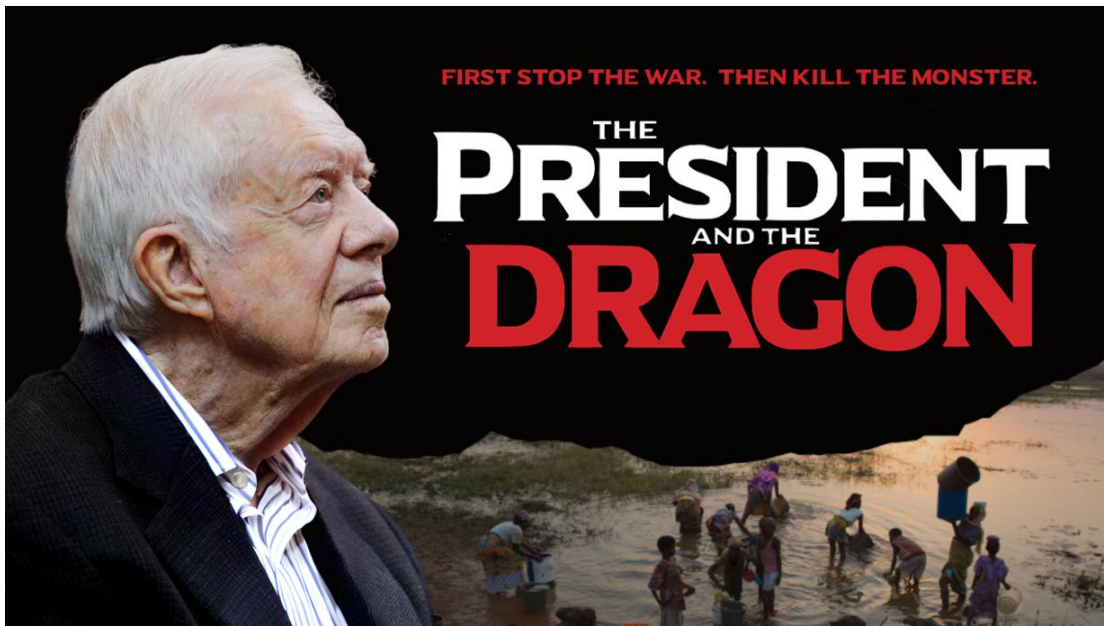


## ICCDE MEETING



The International Commission for the Certification of Dracunculiasis Eradication (ICCDE) has scheduled a virtual meeting to be held on November 25, 2025.

## NEW GUINEA WORM DOCUMENTARY



A new documentary, *The President and the Dragon*, describes challenges and achievements of the South Sudan Guinea Worm Eradication Program. The film is a collaboration between The Carter Center, Touchline Productions, The Brave Road, and Buffalo 8. Sudanese filmmaker Waleed Gubara directed the film, along with Ian D. Murphy. Communications team member Emily Staub led the effort on behalf of The Carter Center. This documentary will be available for streaming on-demand on Amazon, Hoopla, and Verizon Fios as of October 1, 2025, with other platforms to follow. The official trailer may be seen here: <https://youtu.be/WwaBOmGxAng>

Table 1 Number of Laboratory-Confirmed Human Cases of Guinea Worm Disease, and Number Reported Contained by Month during 2025* (Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 2024)														
COUNTRIES WITH TRANSMISSION OF GUINEA WORMS	NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED													% CONT.
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL*	
CHAD	0 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0					0 / 1	0%
SOUTH SUDAN	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 2	0 / 0					1 / 2	50%
CAMEROON	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0					0 / 0	N / A
MALI	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0					0 / 0	N / A
ETHIOPIA	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0					1 / 1	100%
TOTAL*	0 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	1 / 1	1 / 2	0 / 0					2 / 4	50%
% CONTAINED	0%	N / A	N / A	N / A	N / A	100%	50%	N / A					50%	
*Provisional														
	Cells shaded in black denote months when zero indigenous cases were reported. Numbers indicate how many cases were contained and reported that month.													
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Number of Laboratory-Confirmed Cases of Guinea Worm Disease, and Number Reported Contained by Month during 2024 (Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 2023)														
COUNTRIES WITH TRANSMISSION OF GUINEA WORMS	NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED													% CONT.
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL	
CHAD	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 3	1 / 1	1 / 1	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 1	4 / 9	44%
SOUTH SUDAN	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 2	0 / 3	0 / 0	0 / 1	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 6	0%
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	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	N / A
CAMEROON	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	N / A
MALI	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	N / A
ETHIOPIA	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	N / A
TOTAL*	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 0	0 / 1	0 / 2	0 / 6	1 / 1	1 / 2	1 / 1	1 / 1	0 / 1	4 / 15	27%
% CONTAINED	N / A	N / A	N / A	N / A	0%	0%	0%	100%	50%	100%	100%	N/A	27%	
	Cells shaded in black denote months when zero indigenous cases were reported. Numbers indicate how many cases were contained and reported that month.4													
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### Are the right people receiving the Guinea Worm Wrap-Up?

We remind leaders of National Guinea Worm Eradication Programs to make sure all appropriate persons are receiving the Guinea Worm Wrap-Up directly, by email. With frequent turnover of government officials, representatives of partner organizations, and recruitment of new Guinea worm program staff, keeping desired recipients up to date is challenging. Frequent review of who is receiving the newsletter directly is advised. To add an addressee, please send their name, title, email address, and preferred language (English, French, or Portuguese) to Adam Weiss at The Carter Center (adam.weiss@cartercenter.org).

Note to contributors: Submit your contributions via email to Adam Weiss (adam.weiss@cartercenter.org), by the end of the month for publication in the following month's issue. Contributors to this issue were: the national Guinea Worm Eradication Programs, Dr. Donald Hopkins and Adam Weiss of The Carter Center, and Dr. Dieudonné Sankara of WHO. Formatted by Diana Yu.

Back issues are also available on the Carter Center web site in English, French, and Portuguese and 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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