


**Memorandum**

Date December 29, 1989

From  WHO Collaborating Center for
Research, Training, and Control of DracunculiasisSubject GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #26

To Addressees

NATIONAL ACTIVITIESNIGERIA: LONDON LAUNCHING OF NATIONAL ERADICATION FUND

On December 13, the Nigerian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Mr. George Dove-Edwin, hosted a ceremony at his official residence to launch the Nigeria Guinea Worm Eradication Fund, of which he is the chief patron. The Fund, which is a private national initiative to help in the battle to eradicate Guinea worm, was launched in Lagos last July by Prof. Ransome-Kuti, Federal Minister of Health, (see GW Wrap-Up #25). The Honorable Federal Minister of Health also attended the London launching of the Fund, on which occasion the keynote speaker was the former British prime minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Heath. Also attending the London launching were four patrons of the Fund: Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Secretary-General-elect of the Commonwealth; Dr. S. Prince Akpabio, Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine; Dr. Olugbenro Ajayi, Advisor to the Industrial Development Unit, Commonwealth Secretariat; and Alhaji Shehu Malami. Dr. Donald Hopkins, Global 2000 Senior Consultant, read a message from the chairman of Global 2000, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Over 14,000 pounds sterling were donated at the London launching, including 10,000 pounds by the chairman of the Okada Company, and 1,000 pounds each by Minet Holdings and the British Nigeria Association. Funding for the launching was provided by the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), as well as support from the Nigerian High Commission. The BCCI (Nigeria) Ltd. has donated 150,000 naira to the Federal Ministry of Health for the eradication program.

Training for the intervention phase has been completed in most of the states. The second annual case search will be conducted in January-February, 1990. The Third Conference on Dracunculiasis in Nigeria will be held in March, following completion of the search.

MALI

The Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs of Mali informed WHO in October that Mali had appointed a full-time national coordinator for its Guinea Worm Elimination Program, Dr. Abdoulaye Chirffi Haidara; that it intends to conduct a national search for cases of the disease between then and May 1990; and that Mali intends to convene its first national meeting on the subject in May or June 1990.



GHANA



An additional 21,000 grey baft filters were distributed to households in endemic villages beginning in October (18,800 filters were purchased and distributed in May/June 1989). Over 8,000 copies of a Teacher's Manual designed to facilitate instruction of pupils about Guinea worm were distributed at orientation sessions for junior secondary teachers in November. The Teacher's Manual was developed in cooperation with the Ministries of Health and Education by Ms. Joan Wooten, a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer assigned to the Global 2000-assisted project.

The first national case search began in October. By the end of November, searches had been almost completed in much of the first five regions targeted (Western, Central, Eastern, Upper East, Upper West). Searches began in Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, and Greater Accra Regions in early December, and the intention is to complete the search by covering Northern and Volta Regions in January-February 1990. As of the end of October, a total of 54,571 new cases of Guinea worm in over 2,600 villages had been reported for 1989 through the monthly reporting system.

In November, 50 million cedis from the USAID grant to the Ministry of Health for the Guinea Worm Eradication Program were made available.

PAKISTAN

A thorough annual program review of this national program was conducted at Global 2000 headquarters and at CDC in Atlanta in November. The main purpose of the review was to facilitate plans and preparations for the 1990 epidemiologic year, when this program is committed to halting transmission of dracunculiasis in Pakistan altogether. At the end of 1989, a total of only 535 cases had been reported in all of Pakistan, in 147 villages, as compared to 1,111 cases in 1988, and an estimated total of 2,400 cases in 1987. The revisions in operations for this program in 1990 will be useful to other countries as they too eventually come to the final stages of transmission of the disease.



Dr. M. Abdur Rab, former National Program Coordinator for this project, has left that position to begin a graduate program of study in London.

INDIA

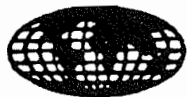
The 12th Task Force Meeting of the Indian Guinea Worm Eradication Program is scheduled to be held at the National Institute of Communicable Diseases in Delhi on January 15-16, 1990.

BENIN

A consultant epidemiologist from CDC visited Benin in December, at the request of that government and UNICEF, to assist in preparations to conduct a national search for cases.

TOGO

At the request of the Government of Togo and UNDP, a team assembled by Global 2000 conducted a 10-day consultation in December, in cooperation with WHO. The main purpose of the consultation was to consider the feasibility of Global 2000 assistance to the northern prefecture of Bassar, in regard to eliminating Guinea worm and improving agriculture.



INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

U.S. PEACE CORPS PREPARES TO STEP UP OPERATIONS



The U.S. Peace Corps has announced plans for a meeting of representatives from its country offices in West Africa, with national counterparts and a few consultants. This Guinea Worm Eradication Start-Up Workshop will be held in Lome, Togo, January 22-26, 1990. The main goals of the workshop are to review the draft Guinea Worm Eradication Program Plan, to develop short-term (6-12 month) and long-term (12-36 month) country-specific activities, to review existing Guinea worm projects in which Peace Corps Volunteers are involved, and to identify ways in which other interested agencies can help support activities. Representatives from Benin, Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, and Togo are expected to attend.

The meeting in Togo is to begin implementing the \$675,000 three-year agreement signed by representatives of AID and Peace Corps earlier in 1989, in which the two agencies agreed to use more PCVs and their national counterparts to help in the battle to eradicate Guinea worm in up to 10 African countries. Peace Corps estimates that the total cost of deploying up to 10 PCVs in each of up to 10 endemic countries over three years is about \$7.69 million.

WASH ESTABLISHES RAINWATER HARVESTING INFORMATION CENTER



The Water and Sanitation for Health (WASH) Project, which was established by the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1980, has recently established the Rainwater Harvesting Information Center. Its purposes

include maintaining a documentation center and database, and it is organizing a network of interested individuals and institutions. It publishes a newsletter, RAINDROP, and already has a document collection of nearly 300 reports, articles, and books. It has published a training manual for conducting a two-week workshop for local project promoters in rainwater systems. It responds to requests for information, and sends out reports and information packets. Interested persons should contact: Dan Campbell, The WASH Project, 1611 North Kent Street, Suite 1001, Arlington, Virginia 22209, USA; telephone (703) 243-8200; telex WUI 64552. Requests should be as specific as possible about the information that is desired.

MARCH 31 REPORTING DEADLINE

Readers are reminded of the recommendation made at the second African regional meeting at Accra - that countries should report their annual number of dracunculiasis cases to WHO by March 31st of the following year. The time for reporting 1989 cases of the disease is fast approaching. As interest in helping eradicate dracunculiasis increases, so does the importance of prompt reporting from all endemic countries, however incomplete that data may be. Surveillance data available, as of December 1989, are shown below. Data reported to WHO by the end of March 1990 will be compiled and publicized widely. Don't let your country be late!!

SURVEILLANCE DATA Cases of dracunculiasis as of December 1989

	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989*</u>
Benin	...	400	13,892	...
Burkina Faso	2,558	1,957	1,069	...
Cameroon	86	...	752	...
Chad	314
Cote d'Ivoire	1,177	483
Ethiopia	1,188	2,302	1,462	...
Ghana	4,717	18,398	71,767	54,571
India	23,070	17,031	12,023	6,791**
Mali	4,632	6,384	4,512	...
Mauritania	...	239	565	...
Niger	...	699
Nigeria	2,821	216,484	654,395	...
Pakistan	...	2,400	1,111	535
Senegal	128	132	138	...
Sudan	1,644	399	542	...
Togo	1,175	125	178	...

* Provisional data

** As of June 1989

... No data available

ELIMINATION CERTIFICATION MEETING

During February 19-21, WHO headquarters will hold an informal consultation in Geneva to define criteria and procedures for certification of elimination of dracunculiasis from formerly endemic countries.

THIRD AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Third African Regional Conference on Dracunculiasis Elimination in Africa will be held during March 28-30, 1990 at the Hotel President Sofitel in Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire. Sponsors of this conference are WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, and Global 2000. For further information, contact: Dr. Fred Wurapa, WHO Regional Office for Africa, P.O.Box 6, Brazzaville, People's Republic of the Congo.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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CDC is the WHO Collaborating Center for Research, TRaining, and Control of Dracunculiasis.