

**Memorandum**

Date October 15, 1991

From

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

Subject GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #33

To

Addressees

**CARTER ANNOUNCES PRIZES FOR GHANA, NIGERIA**

President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter have announced their intention to personally donate \$1,000 annually for awards to nationals in Ghana, and a similar amount for Nigeria. The awards will be made to the nationals of each country who contribute the best idea to the Guinea worm eradication effort. The announcement was made in Atlanta by President Carter at the opening session of the first annual program review of the Ghanaian and Nigerian Guinea Worm Eradication Programs, which was held at The Carter Center in July. The first "Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Awards for Guinea Worm Eradication" will be made in Ghana and Nigeria in 1992.

**GEORGIA-PACIFIC CORPORATION DONATES PAPER PRODUCTS**

The Georgia-Pacific Corporation, a major U.S. manufacturer of forestry products which is headquartered in Atlanta, agreed in July to donate to the Carter Center paper products needed for the Guinea Worm Eradication project in Africa. Communicorp, a separate company in Columbus, Georgia, agreed also to donate printing of the materials to be made available by Georgia-Pacific. Specifications are being developed for the first shipments of posters, flipcharts, surveillance forms, and booklets to Ghana and Nigeria. Other Guinea Worm Eradication Programs in Africa that would like similar assistance and have completed a national search for cases and prepared a national plan of action should send their requests to Global 2000, Carter Center, One Copenhill, Atlanta, Georgia 30307.

**OPEC GRANT TO WHO FOR CERTIFICATION OF ELIMINATION**

In June, the director-general of the Vienna-based OPEC Fund for International Development, Dr. Y. Seyyid Abdulai, informed the director-general of WHO, Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, that the Governing Board of the OPEC Fund had approved a technical assistance grant of US\$300,000 to help support the process of certification of elimination of dracunculiasis. The first \$100,000 of the grant will be disbursed to WHO immediately; the remainder in four equal installments between 1993 and 1999. Two countries, Pakistan

and The Gambia, have already formally requested WHO's assistance with preparations for certification of elimination of dracunculiasis.

## **INTERAGENCY COORDINATING GROUP FORMS A TECHNICAL TEAM TO ASSIST ERADICATION IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA**

UNICEF and the WHO Regional Office for Africa announced during a meeting in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in September their support for the establishment of an Interagency Technical Assistance Team, to be headquartered in Ouagadougou. This team is intended to assist all endemic Francophone countries in eradicating dracunculiasis. Mr. Jean Pierre Meert, Chief UNICEF/WATSAN officer in Burkina Faso and Dr. Alhousseini Maiga, WHO/AFRO's Program Coordinator for Dracunculiasis Eradication, will form the initial team. Dr. Maiga will be transferred to his new position in Ouagadougou by January 1992. This new regional activity should help endemic Francophone countries in a badly-needed effort to mount effective nationwide interventions against Guinea worm disease.

### **NATIONAL ACTIVITIES**



### **GHANA: MONTHLY REPORTING IMPROVING**



Overall, 71% of endemic villages in Ghana (5111 from 1990, plus 354 new endemic villages from 1991) submitted surveillance reports for August 1991 by the end of September. The percentage of endemic villages reporting for each of the first five months of 1991 varied from 54 to 62%. Of the four most highly endemic regions, which together had 92% of all Guinea worm in Ghana in 1990, the percentage of endemic villages reporting in August was 82.7% for Northern, 40.8% for Volta, 90% for Brong Ahafo, and 96% for Central Region. Reporting in the Central Region increased from only 2% of endemic villages in April; and in Volta Region from 4-8% of endemic villages reporting during the first five months of 1991. So far in 1991, a provisional total of 45,566 cases of dracunculiasis have been reported in Ghana through August.

With funding provided by DANIDA, the Danish Bilharziasis Laboratory in Tamale has provided 3,000 T-shirts with health education messages, and 150 bicycles for use in the Guinea worm eradication program in Ghana's Northern Region, at a cost of 2.6 million cedis (375 cedis = US\$1). The national eradication program has purchased another 7,000 T-shirts with similar messages for distribution in the other endemic areas of the country. A total of 341,714 nylon filters have been cut and distributed in Ghana from material

donated by DuPont and Precision Fabrics Group in the one year since September 1990 (Ghana has an estimated 320,288 households in endemic villages).

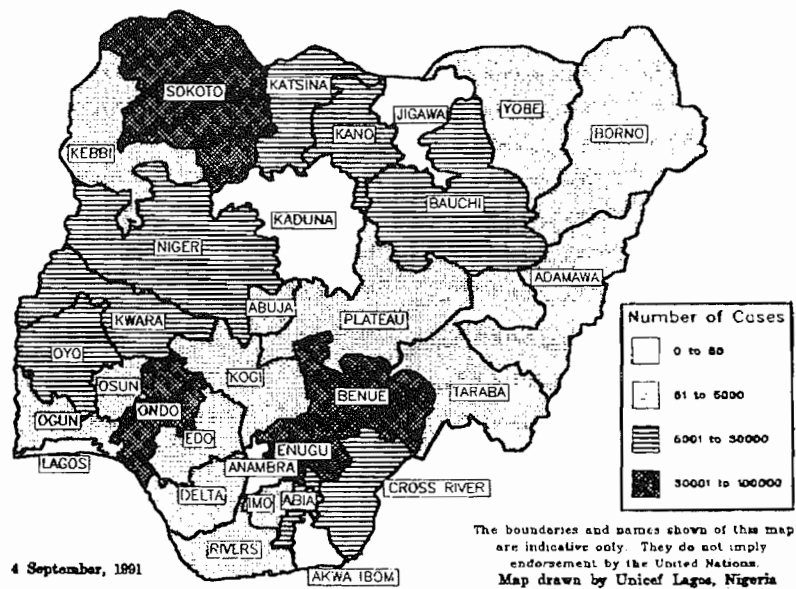
Ghana's Northern Region launched a twice-yearly newsletter for its Guinea Worm Eradication Program in July 1991. Edited by Mr. Von Asigri, support for the newsletter is provided by the Danish Bilharziasis Laboratory. The headquarters of the Global 2000-assisted secretariat for the national Guinea Worm Eradication Program was joined recently by Ms. Laurie Waits, a volunteer from the International Christian Youth Exchange Program, and Ms. Diane Wooster, a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer.

**NIGERIA: MONTHLY SURVEILLANCE BEGINS, MORE HELP ON THE WAY**

Nigeria's National Guinea Worm Eradication Program (NIGEP) began receiving monthly reports of Guinea worm occurring in endemic villages of the country's southeast and northeast zones as of July 1991. A retrospective survey to ascertain the numbers of cases that occurred in all endemic villages of Nigeria during the one-year period beginning July 1990 is expected to be complete shortly. Training of at least one village-based health worker for each of the endemic villages has been completed in 17 states and the Federal Capital Territory. This training, the costs of which are being provided in substantial part by UNICEF/Nigeria, should be completed before the end of 1991.

In August, the Federal Government of Nigeria announced the establishment of nine new states, bringing the national total to 30 states plus the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja). The 30 states are now divided into a total of 589 Local Government Areas. One consequence of this new arrangement is that the new Anambra State, which consists of the western part of the old Anambra, is essentially free of Guinea worm, while the highly endemic former eastern part of old Anambra State is the new Enugu State (see map).

**Guinea Worm Cases in Nigeria by State**  
July 1989 - June 1990



Norsk Hydro, a Norwegian fertilizer, oil, and chemical company, has agreed to donate 50,000 Norwegian kroner (6.5kr = US\$1) to purchase about 3,000 T-shirts with health education messages for the NIGEP ("Stop Guinea Worm Now - Just Ask Me How"). This donation was arranged by Dr. Anders Seim of Health & Development International. District 749 of Rotary International, which includes 52 Rotary Clubs in northern New Jersey, USA, is soliciting donations of water harvesting equipment, medicine, bandages, and funds to help combat Guinea worm in Nigeria.

The national agency responsible for rural water supply, DFRRI, committed in July to providing one borehole well in each endemic village in the 10 least endemic states (of the old 21 states) by the end of 1991. The executive director of UNICEF, Mr. James Grant, pledged his agency's support to provide at least one borehole well in each endemic village of Kwara State. The first contingent of 25 Nigerian National Youth Service Corpers are to begin service with the program in October, and will be joined soon thereafter by 7 U.S. Peace Corps volunteers. Each will be assigned to duties in one of the 32 most highly endemic LGAs in the country.

Peace Corps Trainees for Nigeria. Peace Corps is going back to Nigeria after an absence of 21 years. The 12-week technical training for the 11 participants began in Atlanta on September 26, and continues in Nigeria on October 27. Seven of the trainees will work with local government Guinea worm coordinators as their counterparts in three states: Niger, Plateau, and Enugu. Like their colleagues in the Nigerian National Youth Service Corps who will be working with the Nigerian Guinea Worm Eradication Program, the Peace Corps trainees will be assigned to the most highly endemic local governments. The other volunteers will work with continuing education and health information systems in the Combatting Childhood Communicable Diseases (CCCD) program of the Centers for Disease Control in the same three states. Both CDC and Global 2000 are participating in the training. The technical training is being coordinated by Dr. William Brieger, a faculty member of the African Regional Health Education Center, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

#### PAKISTAN: 92 CASES IN 1991



By the end of September, Pakistan's Guinea Worm Eradication Program had recorded 92 cases of dracunculiasis, so far in 1991, in 34 villages (vs. 160 cases in 56 villages in 1990; the main transmission season in Pakistan is April-October). Twenty-three of the 34 villages in 1991 had 1 case, but Ganju (NWFP) had 36 cases, Khund Bun (Punjab) had 8, and Bhujbar (Sind) had 6 cases. This program clearly did not implement case containment as well as it thought it had during 1990, a fact which should be a warning to other programs. The goal of this project was to allow no more indigenous cases to occur after 1990. A team conducted surveys and a final evaluation during a visit to the country

in September. It is expected that WHO will provide some assistance to the Ministry of Health for the continuation of this program after Global 2000 assistance ends on November 1st this year.

### UGANDA: PREPARATIONS FOR CASE SEARCH

The first meeting of the national coordinating committee was held in Entebbe on May 14. Representatives included the vector control and water development parts of the Ugandan government, UNICEF, WHO, the Italian missionary NGO AVSI, the Global 2000 resident advisor, and others. On September 2-6, the program held a workshop for training key health workers from eight northeastern districts. The first of these districts plans to begin a village-by-village search for cases in mid-October 1991, with financial support provided by UNICEF/Uganda. Preliminary data suggest that dracunculiasis is very highly endemic in Kitgum District.



### CAMEROON: NATIONAL DRACUNCULIASIS DAY



Cameroon held its second National Dracunculiasis Day at Mora, in Mayo Sava Division of Far North Province on June 26, 1991, under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF, and WHO. The purpose was to enhance public awareness of the disease and of the country's eradication program. Mr. Ben Nwobi, zonal facilitator for the adjacent Northeast Zone of Nigeria, represented Nigeria at the ceremonies. Papers presented at the ceremony will be summarized in a special issue of OCEAC Bulletin. The National Task Force met on September 23. As of the end of September, Cameroon has detected less than 400 cases of dracunculiasis so far in 1991 (vs. 742 cases in 1990). The target is to eradicate dracunculiasis from Cameroon by the end of 1993. Peace Corps, CARE International, and USAID/Vector Biology & Control Project are also assisting this eradication program.

### INDIA: PROVISIONAL 1991 RESULTS

India held a Mid-year (1991) Review of State Guinea Worm Eradication Program Officers in Delhi on August 9. Data from active searches conducted in April and June revealed a total of only 1439 cases so far in 1991 (vs. 4778 cases in 1990). Of the cases this year 1038, or 72.1%, are in Rajasthan, 202 are in Karnataka, 120 are in Andhra Pradesh, and 78 are in Madhya Pradesh. Tamil Nadu reported 1 case, imported from Andhra



Pradesh. Of the 374 villages reporting cases, 304 (81%) are in Rajasthan, where India recently added two more epidemiologic teams for investigation of Guinea worm. Rajasthan borders the endemic Sind province of Pakistan.

### STATUS OF ERADICATION PROGRAMS IN AFRICA

The status of dracunculiasis eradication programs in Africa, as of September 30, 1991, is described on the table below. **Niger** began its first national case search in early October; it plans to complete the search in mid-November. **Mali** began training health workers for its first search in September (Mali has a new National Program Manager: Dr. Issa Degoga). **Chad** will conduct its search in December 1991. **Senegal** completed its search in June-July; it enumerated 1341 cases in 68 villages of three departments (Matam, Bakel, and Kedougou, bordering Mauritania, Mali, and Guinea, respectively). **Cote d'Ivoire** expects to complete its search in October. **Uganda** will begin its search in October. By the end of December 1991, it now appears that all endemic countries except Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan will have completed or begun at least one national case search (most with the financial assistance of UNICEF). WHO/AFRO plans to send consultants to **Kenya** and **Ethiopia** soon.

STATUS OF DRACUNCULIASIS ERADICATION PROGRAMS IN AFRICA (OCTOBER 1991)

COUNTRIES	LATEST NATIONAL CASE SEARCH	NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION	NATIONAL COORDINATOR DESIGNATED	TARGET DATE FOR ERADICATION	INTER-SECTORAL GROUP OR SECRETARIAT FORMED	MONTHLY VILLAGE-BASED SURVEILLANCE REPORTS STARTED	IMPLEMENTATION OF DISEASE CONTROL IN ALL ENDEMIC AREAS
BENIN	JUNE 1990	YES, 1989	YES	1995	YES, 1989	NO	NO
BURKINA FASO	DECEMBER 1990	YES, 1985	YES	1995	YES, 1985	NO	NO
CAMEROON	SEPTEMBER 1990	YES, 1990	YES	1993	YES, 1990	APRIL 1991	YES
C.A.R. <sup>1</sup>	MARCH 1991 <sup>1</sup>	NO	NO	1995	NO	NO	NO
CHAD	NO <sup>2</sup>	NO	YES	1995	NO	NO	NO
COTE D'IVOIRE	UNDERWAY	NO	YES	1995	NO	NO	NO
ETHIOPIA	NO	NO	YES	1995	NO	NO	NO
GHANA	MARCH 1991	YES, 1988	YES	1993	YES, 1989	JULY 1990	YES
KENYA	NO <sup>3</sup>	YES, 1990	YES	1993	NO	NO	NO
MALI	UNDERWAY	YES, 1990	YES	1995	NO	NO	NO
MAURITANIA	MARCH 1991	YES, 1989	YES	1995	NO	NO	NO
NIGER	UNDERWAY	YES, 1991	YES	1995	NO	NO	NO
NIGERIA	MARCH 1991	YES, 1988	YES	1995	YES, 1988	APRIL 1991	YES
SENEGAL	JULY, 1991	YES, 1990	YES	1995	NO	NO	NO
SUDAN	NO	NO	YES	1995	NO	NO	NO
UGANDA	UNDERWAY	YES, 1989	YES	1995	YES, 1991	NO	NO
TOGO	APRIL 1991	YES, 1990	YES	1995	YES, 1990	NO	NO

<sup>1</sup> INDIGENOUS TRANSMISSION MAY NO LONGER OCCUR.

<sup>2</sup> SURVEY OF SUSPECTED AREAS ONLY.

<sup>3</sup> CASE SEARCH PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 1991.

<sup>4</sup> MAIL QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY.

## MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

### SECOND ANNUAL PEACE CORPS MEETING

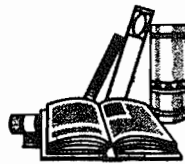
U.S. Peace Corps conducted its Second Annual Guinea Worm Eradication Workshop in Cotonou, Benin, on June 3-6, 1991. About 40 persons attended, including National Program Managers from 10 countries, and Peace Corps volunteers from 2 countries.

### DORN MEETING

A workshop on operations research for the eradication of dracunculiasis supported by UNICEF, WHO, UNDP, OCCGE, USAID, CDC, AFRICARE, The International Institute of Parasitology, and the Overseas Development Administration was held at Centre Muraz, Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, from September 23-28, 1991. The purpose of the workshop was to assist participants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, and Togo to develop research proposals in the areas of disease surveillance and reporting capacity, improved health education methodologies, and integration of dracunculiasis eradication efforts into existing health and social services. About 40 persons participated in the workshop. Six research proposals were discussed and developed. DORN will assist the investigators to finalize their research projects and facilitate dissemination of the proposals for funding.

### 4TH AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The Nigeria Conference Organizing Committee met on September 27. Representatives present included WHO, UNICEF, NIGEP, Ministry of Water Resources, DFRRI, and Global 2000. Plans are well underway for the Fourth African Regional Conference on Dracunculiasis, to be held at the Nike Lake Hotel in Enugu, Nigeria, on March 17-19, 1992.



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