

**Memorandum**

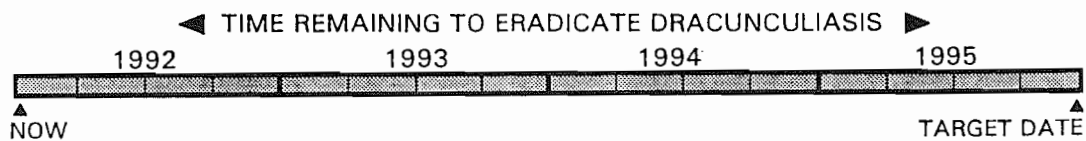
Date December 31, 1991

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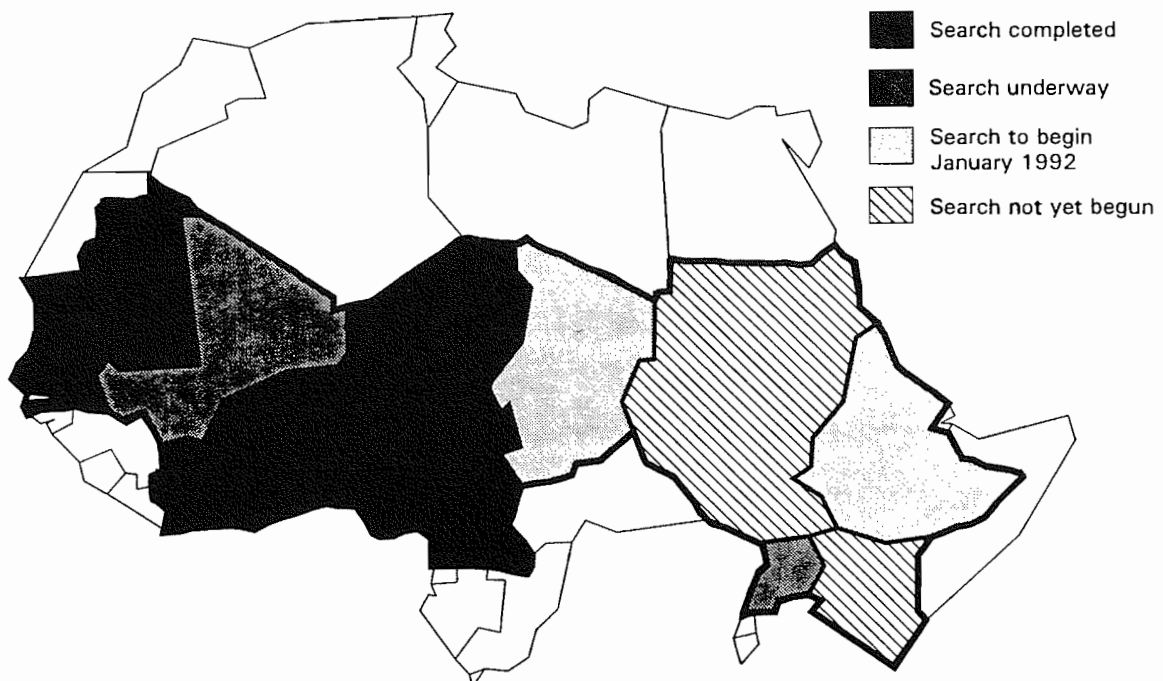
WHO Collaborating Center for  
Research, Training, and Eradication of Dracunculiasis

Subject GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #34

To Addressees



**FOUR YEARS TO 1995 !!!** As we (endemic countries and interested external agencies) enter the final four years before the target date for eradicating dracunculiasis, **DECEMBER 1995**, it is appropriate to review the current status of dracunculiasis eradication activities in each endemic country as of December 1991. With only 48 months remaining, it is incumbent upon all of us, in endemic countries and in external assisting agencies, to urgently redouble our efforts, starting immediately. Increased efforts and funding later will not make up for time lost from now on. At this very moment, seasonal transmission of the disease is already occurring in the southern parts of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Togo and, in April-May 1992, the transmission season will begin elsewhere in countries with endemic disease. Even a week's delay may result in Guinea worm persisting in an area for another year.

**STATUS OF CASE SEARCHES FOR DRACUNCULIASIS  
IN AFRICA, DECEMBER 1991**

## **BENIN**

Held national conference in 1988. Search completed in 1990. 3756 endemic villages and hamlets. 37,414 cases in 1990. Significant reductions in cases in most highly endemic department (Zou) with UNICEF, USAID, and Peace Corps (11 volunteers) assistance; much less activity in other endemic areas. National plan of action in place. Planning national public mobilization in late January 1992. Joint program review scheduled for February 1992 with Togo. JICA (Japanese International Cooperation Agency) planning wells project in Zou endemic area in 1993.

## **BURKINA FASO**

Search completed in 1990, with financial assistance of UNICEF. 2621 endemic villages. 42,167 cases in 1990. National plan of action needs to be updated to reflect outcome of search and evaluation of recently completed pilot projects in Bam and Oubritenga Provinces. No systematic interventions underway elsewhere. The new national program manager is Dr. Roger Hien.

## **CAMEROON**

Conducting village-based surveillance monthly and implementing case containment strategy. Approximately 24 endemic villages in 1991. Intervening in all endemic areas. Total number of cases reduced to 392 in 1991, from 742 in 1990. Celebrated second National Dracunculiasis Day June 26, 1991. Assisted by USAID, UNICEF, Peace Corps, Tulane University, and others. Eradication target date: 1993.

## **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

Preliminary survey of suspected endemic areas conducted in 1991 reported 10 unconfirmed cases. No other known actions underway.

## **CHAD**

First national case search scheduled to be conducted in January 1992.

## **COTE D'IVOIRE**

First national case search began early in 1990, completed in November 1991. More than 450 endemic villages. Other results of search not yet available because of problems with computer. Global 2000 chairman President Jimmy Carter discussed status of the national program with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny and the minister of public health, Professor Alain Ekra, in Abidjan in October 1991. Consultant scheduled to assist in preparing national plan of action in February 1992.

## **ETHIOPIA**

First National Guinea Worm Eradication Workshop held in Nazareth on December 6-7, 1991, with opening address by Minister of Health, Dr. (Mme) Adanetch K. Miriam, and under the leadership of national program manager, Dr. Seyoum Tatischeff. Approximately 90 persons attended from around the country, except Eritrea. The first national case search is scheduled to be conducted in each province by provincial health workers in January 1992, with financial assistance from UNICEF. A consultant will help develop a national plan of action after search is completed. In November 1991, the Conrad Hilton Foundation awarded a five-year grant to the Global 2000 project to help in establishing a secretariat for the Guinea Worm Eradication Program in Ethiopia. Global 2000 chairman President Jimmy Carter discussed the need for a secretariat with Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi during a brief stopover in Addis Ababa in November 1991.

## **GHANA**

81% of 5321 endemic villages reported on time for October 1991. Provisional total of 55,860 cases reported for the entire country in 1991 through the end of October. Nationwide interventions underway in all endemic areas. Reduced number of cases from 179,483 in 1989 to 123,793 cases in 1990. Intersectoral coordinating committee met December 13. Inservice training for approximately 7,000 zonal and village volunteers to be held January 1992. Allotment of donated nylon filter material for all of 1992 arrived in country December 31. Monthly treatment with Abate of water sources for about 200 endemic villages in Central and Volta Regions began in October 1991, with vehicle donated by UNICEF. Significant support for this program provided by Global 2000, USAID, JICA, Danish Bilharziasis Laboratory/DANIDA, UNICEF, and World Vision International. Joint program review with Nigerian program held at Global 2000 headquarters in Atlanta in July 1991. Eradication target date: 1993.

## **INDIA**

374 active endemic villages, with provisional total of 1439 cases found in 1991 (vs. 4778 cases in 1990); 72.1% of the 1991 cases were in Rajasthan State. Interventions underway in all endemic areas. Annual national workshop and program review scheduled for February 1992. Significant assistance to this program is being provided by UNICEF, WHO, and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). Eradication target date: 1991.

## **KENYA**

Preliminary survey in 1990 confirmed existence of continued transmission in a small part of Turkana District in the extreme northwest. No known follow up or interventions have been conducted. Eradication target date: 1993.

## **MALI**

First national search began in December 1991; provisional results are expected in January. Substantial interventions underway in Doentza District, with funding from IMPACT and with assistance of Peace Corps. No intersectoral coordinating group or nationwide interventions. Will need to develop a plan of action as soon as search is completed.

## **MAURITANIA**

Search completed in 1991. Found 711 endemic villages, with 8036 cases. Consultancy planned for revising national plan of action in February 1992.

## **NIGER**

National case search conducted in October-November 1991, with funding provided by UNICEF. Search revealed a provisional total of 31,610 cases of the disease had occurred over the previous 12 months in 1510 endemic villages. 20,637 of the cases were in the Department of Zinder, where 17,884 of those cases were in one arrondissement: Mirriah. Needs to revise national plan of action and begin village-based interventions in all 1510 endemic villages.

## **NIGERIA**

Nationwide interventions underway in most of 5270 endemic villages. Total number of cases reduced from 643,470 in 1989 to 394,732 in 1990. (Former Anambra State reduced total number of cases to 64,908 in 1991 as compared to 95,119 cases there in 1990.) Began converting to village-based surveillance in 1991. National policy requires priority for new water supply projects to endemic villages. Celebrated third National Guinea Worm Day on March 20, 1991 with Fourth National Dracunculiasis Conference. Released three commemorative postage stamps. 22 4-wheel drive vehicles donated for the program by JICA arrived at end of 1991; 299 motorbikes also donated by Japan will arrive in January. Recent donations of 60 motorcycles and \$100,000 by the A.G. Leventis Foundation for use by this program in the 60 most highly endemic Local Government Areas. Five new Peace Corps Volunteers and 18 trained National Youth Service Corps members joined the program late in 1991. Next quarterly meeting of National Guinea Worm Eradication Task Force will meet January 20. Major assistance provided to this program by Global 2000, UNICEF, JICA, and the national rural water supply agency DFRRI (Directorate of Food, Roads, and Rural Infrastructure). Program review conducted jointly with Ghana at Global 2000 headquarters in Atlanta in July 1991.

## **PAKISTAN**

106 cases reported in 35 villages in 1991, with over one-third of the cases reported from one village. Pakistan reported 160 cases in 56 villages in 1990. Eradication target date was 1990. Village-based surveillance and interventions underway in all endemic areas

since 1988. Direct Global 2000 assistance ended November 1, 1991. Further assistance to achieve eradication in 1992 expected from Global 2000, WHO, UNICEF, and CDC.

## SENEGAL

First national case search completed in 1991. Total of 1341 cases reported in 68 endemic villages. Needs revised plan of action. Assistance for combined program based on safe drinking water to address dracunculiasis and iodine deficiency reportedly being considered by the French international assistance agency.

## SUDAN

Dracunculiasis known to be widely endemic in much of southern and middle Sudan. No national search or other systematic intervention underway.

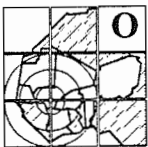
## TOGO

National search completed in 1991, except for 118 villages in Kloto. 584 endemic villages detected, with point prevalence of 5118 cases present during the search. 8 of the 21 prefectures contain 4967, or 97% of the cases. Has functioning national intersectoral committee, with agreement for priority to the endemic villages for water supply. Village-based interventions and surveillance not yet in place nationwide. Joint program review planned with Benin in February 1992. Being assisted by UNICEF, WHO, Peace Corps (24 volunteers full-time for Guinea worm), and World Neighbors.

## UGANDA

First national case search began October 14 and is proceeding district by district. Kotido, Kumi, Moroto, Soroti, Kapchorwa, and Kitgum Districts completed searches by end of 1991. Over 71,000 cases identified in first six districts searched. First meeting of national coordinating committee held in May 1991 and a draft of the national plan of action discussed. Global 2000 resident advisor arrived in March 1991. Major assistance now being provided by UNICEF, Global 2000, and AVSI (an Italian NGO). New World Bank-funded rural water supply project in the northern areas will also assist. Program will need to begin village-based surveillance and interventions in all endemic villages starting early in 1992, when most of the apparent endemic area will have been searched.

## 38TH INTERMINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF OCCGE: FRANCOPHONE MOBILIZATION



**O . C . C . G . E .**

Mr. Andrew Agle and Dr. Donald Hopkins of Global 2000 were invited by Dr. Youssouf Kane, the secretary general of the OCCGE (Organisation de Coopération et de Coopération pour la Lutte Contre les Grandes

Endemies), the public health organization of 8 French-speaking West African states (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo) to the 38th Interministerial Conference of the organization, at Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, on November 4-8, 1991. Agle and Hopkins presented verbal and written reports on the current status of the dracunculiasis initiative in West Africa, and described the urgent actions the 8 countries must undertake in order to eradicate dracunculiasis by 1995. The ministers of health of Burkina, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, and Togo were personally present; Benin and Niger were represented by other MOH members. Before arriving in Burkina Faso, Hopkins visited briefly the national Guinea Worm Eradication Programs in Benin and Togo.

The OCCGE and Global 2000 have agreed to promote a mass social mobilization simultaneously in all 8 of the endemic countries that are members of the organization, starting in April 1992. The aim is to increase public awareness and to generate or strengthen support for the dracunculiasis eradication effort among decision makers in the 8 francophone countries. The respective national Guinea worm eradication programs and other supporting agencies are invited to undertake relevant activities according to their own mandates and resources, with the simultaneous kick-off during April helping to reinforce efforts of individual countries. Such mobilization, which has already been attained in Ghana and Nigeria, is needed in all endemic countries urgently, and will need to be continued until eradication is achieved.

#### **NEW MOVIE ON GUINEA WORM CAMPAIGN**

Ms. Sharon Baker, president of Teleduction Associates of Wilmington, Delaware, USA, and her associates are preparing a new documentary on Guinea worm eradication. The main intent of this new film is to portray the diverse international coalition of individuals and agencies that have joined forces to eradicate dracunculiasis. Ms. Baker and her crew filmed President and Mrs. Carter on a visit to an endemic village in Nigeria in October 1991, before filming related activities in Zou Province of Benin and Northern Region of Ghana in November. Support for the documentary (so far) is being provided by American Cyanamid Company, E.I. DuPont de Nemours Company, Global 2000, UNICEF, and UNDP. The film is to be completed in time for the regional conference in Enugu, Nigeria, this March.

#### **UNICEF BEGINS PUBLISHING "COUNTDOWN"**

UNICEF and DORN (Dracunculiasis Operational Research Network) published the first issue of "Countdown" in November 1991. Available in English and in French, this new periodical (to be published every two months) is intended to be a forum for the exchange of operational experience in Guinea worm eradication. For more information or to be put on the mailing list, write: DORN, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, University of London, Keppel Street, London WC1E, 7HT, UK. Telex: 8953474.

## MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

### FOURTH AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Invitations and the second announcement for this meeting were scheduled to be sent by WHO's Regional Office for Africa in December. The conference will be held at the Nike Lake Hotel in Enugu, Nigeria, on March 17-19, 1992. Major efforts are being made by WHO and UNICEF to ensure participation by appropriate representatives from the health education and rural water supply sectors in each endemic country, in addition to the public health sector. As agreed at the meeting of national program managers in Brazzaville in March 1991, UNICEF and WHO are planning three preparatory subregional meetings with national program leaders at Bamako, Mali on January 28-30 (francophone countries except Cameroon); Accra, Ghana on February 3-5 (Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria); and Nairobi, Kenya on February 10-11 (Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda).

### THIRD ANNUAL PEACE CORPS MEETING

The U.S. Peace Corps will hold its Third Annual Regional Guinea Worm Eradication Workshop in Mauritania on May 3-7, 1992. Peace Corps Volunteers and their counterparts from about 12 participating endemic African countries are expected to attend, in addition to others from Peace Corps, A.I.D., WASH, and other agencies involved.

### UNICEF MEETING

UNICEF's Technical Support Team (TST) for dracunculiasis eradication, established to help develop, evaluate, and implement new approaches to overcome problems and to provide technical and other support in order to ensure the achievement of the goal of eradication, convened in Greenwich, Connecticut, USA, on December 10-13, 1991. Approximately 20 persons attended the meeting, including UNICEF staff from Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, and Togo. Representatives from the Epicentre-Paris, the WHO Collaborating Center for Research, Training, and Eradication of Dracunculiasis at the Centers for Disease Control, and the Task Force for Child Survival-Uganda also attended. During this meeting, the TST continued UNICEF's strategic planning, technical strengthening, and experience exchange process. The TST will continue to identify and strengthen interagency cooperation efforts and provide technical support to UNICEF country programs.



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