



Date: June 14, 1999

From:



WHO Collaborating Center for
Research, Training and Eradication of Dracunculiasis

Subject:

GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #91

To: Addressees

Detect Every Case, Contain Every Worm!

COUNTRIES OUTSIDE OF SUDAN, NIGERIA, AND GHANA REDUCE DRACUNCULIASIS BY 69% IN JANUARY-APRIL 1999

The ten endemic countries outside of Sudan, Nigeria and Ghana (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Togo, and Uganda) have dramatically resumed their collective march to dracunculiasis eradication. As illustrated in Figure 1, the ten countries reduced their reported cases of the disease from 2,121 in January-April 1998, to 654 cases during the same period of 1999, a reduction of 69.2. The individual rates of reduction in the ten countries during the 4 month period are: Chad, 100%; Mauritania, 100%; Burkina Faso, 82%; Uganda, 86%; Cote d'Ivoire, 79%; Niger, 81%; Mali, 77%; Ethiopia, 74%; Togo, 52%; and Benin, 20%. This four month period includes part of the peak transmission season in Chad, Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Togo, And Benin. Table 1 and figure 2 show the latest update of cases reported and percent changes in cases by country. The status of surveillance in Burkina Faso, however, is still uncertain.

Figure 1

Percent change in reported cases of Dracunculiasis from all endemic countries, excluding Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan during January - April 1995 - 1999

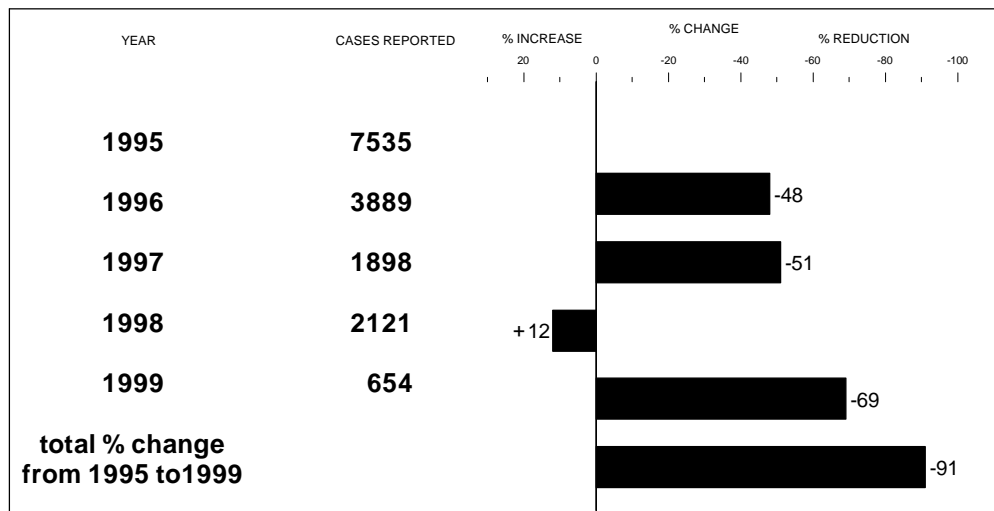


Table 1

**Number of cases contained and number reported by month during 1999*
(Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 1998)**

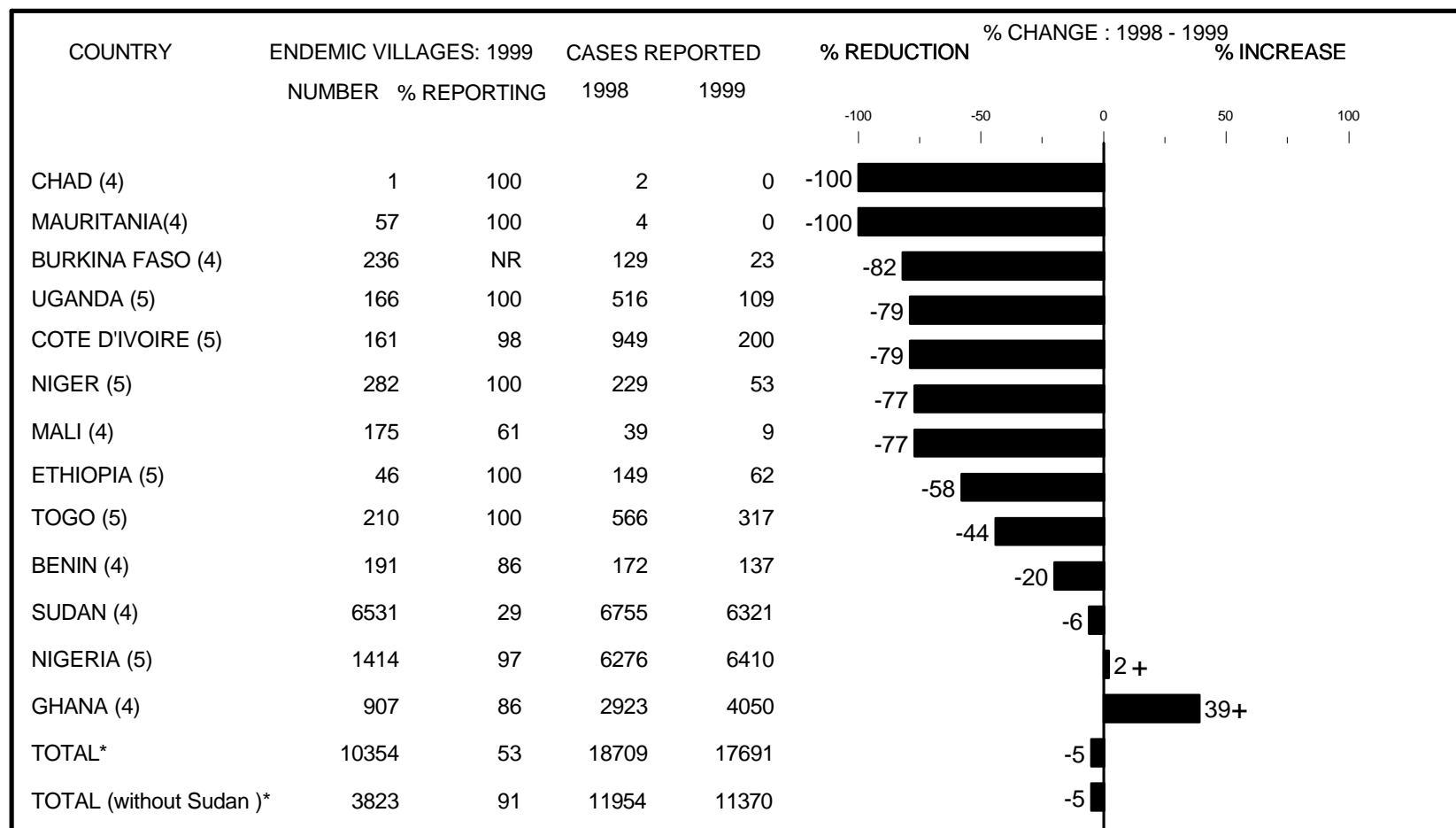
COUNTRY	NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED												%	
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER		TOTAL*
SUDAN	1066 / 2085	1375 / 2438	352 / 641	682 / 1157	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	3475 / 6321	
NIGERIA	584 / 1351	754 / 1433	914 / 1143	887 / 1114	1112 / 1369	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	4251 / 6410	66
GHANA	921 / 1140	616 / 1139	546 / 1000	450 / 771	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2533 / 4050	63
NIGER	2 / 2	3 / 3	2 / 2	5 / 5	35 / 41	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	47 / 53	89
BURKINA FASO	0 /	0 /	7 /	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	7 /	30
TOGO	87 /	57 /	15 /	33 /	48 /	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	240 /	75
COTE D'IVOIRE	58 /	32 /	31 /	16 /	36 /	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	173 /	86
UGANDA	3 /	7 /	7 /	20 /	65 /	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	102 /	92
BENIN	84 /	22 /	14 /	9 /	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	129 /	93
MALI	1 /	2 /	3 /	2 /	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	8 /	89
MAURITANIA	0 /	0 /	0 /	0 /	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0 /	
ETHIOPIA	0 /	0 /	5 /	14 /	38 /	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	57 /	92
CHAD	0 /	0 /	0 /	0 /	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0 /	
CAMEROON	1 /	0 /	0 /	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1 /	100
C.A.R. **	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0 /	0
TOTAL*	2806 /	2868 /	1896 /	2118 /	1334 /	0 /	0 /	0 /	0 /	0 /	0 /	0 /	11022 /	62
% CONTAINED	58	55	66	67	82								62	

* provisional

** Central African Republic reported 4 alleged (unconfirmed) cases of dracunculiasis for the period January - April, 1999. These cases are not included in the totals.

Figure 2

Percentage of Endemic Villages Reporting and Percentage Change in Number of Indigenous Cases of Dracunculiasis During 1998 and 1999 *, by Country

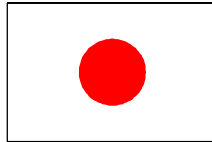


* Provisional. Totals do not include imported cases.

(2) Denotes number of months for which reports were received, e.g., Jan. - Feb., 1999

NR Countries with unknown or low rate of reporting.

JAPAN GRANTS \$150,000 TO CARTER CENTER FOR SUDAN



JAPAN

In an impressive ceremony recorded by print, radio and television media at the Embassy of Japan in Khartoum on June 10th, the Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Junnosuke Kage, and Mr. Elvin Hilyer of The Carter Center (Global 2000), signed an agreement under which the Government of Japan will provide approximately US\$150,000 to The Carter Center for the Guinea Worm Eradication Program in Sudan. The grant, made under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GGP, formerly Small Scale Grant Assistance), is the first such GGP grant to a Non-Governmental Organization in Sudan. Funding from this grant, which will be divided between activities in northern and southern areas of Sudan, will be used mainly to purchase over 36,000 square meters of nylon filter material, which will be distributed to between 150,000 and 200,000 households in endemic villages. Also participating in the signing ceremony were the Deputy to the Ambassador, the Second Secretary, and the Director of Humanitarian Assistance of the Embassy of Japan; Dr. Nabil Aziz, National Coordinator of the Sudan Guinea Worm Eradication Program (SGWEP); Mr. Hashim Elkhalfifa, Deputy National Coordinator, SGWEP; and Nancy Hilyer and Ayman El Sheikh of Global 2000's office in Khartoum. This grant, as well as grants totaling \$305,000 which were awarded in March for use in Nigeria, were made in follow-up to the Government of Japan's pledge to provide \$2.5 million to The Carter Center for the global Guinea Worm Eradication Program.

NIGERIA: GENERAL GOWON VISITS SW, NE, AND NW ZONES

Former Nigerian Head of State General Dr. Yakubu Gowon has completed his first round of advocacy and community mobilization visits to authorities in the highest-endemic state in each of the four zones of the country. On April 12th-14th, he visited Oyo State in Southwest Zone, including Igangan community in Ibarapa North LGA, and Daodu village in Orire Local Government Area (LGA). He met with the military administrator of the state as well as the chairman of the traditional rulers council. General Gowon was accompanied on this visit by the NIGEP National Coordinator, Dr. K. A. Ojodu; Global 2000/Carter Center Country Representative Dr. Emmanuel S. Miri; S.W. Zonal Consultant Dr. Fola Osibogun, and by Ambassador Morris Ekpang, Executive Director of the Gowon Center. On April 23rd-25th, General Gowon visited Borno State in Northeast Zone, including Borwashe, Morodo and Cha-chile villages in Bama LGA. In addition to visiting the military administrator of Borno State and two traditional rulers (the Shehu of Borno and the Shehu of Dikwa), General Gowon also met the governor-elect of Borno State during the visit to the military administrator. The Global 2000 country representative; Mr. Joshua Ologe, the NIGEP Zonal Facilitator for Northeast Zone; and Ambassador Ekpang accompanied General Gowon on this visit. On May 19th-21st, General Gowon and his party (including the national coordinator, Dr. Ojodu; Global 2000 country representative, Dr. Miri; NIGEP Zonal Facilitator for the NW Zone, Prof. Luke Edungbola; and Ms. Mairo Zakari, Program Officer for the Yakubu Gowon Center) visited Yankaba village in Kaura Namoda LGA, and Nassarawa Mailayi village in Birnin Magaji LGA; both in Zamfara State. As in previous visits, General Gowon met with the military administrator, commissioners, and traditional rulers, and spoke directly to populations in the affected communities themselves. General Gowon visited endemic villages in Izzi and Ebonyi LGAs of Ebonyi State in March.

General Gowon's advocacy efforts were warmly received wherever he went, and effective follow-up actions have already been taken by the Shehu of Dikwa, who has begun conducting advocacy tours of his own, and in Orire LGA of Oyo State, where authorities have stepped up efforts to provide new safe water sources and to rehabilitate broken pumps in endemic villages. Paraphrasing the popular theme he developed while leading the country during and after the Nigerian Civil War, General Gowon repeatedly exhorted his

audiences that “Eradicating Guinea worm by 2000 is a task that must be done!”

The status of monthly incidence in the six highest endemic states of Nigeria are given in Figures 3A & 3B. Nigeria marked National Guinea Worm Eradication Day on March 18th, when the Federal Minister of Health, the Honorable Prof. Adebo S. Adeyemi, held a ministerial press briefing in Abuja. General Gowon was a special guest of honor at the briefing. Dr. Donald Hopkins of The Carter Center, and Dr. Nevio Zagaria of the World Health Organization were among the external participants in a meeting of NIGEP’s steering committee, which was held in Jos on May 25th-26th. The Yakubu Gowon Center was also represented at this steering committee meeting for the first time, by Ms. Mairo Zakari. In follow-up to the previous steering committee meeting, Southwest and Northeast Zones have begun pilot experiments with offering small cash rewards to encourage reporting of cases of dracunculiasis. A new shipment of 15,000 square meters of nylon filter material purchased by Global 2000/The Carter Center (~\$60,000) arrived in Nigeria in mid-May and is being distributed, with priority to Northeast and Northwest Zones, which are entering their peak transmission periods.

NIGER CELEBRATES WORM WEEK '99 IN ZINDER



Fifty teams, each including one of forty-two American Peace Corps Volunteers or one or two of thirteen Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, and with one Nigerian “animator” counterpart on each team, spent one week visiting villages in the most endemic areas of Zinder and Tillabery Departments. In Zinder, thirty teams, which worked mainly in the cantons of Tirmini, Ouame and Albarkaram, in late May, traveled on foot, from household to household, hamlet to hamlet talking to villagers about how to prevent Guinea worm disease, and distributing cloth filters. In Tera Arrondissement of Tillabery Department, twenty teams visited the 20 most endemic villages and their 94 hamlets, and distributed almost 5,000 filters from May 1 - 7, working mainly in the canton of Dargol and the area around the village of Bankilare (Gorouol Canton). U.S. Peace Corps is also supporting two theater troupes, which have performed skits in 18 villages so far in Bankalare and Zarma/Fulfulde regions, also conveying messages about Guinea worm prevention.

Mr. Harry Godfrey and Mr. Christopher Duggar, consultants provided by Global 2000/The Carter Center, have arrived in Niger to assist during the peak transmission season in Tillabery and Tera Districts, and in Tahoua District, respectively. Niger has reported a total of 41 cases in May 1999, 35 of them contained, for a reduction of 76% from the 168 cases reported in May 1998.

IN BRIEF

Benin: Funding from the Government of Benin and from UNICEF have been released to the program. A consultant, Mr. Daniel Frank, is assisting this program at present, with support provided by Global 2000/The Carter Center.

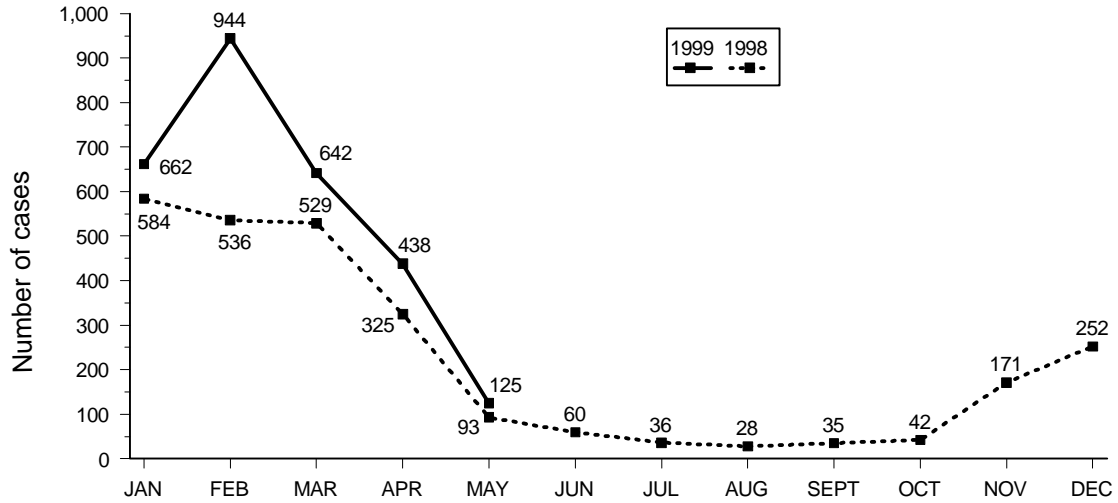
Burkina Faso: Dr. Maxime Drabo reports that the Guinea Worm Eradication Program has appointed 14 agent renforts, who will be deployed to the highest endemic regions of the country. Emergency funding for these additional health workers, including purchase of 14 motorcycles for their use, has been provided by Global 2000 in a grant of \$50,000 through the WHO office in Ouagadougou. The agents are being trained in two simultaneous sessions in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso.

Togo: WHO has purchased 2,000 square meters of filter material for delivery to this GWEP.

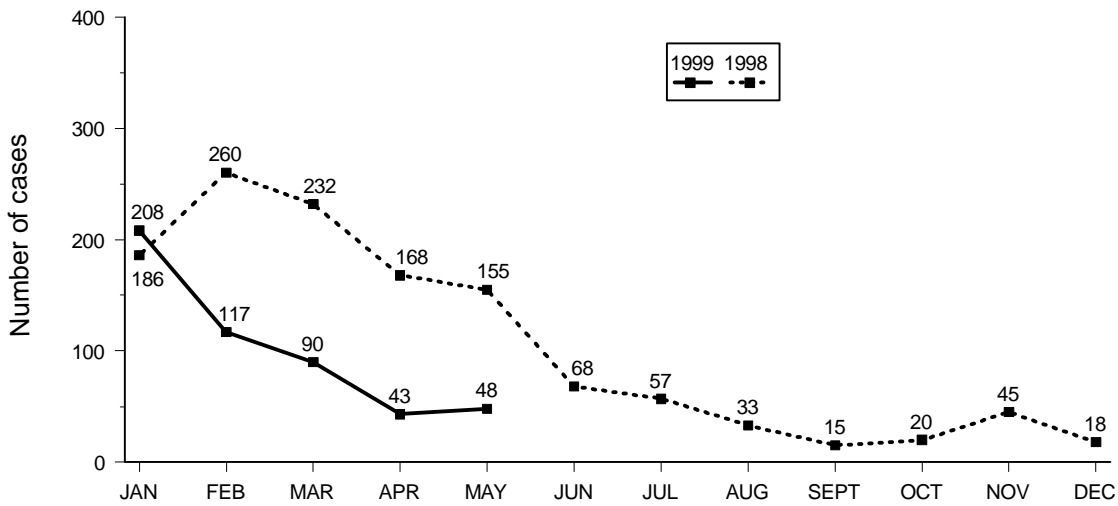
Figure 3A

Nigeria Guinea Worm Eradication Program

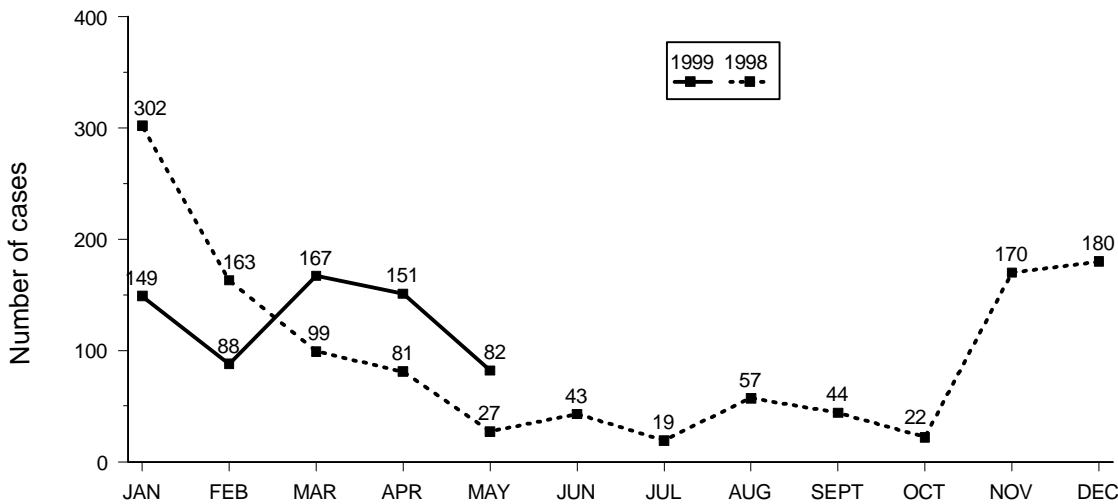
Number of cases of dracunculiasis reported from Ebonyi State during 1998-1999*



Number of cases of dracunculiasis reported from Benue State during 1998-1999*



Number of cases of dracunculiasis reported from Oyo State during 1998-1999*

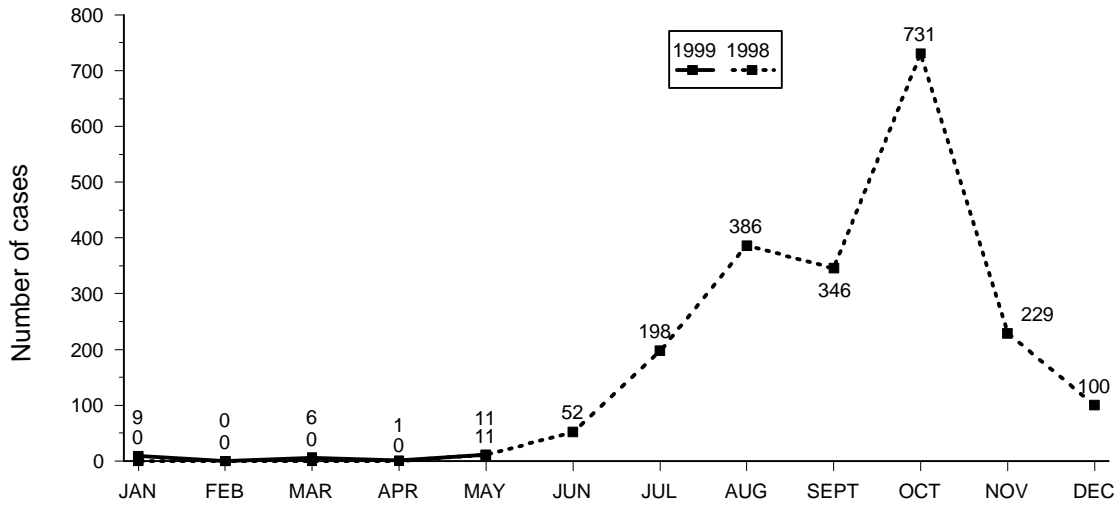


*Provisional

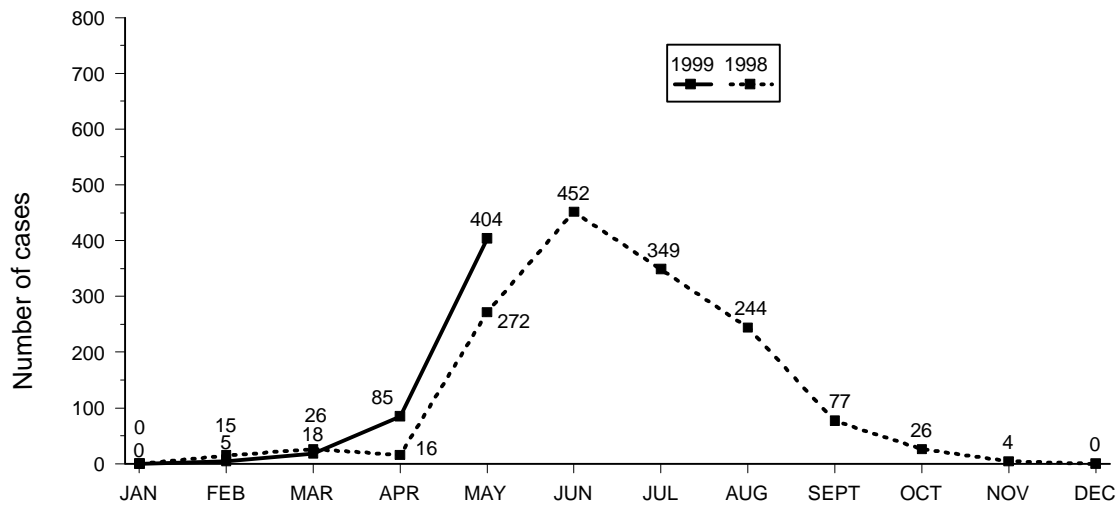
Figure 3B

Nigeria Guinea Worm Eradication Program

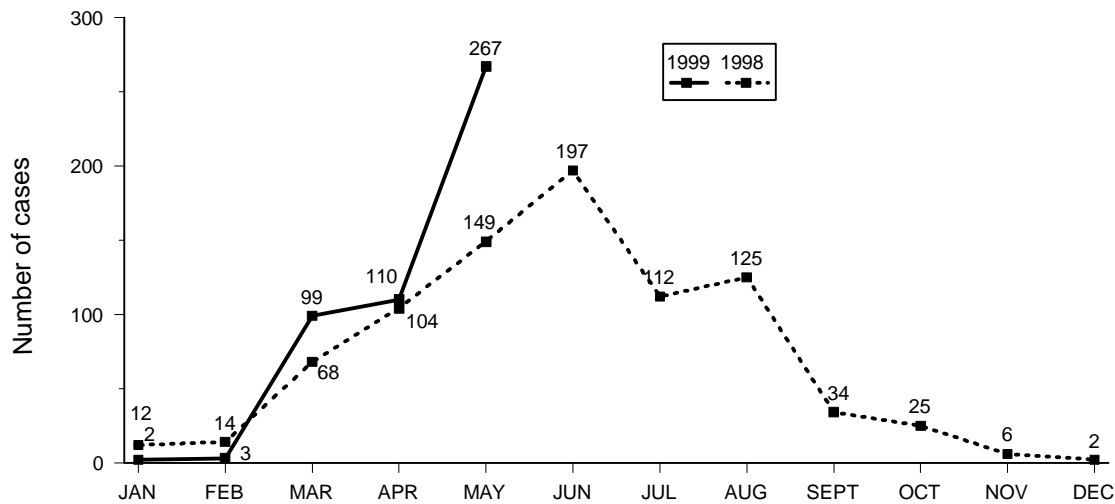
Number of cases of dracunculiasis reported from Borno State during 1998-1999*



Number of cases of dracunculiasis reported from Zamfara State during 1998-1999*



Number of cases of dracunculiasis reported from Gombe State during 1998-1999*



*Provisional

HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL PROVIDES MORE SUPPORT FOR FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES



Dr. Anders Seim of Health and Development International (HDI) has announced new support for seven francophone countries in follow-up to discussions held at the Program Review in Dakar, Senegal last March. The seven countries are Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Senegal and Togo. The total amount of additional support to be provided is \$500,000. This support is intended to help meet shortfalls in funding for the seven countries, particularly for surveillance and case containment, strengthening of supervision, fuel and maintenance of vehicles, and health education materials. The funding for Chad and Senegal is intended to help maintain the program office and support field activities through 1999 (Chad), as well as to support offering of rewards for reporting a case (both).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Hall FM., 1999. Guinea worms [letter]. Radiology, 210(3); 881.

Sam-Abbenyi A., Dama M., Graham S., Obate Z.. 1999. Dracunculiasis in Cameroon at the threshold of elimination. International Journal of Epidemiology. Feb. 28 (1):163-8.

World Health Organization, 1999. Dracunculiasis surveillance, 1998. Weekly Epidemiological Record 74: 145-152.

*Inclusion of information in the Guinea Worm Wrap-Up does not constitute "publication" of that information.
In memory of BOB KAISER.*

For information about the GW wrap up, contact Trenton K. Ruebush, MD, Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Research, Training, and Eradication of Dracunculiasis, NCID, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, F-22, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Atlanta, GA 30341-3724, U.S.A. FAX: (770) 488-4532.

The GW Wrap-Up is also available on the web at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/list_drc.htm.

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

