

GUINEA
WORM
SUMMIT
2022
MISSION → ZERO



Abu Dhabi Declaration on the Eradication of Guinea Worm Disease

We, the [representatives/Ministers of Health] of Angola, Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, and South Sudan, the only countries still endemic for dracunculiasis (Guinea worm disease); Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the two pre-certification countries; and Cameroon, a country impacted by cross-border dracunculiasis infection; meeting on 22 March, 2022 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates;

Recalling World Health Assembly Resolutions WHA34.25, WHA39.21, WHA42.29, WHA44.5, WHA50.35, WHA57.9, AND WHA64.16;

Noting the more than 99.9% reduction in human dracunculiasis cases from an estimated 3.5 million in 1986 to 15 in 2021, an all-time low in the campaign to eradicate the second human disease in history;

Appreciating the more than three decades of leadership from former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter and since 1990 from the United Arab Emirates, which began under the UAE's late founder, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and has continued under President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Highness Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi;

Noting that the World Health Organization (WHO) has certified 199 countries and territories free of dracunculiasis transmission and that five endemic and two non-endemic countries remain to be certified;

Acknowledging with deep concern the potential threat to sustaining progress and completing eradication posed by the challenges of animal infections in Chad, Ethiopia, and Mali and insecurity in many affected areas;

Recognizing that intensive efforts and further resources are required to interrupt human and animal transmission in all countries by 2026 and to achieve certification of global eradication by 2030, as globally endorsed in the WHO Neglected Tropical Disease Road Map;

Appreciating the importance of evaluation and measurable impact by reconvening at least annually to evaluate country progress, in partnership with implementing partners,

Hereby commit to lead urgent technical, political, and financial efforts toward the elimination of Guinea worm disease in endemic countries by endeavoring to ensure:

1. Bold involvement of political leaders, including heads of state, to lead community-targeted advocacy visits at least annually;
2. Strengthen capacity of local leaders and frontline health workers to reinforce and improve prevention activities, elevate morale, and accelerate interruption of transmission;
3. Maintenance of sufficient funds for national dracunculiasis elimination programs;
4. Intensified surveillance for dracunculiasis in endemic, at-risk and non-endemic areas;
5. Expansion and execution of all appropriate interventions, which could include health education, proactive tethering of dogs and cats at risk of infection, containment of cases, responsible application of larvicide, proper use of filters, and raising awareness of the cash reward;
6. Rapid provision of safe water to all dracunculiasis-endemic villages by 2024 and advocacy for increased provision of safe drinking water, prioritizing populations at risk of transmission and strengthening local health systems;
7. Vigorous efforts to ensure safe passage and working conditions for all health workers in areas of conflict; and
8. Encouragement of all country programs to maintain immediate and transparent communications in cross-border zones and organize routine meetings regarding dracunculiasis.

Adopted in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
22 March, 2022

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FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

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REPUBLIC OF MALI

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REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY

Jason Carter
JASON CARTER
BOARD CHAIR
THE CARTER CENTER

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SHEIKH SHAKHBOOT NAHYAN AL NAHYAN
MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
DR TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES ON MARCH 22, 2022